



**PHASE 2
LAUNCH
SOFTER
THAN
EXPECTED**

P3 GAMING



**GOV'T NOT TO RECOVER 16
IDLE LAND PLOTS**

One third of the 48 land plots that have been left unused for years were exempted from revocation of concessions

P5



**EGYPT: MORSI DEATH
SENTENCE CONFIRMED**

An Egyptian court yesterday confirmed a death sentence handed to ousted Islamist President Mohammed Morsi

P12

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Gaming operators united against full smoking ban

P3

Hong Kong legislators begin debate on electoral reform plan

P11



BLOOMBERG

WORLD BRIEFS

NEPAL Avalanches in Nepal's northern mountains injure five army rescuers and force the suspension of a search for bodies in a trekking village that was buried during April's devastating earthquake.

BANGLADESH's Supreme Court yesterday upheld the death sentence for a top leader of an Islamist party for war crimes and crimes against humanity during the country's independence war against Pakistan in 1971. A four-member panel headed by the country's Chief Justice S.K. Sinha dismissed the appeal by Jamaat-e-Islami party's Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed against a 2013 verdict sentencing him to death.

S KOREA The death toll continued to mount in South Korea's MERS outbreak even as schools reopen and people recover from the virus. Nineteen people have died in the largest outbreak of the disease outside the Middle East, with three more dying since late Monday, the Health Ministry said.

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More on backpage

CHIEF Executive Chui Sai On has pledged to protect the government's social welfare packages in order to safeguard residents' initiatives from being impacted by the economic downturn caused by shrinking gambling revenues. In addition to that assurance, the region's leader indicated that Macau could be granted nautical management of its waters as early as the end of the year.

Chui's remarks came yesterday morning ahead of boarding a flight to Beijing to meet with mainland authorities from the State Oceanic Administration and the General Administration of Customs over the city's jurisdictional rights to its surrounding seas and a new format of customs clearance.

The CE disclosed that the Chinese administration has already issued written instructions after multiple discussions with the local government in the past. Currently, both sides are negotiating specific details, namely, the area of the seas to be under supervision, related regulations and how the oceanic economy could benefit from the new initiative.

"On the one hand, we must thank them for their support. On the other hand, we need to seek [a consensus] according to both

CE DEPARTS FOR BEIJING

Local marine sovereignty to come at year-end

sides' frameworks on the development and their technologies and strengths, which could be of great support to us," said the top official.

The government has been closely monitoring the city's economy since two years ago when the authorities had already foreseen the possibility of a slump, said Chui, adding that policies targeted at local livelihoods would remain intact.

"The government will ensure the normal operation in the city, especially social welfare and the operation of government departments," he said. "However, if the gaming earnings fall to a specific level, we can carry out internal adjustments, which won't affect the citizens' livelihood, especially access to social welfare."

Regarding the government's resolution to forge ahead with



the controversial investment of Macau's financial reserves in Guangdong, Chui consented to Secretary Lionel Leong's desire to raise profits through investments instead of the former patterns

that have previously generated low returns. He told the media that the officials have always been cautious about the government's coffers.

"The general principle is about

security, capital preservation and low risks. How the investment will go in the future in conformity with this principle is within the initial stage of discussion," reassured Chui. **Staff reporter**

Forum needs further promotion in lusophone countries

Catarina Pinto

THE consul general of Mozambique to Macau, Rafael Custódio Marques, believes that Forum Macau's purposes and activities need to be further promoted within Portuguese-speaking countries.

On the sidelines of a press conference to introduce the Mozambique Friends' Association's promotional gastronomy event to mark the country's 40th anniversary, Mr Marques told reporters that Forum Macau has been tasked with an important mission, and the opening of the three centers to promote cooperation between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries is a testament to the forum's efforts.

However, "there's a need to further promote the existence of this Forum, not only here but also in our countries."

He added that this would help raise awareness of the



Rafael Custódio Marques

group, encouraging people to get involved and benefit from its undertakings, thus "adding drive to Macau as a platform" between China and the Portuguese speaking countries.

Mr Marques said that Mozambique is looking to attract further investment from Macanese companies, in addition to an already ongoing affordable housing project being developed by local construction company Charlestrong Engineering and Consulting Ltd.

He revealed that the first batch of housing units is due to be completed in October this year.

Mr Marques added that Forum Macau's activities and services require increased promotion in Macau as well, so that more Macanese businessmen can learn of investment opportunities within Portuguese-speaking countries.

The Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries (commonly known as Forum Macau) was established to further multilateral relations.

Francisco Domingos Manhiça, Mozambique's minister-counselor for consular affairs, presented a series of investment opportunities in Mozambique yesterday, mainly within the tourism industry, which is seen as one of the country's major resources.

The consul general acknow-

ledged that Chinese companies have already been investing in the construction of new hotels in Mozambique, but explained that the country is open to further investment.

He acknowledged that some tourist destinations in Mozambique still lack key infrastructure, which makes them more expensive for the customers. However, the new Nacala airport will help to boost tourism in the region, as well as reducing the cost of tourist packages.

Mr Marques said he does not believe that China's economic slowdown will have a negative impact on the volume of Chinese investment in Mozambique.

Meanwhile, the Mozambique Friends' Association is organizing an event aimed at promoting the country's traditional foods from tomorrow to July 28. The event marks the 40th anniversary of the Republic of Mozambique.

Chef Carlos Khan da Graça has been once again invited to prepare a set of Mozambican delicacies at the Café Bela Vista, as Grand Lapa is sponsoring the event.

EDUCATION

Schools set up group for gender equality

TEN local universities and colleges have recently set up a joint group in order to formulate a set of guidelines for gender equality and the prevention of sexual harassment.

The Tertiary Education Services Office (GAES), who coordinated the work group's establishment, said the group intends to improve gender equality policies and mechanisms within local tertiary education institutions, where the participating schools can strengthen their policies through joint discussions and formulate guidelines that can be used as a reference for schools' constant reviews and enhancements of their own policies.

A preparation meeting has been held between the participating schools, including the University of Macau, the Macau Polytechnic Institute, Macao Institute for Tourism Studies, Academy of Public Security Forces, Macau University of Science and Technology, City University of Macau, University of Saint Joseph, and the Kiang Wu Nursing College.

During the meeting, each institution introduced their institution and shared their mechanisms for handling sexual harassment and gender inequality complaints. All the representatives agreed that the work group's first priority is to jointly explore the definitions of sexual harassment and gender equality, partially by referring to the practice of neighbouring regions.

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GAMING OPERATORS UNITED

Employees favor keeping smoking lounges, survey says

Catarina Pinto

MACAU'S six gaming operators commissioned a study on the full smoking ban from international audit firm KPMG. The survey shows that 66 percent of surveyed casino employees agree with keeping the current smoking lounges, the operators said yesterday in a joint press release.

The main gaming operators doing business in Macau, namely Galaxy, Melco Crown, MGM, SJM, Venetian Macau and Wynn Resorts, joined forces to commission the independent study on the government's plan to implement a full smoking ban in local casinos.

The survey, they said, covered both casino employees and customers.

It showed that amongst



nearly 34,000 surveyed employees from the six casino operators, 66 percent support keeping the current smoking lounges in the casinos.

81 percent of the surveyed employees work in the gaming segment, while 19 percent of respon-

dents work within non-gaming areas.

Furthermore, 47 percent of VIP customers and 31 percent of mass-market customers shared concerns that a full smoking ban might have a detrimental impact on employment and Macau's economy in

general.

Casino operators explained that the survey showed that VIP clients would reduce their visits to Macau by 17 percent and the length of their stay by 24 percent if a full smoking ban were to be put in place.

In addition, 32 percent said that they would travel to alternative gaming destinations where smoking in casinos is still allowed.

By commissioning a survey, casino operators said that they were hoping to "gauge various stakeholders' views on the proposed tobacco control legislation, which would ban all smoking inside casinos, including [the closing] of previously approved smoking lounges."

The concessionaires have been voicing their concerns about the implementation of a full

smoking ban after the government announced it was planning to review the current legislation and ban smoking entirely in local casinos.

Operators are hoping to be allowed to keep their current smoking lounges.

"While the operators support the Macau government's Tobacco Prevention and Control Law, as the health and wellbeing of employees and customers is of paramount importance, they are united in their stand that smoking lounges for patrons should be maintained," the operators said in a press release.

They added that since the smoking ban on mass gaming floors was implemented back in October 2014, informal feedback on smoking lounges from employees and customers has been mostly positive. Therefore, they feel that

these opinions "should be independently measured and documented."

Consequently, "the operators collectively agreed to share these findings with the community so that all concerned parties are able to recognize that there is strong support to retain well-constructed smoking lounges and that a full smoking ban could have a negative impact on Macau's wider economy."

The gaming operators did not disclose the name of the international professional services company conducting the study. But a source with knowledge on the matter told the Times that it was conducted by KPMG, one of the largest professional services firms in the world, providing audit, tax and advisory services.

The Health Bureau announced in January that it intends to implement a full smoking ban in casinos. This means smoking would be prohibited not only on mass gaming floors, but also within VIP rooms, where gamblers are currently still allowed to smoke. Under this ban, the current smoking lounges would be forced to close.

US-based union issues letter to Beijing on junket regulation

THE International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) has sent a letter to the Chinese Communist Party's Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI) highlighting the flaws in Macau's regulation of junket operators, the US-based union said in a statement on Monday.

IUOE explained that Macau law authorizes only licensed gaming promoters to engage in the promotion of junket activities. Their license depends on the promoter's substantial shareholders and administrators being deemed "suitable" by the Macau Bureau of Gaming Inspection and Coordination.

However, the union stressed that the law does not require the same strict licensing protocols "for other influential participants in the junket industry, such as the third-party financiers, credit guarantors and profit participants of gaming promoters."

"Through these channels individuals with problematic backgrounds are positioned to acquire substantial interest in and control over junket

operations," it added.

IUOE representative Jeff Fiedler acknowledged that the Communist Party's anti-corruption campaign saw "a key point of interest" in Macau's gambling industry. But Mr Fiedler stated, "We believe that the Party's current anti-corruption initiatives cannot fully meet their objectives without increased regulation of Macau's junket industry."

"If a third party acquires all of the profits of a junket or finances the bulk of its operations, then the third party is positioned to exert control over the junket," he continued.

Mr Fiedler stated that the blame for the lack of regulation does not fall entirely on Macau, as US gambling regulators "have been deficient in oversight of American casino operations" as well.

Meanwhile, Macau Gaming Watch, a website sponsored by IUOE, revealed that China Star Entertainment Limited, a Hong Kong-listed investor in Macau gaming operators, has extended three separate HKD75 million loans to three unnamed junket companies. **CP**

Galaxy Phase 2 launch softer than expected

Alfred Liu

GALAXY Entertainment Group Ltd., which last month opened Macau's first new casino projects in three years, said gambling at its recent expansion has been weaker than expected.

Business at the second phase of Galaxy's Cotai casino resort "is satisfactory, but not as good as what we expected," billionaire Chairman Lui Che Woo told reporters in Hong Kong after the company's annual general meeting, adding he expects further impact of its gaming business if the city allows a smoking ban to be extended to VIP rooms.

Several analysts slashed gaming revenue forecasts in the world's largest gambling hub last week, citing figures in the first week of June that were poorer than they thought. They had looked to projects from Galaxy and future ones from operators such as Melco Crown Entertainment Ltd. to lift Macau out of the doldrums, after casinos there posted a yearlong losing streak and caused first half economic output to tumble



Lui Che Woo speaks during a news conference for the opening of the company's Broadway Macau casino and hotel in Macau

24.5 percent.

The Hong Kong-based operator started operations of the Galaxy Macau's expansion and Broadway Macau on May 27. The new project's performance "will be better in the next one to two months," said Galaxy Vice Chairman Francis Lui, adding he was happy with the performance of the non-gaming elements at its new properties such as its hotel bookings and dining outlets.

"Be patient, we believe the scale, facilities and services of

“We believe the scale, facilities and services of the second phase are the best”

LUI CHE WOO

the second phase are the best," he said. Business should improve in July and August, compared with June which is an exam season for students, he added.

Still, Galaxy gained market share over other operators since its properties opened, marking Macau's first new casino projects since 2012.

Galaxy increased its gross gaming revenue market share to 25 percent in the first 14 days of June, up from 19 percent in the whole of May, Barclays Plc analyst Phoebe Tse wrote in a note on Monday, overtaking previous market leader Sands China Ltd. which fell to second place with 22 percent share. **Bloomberg**

15 prisoners with flu symptoms quarantined

The Macau Prison has placed a total of 15 male inmates aged from 28 to 47 under quarantine after they all showed flu-like symptoms, such as fever, cough and sore throats since Monday. The prisoners have been placed in two different buildings under the same cell. A report on the infection has also been sent to the Health Bureau, which has urged the public to stay vigilant against the highly contagious illness. According to a Health Bureau statement, all of the affected inmates have already received medical treatment. After the discovery of the infection, authorities have already increased their preventive measures against a possible outbreak in the prison.

St Dominic's church undergoes renovation work



St Dominic's church facade will be undergoing renovation works for approximately 20 days, the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) has revealed in a statement. The church, located in the Senado area, will not be closed to the public while renovations are ongoing. The bureau estimates that the renovation and inspection works will be completed within 20 days.

Multinational calls for increased safety in construction industry

HILTI Corporation, a Europe-based multinational company that develops, manufactures, and markets products for the construction industry, has sent a letter to the Secretary for Economy and Finance requesting the improvement of the safety and productivity levels of the local construction industry.

The company, which cites four Cotai resort projects among its successes, states that "the construction industry is expected to expand at a steady pace from 2013 to 2017, backed by investment in several large-scale infrastructure projects, a surge in tourism, robust demand for housing, and investment in healthcare infrastructure to help cope with the rise in the aging population."

With the region "stepping into a peak construction period in the coming two years," Hilti recommends that the government strengthen education and training programs, require public



projects to use cordless power tools, and offer contractors incentives for implementing Cordless Practice through the Labor Affairs Bureau.

According to the letter, improving workplace safety, worker health and innovation could help attract new skilled labor, and also assist in changing the view that the industry is dangerous to health and safety.

The letter signed by Hilti (Hong Kong) director

Chris Lo, mentions that, according to Hong Kong Labor Department statistics, up to 33% of industrial

accidents are related to the use of corded power tools, including tripping over cords, falling from heights, and contact with electricity in the rain. Another 30% of fatal accidents are due to electrical work.

The letter also mentions that authorities should "help to build a safe and comfortable working environment" thus attracting "more workers to an industry that is facing a severe labor shortage." It ends proposing a meeting with the MSAR government in order "to enhance workplace safety and productivity." **PB**

WORKMEN SEEK OFFICIAL INTERVENTION AGAIN

APPROXIMATELY 50 workers from the Taipa construction site of a luxury residential compound reached out to the Chinese Liaison Office for help yesterday after allegedly being subjected to unfair treatment by their contractor regarding their

remuneration. According to the workers, who will be leaving the city after their work permits expire on Sunday, their employer owes them one week's wages from last month as well as the return of a deposit that was paid at the beginning of the project.

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16 idle land plots excluded from gov't recovery list

Brook Yang

ONE third of the 48 idle plots of land that were attributable to leaseholders have been exempted from the revocation of concessions by the government, the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário, revealed yesterday.

The secretary notified the Legislative Assembly (AL)'s Follow-up Committee on Land and Public Concession Affairs of the result when explaining the government's progress on idle land recovery. However, he was unable to provide further information, as "they had already been handled with before he took office."

The government has so far recovered a total of 18 idle land lots, and will soon announce the revocation of five additional lots, Rosario told media after the closed-door meeting. He also revealed that the previous administration had completed the procedures regarding another 16 idle lots; but regarding when and why the government decided to rule out those 16 from the recovery list, the new Secretary could only answer with "I don't know."

According to the Committee's president, lawmaker Ho Ion Sang, the AL wasn't aware that the government had "set the captive 16 idle plots free" either, until officials revealed the fact in the meeting yesterday.

"We were not told when those land plots were 'set free,' but it was certainly before the new Secretary's term started," he said, adding that the Committee's stance is "whether the Secretary has changed or not, it is



Raimundo do Rosário

the government's unavoidable responsibility to account for the situation and progress of land recovery."

Lawmakers at the meeting have urged the government to give an explanation, as well as to provide information on those plots' sizes and locations. In response, Rosario promised to gather more information and return to the AL to explain the matter by the end of this legislative session, ending August 15.

"Since the Land Law took effect in 2013, we have repeatedly requested that the government explain its land recovery progress. Unfortunately, the former Secretary was too busy to come to the AL to explain the work's progress and to make it more transparent to the public," said Ho Ion Sang.

The government began handling idle plots in 2009, which by definition are parcels of land

granted to the private sector that haven't been utilized properly within the statutory or contractual period of time, due to reasons attributable to the developer or leaseholder.

Ho explained that the procedure for handling an idle lot is complex, from "hearings regarding the leaseholder's explanation, facts and legal analysis, procedures declaring the land concession invalid, case trials by the Chief Executive's panel of legal experts, to the announcement of revocation in the Official Gazette."

"That's why we demanded an explanation as to which stage it happened in, whether the leaseholders provided adequate explanations in the hearing or there were other reasons for the decision," he stressed, adding that the government still has a lot to improve in terms of fulfilling the public's right to know and keeping in contact with the

Committee.

Currently, there are still nine idle lots being analysed by the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT) to identify whether the stagnation of their development should be attributed to the leaseholder or to external restraints. Meanwhile, at least ten of the 18 parcels that were announced to be recovered have either been appealed through formal objections or judicial cases by the leaseholders.

"There are a total of 113 plots that are not being utilized at an acceptable standard. These plots were intended for residential, industrial, office building and commercial purposes. The reasons why they are not being utilized enough can be divided into six categories. Apart from the 48 idle plots, 34 plots are not being developed due to urban planning restrictions," revealed the lawmaker.

Monetary Authority hosts int'l meetings

THE Monetary Authority of Macau (AMCM) is hosting the International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS) meetings, which kicked off on June 15 and will run until June 19. The international event is expected to see over 200 member and stakeholder attendees, representing various countries and jurisdictions.

According to a statement issued by AMCM, the meetings held during the first two days of the event were focused on various insurance supervision issues, participation in which is for IAIS members only.

Furthermore, a two-day Global Seminar & Stakeholder Dialogue will be arranged for both members and the stakeholders on June 18-19 in order to provide updates on IAIS activities in the areas of standard setting, financial stability and implementation. There will be arrangements to allow dialogue between participants and the IAIS Executive Committee, in order for the stakeholders to express opinions on select topics.

The IAIS was established in 1994, with AMCM as one of its founding members. The IAIS has strictly adhered to its general principles for the purpose of promoting cooperation and exchange among its members; and also for collecting and disseminating useful information of a statistical and technical nature.

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Redfoo promises to rock City of Dreams pool party

AMERICAN party rapper Redfoo, best known as part of the musical duo LM-FAO, is set to fly to Macau for the City of Dreams' Splash pool party on July 11, together with other DJs and dancers from his La Freak and Party Rock Crew. The twelfth edition of the poolside event at the Hard Rock Hotel will also feature other artists, such as DJs Tim Mason and Arun R, from England and Hong Kong respectively.

It will be the very first poolside event in Asia for the party rocker, who told the Times in an interview that he expects to make the day crazy and energetic. "I feel very excited and can't wait to bring the party rock to Asia. I have played many pool parties all over the world, I'm excited to play my first ever pool party in Asia," Redfoo said.

In addition, the tennis-lover also disclosed that he has been practicing every day for the U.S. Open Northern California Sectional Qualifying Tournament



that started yesterday, saying that he hopes to make it all the way through the championship.

Asked if it would feel different hosting a pool party in Macau compared to other locations around the world, Redfoo said that "the party might start different but it's going to end the same."

Model and actress Jennifer Tse Ting-ting will make a special appearance at the party. "Pool parties have always been a foreign specialty—I would not have thought that I could experience a pool party even wilder than those abroad at the City of Dreams," she said.

Mr Sunny Yu, Melco's senior vice president for entertainment & projects said: "As part of our promise to bring visitors unique and extraordinary entertainment options, we have invited world phenomenon Redfoo on top of a cluster of internationally acclaimed DJs this year." **Staff reporter**

Two Nobel laureates at UM

The University of Macau is organizing two lectures on medical chemistry this coming July 10 and 11 on the ground floor of its multi-functional hall, with two Nobel Laureates invited to give talks. One of the guest speakers, Prof. Ada Yonath, claimed the Nobel prize in chemistry in 2009 while another speaker, Prof. Aaron Ciechanover, was crowned with the title in 2004 for his endeavors, also in chemistry. Interested parties must register in advance. The first talk will explore the topic of "Resistance to Antibiotics and Preserving the Microbiome". The second one will focus on the topic of "The Personalized Medicine Revolution: Are We Going to Cure All Diseases and at What Price?"

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Etihad Airways commences daily Hong Kong service



ETIHAD Airways, the national airline of the United Arab Emirates, yesterday announced the start of daily services to Hong Kong.

To mark the carrier's increased frequency, its yesterday morning flight to Hong Kong International Airport was welcomed with a traditional water cannon salute, followed by a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by senior officials from Etihad Airways and the Hong Kong Airport Authority.

According to James Hogan, Etihad Airways' President and Chief Executive Officer, "Demand for travel into and out of Greater China has never been stronger. The introduction of a daily frequency to Hong Kong, along with our popular services to Beijing, Chengdu and Shanghai, will ensure that business and leisure travellers benefit from convenient timings and connections to suit their needs."

Etihad Airways' daily Hong Kong flights are operated using a two-class Airbus A330 aircraft, offering a total of 3,620 seats per week between Hong Kong and Abu Dhabi.

"Our guests travelling from Hong Kong and nearby southern China are now connected to more than 30 destinations across the Gulf region, Middle East, Africa, Europe and North America over Abu Dhabi", Hogan added. "In addition, we offer guests travelling to Hong Kong onward connections to a number of destinations across Asia through our codeshare partnerships."

Codeshare partners on the route include airberlin, Air Seychelles, Alitalia, NIKI and Hong Kong Airlines. Meanwhile, Etihad Airways has expanded its codeshare agreement with Hong Kong Airlines, a Skytrax 4-star airline, to provide travellers with

enhanced connections between Asia, the Middle East, and Europe.

Under the expanded codeshare agreement, Hong Kong Airlines will place its 'HX' flight code on Etihad Airways' flights between Hong Kong and Abu Dhabi, and Abu Dhabi to Madrid in Spain.

Kevin Knight, Etihad Airways' Chief Strategy and Planning Officer, commented: "Our codeshare agreement with Hong Kong Airlines was initiated last year with a primary focus on enhanced connectivity between Asia and the Middle East. The expanded codeshare will result in further commercial success for both airlines, and more importantly unleash the true benefits of the partnership by offering business and leisure travellers enhanced connections and a more frequent service between Asia, the Middle East and Europe."

Chinese workers at Uniqlo supplier strike over firings

Stephanie Wong

HUNDREDS of factory workers at a Chinese supplier to Fast Retailing Co. are striking over the dismissal of some of the employees, forcing production to shut down, a labor rights group said.

All of the about 900 workers at Artigas Clothing & Leatherwear Co. in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen joined the strike after a number of them started it on June 8, Alexandra Chan, project officer of Hong Kong-based Students and Scholars Against Corporate Misbehavior (SACOM), said in a telephone interview.

The supplier has been transferring equipment out of the factory and fired older workers as it plans to relocate the facility, Chan said, citing the workers. About 500 employees

have been camping overnight at the plant to prevent more production machines being moved out, she said.

Fast Retailing in China said in an e-mailed statement that the company is checking on the situation and declined to comment further.

Earlier this year, non-governmental organization SACOM released a report that highlighted labor abuses at two other Fast Retailing's factories in China, Dongguan Tomwell Garment Co. and Pacific Textiles Ltd., prompting an investigation by the maker of Uniqlo casual wear.

The Yamaguchi-based company, controlled by Japan's richest man Tadashi Yanai, pledged to improve working conditions and said it will work with outside groups to monitor work conditions at those factories.

Bloomberg

Airbnb says mainland travelers are fastest growing users

Eric Newcomer

AIRBNB Inc., the online room-sharing business, is drawing more customers from China, Chief Technology Officer Nathan Blecharczyk said.

"The future of international travel is really the Chinese tourist," Blecharczyk said at the Bloomberg Technology Conference Monday in San Francisco.

Airbnb, which lets users rent private homes or apartments short-term, has built relationships with Chinese consumers when they travel abroad, he said. The group represents

Airbnb's fastest growing category, according to Blecharczyk.

The San Francisco-based company doubled the number of properties it lists in Cuba to 2,000 within 45 days after debuting in the country, Blecharczyk said. Airbnb, which started in the country after President Barack Obama took steps to open relations with the communist nation, said last month Cuba was its fastest-growing market.

The Airbnb co-founder is preparing to travel to Cuba with a group of business leaders for meetings in the island nation. **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

MGM MACAU ACHIEVES GOLD STATUS IN 'MACAO GREEN HOTEL AWARD'

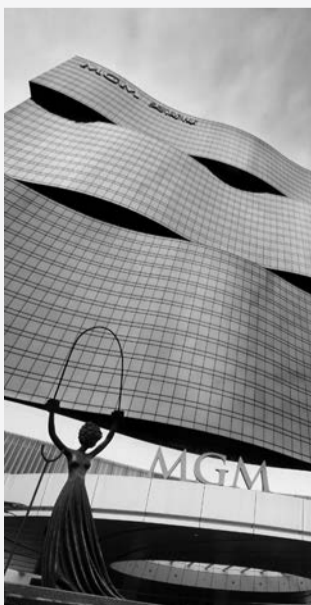
MGM Macau has been awarded the "Macao Green Hotel Award" Gold Status by the Environmental Protection Bureau for its commitment to environmental protection.

The award was launched in 2007 and aims to raise awareness of the importance of environmental management in Macau's hotel industry, and also provides a platform for showcasing efforts, learning and collaboration. The Award is presented by the Environmental Protection Bureau and co-organized by the Macau Government Tourist Office.

MGM recently established a Green Team, which includes representatives from across internal departments, to help find better and smarter solutions to improve the hotel environmen-

tal performance and put employees in the driving seat of moving the objectives forward.

Mr Grant Bowie, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director of MGM China Holdings Limited, said, "Since we opened our doors in 2007, we have worked hard to continually integrate environmental considerations into all operational practices, believing that an environmentally-responsible business is a better business. We are therefore immensely proud to be a recipient of this esteemed award. Through our Sustainability Vision, Creating a Better Tomorrow Today, we are committed to safeguarding the future for all, by investing in the environmental, social and economic protection of Macau".



DAVID BECKHAM VISITS MSO ATHLETES AND SANDS CHINA TEAM MEMBERS

UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador David Beckham was back in town over the weekend, and spent time Saturday afternoon with members of Macau Special Olympics (MSO) at The Venetian, after a meet-and-greet event with Sands China team members.

The MSO athletes presented Beckham with a special T-shirt they had decorated with their own handmade design. The global icon returned the gesture by signing a Macau Special Olympics t-shirt and presenting it to MSO as a memento of the occasion. He also took the opportunity to chat with the MSO members, offering words of encouragement to the athletes, before joining them for a group photo to commemorate the visit.

Before spending time with the MSO athletes, Beckham met



with around 100 Sands China team members, who asked the entrepreneur to share his thoughts about service culture and teamwork. Many of the attendees were winners in previous editions

of "Because We Care Team Member Awards" and "Because We Know" company knowledge competitions. Beckham and the team members then marked the occasion with a group photo.



Traders work at Hong Kong's Stock Exchange in Hong Kong



Li Hejun, chairman and CEO of Hanergy Group

HONG KONG

Boom-to-bust stocks show challenge of Shanghai link

Kelvin Chan
Business Writer, Hong Kong

WILD gyrations in Hong Kong share prices are raising concerns that a new trading link with mainland China is a conduit for questionable trading practices that could undermine the city's reputation as a center of global finance.

At least four companies that climbed to dizzying values in only a few months have come abruptly crashing down in the past several weeks for reasons that remain unclear.

The strange trading patterns have gripped Hong Kong's financial community with a narrative of paper fortunes built quickly and then wiped out in an even shorter time.

The most high profile case is Chinese solar panel maker Hanergy Thin Film Power Group Ltd., now under investigation by the market watchdog. Also affected are two Hong Kong-listed units of Chinese billionaire Pan Sutong's Goldin conglomerate involved in horse breeding and wine trading.

The most recent is Digital Domain Holdings Ltd., whose main business is a California special effects firm founded two decades ago by Titanic and Avatar director James Cameron, who no longer has a stake after it went bankrupt in 2012. It's perhaps best known more recently for creating a hologram of deceased rapper Tupac Shakur to perform alongsi-

de Snoop Dogg at a California music festival. In a little over two months, the shares soared nine-fold and then abruptly plunged last week to a third of their peak.

Market watchers say a tide of money sweeping in from mainland China following the launch of the Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect trading link last

Wild gyrations in HK share prices are raising concerns that the new link is a conduit for questionable trading practices

year has amplified speculation and increased risks for investors. The link allows investors in each city to trade on the other city's exchange. Hanergy and the two Goldin companies are among 286 stocks mainland investors can buy via the link.

"The recent developments have sparked concerns about new dynamics that our regulators need to deal with," said Michael Cheng, Hong Kong

research director at the Asian Corporate Governance Association. "We hope that it will be the two markets upping the game for each other but with the recent developments, we have a genuine concern that there's a real risk of a race to the bottom."

Recent price swings are "unprecedented" in Hong Kong, he said.

The city along with London, New York and Tokyo is a key global financial center, a status underpinned by the reputation of its legal and financial systems which are based on the laws of its former colonial ruler Britain. Hong Kong also has its own currency that is pegged to the U.S. dollar and a vigilant anti-corruption police.

Local traders say the market turbulence is a sign of the larger stock trading frenzy spilling over from China, where the Shanghai benchmark has more than doubled in the past year in a boom powered by borrowed money and a stampede of rookie traders.

Nine of the Hong Kong exchange's 10 busiest days on record were in April or May as trading on the link surged to a high. After a quiet start, the value of Chinese trades in Hong Kong via the link jumped to USD30 billion in April, out of \$490 billion in total stock market turnover. In May it eased to \$13.2 billion out of \$374 billion.

Experts believe the companies most susceptible to manipula-

tion are those with a relatively small amount of freely traded stock, known as the free float, making them more volatile.

Hong Kong's market regulator, the Securities and Futures Commission, warned on June 8 that Goldin Properties Holdings Ltd. stock could "fluctuate substantially" and investors "should exercise extreme caution" because its Chinese billionaire owner and 13 other shareholders own more than 95 percent of outstanding shares.

Even companies not on the official list of stocks eligible for trading on the link, such as Digital Domain, are affected, said David Webb, a former investment banker turned shareholder and corporate governance advocate who believes many mainland Chinese are coming to Hong Kong to open stock trading accounts.

"There are dozens of stocks that are trading far away from fair value," he said. "It's a fairly widespread phenomenon at the moment."

In Hanergy's case, shares of the solar panel maker backed by Chinese billionaire Li Hejun rose more than six fold since last summer until May 20, when they suddenly halved in the first hour of trading for no apparent reason, wiping out about half his fortune. The shares are now suspended.

In an interview with Chinese state media released a week later, Li dismissed reports that the company was under scrutiny. The next day, the Securi-

ties and Futures Commission took the unusual step of confirming it had launched a formal investigation "into the affairs" of the company.

Separately, Goldin Financial Holdings Ltd. and Goldin Properties Holdings Ltd. tumbled more than 40 percent, wiping out a combined \$15 billion of market value. Before the crash, the shares had quadrupled, inflating Pan's personal fortune. Forbes now estimates it at \$11.2 billion.

It's unclear why Hanergy or the Goldin companies plummeted.

Digital Domain's sell-off appears to have been sparked by rumors that a mainland Chinese businessman linked to the company was arrested.

The businessman, Che Fung, and a partner were the previous owners of the special effects firm but, in an intricate deal, sold their stake two years ago to Digital Domain in exchange for convertible bonds. Under certain conditions the bonds can be exchanged for stock worth nearly half of the company's enlarged share capital, giving him the potential to become one of the company's biggest shareholders.

Digital Domain denied "suggestions in certain media reports" that any executive directors or senior management had been arrested recently. It confirmed Che was a bondholder but declined to comment on his status.

"For Digital Domain, this is just a very short term bubble" that popped after the arrest rumors triggered the liquidations by speculators, said Alex Wong, director of asset management at Ample Capital. "The company is selling a concept in virtual reality, so that is a very long term story" not matching the company's brief spike in valuation. **AP**

SOUTH CHINA SEA

Gov't says island building to finish soon

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

CHINA will complete land reclamation projects on its disputed South China Sea territorial claims as planned within days, the Foreign Ministry said yesterday, in an apparent bid to reassure its neighbors over moves seen as sharpening tensions in the strategically vital region.

However, in a sign that developments were far from over, a statement posted to the ministry's website said China would follow up by building infrastructure to carry out functions ranging from maritime search and rescue to environmental conservation and scientific research.

"It is learned from relevant Chinese competent departments that, as planned, the land reclamation project of China's construction on some stationed islands and reefs of the Nansha Islands will be completed in the upcoming days," the statement said, using the Chinese term for the Spratly islands, which lie at the heart of the South China Sea territorial dispute.

Apart from satisfying defense goals, it said the main purpose of such projects was civilian in nature and not targeted at any third parties. It said the projects fell within the scope of Chinese sovereignty and were "lawful, reasonable and justified," while causing no harm to the marine



This aerial photo taken through a glass window of a military plane shows China's alleged on-going reclamation of Mischief Reef in the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea

environment.

The statement, attributed to ministry spokesman Lu Kang, said the projects "do not affect the freedom of navigation and overflight enjoyed by all countries in accordance with international law in the South China Sea."

That assertion will likely be scrutinized by the U.S. military following an incident last mon-

th during which a U.S. Navy plane flying near one of the reclaimed islands was repeatedly challenged by the Chinese military and told to leave the area.

The disputed islands lie amid some of the world's busiest shipping lanes, rich fishing grounds and a potential undersea wealth of oil, gas and minerals. China claims virtually the entire South China Sea, while

Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, the Philippines and Taiwan also they own parts or all of it.

The U.S. says it takes no side on the sovereignty questions, but insists on the right of free navigation and urges all parties to negotiate a settlement.

The reclamation work has sparked fears China will use the artificial islands as military bases and to assert control over

navigation in the South China Sea.

According to the U.S., Beijing's building program on reefs and atolls now totals more than 800 hectares and includes up to two airstrips capable of handling large military planes.

The announcement is a sign of transparency showing that China is proceeding according to its pre-established schedule, said Ruan Zongze, of the Foreign Ministry think tank China Institute of International Studies, speaking on state broadcaster CCTV.

"China is showing that it has its own timetable," Ruan said.

That could be an attempt to reassure others that the projects are not open-ended, in hopes of limiting the damage to China's relations with its neighbors.

Beijing attempted to keep the issue out of the headlines during a low-key visit to Washington this month by Defense Minister Fan Changlong, during which Defense Secretary Ash Carter called on China and others to "implement a lasting halt on land reclamation" and cease further militarization.

Vietnam, with whom China has clashed bitterly over the Spratlys and other islands, is sending its defense minister to Beijing this week for talks.

China also doesn't want the issue to overshadow President Xi Jinping's state visit to Washington in September. **AP**

HONG KONG

Beijing official: Rejection of election plan hurts prospects

Ting Shi

HONG Kong faces a "very worrying" future should lawmakers fail to pass a China-backed bill to overhaul elections in the city, a Chinese official said ahead of a planned legislative debate on the proposal.

Political wrangling would continue and further polarize the city, if the proposal for the chief executive election fails, Song Ruan, deputy commissioner of China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Hong Kong, told reporters yesterday. Legislators are expected to take up the bill after 11 a.m. today and could pass it before the end of the week.

China is increasing the pressure on pro-demo-



A protestor carries a placard during a rally outside gov't headquarters on Sunday as people march in a downtown street to support a veto of the electoral reform package in Hong Kong

cracy lawmakers, who have pledged to reject the bill because it calls for candidates to be vetted by a committee. Public discontent with the proposal led tens of thousands of people to join protests last year, with some acti-

ivist groups threatening to take further action if the proposal passes.

"The prospects of Hong Kong will be very worrying," if legislators fail to approve the measure, Song said. He urged lawmakers to "cast a res-

possible ballot and give the proposal a chance."

Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying needs four pro-democracy lawmakers to cross over to ensure he gets a two-third majority needed to pass the bill. Should the

proposal fail to muster enough support, Hong Kong's next leader would continue to be selected by a 1,200-committee made up of lawmakers, industry representatives and tycoons.

Galaxy Entertainment Group Ltd.'s Chairman Lui Che-woo joined other local business leaders in calling for the bill's passage, saying a vote against it would be "wrong." "If not passed, the stock market will drop," Lui said.

Caroline Wilson, the British consul general to Hong Kong and Macau, was seen leaving the foreign ministry office yesterday before Sun's briefing with reporters.

Song said the Chinese government would "make the utmost effort" to en-

sure the bill's passage. Should the bill fail this time, he said the basic framework would remain unchanged.

Local tensions have risen after the police detained 10 people Monday on suspicion of making explosives.

Police made the arrests in various points around the city, seizing chemicals, air rifles, a 3-D printer and TATP, an explosive that has been used by suicide bombers in the Middle East. The police did not give details about the group's motives or plans for any specific attack. At least one of those detained claimed to be a member of a "local radical group," Chief Superintendent Au Chin-chau said Monday. **Bloomberg**

AUSTRALIA

Abbott brushes off Indonesia people smuggling concerns

Agus Salim Suhana
and Jason Scott

PRIME Minister Tony Abbott sought to brush off Indonesian concerns that Australia paid people smugglers to turn around boats carrying asylum seekers, saying his government is taking a moral approach to tackling the issue.

"We have done the right thing, we have done the moral thing, the decent thing, the compassionate thing to stop the boats by doing whatever is necessary within the law," Abbott told reporters yesterday.

Indonesian authorities say they are investigating an Australian Broadcasting Corp. report that a boat with 65 asylum seekers onboard was intercepted this month off Indonesia's West Papua by an Australian border patrol, with the crew paid A\$5,000 (USD3,870) each to turn around. Abbott has repeatedly declined to confirm or deny the report, which Indonesia has said if correct amounts to bribery.

The case risks triggering a



An Acehese fishing boat full of rescued migrants approaches to dock in Simpang Tiga, Aceh province, Indonesia, May 20

fresh spat between the countries just a week after Canberra returned its ambassador to Jakarta, following the executions of two Australian citizens

for drug smuggling in April. The neighbors have a long history of periodic friction.

"The response from Indonesia indicates it's very concerned

about these allegations," said Donald Rothwell, a professor of international law at the Australian National University. A fall-out would jeopardize Indo-

nesia's diplomatic cooperation, which is "absolutely critical to the success of Australia's border-protection policies."

Paying people smugglers to return boats with asylum seekers would be bribery and Indonesia needs to know the truth, Indonesia's Vice President Jusuf Kalla said.

"It is called a bribe," Kalla said. "Of course it isn't in accordance with the ethics of state relations."

Abbott won power in September 2013 vowing to "stop the boats" after a surge in asylum seekers attempting to travel to Australia by sea in often-rickety crafts from Indonesia. A recent crackdown on human trafficking rings by authorities in Thailand left thousands of Bangladeshi and ethnic Rohingya asylum seekers from Myanmar stranded at sea.

Australian intelligence agency officials have been paying Indonesia-based people-smuggling networks, including boat owners and crews, for information or to dissuade them from launching boats since about 2010, Fairfax Media reported yesterday, citing sources it didn't identify.

"If, as is being suggested, Australian intelligence officers might be involved in this activity, they enjoy a fair degree of immunity under Australian law providing they are acting within the official brief of their responsibility," said Rothwell. **Bloomberg**

SOUTH KOREA

Schools reopen despite widespread MERS fear



People wear masks as a precaution against MERS as they arrive at Seoul Railway Station

THE death toll continued to mount in South Korea's MERS outbreak yesterday even as schools reopen and people recover from the virus.

Nineteen people have died in the largest outbreak of the disease outside the Middle East, with three more dying since late Monday, the Health Ministry said. More than 150 have been infected with Middle East Respiratory Syndrome and nearly 5,600 have been

quarantined.

The government says the outbreak is slowing, but there's still widespread fear and misinformation. Health workers are spraying disinfectant at karaoke rooms and other businesses, and teachers are sprinkling salt on school grounds in a misplaced attempt to protect themselves as many schools reopen this week.

About 365 schools and kindergartens were closed as of yesterday afternoon,

compared to as many as 2,900 last week.

The discovery of new cases and a growing number of quarantine orders have critics questioning the government's control measures.

Officials have struggled to trace and identify people who had contact with MERS patients at a major hospital in southern Seoul. More than 70 people, including patients, medical staff and visitors, have been infected from the facility, which has temporarily stopped accepting new patients and postponed non-serious surgeries starting Monday as part of its quarantine efforts.

After a weeklong review of the situation, experts from the World Health Organization and South Korea on Saturday downplayed the possibility of the country's MERS outbreak turning into a pandemic. They said there was no evidence to suggest that the virus, currently confined around health facilities, was spreading in the community.

The South Korean outbreak originated from a 68-year-old man who had traveled to the Middle East before being diagnosed as the country's first MERS patient last month. **AP**

INDIA

After lead scare, Nestle to destroy USD50m worth of noodles

NESTLE India said it will destroy instant noodles worth 3.2 billion rupees (USD50 million) following a sales ban imposed by Indian food safety authorities for unsafe levels of lead.

India's food safety panel banned the noodles earlier this month after tests conducted across the country found that Nestle's Maggi noodles contained lead at levels far higher than legally allowed.

The tests also detected the chemical flavor enhancer monosodium glutamate, or MSG, which is not mentioned in the product's list of ingredients.

Nestle insists the noodles are safe and is challenging the ban in a Mumbai court.

The Indian subsidiary of the Swiss-based company said in a statement Monday that the company was collecting stocks of the noodles from shops, factories and distribution centers and destroying them.

Maggi noodles are a hugely popular snack among school and college students and young working people in India.

The company introduced the



Packs of Maggi noodles are removed from the shelves of a grocery store in Gauhati

quick cooking noodles to India in the early 1980s and they can be found in the remotest villages in the country.

Paul Bulcke, the Nestle Global Chief Executive, has said his company did not add MSG to its Maggi noodles in India. He said the chemical occurs naturally in some of the ingredients used in making the noodles.

According to Bulcke, tests conducted by Nestle on Indian-made Maggi noodles show the presence of lead to be within permissible limits. **AP**

THE largest Muslim rebel group in the Philippines handed over dozens of assault weapons yesterday in a symbolic gesture to reinforce a peace pact stalled by a public outcry over the killings earlier this year of dozens of police commandos in a fierce battle with insurgents.

President Benigno Aquino III and Al Haj Murad Ebrahim, the leader of the 11,000-strong Moro Islamic Liberation Front, witnessed the handover of 75 assault weapons, including mortar and rocket launchers, by the guerrillas near a southern rebel stronghold, along with the identification of a first batch of 145 guerrillas, who agreed to return to normal life with promises of government support.

The autonomy deal, signed by the government and the rebels last year after yearslong talks brokered by Malaysia, was expected to be one of the major legacies of Aquino, a reformist leader whose six-year term ends next year. But the involvement of the Moro rebels in fierce clashes that killed 44 police commandos, who hunted and killed a top Southeast Asian terror suspect on Jan. 25, ignited public criticisms of the Moro insurgent group and

PHILIPPINES

Muslim rebels lay down arms to reinforce peace deal



Philippine President Benigno Aquino III, center, is briefed by Al Haj Murad Ebrahim, left, the leader of the 11,000-strong Moro Islamic Liberation Front, as he witnesses the handover of 75 assault weapons

the peace agreement.

The passage of a law in the Philippine Congress that would authorize the creation of a

more powerful Muslim autonomous region in the country's south has been delayed. It is uncertain if the guerrillas would

accept a watered-down version of the autonomy bill drafted by government and rebel representatives.

The uncertainty has led to fears that impatient guerrillas may return to violence. A few hundred rebels broke off from the Moro Islamic Liberation Front about five years ago when the main insurgent group pursued peace talks with Aquino's government.

Murad said while yesterday's event is about statistics for some people — 145 guerrillas and 75 firearms — "this is something deeply personal to us."

"As I look at the faces of each of our 145 brothers here this morning, I see 145 stories of struggle, of pain, of hopelessness and even of death, yet I also see 145 stories of hope and faith that indeed peace is near and that all the sacrifices have been worth it," he said.

Aquino defended the arms turnover, saying some legisla-

tors were trying to stop or stall passage of the law creating the autonomous region.

"We are not talking of just one or a couple of a dozen firearms. These are high-powered firearms, modern and have not aged. These arms can deal and have dealt extreme suffering," Aquino said.

He said the arms turnover showed the rebel group's "readiness to turn their backs to armed struggle."

The guns, which comprise the first batch of weapons to be laid down, will be turned over to an independent decommissioning body. They will be stored in a mutually designated depot in the south.

At least four smaller and more hardline armed groups, including the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf, are not involved in the peace talks and have continued sporadic attacks, including kidnappings in the south and neighboring Malaysia. **AP**

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USA

Jeb Bush confirms 2016 bid



Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush with his wife Columba, center, and other family members

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush launched a White House bid months in the making with a vow to win the Republican presidential nomination on his own merits. Bush is unquestionably one of the top-tier candidates in a large Republican field of 11 major candidates that lacks a true front-runner. For Bush, the 2016 Republican contest will test both his vision of conservatism and his ability to distance himself from family. "Not a one of us deserves the job by right of resume, party, seniority, family, or family narrative. It's nobody's turn," Bush said Monday (yesterday, Macau time), confronting critics who suggest he simply seeks to inherit the office already held by his father and brother. "It's everybody's test, and it's wide open — exactly as a contest for president should be." Before the event, the Bush campaign came out with a new logo — Jeb! — that conspicuously leaves out the Bush surname.

Civil rights activist quits after pretending to be black



Rachel Dolezal, president of the Spokane chapter of the NAACP

Rachel Dolezal carefully constructed a life as a black civil rights activist in the last decade in America's inland Northwest, but that world is falling apart following the disclosure by her parents that she was a white woman who for years has posed as African-American. Dolezal, a 37-year-old with a light brown complexion and dark curly hair, graduated from historically black Howard University and was married to a black man. For years, she publicly described herself as black and complained of being the victim of racial hatred in the heavily white region. Dolezal has resigned as president of the local branch of the NAACP, lost her position as a part-time African studies instructor at a local university, lost her job as a freelance newspaper columnist and become the subject of a probe by the city Ethics Commission. The furor has touched off national debate over racial identity and divided the NAACP itself.

REFUGEE CRISIS

Police in helmets drag migrants from French-Italian border

Francesco Sportelli, Ventimiglia

ITALIAN police in riot gear forcibly removed a few dozen African migrants yesterday who had been camping out for days at Italy's Mediterranean border with France in hopes of going further north.

Some of the migrants protested, grabbing onto signposts, while others had to be carried off by their legs and arms — a violent scene that Italy used to show the rest of Europe that it needs to do more to deal with the continent's migrant crisis.

"We are human beings. We are not animals," said Saddam, a Sudanese migrant who watched the police operation yesterday at the Ventimiglia border crossing and only gave his first name. "I know we are black and we are come from Africa, but we are still humans."

Migrants on the rocks jutting out into the sea were left alone, with police apparently unwilling to move into that more treacherous location. The rest were loaded onto a Red Cross bus and taken to the nearby train station.

It wasn't immediately clear why the Red Cross allowed their bus to be used for the police operation.

The would-be refugees,



Italian police officers remove a migrant in Ventimiglia, at the Italian-French border

mostly from Sudan and Eritrea, had camped out for five days after French border police refused to let them cross. They had refused to leave, saying they want to find family members elsewhere in Europe.

Under EU rules, would-be refugees are supposed to be fingerprinted and apply for asylum in the first EU country where they land.

Many new migrants, however, prefer to slip through Italy without being officially registered so they can head further north where they might find better job opportunities while their asylum claims are being processed.

Italian Interior Minister Angelino Alfano, arriving yesterday at an EU interior ministers' meeting in Luxembourg, said the scenes from Ventimi-

glia were proof that migrants don't want to stay in Italy.

Italy, which has borne the brunt of rescuing migrants at sea and providing initial assistance to them, is demanding that other European countries take in the migrants and let them apply for asylum elsewhere. The country has seen 54,000 migrants land so far this year, according to refugee agencies. **AP**

EGYPT

Court confirms death sentence for Morsi

Sarah El Deeb, Cairo

AN Egyptian court yesterday confirmed a death sentence handed to ousted Islamist President Mohammed Morsi over a mass prison break during the 2011 uprising that eventually brought him to power.

Morsi, Egypt's first freely elected president, was in the courtroom in a glass-covered cage, with mesh wires over it. He listened to the verdict with a slight smile but did not say anything.

The ruling was read out by judge Shaaban al-Shami after he consulted with Egypt's Mufti, a religious authority affiliated with the judiciary, as required by law in cases involving capital punishment.

"The court panel has unanimously agreed that there is no room for leniency or mercy for the defendants," al-Shami, who presides over a panel of three, said before confirming the death sentence.

The Mufti's opinions are not binding, and the ruling will automatically be referred to Egypt's highest appeals court.



Egypt's ousted Islamist President Mohammed Morsi

The judge also confirmed death sentences for five other jailed leading members of Morsi's Muslim Brotherhood, including Mohammed Badie, the group's leader, and Saad el-Katatni, the head of its short-lived political party.

Al-Shami said the defendants conspired and attempted to kill police officers when they broke into three of Egypt's prisons, enabling some 20,000 inmates to flee, causing chaos in Egypt and breaching its borders with the Gaza Strip. He said they did so with the help of foreign militants from the Palestinian Hamas movement, Lebanon's Hezbollah and Sinai militants.

Another 21 imprisoned defendants received life sentences in the case, which in Egypt is equivalent to 25 years in prison. Another 93 defendants were tried in absentia and sentenced to death.

Now Morsi will change his blue prison outfit to an orange one in future cases. Morsi is already serving a 20-year sentence for his part in the killings in 2012 of protesters outside his palace when he was still president.

Morsi was forced out of office in July 2013 by the military amid massive protests demanding his resignation. He has been detained since then, and his Muslim Brotherhood has been labeled a terrorist organization. **AP**

Maggie Michael, Cairo

YEMEN

Al-Qaida confirms US strike killed leader of affiliate

A U.S. airstrike has killed Al-Qaida's No. 2 leader, who commanded its powerful Yemeni affiliate, dealing the global network its biggest blow since the killing of Osama bin Laden and eliminating a charismatic leader at a time when it is vying with the Islamic State group for the mantle of global jihad.

In a video statement dated June 14 and released yesterday by the Yemeni affiliate, a senior operative announced the death of Nasir al-Wahishi, a veteran jihadi who once served as bin Laden's aide-de-camp, and said his deputy, Qassim al-Raimi, has been tapped to replace him.

"Our Muslim nation, a hero of your heroes and a master of your masters left to God, steadfast," Khaled Batrafi said in the video, vowing that the group's war on America would continue.

"In the name of God, the blood of these pioneers makes us more determined to sacrifice," he said. "Let the enemies know that the battle is not with an individual... the battle led by crusaders and their agents is colliding with a billion-member nation."

Yemeni security officials had earlier said a U.S. drone strike killed three suspected militants in the al-Qaida-held southern



The leader of Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, Nasir al-Wahishi

port city of Mukalla last week. U.S. officials had said they were trying to verify whether al-Wahishi was killed.

Al-Qaida's Yemen affiliate has long been seen as its most lethal, and has been linked to a number of foiled or botched attacks on the U.S. homeland. The group

claimed responsibility for January's attack on the French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo that killed 12 people.

In addition to leading the Yemeni affiliate, known as al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, al-Wahishi also served as deputy to Ayman al-Zawahri, al-Qaida's

top leader, who succeeded bin Laden in 2011.

Al-Wahishi's death is a major loss for al-Qaida as it struggles to compete with the Islamic State, a breakaway group that has seized vast swaths of Syria and Iraq and spawned its own affiliates elsewhere in the region.

Both groups are dedicated to bringing about Islamic rule by force, but al-Qaida does not recognize the IS group's self-styled caliphate and has maintained that the priority should be to wage jihad against America in order to drive it out of the Middle East.

Batrafi vowed to make the United States "taste the bitter flavor of war and defeat until you stop supporting the Jews, the occupiers of Palestine, until you leave the lands of the Muslims and stop supporting apostate tyrants."

Al-Raimi, the new leader of AQAP, is thought to have masterminded a 2010 plot in which

bombs concealed in printers were shipped to the U.S. on cargo planes before being detected and defused.

Yemen's government has mistakenly announced al-Raimi's death three times since 2007. He is believed to direct training camps in Yemen's remote deserts and mountains, where he organizes cells and plans attacks.

AQAP's master bomb-maker, Ibrahim Hassan al-Asiri, is also believed to still be alive. He is thought to have designed the bombs used in the cargo planes plot and in a failed attempt to blow up a U.S.-bound passenger plane in December 2009 by a man who had explosives concealed in his underwear.

Al-Asiri is also believed to have dispatched a suicide bomber in 2009 to assassinate Prince Mohammed bin Nayef, then head of Saudi Arabia's counterterrorism agency. The attack failed, and Mohammed bin Nayef is now the crown prince. AP

AD

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what's ON



PATH AND ADVENTURE

- WORKS BY MIO PANG FEI

TIME: 10am-7pm

(Closed on Mondays, no admission after 6:30 pm)

UNTIL: November 22, 2015

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,

Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: MOP5

(Free on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

SHIWAN CERAMICS EXHIBITION

TIME: 10am-7pm

(Closed on Mondays, no admission after 6:30 pm)

UNTIL: July 19, 2015

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ADMISSION: MOP5

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Offbeat

INDONESIA: THOUSANDS REFUSE TO LEAVE VOLCANO DANGER ZONE

AP PHOTO



A woman watches as Mount Sinabung releases pyroclastic flows in Tiga Serangkai, North Sumatra, Indonesia

Thousands of villagers are refusing to leave their homes on the slopes of one of Indonesia's most volatile volcanoes despite warnings that it is poised for a powerful eruption.

Mount Sinabung, one of about 130 active

volcanoes in Indonesia, has been at the highest alert level for nearly two weeks. Yesterday, at least 48 avalanches of hot ash barreled down its slopes, with the biggest reaching 2.5 kilometers (southeastward). The volcano in northern Sumatra, one of Indonesia's main islands, has also been shooting smoke and ash more than 700 meters into the air.

Several thousand people, including women carrying babies in slings, have left the mountain in police trucks since Monday after the volcanic activity intensified over the weekend. Some streamed down the scorched slopes on motorcycles, their faces caked in ash.

But Subur Tambun, who heads the local disaster mitigation agency, said only 10,000 of about 33,000 people living within the main danger zone have moved into tent camps or government buildings a safe distance from the volcano. No injuries have been reported from the recent eruptions.

"The villagers insisted on tending crops," Tambun said. "They are confident of being able to escape a major eruption. All we can do is ask them to leave."

The 2,460-meter (8,070-foot) Mount Sinabung has erupted sporadically since 2010, when it caught scientists off guard and blew after being quiet for four centuries. Last year, a powerful explosion heard hundreds of kilometers away destroyed villages around its slopes and killed at least 17 people.

For days, authorities have pleaded with villagers in the main danger zone, which stretches 7 kilometers to the south and southeast of the peak, to move to the temporary shelters, but have faced resistance.

"We have lost our vegetables, but not coffee," said Sapta Sembiring Palawi from Gambir village, about 4.7 kilometers from the smoldering peak. "Coffee has let us survive and we have to take care of it now." Palawi, a grandfather, is one of about 200 people from the village who have refused to move to government shelters.

The reluctance of people to leave their homes despite danger is common in the sprawling archipelago nation, which has more volcanoes than any other country and is prone to volcanic eruptions and earthquakes because of its location on the "Ring of Fire" — a series of fault lines stretching from the Western Hemisphere through Japan and Southeast Asia.

More than 150,000 people live along the slopes of Mount Sinabung, taking advantage of its fertile soil to grow chilies, oranges, cocoa and coffee. AP

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
18:20	The Illusionist (Repeated)
19:10	TDM Interview (Repeated)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Montra do Lilau
21:40	Miscellaneous
22:10	The Illusionist
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

cinema



CINETEATRO

11 JUN - 17 JUN



JURASSIC WORLD

ROOM 1

(2D) 2.30, 4.45, 9.30 pm

(3D) 7.15 pm

Director: Colin Trevorrow

Starring: Chris Pratt, Bryce Dallas Howard

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 124min

SAN ANDREAS

ROOM 2

(2D) 2.30, 4.30, 9.30 pm

(3D) 7.30 pm

Director: Brad Peyton

Starring: Dwayne Johnson, Carla Gugino,

Alexandra Daddario

Language: Japanese (Chinese/English)

Duration: 114min



FORCE MAJEURE

ROOM 3

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Ruben Ostlund

Starring: Johannes Kuhnke, Lisa Lovén Kongsli

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 120min

MACAU TOWER

04 JUN - 01 JUL

JURASSIC WORLD

(3D) 2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Colin Trevorrow

Starring: Chris Pratt, Bryce Dallas Howard

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 124min

this day in history



1974 IRA BOMBS PARLIAMENT

A bomb has exploded at the Houses of Parliament, causing extensive damage and injuring 11 people. The IRA said it planted the 9.1 kg device which exploded at about 0828 BST in a corner of Westminster Hall.

The explosion is suspected to have fractured a gas main and a fierce fire spread quickly through the centuries-old hall in one of Britain's most closely-guarded buildings.

Scotland Yard detectives have said they fear this attack could herald the start of a new summer offensive by the dissident Irish group on government buildings.

A man with an Irish accent telephoned the Press Association with a warning only six minutes before the explosion. Police said a recognized IRA code word was given.

Although officers were not able to completely clear the palace before the bomb went off, most of the injured were only slightly hurt. Leader of the Commons Edward Short announced a review of security procedures would begin immediately, but he said the attack would not disrupt parliamentary business or intimidate MPs.

Liberal Chief Whip David Steel was in the building when the device detonated and told the BBC the damage looked considerable. "I looked through Westminster Hall and the whole hall was filled with dust. A few minutes later it was possible to see flames shooting up through the windows," he said.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

1974 was one of the deadliest years in the IRA's mainland bombing campaign.

In February a bomb exploded on a coach carrying soldiers on the M62, killing 12 people.

A further 26 people died later in the year in attacks on the Tower of London and on pubs in Guilford and Birmingham. The last Provisional IRA attack on the British mainland was in 1996, but extremist splinter groups have carried out bombings since then.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Calling in your chits is proving to be a bit of a trick for someone as green as you. Being agreeable and charming isn't getting you anywhere. It's time to be more forceful - with tact, of course.

Taurus April 20-May 20 You wouldn't go on a date looking like you were doing your laundry. So go after making money as if you were prepared for romance. It's not called dressing for success for nothing.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Bills, bills, bills -- they're placing limitations on your spending. If account balances leave you no choice but to crimp your style, look for other outlets. Try cultivating qualities of deep focus for a change.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Put an original spin on your financial situation, the crazier the idea the better. You're in the same boat with plenty of others, so you might as well be the captain of a ship or a rogue pirate for that matter.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Cutting corners isn't as bad as all that, especially if the only things that have had to go so far are matters of status or vanity. The real pain is in having to edit grocery lists, so don't let superficial changes rub you the wrong way.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 You're finally experiencing first hand the importance of financial compatibility. If only you had listened to reason. What, you did? Then bow to your partner and do-si-do.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 There are still plenty of reasons for gratitude. Income that covers the basics, for example. Start with that, then work your way toward saving for retirement. All the extras can wait, literally.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Don't take your wallet out in haste. Someone may want you to think it's a compromise, but it's really an ambush. Resist, especially in the company of a bad sport.

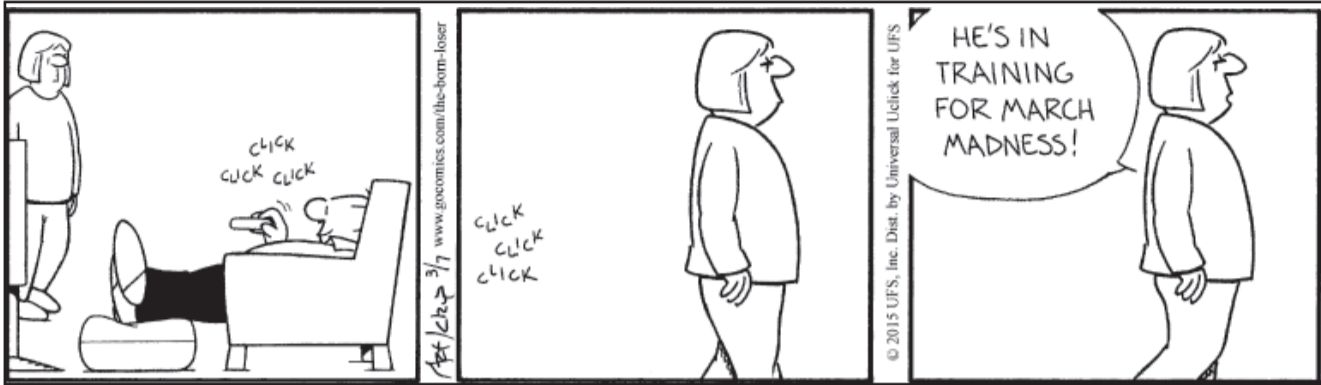
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You have a lot of responsibilities, but the ones that are screaming for your attention are the small ones. Nothing is too small for you to notice today, so balance your checkbook right down to the penny.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You can act like children, as long as you're clear that you'll have to pick up the tab like adults. Still want to have fun? Try it in a more economical way.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 It's all relative. You may be bored with economic cutbacks, but they pale compared to stories you've heard about the past. That doesn't exactly spice things up, but it should put them in perspective.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 When times are tight, financing for art and beautiful words is traditionally the first thing to go out the window. These days it's McMansions and new SUV's. That's a distinction worthy of poetry.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle.

WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION

Weather forecast table for CHINA with cities like Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, etc.

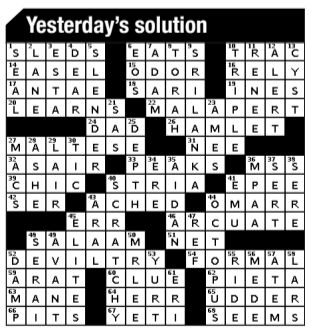
WORLD

Weather forecast table for WORLD with cities like Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, etc.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Navajo dwelling; 6- Brooks of country; 11- B&O stop; 14- Beneficial; 15- Wool source; 16- Dijon denial; 17- Get into hot water?; 18- Processes for choosing a government; 20- Canadian prov.; 21- June 6, 1944; 23- Shouldered; 24- Actress Barkin; 26- Throw loosely about; 28- Sway; 30- Appliance brand; 31- Greek epic poem; 32- Cultivate; 33- ___-relief; 36- ___ Fein; 37- Geneva's lake; 38- Shed feathers; 39- Children's game; 40- Eccentric; 41- Stop; 42- Article of food; 43- Show servile deference; 44- Body of retainers; 47- Murders; 48- Like some vbs.; 49- Annul; 50- Pallid; 53- Breeding stallion; 56- Full of substance; 58- Some M.I.T. grads; 59- Isolated; 60- Pickle juice; 61- Atl. Crosser; 62- Utopian; 63- Ready _____;

DOWN: 1- Rail rider; 2- In the blink ___ eye; 3- Melted wax of a candle; 4- Volcanic fallout; 5- Teased; 6- Derive; 7- Associate; 8- Arctic explorer John; 9- HBO alternative; 10- Ribbon about the crown of a hat; 11- Nasal grunt; 12- 1,000 kilograms; 13- Goose genus; 19- Teeny bit; 22- TV room; 25- Incline; 26- Sully; 27- Normandy city; 28- Prehistoric sepulchral tomb; 29- Et ___; 30- Packing heat; 32- Designer Geoffrey; 33- Warrant officer on a warship; 34- Likewise; 35- Do a slow burn; 37- Island feast; 38- Cry like a baby; 40- Province in NW China; 41- Commercial capital of Sri Lanka; 42- Competed; 43- Youngster; 44- Ascends; 45- Some Art Deco works; 46- Confidence; 47- Prepare to propose; 49- Annapolis sch.; 51- time (never); 52- Russian no; 54- Getting on; 55- Future flounder; 57- Stray



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PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
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Andrew Seligman, Chicago

THE Chicago Blackhawks won their third NHL Stanley Cup in six years by beating Tampa Bay 2-0 on Monday (US time) to take the series 4 games to 2. Patrick Kane and Duncan Keith scored and this time Chicago clinched the title at home — something it last did in 1938 — to enable the party to begin immediately.

“We won it for each other, for the city,” Blackhawks captain Jonathan Toews said. “In so many ways, winning a championship like this in our home city, it really transcends the sport. Everyone wants to be a part of it. It’s amazing.”

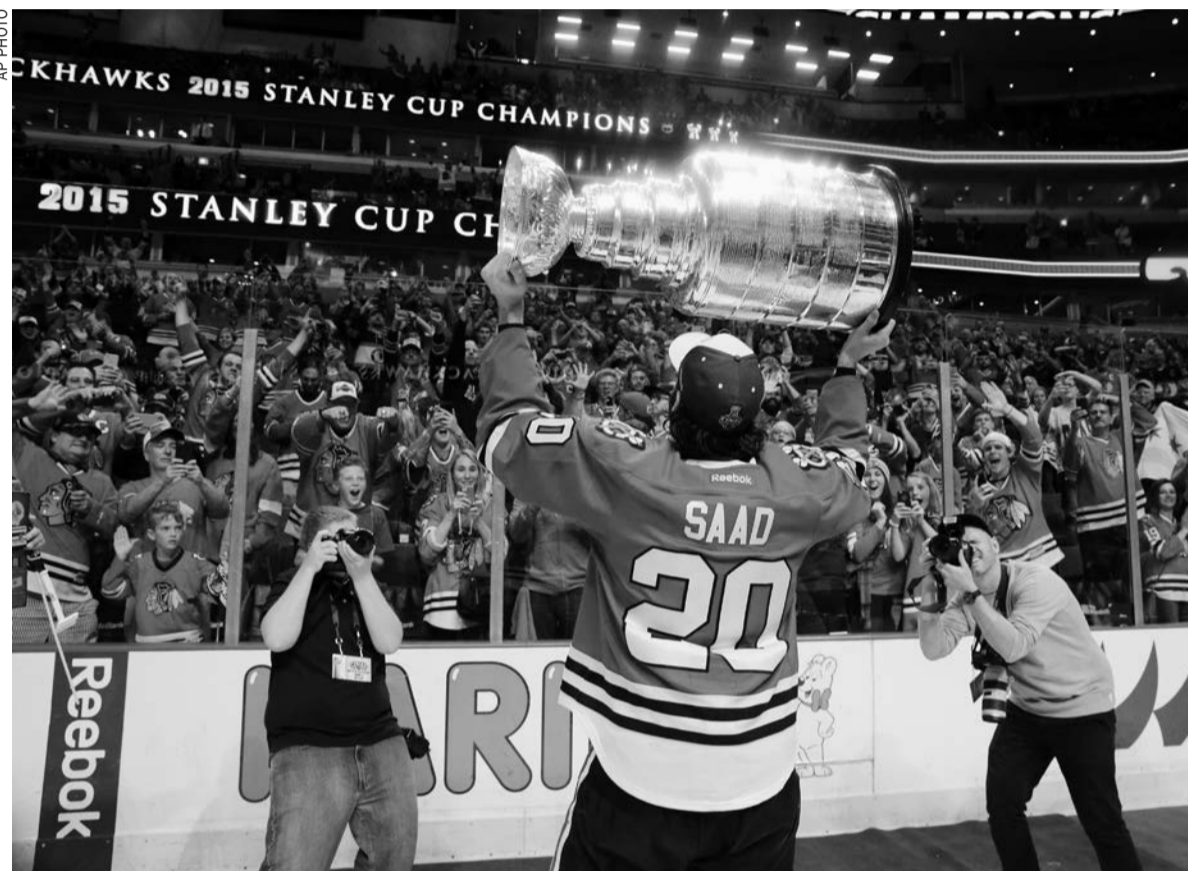
Keith, the Blackhawks’ iron man directed a dominant defense that shut down Tampa Bay’s high-scoring attack and also gave Chicago a 1-0 lead when he knocked in his own rebound with 2:47 left in the second period.

Kane made it 2-0 in the third when he scored on a one-time shot on a three-on-two rush with 5:13 left in the game — his first goal of the series. It was the first time in the final that either team had a two-goal lead.

Goaltender Corey Crawford, who was pulled from the first-round playoff series against Nashville before re-establishing himself as first-choice goalie, had 25 saves in his fifth career playoff shutout.

Keith was a unanimous selection for the Conn Smythe Trophy for playoff MVP after he

Chicago beats Tampa Bay 2-0 to win Stanley Cup



Chicago Blackhawks' Brandon Saad celebrates after defeating the Tampa Bay Lightning in Game 6 of the NHL hockey Stanley Cup Final series

finished with 21 points while playing over 700 minutes in a grueling postseason.

“It feels so great. You want to keep being a part of these things,” Keith said. “You don’t get

these awards without being on great teams with great players. I’m just proud to be a part of this group of guys who cares so much and do whatever it takes.”

It was an appropriate con-

clusion to a series full of near misses and close calls that had fans in Chicago and Tampa Bay on the edge of their seats for almost two weeks. It was only the second final to begin with five

one-goal games, and no team enjoyed a two-goal advantage until an open Kane buried a perfect pass from Brad Richards at 14:46 of the third.

It was Kane’s first goal of the series, and it touched off a wild celebration by the frenzied crowd of 22,424.

“I’d say you have a dynasty,” NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman told the cheering crowd as he presented the trophy to the grinning Blackhawks.

Ben Bishop kept the Lightning in the game with 30 saves, fighting through some sort of lower-body injury that kept him out of Game 4. Led by Bishop and big defenseman Victor Hedman, the Lightning allowed just 13 goals in the series, but it wasn’t enough against the unflappable Blackhawks.

“Our goal scoring dried up. It wasn’t for lack of trying,” coach Jon Cooper said. “The chances, posts, missed nets, open nets that hit sticks, you need those to go in for you to keep going. Ultimately they dried up for us.”

Tampa Bay star Steven Stamkos finished the playoffs with an eight-game scoring drought that likely will haunt him into the offseason. He rung the inside of the crossbar on a near miss at 7:50 of the first and was stoned by Crawford on a breakaway 58 seconds into the middle period.

“It’s so frustrating especially for me not being able to get the job done these last couple games,” Stamkos said. “That’s something you’re going to remember for a long time.”

The pair of missed opportunities for one of the NHL’s most gifted scorers was made costly when the Blackhawks got on the board in the second.

Keith got a nice pass from Kane in the middle and shot it around Tampa Bay center Cedric Paquette. Bishop stopped his first try, but Keith kept skating past Paquette and flipped in the rebound at 17:13.

It was the first Stanley Cup for Kimmo Timonen, who has said he plans to retire. The 40-year-old Finnish defenseman was acquired in a trade with Philadelphia in February after he missed the start of the season while recovering from blood clots in his leg and lungs.

After captain Jonathan Toews got the trophy from NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman, he handed it right to Timonen, who proudly hoisted it into the air.

“I leave this game as a Stanley Cup champion. I can’t ask for anything more than that,” Timonen said. **AP**

Kimmo Timonen will retire a champion

KIMMO Timonen got the Stanley Cup from Jonathan Toews and raised it high above his head, unleashing a cathartic roar in concert with the raucous United Center crowd.

In the final game of a 16-year NHL career and a lifetime in hockey, the 40-year-old defenseman became a champion at last.

What a big finish for the smallish Finn who overcame every obstacle to the grandest of finales.

Timonen fought back tears and conflicting emotions in the final minutes leading to the best — and the last — moment of his playing days.

“It feels empty,” Timonen said right after he raised the Cup for the first time Monday night.

“It’s been a long journey,” he added. “There’s been good moments, bad moments, tough moments, ups and downs. I was dreaming about this moment for a long time, and it’s right here. This game has given me so much, and I’m relieved, happy, ready to leave this game, and I’m leaving this game as a Stanley Cup champion.”

Timonen affirmed his determination to retire this summer after squeezing one more magical season out of his career, bravely coming back to hockey after health problems due to blood clots that forced him to contemplate retirement.



Kimmo Timonen celebrates

I’m leaving this game as a Stanley Cup champion

KIMMO TIMONEN

Traded from Philadelphia to Chicago late in the season specifically for this chance, he never scored a point for the Blackhawks and played sparingly in the postseason — but his name will be etched on the Stanley Cup.

After Toews accepted the Cup from Commissioner Gary Bettman amid the celebration of Chicago’s clinching 2-0 victory over Tampa Bay, the captain swiftly handed it to Timonen, who looked bewildered and overjoyed simultaneously.

“I didn’t know what to do with it,” Timonen said. “I didn’t know you could go around the rink with it. It was my first time. I played this game a long time and battled hard for years. I’ve been on the losing side of the story so many times that I know guys realize that.”

Indeed, Timonen has four Olympic medals with Finland, but no golds. He reached three World Championships finals, losing every time.

Japan held to 0-0 by Singapore in Asian World Cup qualifier

JAPAN was held to a goalless draw by visiting minnow Singapore while Guam pulled off only its second World Cup qualifying win when it beat India 2-1 yesterday.

Also, Son Heung-min confirmed his status as one of the biggest stars in Asian football by inspiring South Korea to a 2-0 win over Myanmar in Bangkok.

Japan dominated at Saitama Stadium but couldn't find a way to beat Singapore goalkeeper Izwan Bin Mahbud, who produced spectacular saves.

One of Bin Mahbud's best saves was when he swatted away Shinji Okazaki's header just before it crossed the line, 10 minutes after halftime.

Moments later, the Singapore keeper dived to his left to get a hand on a Keisuke Honda header.

Honda had another golden opportunity when his free kick from 25 meters hit the post in the 72nd.

Singapore, which is 154th in the world rankings, leads Asia Group E early with four points. Japan, bidding for its sixth straight World Cup berth, has one.

Guam's first successful qualifier was last week, against Turkmenistan 1-0.

Yesterday, Brandon McDonald put host Guam ahead of India in the 38th minute



Japan's Keisuke Honda, center right, and Singapore's goalkeeper Mohamad Izwan Bin Mahbud, center left, vie for the ball during their second round soccer match of regional qualifiers for the 2018 World Cup, in Saitama, north of Tokyo

in Tamuning, and Travis Nicklaw doubled the advantage in the 62nd. Sunil Chhetri pulled one back for the visitors in stoppage time but India was handed its second defeat.

Turkmenistan held Iran to 1-1 in Tashkent in the other

Group D match.

Serdar Azmoun put Iran ahead after four minutes, cutting in from the left flank and slotting the ball past goalkeeper Nikita Gorbunov, but Turkmenistan leveled in first-half stoppage time against the run of play when Ruslan

Mingazov scored.

Iran laid siege to the Turkmen goal in the second half but was foiled by acrobatic saves from Gorbunov.

In Bangkok, where Myanmar was ordered to host South Korea following recent crowd violence in Yangon, a corner

by Son was headed home by Lee Jae-sung 10 minutes before the break, then Son fired home a long-range free kick in the second half to seal a comfortable win.

Myanmar rarely threatened a South Korea which sits on top of Group G after one game.

"If you look at the scoreline then you may think there was not a big difference between the teams," South Korea coach Uli Stielike said. "However, we dominated possession and had few problems at the back. We only had difficulties in attack, as we missed lots of chances and our passing was not what it should have been."

Afghanistan rebounded from a 6-0 hiding from Syria by edging Cambodia 1-0 with a goal in the 86th minute from Mustafa Zazai in Phnom Penh in Group E.

North Korea scored four first-half goals en route to a 4-2 win over Uzbekistan to top Group H with its second win. Uzbekistan got late goals from Igor Sergeev and Sardor Rashidov but remained winless.

Omar Abdulrahman scored with 10 minutes to go for United Arab Emirates to beat East Timor 1-0, and lead Group A.

Bangladesh and Tajikistan got their first points in Group B with a 1-1 draw at Dhaka. Jahid Hasan opened the scoring for Bangladesh in the 50th, but Fatkhullo Fatkhuloev netted the equalizer two minutes from fulltime.

Thailand moved on top of Group F with its second victory as Teerasil Dangda scored both first-half goals in 2-0 win over Taiwan. **AP**

FIFA President Sepp Blatter will not go to New Zealand for the Under-20 World Cup final on Saturday. Amid speculation that Blatter risks arrest in many countries, FIFA confirmed yesterday that he will remain in his native Switzerland instead of traveling to Auckland.

"Due to his current commitments in Zurich the FIFA president will not be able to travel to New Zealand to attend the final," the governing body said in a statement.

Blatter's plans have been uncertain since seven football officials were arrested in FIFA's home city three weeks ago in an American investigation of corruption. They face extradition to the United States.

The FIFA president, who has announced plans to resign within months,

Blatter not going to New Zealand for U20 World Cup final

is a target of the widening case, a law enforcement official has confirmed to the Associated Press.

Blatter is working on a slate of modernizing

Blatter is said to risk arrest in many countries

reforms he hopes to get approved at a special election meeting of 209 member federations. It should be held sometime from December to March.



Sepp Blatter

He would typically attend at least one match at the two-yearly under-20 event but is skipping the

whole tournament.

Blatter saw the opening ceremony and first two matches at the 2013

tournament in Kayseri, Turkey, making a transatlantic trip during the troubled Confederations

Cup in Brazil.

He went to Bogota for the 2011 final. FIFA said yesterday that Blatter could yet attend the Women's World Cup final on July 5 in Vancouver, Canada.

Blatter and FIFA secretary general Jerome Valcke have not been to Canada for the 24-team tournament, which kicked off 10 days ago.

Valcke has been linked to the American case for helping to transfer \$10 million from FIFA accounts in 2008 to accounts controlled by then-FIFA vice president Jack Warner of Trinidad and Tobago.

American prosecutors allege the money was bribes agreed by South African officials to pay Warner and two other FIFA voters for supporting the country's 2010 World Cup hosting bid **AP**

opinion

World Views

William Pesek

JAPAN CORPORATIONS ACT LIKE IT'S 1985

The Japanese government's newfound embrace of international corporate governance standards has the potential to be an epochal moment for the country's economy. Shareholders are now being encouraged to challenge Japanese CEOs, and companies across the country find themselves under pressure to diversify their boards and increase accountability. There's just one problem: Japan's biggest companies are greeting these reforms with a halfhearted shrug.

When it comes to corporate governance, Takata, Toshiba, Sharp and Toyota are still acting as if it's 1985. Deadly airbag maker Takata is as opaque as ever in its dealings with the public. Toshiba is avoiding any admissions about its growing accounting scandal. Sharp is refusing to exit money-losing businesses, angling for government aid instead. Toyota is hawking new shares that can't be sold for five years, the better to resist the demands of shareholders. And you can now include Honda, Japan Tobacco and even the operator of the Nikkei stock exchange on the list of recalcitrant Japanese corporations.

Honda has been in need of new leadership since Takanobu Ito resigned as CEO in February in the wake of an international safety scandal that claimed the lives of as many as seven people (thanks to Takata's faulty airbags). Yet Honda revealed Monday that its new leader will be a 33-year company veteran, upholding a 41-year custom of leaders hand-picking their successors from within the company — the same insular practice that drove Japan's tech giants into the ground in prior decades.

Japan's Ministry of Finance is also failing to uphold Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's vision of a transformed corporate landscape. This week, the ministry announced it is scrapping its previously announced plans to sell its holdings in Japan Tobacco, Asia's biggest listed cigarette maker, to fund the restoration of earthquake-ravaged communities and halt radiation leaks at Fukushima. Even as Abe talks of making corporate Japan more transparent, his own government has still been making massive economic decisions behind closed doors.

And then there's Japan Exchange. For years, Japan's law enforcement and corporate establishment tolerated companies leaking earnings guidance to the media, which enabled insiders to reap enormous profits in trading — a practice that, if it happened on Wall Street, would quickly earn the attention of the FBI.

All three examples show how Abe's new initiatives are no match for Japan's traditional "iron triangle" — the clubby nexus of elected officials, bureaucrats and CEOs that has long dominated Japan's economy and resisted any prime minister who dared challenge them.

That's not to say change isn't afoot. Aside from nudging corporate boards to add more outsiders and women, Abe's new regulations have forced companies to disclose their policies on cross-shareholdings and the exercise of shareholder voting rights. And it's a sign of progress that Japan Exchange recently declared it is "ashamed" at Toshiba's accounting scandal.

But that admonishment also underscores how much more needs to be done. Japan Exchange has no excuse for keeping Toshiba on the list of JPX-Nikkei Index 400, its list of role-model companies. Japanese regulators should be pouncing, too, demanding to see Toshiba's books requiring management do more to investigate the scandal than name a hand-picked "third-party committee," the oldest of corporate Japan's obfuscating gimmicks. The same stringent approach should apply to any other corporate icon ignoring the Japanese government's reform efforts.

The first step will be to acknowledge the urgency of the problem. If Japanese CEOs can't make real progress when it comes to corporate accountability, it's hard to see how Japan can sustain its 35 percent stock market rally over the past 12 months. As Japan has learned all too painfully before, bubbles don't last forever. **Bloomberg**

THE BUZZ UNIONPAY EXPANDS HONG KONG PRESENCE

China UnionPay Co. acquired a stake in Hong Kong's Joint Electronic Teller Services Ltd. as the bank-card payments processor seeks a greater presence outside the mainland. UnionPay has become a strategic investor in Jetco, also joining the automated teller machine network

operator's board, the Chinese company said in an e-mailed statement yesterday, without disclosing the size of the stake or price. The two companies will cooperate on mobile payments with a new service called "Quickpass" by the end of 2015 in Hong Kong, it said.

STUDY

Nazi propaganda left life long mark on German kids



In this Feb. 24, 1936 file photo, a group of boys march beneath Nazi standards in Berlin

ANTI-SEMITIC propaganda had a life-long effect on German children schooled during the Nazi period, leaving them far more likely to harbor negative views of Jews than those born earlier and later, according to a study published Monday.

The findings indicate that attempts to influence public attitudes are most effective when they target young people, particularly if the message confirms existing beliefs, the authors said.

Researchers from the United States and Switzerland examined surveys conducted in 1996 and 2006 that asked respondents about a range of issues, including their opinions of Jews. The polls, known as the German General Social Survey, reflected the views of 5,300 people from 264 towns and cities across Germany, allowing the researchers

to examine differences according to age, gender and location.

By focusing on those respondents who expressed consistently negative views of Jews in a number of questions, the researchers found that those born in the 1930s held the most extreme anti-Semitic opinions — even fifty years after the end of Nazi rule.

"It's not just that Nazi schooling worked, that if you subject people to a totalitarian regime during their formative years it will influence the way their mind works," said Hans-Joachim Voth of the University of Zurich, one of the study's authors. "The striking thing is that it doesn't go away afterward."

But members of the group, which was systematically indoctrinated by the Nazi education system during Adolf Hitler's 1933-1945 dictatorship, also

showed marked differences depending on whether they came from an area where anti-Semitism was already strong before the Nazis.

For this, the researchers compared the survey with historical voting records going back to the late 1890s. They found that those from areas where anti-Semitic parties were traditionally strong also had the most negative opinions of Jews.

"The extent to which Nazi schooling worked depended crucially on whether the overall environment where children grew up was already a bit anti-Semitic," said Voth. "It tells you that indoctrination can work, it can last to a surprising extent, but the way it works has to be compatible to something people already believe."

Benjamin Ortmeyer, who heads a research center on Nazi education at Frankfurt's Goethe University, said the study's conclusions were "absolutely plausible."

"The significance of this kind of propaganda hasn't really been exposed," said Ortmeyer, who wasn't involved in the study. "Compared to the brutal deeds of the Nazi mass murderers this area of crimes, the brainwashing, was largely ignored." **AP**

Station	Air quality
Roadside	10-30 Good
High Density Residential Area	25-45 Good
Ambient	20-40 Good

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

PHILIPPINES A Philippine volcano spews plumes of ash, but volcanologists say the steam-driven explosions do not indicate an imminent violent eruption.

INDIA Nestle India says it will destroy instant noodles worth 3.2 billion rupees (USD50 million) following a sales ban imposed by Indian food safety authorities for unsafe levels of lead. *More on p12*

VATICAN CITY A draft copy of Pope Francis' eagerly awaited encyclical on the environment calls for urgent action to protect the Earth and fight global warming, which the pope says is "mostly" due to human activity and the burning of fossil fuels.

SYRIA Kurdish fighters take full control of the border town of Tal Abyad, dealing a major blow to the Islamic State group's ability to wage war in Syria.



AP PHOTO

RUSSIA The military this year alone will receive over 40 new intercontinental ballistic missiles capable of piercing any missile defenses, President Vladimir Putin said yesterday in a blunt reminder of the nation's nuclear might amid tensions with the West over Ukraine.

USA Donald Trump, the flamboyant real estate magnate and television personality whose fortune is valued at USD9 billion, is set to announce whether he intends to make a longshot run for the U.S. presidency on the ticket of the Republican Party.

USA Two escaped murderers remain at large as a woman charged with helping the killers flee from a maximum-security prison by providing them hacksaw blades, chisels and other tools makes a second court appearance.

USA An apartment building balcony collapsed early yesterday in Berkeley, California, killing five people and leaving eight others injured, many of them young people from Ireland, officials said. Irish Foreign Minister Charlie Flanagan told reporters in Dublin that all five of those killed were Irish students in the U.S. on temporary visas. He said a 21st birthday party was underway in the building at the time of the accident.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Xinhua/Then Chih Wey



Fireworks in the sky over Singapore's National Stadium. After 12 days of competition, the 28th Southeast Asian Games (SEA Games) came to a close yesterday.