



ELECTORAL LAW PRELIMINARY REVISION

By reviewing the electoral law, the gov't is hoping to "improve competitiveness," according to Sonia Chan

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ECHO BEATS CROWN IN BRISBANE

Echo Entertainment Group won the right to develop a gambling resort in the center of Brisbane

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MACAU-TAIPA 4TH LINK: TUNNEL OR BRIDGE?



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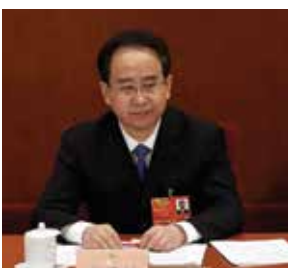
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CHINA State media say former President Hu Jintao's top aide has been stripped of his party membership, removed from all government positions, and will be criminally prosecuted on corruption charges. Xinhua News Agency said yesterday that an internal investigation found that Ling Jihua, who once served as head of the Communist Party's general office, took huge bribes and used his position to seek benefits for others. The news report also suggests Ling might have leaked classified information.

IRAN's Foreign Ministry yesterday dismissed visiting German Vice Chancellor Sigmar Gabriel's call for Iran to recognize Israel, Iranian media reported. "For some issues in the Middle East, we have quite different policies from those of Germany, and we have made it clear over the past 35 years," Afkham said in response to recent remarks by Gabriel.

AP PHOTO



IRAN-USA The U.N. Security Council yesterday unanimously endorsed the landmark nuclear deal between Iran and six world powers and authorized a series of measures leading to the end of U.N. sanctions that have hurt Iran's economy. But the measure also provides a mechanism for U.N. sanctions to "snap back" in place if Iran fails to meet its obligations.

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Association against shorter sentences for animal abuse

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AP PHOTO



New era in ties begins as Cuba raises flag at embassy in US

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Pre-sale buyers seek help after alleged delay

Over ten pre-sale buyers of properties in the Pearl Horizon, a residential complex currently under construction, submitted a collective petition to the government yesterday. They are seeking intervention as the property developer is allegedly behind schedule, and the blocks' foundation construction is due to be finished by the end of the year. The delay might be indicative of potential procrastination over the course of construction. The petitioners were also concerned with the firm's manpower, another reason for the delay. Additionally, the group also accused the firm of rejecting regular meetings with the proprietors concerning construction progress. Three hours later, the property developer responded to flat owners' allegations, claiming that it was the owners who had cancelled their previous meeting and were yet to schedule another make-up meeting. The company also claimed that they possessed the sufficient workforce to keep the construction on schedule.

Gaming management students visit Taiwan



A group of Macau Polytechnic Institute (IPM)'s Gaming and Recreation Management major students have completed an exchange program with Taiwan's I-Shou University. The students attended lectures on topics including planning, marketing and the transformation of Kaohsiung, Taiwan's creative and tourism industries, and tourism relating to Taiwan indigenous tribal culture. The IPM students also visited hotel and tourism facilities, the Pier-2 Art Centre, the Taiwan Indigenous People's Cultural Park, as well as R&D and manufacturing facilities for automated card shufflers and robotic arms for card dealing. Students from I-Shou majoring in Entertainment Management made a reciprocal visit to Macau over the past week.

MSAR flag to fly half mast for late Wan Li

Macau's flag will be hoisted at half-mast at the Government Headquarters to mourn the passing of the former chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, Wan Li. In response to Beijing's funeral arrangements for the late politician, many other provinces across the country will make similar gestures in tribute to the much-extolled figure. The communist party leader, who helped end the failed Mao-era policy of collective farming, died on July 15 at the age of 98 in Beijing.

Preliminary review of AL electoral law to be drafted this year

Catarina Pinto

The government will be drafting a preliminary revision of Macau's Legislative Assembly (AL) electoral law this year, the Secretary for Administration and Justice, Sonia Chan, revealed yesterday on the sidelines of an AL Standing Committee meeting.

"We're striving to complete the electoral law revision before 2017. Of course, this year we are trying to complete a preliminary revision," she claimed. The draft would then be subject to public consultation.

Ms Chan told reporters that by reviewing current legislation on AL elections, the government is hoping to "improve competitiveness while reinforcing impartiality and fairness in [lawmakers'] indirect elections."

The government will be cooperating with the Com-



Sonia Chan

mission Against Corruption (CCAC) to review the electoral law, she added.

The Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau (SAFP) is currently assessing a report drafted by the Electoral Affairs Commission on the 2013 AL elections. Based

on SAFP's assessment, the government will then be able to review the law.

Meanwhile, Ms Chan revealed that Macau, China and Hong Kong are yet to reach a final agreement on an extradition treaty that is currently under discussion. She added that international cooperation on legal matters has its own principles, while regional cooperation requires Ma-

cau to defend its 'one country, two systems' mantra.

She reiterated that once the Macau, Hong Kong and mainland China governments reach an agreement, they will sign the treaty as soon as possible. Ms Chan said they're hoping to sign it within this year.

Negotiations for a similar treaty with Taiwan have not yet begun, she revealed.

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

BRIBERY CONVICTION 'DOES NOT AFFECT ELECTION RESULT'

THE SECRETARY for Administration and Justice, Sonia Chan, has said that, according to the local law, a bribery conviction of two staff members of Chan Meng Kam's campaign bid will not affect the election results at this point. She declined to comment further on the case. Chan Meng Kam reigned victorious in the 2013 AL elections, managing to

secure his seat and those of Si Ka Lon and Song Pek Kei. In a reply to TDM, the Chief Executive's Office said that Chui Sai On is paying attention to the bribery case, and is waiting to hear from the lawmakers' office. Meanwhile, the three lawmakers declined to comment on the case, stating they would be holding a joint press conference, probably today.

Water in new public housing estates to be tested

The government will conduct water testing in all of the newly-constructed public housing estates in order to ease public concerns about the water quality following an incident in Hong Kong. The move was recently announced after a meeting was arranged by the Marine and Water Bureau with several departments and the Macao Water Supply Company Limited.

Officials stressed that the current mechanism includes a set of strict super-



vising procedures over water quality: water is tested at least twice before distribution to households, plus a regular testing for metal levels. According to them, all results show that the water in Macau is safe for consumption and meets the World Health Organization's standards.

Considering the situation in Hong Kong, where excessive lead content was found in drinking water in public housing estates, the government has asked Macao Water to strengthen its water testing procedures to further safeguard the quality of water supply in the region.

Human Resources Office stresses legality of labor import

The ratio of imported labor to local manpower throughout various sectors has been subject to the varying economic atmosphere and its actual needs, says the Human Resources Office. This is in response to lawmaker Lei Cheng I's written interpellation over local supply and demand for human resources.

Lei claimed in her statement citing the office's statistics, that 4,492 new migrant workers arrived in Macau between March and May, despite a slight increase in the unemployment rate recorded

in the same period. The office described the ratio as "dynamic development," which would be adjusted based on Macau's current situation, and the authorities stressed that all their application approvals were made legally.

The office commissioned an academic institute to study the labor market in the region, and the result will be released to the public after the data has been compiled. The government is still exploring the possibility of merging the office into the Labour Affairs Bureau.

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Catarina Pinto

THE Legislative Assembly (AL) 1st Standing Committee agreed to reduce sentences for animal abuse to a maximum of one year, lawmaker Kwan Tsui Hang, president of the committee, said yesterday.

The government's new draft of the Animal Protection Bill, currently being discussed by AL's 1st Standing Committee, suggests that animal abuse offenders be sentenced to up to one year of jail time.

Ms Kwan said that out of the eight legislators attending yesterday's meeting, only one lawmaker expressed an opposing opinion, pushing for a higher sentence. The government had previously discussed a three-year maximum sentence.

"The spirit of this law is to prevent and warn people not to commit acts of animal cruelty," she stressed, recalling that Macau's legal framework features lower penalties than those of neighboring regions. Furthermore, she stressed that government research and figures show that there aren't many cases of animal abuse here.

"According to government statistics, people do care for their pets. Of course we need to punish animal abuse cases, but there aren't that many cases," she added.

Speaking on the sidelines of yesterday's meeting, the Secretary for Administration and Justice, Sonia Chan, also pointed out the need to take Macau's legal framework into account

Lawmakers agree on one-year jail term for animal abuse



Earlier this month, animal rights advocates gathered with their pets to march from Tap Seac Square to the Legislative Assembly opposing the latest changes to the Animal Protection Bill

when deciding on the maximum jail sentence for animal abuse.

Animal associations have called for stronger penalties, but Ms Chan hinted that the government will not be making any concessions at this time.

"We need to take into consideration the framework of our Criminal Code. Our main goal is to raise awareness among society over animal protection, so we are planning to maintain this one-year maximum sentence," she told reporters.

Ms Kwan reiterated that since the Animal Protection Bill is a new law in Macau, lawmakers agreed that a one-year jail term for animal abuse is an adequate sentence. However, she did not rule out the possibility of further amendments to introduce higher penalties in the future.

Ms Kwan hinted that the Criminal Code already covers cases of criminal reoffending, even when it comes to animal abuse.

According to the 1st Standing Committee's president, AL legal advisers suggested that when a citizen commits a crime against animals more than once, judges might consider applying jail terms longer than one year.

Lawmaker Kwan acknowledged that the discussions concern-

ing the Animal Protection Bill amongst AL's 1st Standing Committee will not be completed before the year's end.

"We will meet with government representatives to further discuss administrative sanctions. The government will be amending the bill's current draft (...) We can't complete it within this legislative term. We need to wait for the new draft," she said.

Ms Kwan added, "We still need to add many changes to the draft." The government and lawmakers are discussing whether pet owners should be held accountable in case, for instance, a dog bites someone else.

The lawmaker recalled that, until now, one would only be requested to pay a fine, but they're now considering introducing other sanctions. "The committee believes that this law should reflect upon this matter, too," she expressed.

Ms Kwan concluded by stressing that the motivation behind the Animal Protection Bill is to raise awareness of animal protection among society, and to educate people to respect and care for animals.

The Animal Protection Bill passed its first reading at the AL last October.

Proposal is a 'huge step backwards,' says Albano Martins

Catarina Pinto

THE president of the animal protection association Anima, Albano Martins, believes that the government's decision to set a one-year maximum prison sentence for animal abuse "is a huge step backwards."

Mr Martins told the Times that Macau's 9/96 law contemplates a three-year maximum jail term for those who physically or mentally abuse racing animals. Therefore, he sees no reason why offenders who mistreat pets should receive a lower sentence.

"Do they [the government and lawmakers] know that such a law applies in Macau? It would make sense to establish a three-year sentence, because it doesn't make any sense to have a three-year prison sentence applied to those

who abuse racing animals and only a one-year prison sentence for those who mistreat all the other animals," he recalled.

The president of AL's 1st Standing Committee, lawmaker Kwan Tsui Hang, said yesterday that lawmakers agreed to set a one-year prison sentence for animal abuse while discussing Macau's Animal Protection Bill draft, which passed its first reading last year.

Animals at the Jockey Club are living under miserable conditions

ALBANO MARTINS

She recalled that Macau usually has lower prison penalties than its neighboring regions, and that the spirit of the law is to raise awareness of animal protection, urging citizens to love and care for pets and other animals.

Ms Kwan reiterated that, according to government statistics, there haven't been many cases of animal abuse here.

The Secretary for Administration and Justice, Sonia Chan, also said that the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) recorded few animal abuse cases, with complaints amounting to just a "one-digit number."

Mr Martins does not hold the same opinion. He raises the possibility that many animal abuse cases may not even be reported. "There are many

examples of animal cruelty here," including killing, he warned.

Anima, the Society for the Protection of Animals, was founded in 2003 and has since become known for fighting for animal rights.

The association has recently advocated for the closure of Macau's dog racing stadium, the Canidrome, once the current concession contract expires later this year.

A petition launched on Anima's website advocating for the closing of the Canidrome has gathered over 300,000 supporters. The Canidrome is managed by the greyhound racing company Macau (Yat Yuen) Canidrome Co Ltd, and controlled by Stanley Ho's STDM.

Mr Martins said that both the Canidrome and the Jockey Club should close down once their respective



Albano Martins (center)

concession contracts expire, as neither of the companies are making a good profit.

He recalled that the Jockey Club's losses amount to MOP3.8 billion and that the Canidrome has also faced lower gross annual revenue over recent years.

Mr Martins also claims that there are about 30 dogs being killed each month at the Canidrome. "How could the government allow for the Canidrome to operate since it's not profitable? It also triggers a lot of problems for people living in the area," he said, adding that horses at the Macau Jockey Club live under "miserab-

le conditions," with no air conditioning.

Some have suggested that if the Canidrome closes down, greyhounds could be transferred to the Jockey Club. However, Mr Martins claimed that it's simply a bad idea to bring greyhounds and horses together. He concluded by saying, "Animals at the Jockey Club are living under miserable conditions; according to information we have been able to gather, it's very hot there and horses are not being fed properly. It doesn't make sense to bring all these animals together when there's even a hotel under construction there."

WIKILEAKS EMAILS

ICAC confirms interest in hacking software

HONG Kong's Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) has officially confirmed that it is considering the acquisition of spy software developed by the controversial company Hacking Team. "We are now in the process of inquiring into a product by this company," ICAC's Commissioner Simon Peh confirmed, as cited by the South China Morning Post.

An e-mail between an ICAC principal investigator and the head of Hacking Team's Singapore branch shows that ICAC was interested in the company's Galileo remote control system,



particularly for mobile phones. Among the more than one million Hacking Team-related emails released by WikiLeaks are also messages that indicate that the Macau Judiciary Police and the Commission Against Corruption have shown an interest in Hacking Team's software. Both institutions refused to disclose any details of their busi-

ness arrangements with the Milan-based company, stating that their investigations are done in "accordance with the law."

Commenting on the case yesterday, the Macau Judiciary Police director Chau Wai Kuong said that "the police always abides by the law and if that wasn't the case there would be consequences." **PB**

We are now in the process of inquiring into a product by this company

ICAC COMMISSIONER

CRIME

Local schoolgirl swindled to buy 'virtual items'

A local student became the victim of an online hoax when she attempted to buy "virtual items" from an unknown mainland store for a popular mobile game, revealed the Judiciary Police.

The victim reported her loss to the police last Thursday, claiming she had been paying an online agency, which had promised to offer her the "game equipment" at a price much lower than others. The scammer gave the victim a link via the Chinese instant messenger Tencent QQ, directing her to a site where she paid RMB360 for the offer. However, the agent insisted that her first payment had failed and demanded for her to conduct another payment. After repeated payments, the schoolgirl had paid a total amount of RMB10,440 before she realized that it was a fraud.

In a separate case, me-

chanical components of a construction company's air purifiers, worth MOP 652,000, have been missing for around three months after disappearing from the company's work-site in Cotai Strip, according to the Judiciary Police.

The disappearance of the parts triggered the company's speculation that it could have been a theft. The components, bought in July last year, had long been placed on the first-floor terrace of the building at the site before they were relocated to another area for temporary storage on the same level in March this year, and this was when workers discovered their absence.

The company finally contacted the police last Friday concerning the possible theft. The group thought that the missing assembly might have been mistakenly stored elsewhere on the site by its staff over the past few months. **Staff reporter**

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Echo beats billionaire Packer's Crown with Brisbane casino pick

David Fickling

ECHO Entertainment Group Ltd. won the right to develop a gambling resort in the center of Brisbane, fending off competition from billionaire James Packer's Crown Resorts Ltd. which broke its Sydney casino monopoly two years ago.

A consortium led by Echo and including Chow Tai Fook Enterprises Ltd. and Far East Consortium International Ltd. will be the preferred bidder for the river-front site, Queensland state premier Annastacia Palaszczuk said in a media conference yesterday. The resort could cost as much as A\$2 billion (USD1.5 billion), according to Credit Suisse Group AG.

The project is a wager that spending in Australia's casinos can grow fast enough to absorb as many as three new major resorts over the next five years, even after gambling revenues in Macau fell 36 percent in June. The value of bets by high-rollers at Echo's existing casinos almost doubled in the six months ended December as an anti-graft crackdown in

BLOOMBERG



James Packer was bidding to develop the Brisbane casino

This development will change Brisbane's CBD

ANNASTACIA PALASZCZUK

China drove Macau gamblers elsewhere in the region, Echo said in February.

"This development will change Brisbane's CBD," Palaszczuk said yesterday. "I am very excited about the proposal and the project and we know what this means for Brisbane, making it a premium tourist destination."

Queensland is hoping tourism revenues can offset the decline of a mining and petroleum investment boom. Mineral royalties will be about A\$4.6 billion less over four years than previously forecast, according to the state's July 14 budget.

China is Australia's fastest-growing source of tourists and

accounts for 18 percent of trip spending, according to government data -- almost as much as the U.K. and U.S. put together.

Echo shares have gained 28 percent so far this year, amid analyst forecasts that net income will have almost doubled to A\$201 million in the year ended June. Returns on the stock amounted to about 42 percent over the 12-month period compared to a 17 percent decline for Crown, the first time Echo's outperformed its larger rival since the 2012 fiscal year.

The Echo-led consortium includes Chow Tai Fook and Far East with stakes of 25 percent each. It centers around a C-shaped hotel, with a roof garden overlooking the Brisbane River and glass-floored observation deck, according to masterplans on its website.

The state's former Treasury building, which currently houses an Echo-owned casino, will be converted into a Ritz Carlton Hotel Co. site and a department store. Crown had planned a rival development in a consortium with property developer Greenland Investment Pty. **Bloomberg**

TUNNEL OR BRIDGE?

Macau-Taipa fourth link under review

THE government is waiting on the results of a research study on the fourth Macau-Taipa link to decide on whether to build another bridge or a tunnel, according to a statement issued yesterday by the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT).

A previous report on the tunnel construction project suggested that motorcycles should not use the tunnel. Therefore, the government commissioned a comparative and more comprehensive study on the subject, paying special attention to motorcycle user needs, the statement added.

DSSOPT said that it is taking all opinions into account from the current public consultation on the new urban reclaimed land areas. The public consultation period ends on August 8.

DSSOPT is in charge of

PAULO BARBOSA



A model of the new urban reclaimed land areas currently being displayed at Tap Seac's Glass House

coordinating and planning the five new reclaimed land zones. The bureau said that it paid great attention to community needs when drawing Zone A's blueprint, making sure to reserve enough space for public facilities such as healthcare, education and recreation institutions.

A second consultation briefing was held last weekend. A DSSOPT official said that the Zone A blueprint would take into account the planning of various infrastructures, including the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau bridge,

and the Outer Harbor, so as to better coordinate transport and community facilities in Macau's eastern districts.

DSSOPT said that participants at the last briefing focused on: Zone A's residential units and surrounding public equipment; the landscape of Zone B; and the fourth link between Macau and Taipa, among other issues.

Reclamation Zone A will feature 32,000 residential units to accommodate 96,000 people. Government representatives said that the zone's master

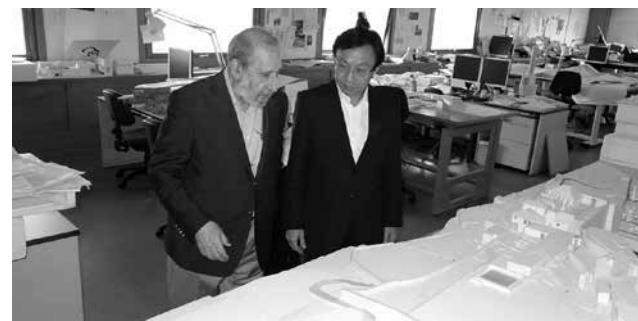
plan already foresees an increase in the number of public facilities planned, including healthcare units, schools, community centers and sports infrastructure.

Participants have raised concerns over transportation issues and the height of Zone A's buildings, which could have an impact on the visual landscape. Attendees also called for the planning of a more sustainable and green transportation network.

The government reiterated that it will act according to the law governing Macau's historic center. It added that the blueprint for Zone B will be planned after hearing the public and experts' opinions, while taking into consideration proposals submitted by the public works and cultural affairs departments.

Up until August 8, stakeholders and the public can submit their opinions to the bureau via email (abcde@dssopt.gov.mo), fax (28340019) or by taking part in the third consultation briefing to be held on August 1 at Tap Seac's Glass House.

Macau, Porto strengthen tourism co-operation



Alexis Tam (right) visits the studio of architect Siza Vieira (left)

MACAU and Portugal's second-largest city are reinforcing the need for bilateral cooperation. The Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, has met with the Mayor of Porto, Rui Moreira, to exchange views on cooperation in sports, tourism and cultural affairs.

In the meeting held in Porto on July 17, Mr Tam and Mr Moreira discussed a string of activities, such as organizing "Porto Week" in Macau and "Macau Week" in Porto in 2016, to broaden cooperation between the two places.

According to a statement issued by the government, Mr Tam visited a number of World Heritage sites in Porto to gain a better understanding of the conservation of heritage. He also visited the City Council.

Prior to his visit to Portugal, Mr Tam had visited the Historic Centre of Ribeira Grande in Cape Verde, where he learnt more about the contribution of the Portuguese architect Siza Vieira during the site's inscription on the World Heritage List in 2009. The secretary took the opportunity to meet with Mr Vieira while in Porto to exchange views on heritage conservation.

Derek Gatopoulos and
Demetris Nellas, Athens

Greek banks reopen but cash limits remain; taxes soar

GREEK banks opened their doors yesterday for the first time in over three weeks, a move that the government hopes will help the economy get back to normal following a period dominated by fears over the country's future in the euro.

Still, strict controls on the amounts individuals can withdraw remain and new austerity taxes demanded by the country's European creditors mean that most everyday items are more expensive — from coffee to taxis to cooking oil.

In downtown Athens, people queued up in an orderly fashion as the banks unlocked their doors at 8 a.m., but restrictions on most transactions remained.

Though the daily cash withdrawal limit stayed at 60 euros (USD65), the government has given individuals a new weekly limit of 420 euros (\$455) from this coming Sunday so they don't need to trudge to the ATM every day.

Ready cash is something Greeks will need as new taxes also came into effect on a wide array of goods and services yesterday.

Sales taxes have risen from 13 percent to 23 percent on many basic goods — including some meats, cooking oils, coffee, tea, cocoa, vinegar, salt, flowers, firewood, fertilizer, insecticides, sanitary towels and condoms.

Popular services were also hit by the new taxes: restaurants and cafes, funeral homes, taxis, ferries, cram schools and language schools.

The new taxes are part of a package of confidence-building measures that the Greek government had to introduce in order for negotiations on a third bailout to begin.

Since the Greek parliament passed the measures, creditors have sought to relieve the



The first customers, most of them pensioners, enter a branch at the National Bank of Greece headquarters in Athens

pressure on Greece. The European Central Bank has raised the amount of liquidity assistance on offer to Greek banks while Greece's partners in the 19-country eurozone agreed to give Athens a short-term loan so it wouldn't default on a 4.2 billion-euro debt due to the ECB yesterday.

Mina Andreeva, a spokeswoman at the European Commission, confirmed yesterday that the 7.16 billion-euro three-month loan has been sent to Athens so it can repay the ECB and also to clear arrears with the International Monetary Fund.

Andreeva said she was confi-

dent Greece will make the payments "in the course of today [yesterday]."

Paying off the IMF and ECB will give Greece some breathing room but the country will need to secure the bailout, which is expected to be worth around 85 billion euros, to meet upcoming debts.

After months of negotiations with creditors, Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras agreed last week to accept a series of demands such as pension cuts and sales tax hikes, in order for the bailout discussions to begin.

"The government was obliged to make a tactical retreat to save the country," new Labor

Minister Giorgos Katrougalos said yesterday. "This was the result of a soft, post-modern financial coup that was handled by the prime minister in a responsible way."

Getting the Greek economy back to normal will take time though especially as credit — the lifeblood of a modern economy — remains restricted.

Louka Katseli, head of the Greek Banking Association, said yesterday it was too early to say how long the cash controls would last.

"I totally understand people who are anxious," she told state-run ERT television. "But acting with fear produces the

circumstances that people are afraid of."

Katseli noted that since 2008, 124 billion euros worth of deposits has been withdrawn from Greek banks and that 40 billion of that money has been removed in the last few months.

"If that had not been removed, the Greek banks would not have had a liquidity problem," she said.

The Greek government introduced the capital controls because negotiations with creditors had reached an impasse, fueling speculation that the country was going to default on its debts and exit the euro.

It has cleared most of the hurdles demanded of it, but still faces another vote in parliament tomorrow to impose more austerity measures.

Amid the pressure, Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras is struggling to contain a growing revolt in his Syriza party that threatened to topple the government last week in the first round of austerity voting. Cabinet-level dissenters were replaced in a reshuffle Friday, but even their replacements have angrily denounced the new austerity measures. **AP**

23pct

Sales taxes have risen
from 13 to 23 pct

corporate bits

BNU AND MACAU UNION SUPPLIERS ASSOCIATION CO-ORGANIZE SME SEMINAR



The Macau Union Suppliers Association aims to strive for the rights and interests of SMEs in Macau, serving as a bridge between SMEs and the government.

In order for local suppliers to further understand banking practices and information closely related to their businesses, BNU and the Macau Union Suppliers Association co-organized a seminar on the 13th of this month.

Mr. Yip Sio Man, Chairman of the Macau Union Suppliers Association, delivered the welcome speech. BNU representatives Mr. Ronald Kan, Executive Director, Ms. Fiona Sou, Head of Business Development for the Retail Banking Division and Mr. Roger Lai, Deputy Head of Corporate Banking Division/ Team 1 introduced the products and services provided by BNU, and presented past financing cases.

MGS UNVEILS SUBSIDY SCHEME TO DRAW VISITORS TO NOVEMBER SHOW

The Macao Gaming Show (MGS) has unveiled a wide-ranging package of travel subsidies and grants for visitors attending this year's exhibition at the Venetian Macao, November 17-19.

Qualified visitors can claim the subsidy before the show through presentation of boarding passes and other documents to the MGS offices. The full range of support initiatives are detailed on the MGA website, and a 'Helpdesk' has been established at the Macao Gaming Show offices to assist visitors with the program.

Marina Wong, Event Director and General Manager at MGS, said: "This year's subsidy scheme for Qualified Buyers has been designed to help buyers from all over the world come to Macau and explore all the business opportunities available both in Macau and throughout Asia. The show is expanding into exciting new areas with gaming sitting at the heart of a tourism, culture and entertainment exhibition that is simply a one-stop show for Asia".

SHERATON MACAO HOTEL LAUNCHES NEW MICE OFFER

Sheraton Macao Hotel, Cotai Central's new Meet for Free in Macau offer allows meeting planners to choose from one of four complimentary options — overnight stays, meals, meetings, or transportation — to ensure that they get value for money.

Sheraton Macao Hotel's General Manager of Sales and Marke-

ting, Ms. Daniella Tonetto, said: "Our clients tell us that these four options take up the bulk of every meeting planner's budget. We are confident that the value and cost-savings that they stand to enjoy from our Meet for Free in Macau package will encourage them to continue to book their business with us."



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MOZAMBIQUE

Banking sector attracts the attention of major international banks

THE Mozambique banking sector, which has high growth and good business prospects arising from foreign investment in exploration of natural resources, is attracting the attention of major international banks, according to Eaglestone Securities.

After the acquisition of Banco Terra by Portugal's Montepio Geral (44.5 percent) and South Africa's Nedbank (36.6 percent), Togo's Ecobank acquired Banco ProCredit last June and attention has now focused on the Standard Chartered Bank's plans and the sale of a 49 percent stake in Moza Banco.

In a recent report on the Mozambican banking sector, Eaglestone Securities expects the sector "will remain on the radar of local and foreign investors, especially considering the huge potential offered by the natural gas and coal sectors."

Recently, French bank Société Générale acquired a stake in The



Moza Banco branch

Mauritius Commercial Bank Moçambique, as part of its strategy for growth in Africa, where it operates in 18 countries.

The sale of the 49 percent stake that Portugal's Novo Banco owns in Moza Banco is also underway, with various interested investors, but which will have to rely on the endorsement of Moçambique Capitais, which holds the remaining 51 percent.

The interest of the Atlas Mara investment company has already been reported. It was founded by the former chief executive of Barclays, Robert Diamond, to purchase the shares owned by Novo Banco.

According to Eaglestone, Moza Banco, along with Banco Único, stands out for its "impressive growth rates" and the trend is for them to gain more market share in the future from their competitors.

Currently, there are 18 banks operating in Mozambique, but 90 percent of assets, loans and deposits are held by the six largest banks, all most all of them controlled by Portuguese and South African investors.

Last year, the profit of the six largest banks increased once again, with a "robust operating performance" than offset the increase in surcharges and taxes, said Eaglestone.

With the economy growing 7.4 percent, it added, finan-

cial services have a prominent role, with growth in operations and increased revenues. "Overall, it can be said that the local banking sector has improved both in its efficiency and profitability in 2014 compared to the previous year," said the financial consultancy's analysts.

The asset portfolio of banks continued to expand at an accelerated rate, with assets, loans and deposits all recording growth of over 20 percent last year. Despite a deterioration of asset quality ratios, these are comfortable levels and the level of capitalization of most banks is considered favorable.

In terms of the six largest banks (Millennium BIM, BCI, Standard Bank, Barclays, Moza Banco and Banco Único), loans grew 27 percent, loans in local currency increased by 31 percent and deposits 20 percent. Due to good operating performance the profits of the six largest banks rose 29 percent. **MDT/Macauhub**

CAPE VERDE

Economic prospects improve

The economic prospects in Cape Verde improved slightly in the second quarter but the confidence indicator remained below the series average, reported the archipelago's National Statistics Institute (INE). The Survey of Economic Operators showed that the confidence indicator for retail establishments "continued the upward trend of the last quarter, but the economic situation in the sector remained unfavorable," and the main constraints pointed out by industry entrepreneurs were insufficient demand and financial difficulties. The tourism sector, one of the main economic activities of the archipelago, had a negative performance in the second quarter of 2015, and the confidence indicator recorded its lowest level since the series began.

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "



This Monday, May 11, 2015, file 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

Ralph Jennings, Taipei

SOUTH CHINA SEA DISPUTE

Taiwan promotes its island claim with environmental initiatives

AS China builds artificial islands in a vast resource-rich South China Sea and neighbors in Southeast Asia brace for possible conflict, Taiwan is cutting carbon emissions and offering a hospital for humanitarian aid on the sea's largest natural islet to seek international approval for easing tension.

Taiwan's unusual use of Taiping Island in the heavily contested Spratly archipelago may appeal particularly to the United States, a staunch, long-time informal ally that has at least scrutinized the legal basis for Taiwan's maritime claims. Washington, seeking stable relations with China as well, has also urged the six claimants to cooperate rather than fight.

Taiwan, which lacks the diplomatic ties to negotiate with the other five governments with claims in the South China Sea, has installed USD1.29 million worth of solar panels on Taiping Island since 2011 to light a cluster of buildings and provide power for construction of a 200-meter pier due for completion by year's end, the head of the island's coast guard said Friday.

Panels covering 1,570 square meters, enough to save about 32,000 liters of diesel fuel last year, also will supply electricity to a five-bed hospital and living quarters that accept seafarers of any nationality, Coast Guard Administration Minister Wang Chung-yi said.

Taiping receives about 10 foreign boats a year from China or Vietnam, usually during storms. The pier will make it easier for coast guard vessels or - if needed someday - naval ships to dock, allowing more medical supplies to reach the five-bed hospital with a rotating staff as well as a surgery ward. Taiwan also has built a military airstrip on the coast guard-controlled island.

"No one is in opposition.

Taiping Island has solar power and green energy that are telling the world we have a different perspective on operating it

WANG CHUNG-YI
COAST GUARD
ADMINISTRATION MINISTER

The United States approves," Wang said. "When the situation gets tense, our country's stance is to take a novel approach. Can't we put aside the dispute? Taiping Island has solar power and green energy that are telling the world we have a different perspective on operating it."

Taiwan's design for its 1,400-meter-long, 400-meter-wide islet contrasts to the campaigns by China and Vietnam to landfill multiple islets, build military bases and drive oil rigs into the ocean floor near the Spratly and Paracel archipelagos. China had added some 809 hectares of land in the Spratly chain since last year, U.S. officials said.

Taiwan expects other countries, especially the United States, to respect its efforts, which follow the May 26 announcement of a South China Sea peace and resource-sharing initiative by President Ma Ying-jeou.

The 3.5 million-square-kilometer sea is rich in fisheries, supports about half the world's commercial shipping and holds an estimated 7 billion barrels of oil reserves. Brunei and Malaysia claim parts of

the same ocean.

In signs of growing tension, the Philippines reopened Subic Bay naval base this year and held military exercises with the United States and Japan to help counter any threats from China. Manila has also filed for arbitration in a United Nations court. Last year, Vietnam and China clashed over China's placement of an oil rig in waters that both sides claim, touching off deadly anti-Chinese riots in Vietnam.

Because China claims sovereignty of Taiwan itself, using economic clout to bar countries throughout the world from establishing diplomatic relations with Taipei, the government relies on soft power to gain recognition.

The U.S. government says China has been unclear about the legal basis for its claim that encompasses most of the sea. Taiwan's government, the Republic of China, first adopted that basis before 1949 when it ruled all of China. It sticks to that claim today.

"Considering that the ... maps predate the People's Republic of China, the views of Taiwan are also of interest,"

the State Department said in a study released last year.

The de-facto U.S. embassy in Taipei said Friday that Washington "appreciates Taiwan's call on all claimants to exercise restraint, refrain from taking any unilateral action that might escalate tensions," a reference to the peace initiative. It did not comment on the solar energy program.

Taiwan also may hope to remind Europe, where environmental programs are popular, of its maritime claims, said Sean King, senior vice president with the consultancy Park Strategies in New York and Taipei. "Taipei is just trying to use a trendy issue like the environment to curry international favor in general for its South China Sea posture," he said.

The coast guard head acknowledged that Taiping Island, dominated by coconut and papaya trees, does not generate much pollution. The goal is to supply 20 percent of its energy through solar power, up from 16 percent now, because that level matches international standards, he said. AP

Wife says rights lawyer being denied legal counsel

Didi Tang, Beijing

A prominent Chinese rights lawyer whose trial is drawing near on charges of inciting ethnic hatred and provoking trouble has been denied access to lawyers for nearly a month, his wife and one of his attorneys said yesterday.

Meng Qun, wife of Pu Zhiqiang, raised the concern in an open letter addressed to the leadership of the Beijing detention center where her husband is being held, urging authorities to honor China's own rules to allow Pu access to lawyers.

One of Pu's attorneys, Shang Baojun, confirmed that Pu last met his lawyers on June 23 and verified the authenticity of Meng's letter.

Pu is widely believed to be politically persecuted amid Beijing's crackdown on civil society. The charges stem from his online posts that questioned China's ethnic policies in the wake of deadly violence involving ethnic minority Uighurs, and others that mocked several political figures.



In this May 14, 2014 file photo, anti-Beijing protesters, holding pictures of human rights lawyer Pu Zhiqiang, protest outside the Chinese liaison office to demand Pu's release, in Hong Kong

He was taken away in May 2014 and was indicted on May 15 this year, after one year in detention.

Shang said he expects a Beijing court to hold Pu's trial

soon, because by law Chinese courts have three months from the indictment to hold a trial and issue a verdict, but the authorities have not yet announced a date.

In her open letter, Meng said that Pu is entitled to meet his lawyers after the indictment but that the lawyers have been asked — contrary to China's own rules — to submit a mee-

ting request.

Even after the lawyers put in a meeting request, the detention center has failed to accommodate a meeting within 48 hours, as stipulated by China's rules, Meng said.

"The lawyer put in a request on June 2, and the meeting was arranged only on June 23. It took as long as 21 days for approval," Meng wrote.

The lawyers protested, but to no avail, and they submitted another meeting request in late June, Meng wrote: "Nearly one month has passed, but there has not been one word."

Meng said she was told by the director of the detention center that only leaders from the ruling Communist Party can decide on the matter.

Beijing says it has been pushing for rule of law, but also has emphasized the party's leadership over the court system, prompting criticism that China is still ruled by the will of the party, rather than law.

Most recently, Chinese authorities have rounded up dozens of rights defense lawyers, accusing them of being rabble-rousers, troublemakers and fame-seeking opportunists. Foreign governments and international rights groups have condemned Beijing's crackdown on lawyers, who are known for their insistence that the letter of the law be followed and that the government be held accountable. **AP**

Beijing police detain 4 for sex video that spread online

FOUR people have been detained in connection with a sex video purportedly taken inside a Uniqlo fitting room that spread rapidly online, Beijing police said.

They were detained on suspicion of spreading obscene content, according to a police statement late Sunday. Police said they were still investigating the couple who can be seen in the cellphone video apparently having sex in the Japanese retailer's flagship Beijing store.

Uniqlo has denied any involvement in the video which spread widely online last week and gave rise to jokes about fitting rooms becoming the latest make-out spots.

The 71-second video shows a man filming himself with a woman in front of a mirror. A Uniqlo store announcement can be heard clearly in the background welcoming customers and advising them that fitting rooms are on the second and third floors while cashiers are on the first.

The police statement said



A Chinese couple take a selfie outside the Uniqlo flagship store in Beijing

the couple admitted sending the video, which was made in April, to a friend on popular mobile chatting app WeChat, and that it later somehow appeared on the Twitter-like Sina Weibo's microblogging platform.

A 19-year-old man is suspected of posting the video online and the other three of spreading obscene information, the statement said.

In China, people convicted of disseminating obscene books, films, pictures and videos face up to two years' imprison-

ment, while those who make obscene products for profit face a maximum sentence of life imprisonment, according to the official Xinhua News Agency.

China's cyberspace administration has already chastised two of the country's main Internet companies, Sina Corp. which runs Sina Weibo, and Tencent Holding Ltd. which runs WeChat, for allowing the video to spread.

Meanwhile, many Beijingers have been taking selfies with the store in the background. **AP**

Thai official: Uighurs sent back being treated well

Thanyarat Dokson, Bangkok

THE 109 ethnic Uighur refugees whose deportation to China by Thailand this month sparked an international outcry are being treated well at a rehabilitation center where they've been held since their return, Thailand's national security chief said yesterday. He said some were being investigated for their alleged involvement in terrorism.

Thai authorities sent back the Uighurs, who had been in Thailand for over a year and claimed to be Turkish, after determining they were Chinese. The repatriations were criticized by the U.N. refugee agency, the United States and others. In Turkey's capital, Istanbul, protesters ransacked the Thai Consulate to denounce the decision.

National Security Council Secretary General Anusit Kunakorn was among five Thai officials who traveled to China last Wednesday to follow up on the Uighurs. They also met with top Chinese officials to discuss the issue.

Anusit told reporters yes-



Thai National Security Council Secretary General Anusit Kunakorn

terday that the Uighurs were living under good conditions at a rehabilitation center in Xinjiang province in western China.

The security chief said the Thai officials had been granted "unprecedented" access to the returned refugees by the Chinese authorities, noting that China's government does not usually permit foreign governments or organizations to visit the center.

China's position is that the Uighurs who were sent back by Thailand had left the country illegally. Beijing has accused Uighur separatists of terrorism in Xinjiang, where ethnic violence has left hundreds of people dead over the past two years. **AP**

AUSTRALIA

3-time world champ fights off shark during surfing comp

Lynsey Chutel, Johannesburg

KNOCKED off his board by an attacking shark, three-time world champion Mick Fanning punched the creature before escaping unharmed during the televised finals of a world surfing competition in South Africa on Sunday.

The Australian surfer was struck by the shark from behind and knocked into the water as he sat on his board waiting his turn during the JBay Open in Jeffrey's Bay in the Eastern Cape Province.

Fanning said at first he swam away but then decided to defend himself and turned to punch the shark in the back

As he scans the water, two fins appear and with a splash he disappears under the surface. He is next seen furiously trying to swim to safety before a rescuer pulls him out of the water.

"A big sigh of relief seeing Fanning in one piece," a commentator is heard saying, on



In this image made available by the World Surf League, Australian surfer Mick Fanning is pursued by a shark, in Jeffrey's Bay, South Africa

the video of the event posted on the World Surf League website.

"I felt something grab, get stuck in my leg rope and instantly jump away. And it just kept coming at my board," Fanning said, once safe on the rescue boat.

Fanning said at first he swam away but then decided to defend himself and turned to punch the shark in the back.

"I saw it taking my board away and I just started cracking it," he told a crowd that gathered around him once he was back on shore, referring to how he struck the shark.

"I'm totally fine. I've got nothing wrong with me," Fanning said in an interview. "There's a small depression in my board and my leg wrap (was) bitten. I'm just totally tripping out. To

walk away from that, I'm just so stoked. Oh man."

Fanning's mother, Elizabeth Osborne, who watched the incident live on television in Australia, wept as she told Australian Broadcasting Corp. radio the attack was "the worst thing I've ever seen happen to any of my family because it was just there in front of me."

"It was absolutely terrifying.

I actually got up and walked across to the television because I just couldn't believe what I was seeing and I thought we lost him," she said in an ABC TV interview. "I went over to the television almost as though I could pull him out of the television. I just wanted to save him really, but there was nothing I could do."

Osborne said she believes Fanning's brother Sean, who died in a car accident 17 years ago, was watching over his sibling.

Surfing great Kelly Slater said he was coming up the beach when he saw all the boats and skis heading toward the surfers.

"I knew there was only one possible reason that would ever happen in a contest and that's if someone got attacked by a shark," Slater was quoted as saying. "I'm halfway between crying and laughing because he got so lucky. I'm lost for words to be honest."

The World Surf League cancelled the remainder of the event and Fanning will split the prize money with fellow Australian surfer Julian Wilson, who was also in the water when the attack happened. The two will share second place.

"We are incredibly grateful that no one was seriously injured today," the league said in a statement. "Mick's composure and quick acting in the face of a terrifying situation was nothing short of heroic."

Commentator Ross Williams said there are occasionally shark sightings in and around events but an actual attack was very unusual.

"For it to happen in that fashion during the finals, where it actually showed that crazy aggression toward Mick Fanning, such a crazy thing," he said on the video. **AP**

NEPAL

Protests over constitution injure dozens, police say

Binaj Gurubacharya, Kathmandu

PROTESTERS clashed with police in southern Nepal yesterday as the government tried to collect the public's suggestions on the draft of the country's long-overdue constitution.

Police reported dozens of injuries in the clashes in several southern towns, hours after protesters stormed the national stadium and threw chairs at the deputy prime minister. About 200 protesters from Rastriya Prajatantra Party Nepal scuffled with police at the stadium and demanded that Nepal remain a Hindu nation.



Protesters from Rastriya Prajatantra Party Nepal shout slogans after storming into the national stadium where Deputy Prime Minister Prakash Man Singh was collecting suggestions on a draft constitution in Kathmandu

Supporters of smaller opposition parties also say the draft was prepared by larger political parties and exclude their

concerns and suggestions.

Police were also investigating a possible attack on the Finance Minis-

ter Ram Sharan Mahat's vehicle with petrol bombs when he was driving though a mountain road west of Kathmandu.

Nepal was declared a secular republic after its centuries-old monarchy was abolished in 2008. The monarchs that ruled Nepal promoted Hinduism and the kings were believed by some to be a reincarnation of the Hindu god Vishnu.

"Nepal is a Hindu state and will remain a Hindu state. Almost all Nepalese are Hindus and we will continue to protest until the country is declared a Hindu state once again," said one of the protesters, Madhav Bhattarai.

Riot police pushed the protesters out of the arena, and no one was hurt in the morning scuffles.

Deputy Prime Minister Prakash Man Singh had been addressing the crowd gathered as part of the campaign to collect public suggestions on the draft constitution.

The government sent lawmakers to their constituencies yesterday and today to collect public comment. The constitution was supposed to be written by a Constituent Assembly elected in 2008. It failed to finish the task, and another assembly elected in 2012 has also struggled because of disagreements be-

tween political parties.

Nepal has been governed by an interim constitution for seven years.

But since a devastating earthquake killed nearly 9,000 people in April, there has been pressure on the parties to speed up the constitution process.

One major issue is deciding how to divide the country's federal states.

At the meeting in Kathmandu yesterday, participants also voiced concerns about the rights of women and minorities.

"Women are still not given equal rights in the new draft despite promises from the politicians," said Sita Shrestha, a housewife. **AP**

WWII APOLOGY

70 years after, Japanese company Mitsubishi apologizes to US POWs



Yukio Okamoto, Outside Board Member of Mitsubishi Materials and former Special Advisor to Japan's Prime Minister, left, and Hikaru Kimura, Senior Executive Officer Mitsubishi Materials, offer an apology as they hold hands with 94-year-old U.S. prisoner of war, James Murphy

Andrew Dalton, Los Angeles

HE was forced to toil in enemy mines as a prisoner of war, but James Murphy wasn't angry or bitter. He was just happy to have lived long

enough to hear the Japanese apology he had sought for seven decades.

Murphy, a POW during World War II and now 94 years old, accepted an unprecedented apology from Mitsubishi Materials Corp. on Sunday (yester-

day, Macau time) on behalf of his fellow POWs, few of whom remain alive, in a ceremony that was both solemn and joyful.

"This is a glorious day," said Murphy, who stood tall and slender in a gray suit at the ceremony and looked much you-

nger than his 94 years. "For 70 years, we wanted this."

Saying they felt a "deep sense of ethical responsibility for a past tragedy," Mitsubishi's executives presented the apology privately then publicly to Murphy, of Santa Maria, California, at the Museum of Tolerance at the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles.

Hikaru Kimura, senior executive officer for Mitsubishi, said through a translator that the company offered a "most remorseful apology" to the about 900 POWs who suffered "harsh, severe hardships" while forced to work in Mitsubishi mines and industrial plants.

Murphy, who worked in Mitsubishi's copper mines in the war, called the apology sincere, humble and revealing.

He stood and shook hands with Kimura and others as cameras clicked throughout the dimly lit museum theater, with giant American and Japanese flags projected side-by-side behind them.

Other POWs subjected sat in the audience along with many members of Murphy's family.

Stanley Gibson, whose late father worked alongside Murphy in the mines, overcame his fear of flight to come from Scotland to Los Angeles for the ceremony to represent his family after hearing about it in news reports just a few days earlier. On the stage was a photo of the two men being liberated from their captors.

"Considering what my father went through it was the least I could do," Gibson said.

The Japanese government has twice apologized to U.S. POWs used as forced laborers during World War II.

But Rabbi Abraham Cooper, an associate dean at the center whose primary focus in the past has been Holocaust education,

said he and the event's other organizers believe the apology is unprecedented from a major Japanese company.

Cooper, Murphy and others who spoke urged more Japanese companies to come forward to express their own remorse.

The ceremony was preceded by a private apology that ended with a long, deep bow from the Mitsubishi representatives. "I entered the room with a heavy heart, seeking forgiveness," said Yukio Okamoto, outside board member for Mitsubishi.

Murphy said that after 70 years it was "the first time we've heard those words. They touch the heart."

Murphy was gracious and beaming throughout the ceremony, expressing little bitterness or sorrow on what he called a happy day. He stressed that the apology was not half-hearted, qualified or self-aggrandizing for Mitsubishi. He said the apology "admits to wrongdoing, makes sincere statement showing deep remorse," and offers assurances that the wrongs will never be repeated.

"I know that we can trust those words," Murphy said.

Others, including one Mitsubishi representative, struck a sadder tone over how long the apology took. "We also have to apologize for not apologizing earlier," Okamoto said.

Japan's government issued a formal apology to American POWs in 2009 and again in 2010. But the dwindling ranks of POWs used as slaves at mines and industrial plants have so far had little luck in getting apologies from the corporations who used them, sometimes under brutal conditions.

Murphy said that if he could talk to his fellow POWs who didn't survive long enough he'd tell them to "rest quietly, it's over. We did get our apology." **AP**

Amir Shah, Kabul

AFGHANISTAN

NATO friendly fire kills 7 Afghan troops

ANATO airstrike hit two Afghan military checkpoints yesterday in a restive province east of the capital, Kabul, killing seven Afghan troops in what an Afghan official describes as an accident due to bad coordination.

The incident happened as coalition helicopters were flying over an area in Logar province where clashes were underway between Afghan troops and Taliban fighters, the Afghan Ministry of Defense said.

Insurgents fired toward the helicopters, prompting a response that destroyed one army checkpoint, the ministry statement added. An unspecified number of the army members were

"killed and wounded," the ministry said, adding that the incident was under investigation.

Logar provincial army commander Abdul Razaq said the early morning strike took place in the district of Baraki Barak, about 50 kilometers east of Kabul. Razaq revised an earlier higher figure and said that seven troops were killed while five were wounded in the strike.

Logar police chief Mohammad Douod Ahmadi confirmed those casualty figures. Conflicting number of casualty figures are common

during fighting in remote areas inaccessible to reporters.

District governor Mohammad Rahim Amin said the NATO airstrike was "likely a mistake, due to bad coordination" in an area where Taliban insurgents are highly active.

A U.S. military spokesman in Afghanistan, Col. Brian Tribus, said the coalition is aware of an incident in Logar and is investigating it.

Security in Logar has deteriorated in recent months as the Taliban stepped up their attacks on Afghan soldiers and security forces, trying to spread



An Afghan security officer holds his weapon in Kabul

their footprint across the country and take control of some remote regions.

The U.S. and NATO for-

ces concluded their combat mission at the end of last year and Afghan troops have since taken

control of the country's security, which has caused their casualties to spike. **AP**

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CUBA

New era in ties begins as Havana raises flag at US embassy

Matthew Lee and Peter Orsi,
Washington

CUBA'S blue, red and white-starred flag was hoisted yesterday at the country's embassy in Washington in a symbolic move signaling the start of a new post-Cold War era in U.S.-Cuba relations.

Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez presided over the flag-raising ceremony hours after full diplomatic relations with the United States were restored at the stroke of midnight, when an agreement to resume normal ties on July 20 took effect. Earlier, without ceremony, the Cuban flag was hung in the lobby of the State Department alongside those of other countries with which the U.S. has diplomatic ties. U.S. and Cuban diplomats in Washington and Havana had also noted the upgrade in social media posts.

Several hundred people gathered on the street outside the embassy, cheering as the Cuban national anthem was played and three Cuban soldiers in dress uniforms stood at the base of the flagpole and raised the flag.

The United States and Cuba

AP PHOTO



The Cuban flag is raised over the country's new embassy in Washington

severed diplomatic relations in 1961 and since the 1970s had been represented in each other's capitals by limited service interests sections. Their conversion to embassies tolled

a knell for policy approaches spawned and hardened over the five decades since President John F. Kennedy first tangled with youthful revolutionary Fidel Castro over So-

viet expansion in the Americas.

Rodriguez was to meet later with Secretary of State John Kerry and address reporters at a joint news conference. Kerry will travel to Havana Aug. 14 to

preside over a flag-raising ceremony at the U.S. Embassy there.

Shortly after midnight, the Cuban Interests Section in Washington switched its Twitter account to say "embassy." In Havana, the U.S. Interests Section uploaded a new profile pictures to its Facebook and Twitter accounts that says US EMBASSY CUBA. And, Conrad Tribble, the deputy chief of mission for the United States in Havana, tweeted: "Just made first phone call to State Dept. Ops Center from United States Embassy Havana ever. It didn't exist in Jan 1961."

Though normalization has taken center stage in the U.S.-Cuba relationship, there remains a deep ideological gulf between the nations and many issues still to resolve. Among them: thorny disputes such as over mutual claims for economic reparations, Havana's insistence on the end of the 53-year-old trade embargo and U.S. calls for Cuba to improve on human rights and democracy. Some U.S. lawmakers, including several prominent Republican presidential candidates, have vowed not to repeal the embargo and pledged to roll back Obama's moves on Cuba. **AP**

SENEGAL

Chad ex-dictator taken in and out of court as trial begins

Carley Petesch, Dakar

THE trial of former Chadian dictator Hissene Habre accused of overseeing the deaths of thousands had a chaotic beginning yesterday as security forces ushered the ex-leader into and then out of the Senegal courtroom amid protests by his supporters.

Habre, who ruled in Chad from 1982-1990, is facing charges of crimes against humanity, war crimes and torture before the Extraordinary African Chambers, a special tribunal created to try him in the Senegalese courts.

Lawyers for Habre said court officials forcibly led him to the courtroom yesterday to participate in the trial, which he has denounced as politically motivated.

"He didn't want to come, but he was taken by force," said Mouth Bane, a former communications officer for Habre who is among his supporters in Senegal.

AP PHOTO



Former Chad dictator Hissene Habre, center, waves to reporters as he is led into a car to be taken back to jail following a preliminary court hearing in Dakar

As Habre entered wearing a white robe, his supporters started shouting, prompting security officers to take him back out. Proceedings then began without him.

It is the first trial in Africa of a universal jurisdiction case, in which a country's national courts can prosecute serious crimes committed abroad, by a foreigner and against foreign victims, said Human Rights Watch. It is also the

first time the courts of one country are prosecuting the former ruler of another for alleged human rights crimes.

Marcel Mendy, spokesman for the Extraordinary African Chambers, called this an historic event that goes beyond Chad.

"Africa must prove that it is able to judge one of its children and not leave it for others to do," he said Sunday. **AP**

TURKEY

Blast kills 28, injures scores near Syrian border

Desmond Butler, Istanbul

AN explosion yesterday in Turkey's southeastern city of Suruc near the Syrian border killed 28 people and sent nearly 100 others to the hospital, Turkish officials said.

The prime minister's office gave the casualty toll in a phone call to The Associated Press.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the midday blast.

Suruc is just across the border from the Syrian city of Kobani, the scene of fierce battles between Kurdish groups and the Islamic State group. Kobani was the Islamic State group's biggest defeat last year since the militants established control over large swathes of Iraq and Syria. The city has become

a symbol of Kurdish resistance.

A second bomb went off yesterday south of Kobani near a Kurdish militia checkpoint on the road to Syria's largest city of Aleppo, according to a Kurdish official in Kobani, Idriss Naasan. It caused minor damage and no casualties, he said.

DHA said the blast in Suruc occurred at a cultural center while a political group was holding a news conference on Kobani's reconstruction. News reports said 300 people from the Federation of Socialist Youths were staying at the cultural center and were preparing to travel to Kobani to help with the rebuilding.

Kobani was also the scene of surprise IS attacks last month that killed more than 200 people. **AP**

what's ON



HEY, LISTEN- WORKS BY SANDY-LEONG SIN U
TIME: 12pm-7pm (Closed on Tuesdays)
UNTIL: August 9, 2015
VENUE: Ox Warehouse, corner of Avenida Do coronel Mesquita and Avenida Do Almirante Lacerda
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES:(853) 2853 0026

“SAUDADE” ART EXHIBITION
TIME: 24 hours
UNTIL: September 30, 2015
VENUE: L2 Showcase / MGM MACAU,
Avenida Dr. Sun Yat Sen, NAPE, Macau
ADMISSION: free
GUIDED TOURS: 12pm-9om (Mondays to Fridays)
11am to 9:00 pm (Saturdays and Sundays)
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8802 8888

MACAU JOINT FASHION PERFORMANCE
– MINI EXHIBITION
TIME: 10am-8pm
(Closed on Mondays, open on public holiday)
UNTIL: August 30, 2015
ADMISSION: Free
ADDRESS: Macau Fashion Gallery / No. 47,
Rua de S. Roque, Macau
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 3341

HISTORICAL PAINTINGS OF MACAU
IN THE 19TH CENTURY
TIME: 10am-7pm
(Closed on Mondays, No admission after 6:30 pm)
UNTIL: December 31, 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

“INFLORESCENCE”
YVONNE NG PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION
TIME: 10am-7pm (Mondays to Fridays)
3pm-7pm (Saturdays, closed on Sundays and
public holiday)
UNTIL: July 25, 2015
VENUE: Rui Cunha Foundation Gallery,
Avenida da Praia Grande,nº 749, r/c
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2892 3288

TRAVEL NOTES YVENICE - COLLECTIVE EXHIBITION
ON THE SUBJECT OF MACAU'S PARTICIPATION IN THE
VENICE ART BIENNALE 2015'
TIME: 12pm-8pm (Tuesdays to Sundays)
3pm-8pm (Mondays)
UNTIL: July 31, 2015
VENUE: Albergue SCM / No. 8,
Calçada da Igreja de S. Lazaro
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2550 / 2852 3205

Offbeat

ROMANIAN MUSIC FEST GIVES FREE
TICKETS IN EXCHANGE FOR BLOOD

Romania is tapping into the Dracula legend, offering concert-
goers free tickets in exchange for their blood.
The campaign is part of a push to increase blood donations in
a country where only 1.7 percent of the people donate blood.
Adrian Chereji, marketing director for the UNTOLD Festival,
said yesterday the “Pay with Blood” campaign, jointly organized
with the National Blood Transfusion Institute, aims to raise public
awareness.
Mobile blood collection units will be set up in 42 Romanian
cities for 10 days this month. Donators in Bucharest and Cluj will
be eligible for free tickets for an electro-dance music festival in
the Transylvanian city of Cluj. Cut-price tickets will be offered to
donators elsewhere.
Transylvania is the home of the fictional blood-sucking Dracula
featured in Bram Stoker's 1897 novel.

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 Sports
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Interview
21:40	Documentary Serie
22:10	The Illusionist
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

cinema

CINETEATRO

16 Jul- 22 Jul

MINIONS

ROOM 1
(2D) 2.15, 4.00, 9.30 pm
(3D) 7.45 pm
Director: Pierre Coffin, Kyle Balda
Language: Cantonese (Chinese/English)
Duration: 91min



ANT-MAN

ROOM 2
(2D) 2.30, 4.45, 9.30 pm
(3D) 7.15 pm
Director: Peyton Reed
Starring: Paul Rudd, Michael Douglas
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 117min

POLTERGEIST

ROOM 3
(2D) 2.15, 6.00, 9.30 pm
(3D) 7.45 pm
Director: Gil Kenan
Starring: Sam Rockwell, Rosemarie DeWitt,
Kennedi Clements
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 93min

TED 2

ROOM 3
4.00 pm
Director: Seth MacFarlane
Starring: Mark Wahlberg, Amanda Seyfried,
Morgan Freeman
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 115min



(18-19 JUL) INSIDE OUT

ROOM 3
4.00 pm
Director: Pete Docter
Language: Cantonese (Chinese)
Duration: 94min

MACAU TOWER

16 Jul - 29 Jul

ANT-MAN

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm
Director: Peyton Reed
Starring: Paul Rudd, Michael Douglas
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 117min

this day in history



1974 CYPRUS CONFLICT
SPILLS INTO LONDON

Thousands of Greek-Cypriots in London have been protesting about the disputed government of Cyprus.
Turkish troops landed in the north of the Mediter-
ranean island early yesterday morning after a Greek-
sponsored coup in the capital, Nicosia, last week.
More than 10,000 Greek-Cypriots and British left-
wing activists marched through the centre of London
in support of an independent Cyprus and the restora-
tion of Archbishop Makarios as its elected president.
But trouble flared when the group collected outsi-
de the All Saints Greek Orthodox church in Camden
Town and confronted other Greek Cypriots in favour
of union - or enosis - with Greece.
An action committee was meeting in the head-
quarters of the Coordinating Movement for Union of
Cyprus with Greece - opposite the church - to prepa-
re a force of volunteers to join the Greek army.
Marchers tore down pro-Greek unionist posters -
calling for the removal of Turkish forces - from rail-
ings surrounding the HQ.
Police were called to separate the opposing crowds
of Greek-Cypriots as they shouted abuse at each
other across the street.
A spokesman for the pro-Greek unionists referred
to the demonstrators as “communists” and said:
“Makarios is turning Cyprus into a Mediterranean
Cuba.”
Britain has been airlifting troops and equipment into
Cyprus whilst a ceasefire in Nicosia is protecting fo-
reign civilians from the warring factions.
The 2,000 British holiday-makers stranded on the
island have criticised the Labour Government for fai-
ling to anticipate the onset of fighting.
Gun battles have been fiercest around Kyrenia and
Famagusta where many Britons were staying.
Most of the 21,000 Britons on the island - including
17,000 dependents of the 9,000 forces personnel -
have now been safely escorted to British military ba-
ses at Akrotiri and Dhekelia.
British and American naval frigates are cruising the
coast-line to evacuate any “friendly nationals” from
the beaches.
West German officials were advising their nationals
to leave the island on Thursday - two days before the
Turkish invasion.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The military junta in Greece collapsed the next day along with
the presidency of their puppet, Nikos Sampson, in Cyprus.
A ceasefire held as Turkey, Greece and Cyprus met in Geneva
to discuss a settlement.
Conflict continued and 200,000 Greeks became refugees as
Turkey occupied 40% of the island.
The UK was criticised for not working harder to preserve Cy-
priot independence from Greece.
The US was keen to appease Turkey in the north because of its
strategic importance.
Makarios returned to power in the unoccupied areas at the
end of 1974 and remained in power until his death in 1977.

YOUR STARS



Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Something that starts small really gets under your skin today — so make sure that you're ready to discuss it or to find a way to release the pressure once it starts to build. You can do this!



Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

What's the biggest mystery in your life? Now is the time to tackle it head-on. You may find that your energy is primed for adventure, but only take on as much as you know you can handle.



Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Let yourself be selfish today — everyone else gets to do it now and then, so why not you too? Your energy is a little tied up in knots, so it's only fair that you should be able to do what you like.



Libra

Sep.23-Oct. 22

Now is a great time to go shopping or to dive into that major purchase you've been putting off for too long. You are likelier to get a good deal, and sometimes you have to go big or go home.



Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Your imagination is your most potent asset today, so make sure that you're using it like a boss. That could mean derailing old plans or starting out in bold new directions, but so be it!



Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Your emotions feel raw and exposed today — but don't let that keep you from anything important. If anything, that could actually help you out in a big way, so relax and see what happens.



Taurus

April 20-May 20

Your energy is conflicted today — so much so that you may find it harder to relate to certain people. Try your best to just smile and wait for this emotional phase to pass you by.



Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

This may not be the best time to deal with business negotiations — your energy is terrific, but you may see the other side a little too easily. Wait until you are absolutely sure of yourself!



Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Your ability to reach people and really get them to see things your way is heightened now, and you should find that it's easier than ever to make friends and influence people.



Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

Almost everyone can see your aura of power as you walk into the room — so act as if you've already come out on top! You should be able to make good things happen with ease for the time being.



Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

You have got to get organized today — even if that feels like an impossible task. Just keep focusing on what's most vital, and take a little time out to ask for help. Things aren't so bad!



Pisces

Feb.19-Mar. 20

You are feeling a bit fuzzy-headed, but that's nothing to worry about — in fact, you get along better than most with a lack of information. Just push forward wherever your intuition takes you.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

7			9	3				
	3	2		7				
	8		5	2	1			
8	7		3					5
			1					
1				4		8	7	
		7	6		5		9	
			9			4	5	
		5		8				2

Easy+

	8	4	6			9		
	7			4				5
			9			8	4	
	9			6				1
8		1				5		6
7				3			8	
	1	7			2			
5				9			7	
		6			4	1	9	

Medium

6		8		5				
	2		8					9
4						7	6	
	4		1					3
		3	4	8	6	2		
	5				7		8	
	1	9						3
5					1		9	
				7		5		1

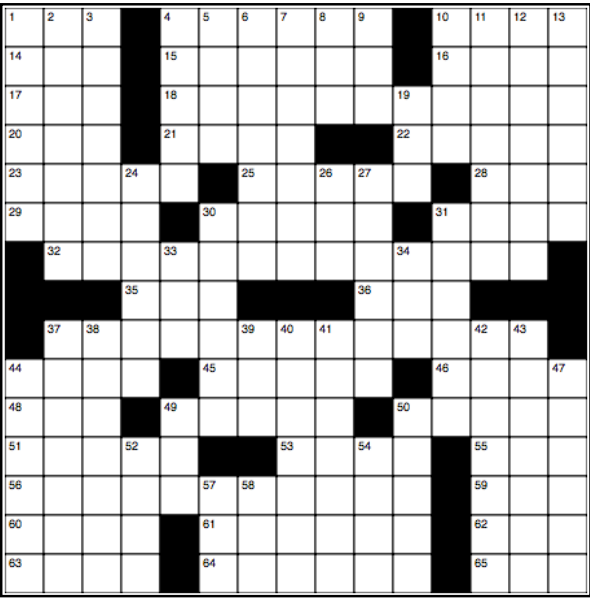
Hard

4								5
		8	3					
					7			2
			6			8		2
5	1							
		3						
2	4			5				
							3	1

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Half of D; 4- Infuse; 10- May honorees; 14- Poetic pugilist; 15- Direction taken; 16- Dies ___; 17- PC linkup; 18- Expansion; 20- Old Ford; 21- Campus mil. group; 22- Philbin of TV; 23- Les ___-Unis; 25- Collection of maps, Titan of Greek mythology; 28- Alias; 29- Actress Sofer; 30- Hair net; 31- Foul mood; 32- Rebirth of the soul in a new body; 35- Well, ___-di-dah!; 36- Bit of butter; 37- Uncertain; 44- A wedding cake may have three of these; 45- Gives off; 46- Actor Epops; 48- Ltr. holder; 49- Thorn; 50- Ham it up; 51- Article of bedding; 53- Lost traction; 55- "Michael Collins" actor; 56- Enduring; 59- Old California fort; 60- Pond organism; 61- Curd stuff; 62- Abu Dhabi's fed.; 63- Highly ranked competitor in sporting events; 64- Strong aversion; 65- Camera type, briefly;

DOWN: 1- One giving a ring; 2- Din; 3- Insecticide and weed-killer; 4- Champagne buckets; 5- Taboo; 6- Seedless raisin; 7- Farm vehicle; 8- Neighbor of Syr.; 9- Human limb, section of a journey; 10- Silent performer; 11- Aromatic herb; 12- Little man; 13- Attacks; 19- Trauma ctrs.; 24- Fit with clothes; 26- Actor Chaney; 27- Goes with the flow; 30- Lug; 31- Half-hour funny show; 33- Arrest; 34- Mai ___; 37- Tiny aperture; 38- It's offer sweet; 39- British record label; 40- Cathedral; 41- Artist's studio; 42- Disposed to love; 43- Situated on the side; 44- Magnetic induction units; 47- Person with a paper, perhaps; 49- Letters on a Cardinal's cap; 50- Gardener's tool; 52- Old oath; 54- Not ___ many words; 57- Rhine wine; 58- HBO alternative;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Emergency calls 999

Fire department 28 572 222

PJ (Open line) 993

PJ (Picket) 28 557 775

PSP 28 573 333

Customs 28 559 944

S. J. Hospital 28 313 731

Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333

Commission Against

Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300

IACM 28 387 333

Tourism 28 333 000

Airport 59 888 88

Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283

Water Supply – Report 1990 992

Telephone – Report 1000

Electricity – Report 28 339 922

Macau Daily Times 28 716 081



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Hellene Gardens
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HKD 5,929sq ft
Overlooking St Pauls
Ref: 14105421

CHUN LEONG
Taipa
Car Park Space
Car Park for Rent
HKD 1,700 / 00 sq ft
Ref: 1505051

Va Fu, Old Taipa Village
Taipa
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Very Centrally Located
HKD 12,500 / 800 sq ft
Ref: 15050511

Iau Lei Garden
Taipa
3 Bedrooms Apartment
Open Views across Taipa
HKD 13,900 / 1,100 sq ft
Ref: 1505503

Bauhinia Court, Hellene Gardens
Coloane
3 Bedrooms Apartment
Roof Terrace & Double Parking
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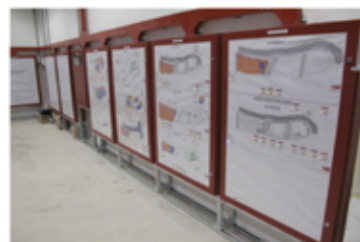
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Doug Ferguson, St. Andrews

GOLF | BRITISH OPEN

FOR a place dripping with centuries of history, St. Andrews got more than it could have wanted Sunday.

Jordan Spieth punched his golf bag in frustration after a careless bogey, perhaps sensing the British Open was slipping away. Just like that, and because this is what Spieth does in big moments, he salvaged his bid for a Grand Slam. He made three straight birdies. He took 10 putts on the inward nine. And when he walked off the 18th green, he had a 6-under 66 and was one shot behind with one round left.

"I'm going to play to win," Spieth said. "I'm not playing for a place. I don't want to place third tomorrow. I want to win."

But if there is history in the making at the home of golf, it no longer has to come from just Spieth.

Fans who filled the two-story grandstand and watched from the tops of buildings on Golf Place witnessed a moment not seen at St. Andrews in 88 years — an amateur in the lead going into the final round of the British Open.

Paul Dunne, the 22-year-old from Ireland, rolled in putts like this was the prestigious St. Andrews Links Trophy for amateurs instead of the oldest championship in golf. He played bogey-free for a 66 and shared the lead with former Open champion Louis Oosthuizen and Jason Day.

Bobby Jones is the last amateur to win the British Open in 1930 when he came from one shot behind in the final round. He was the last amateur to lead after 54 holes three years earlier at St. Andrews, and he won the claret jug that year, too.

Can it happen again?

AP PHOTO



United States' Jordan Spieth drives the ball from the 18th tee during the third round of the British Open Golf Championship at the Old Course, St. Andrews, Scotland

"It's surreal I'm leading the Open, but I can easily believe that I shot the three scores that I shot," Dunne said. "If we were playing an amateur event here, I wouldn't be too surprised by the scores I shot. It's just lucky that it happens to be in the biggest event in the world."

"Hopefully, I can do it again tomorrow," he said. "But whether I do or not, I'll survive either way."

The way the weather-delayed Open ended on Sunday, expect just about anything.

Oosthuizen, the last player to lift the claret jug at St. Andrews in 2010 and a runner-up at the U.S. Open last month, birdied

three of his last five holes for a 67. Day is just as big of a threat. He shot 67 and shared the lead for the second straight major, and he has challenged in four of them since 2011.

They were at 12-under 214, one shot ahead of Spieth with plenty of others that cannot be dismissed. Fourteen players were separated by three shots. Half of them were major champions, and there was yet another amateur among them — 21-year-old Jordan Niebrugge of Oklahoma State.

Such an opportunity might not come around again for Spieth. Only three other players won the

first two legs of the Grand Slam since the modern version began in 1960. Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus and Tiger Woods only got one shot at it, and none ever started the final round of the British Open so close to the lead.

And so it was Spieth, a 21-year-old Texan with an uncanny sense of occasion, who brought the gray, old town to life in a mixture of sunshine and rain. He rolled in birdie putts on the 10th, 11th and 12th holes to share the lead. He saved par from the high grass on the 13th, stuffed his approach to 4 feet for birdie on the 15th and made another tough par save on the Road Hole at the 17th.

A victory would send him to the PGA Championship with a shot at the Grand Slam, and at worse put him in elite company. Ben Hogan in 1953 is the only other player to capture the Masters, U.S. Open and British Open in the same year.

"Only one person has ever done it before. That opportunity very rarely comes around," Spieth said. "And I'd like to have a chance to do something nobody has ever done. ... To be able to go into the last major and accomplish something that's never been done in our sport is something that only comes around to a couple people ever. And I'd like to be one of those people to have that happen."

Rarely has the Old Course been as easy as it was Sunday.

One day after raging wind off the Eden Estuary caused a 10-hour delay and forced a Monday finish, the flags were soaked from passing showers and limp from no wind. The leaderboards were loaded with birdies, and seven players had at least a share of the lead at some point in the third round.

That's what made Dustin Johnson's collapse so shocking. With a one-shot lead after powering his way around St. Andrews for 36 holes, he was the last player in the field to make a birdie Sunday, and that wasn't until the 15th hole. He followed with three straight bogeys for a 75 to fall five shots behind.

Spieth, the youngest professional in the field, seemed calm despite the historic moment in front of him.

His goal at the start of the week was to treat the British Open like any other tournament he was trying to win. Even during the long delay on Saturday, he said he hasn't thought much about the slam. There is no escaping it now, and Spieth doesn't see that as a problem.

"If I have a chance coming down the stretch, if it creeps in, I'll embrace it," he said. "I'll embrace the opportunity that presents itself. As far as handling it, I don't look at it as a negative thing. I look at it almost as an advantage. Why should it add more pressure in a negative way?" **AP**

FOOTBALL

FIFA presidential election to be held on Feb 26

FIFA will hold a presidential election on Feb. 26, giving Sepp Blatter seven more months in power before leaving the scandal-tainted governing body.

The date was chosen by FIFA's executive committee yesterday, after Blatter announced plans to resign four days following his re-election in May amid American and Swiss criminal investigations into corruption.

The 79-year-old Blatter, who first joined FIFA 40 years ago, has held onto the most powerful job in world soccer since 1998.

FIFA's 209 members, who elected Blatter to a fifth term in May, will return to Zurich next year to select a new president

almost nine months after Blatter's resignation statement.

Potential contenders include UEFA President Michel Platini and Prince Ali bin al-Hussein, who lost to Blatter in May.

Former Brazil great Zico and Liberia football federation president Musa Bility have said they will seek the five nominations required by the Oct. 26 deadline.

FIFA announced the election date shortly before a scheduled news conference by Blatter. The FIFA executive committee meeting was also due to discuss ways of reforming the organization to regain the trust of fans and sponsors, including presiden-

AP PHOTO



Journalists are reflected in the FIFA logo as they wait in front of the FIFA headquarters in Zurich

tial term limits.

Prince Ali joined World Cup sponsor Coca-Cola and former FIFA advisers Transparency International in calling for Blatter to be excluded from the process of shaping the organization's future after a litany of scandals on his

watch.

Prince Ali told The Associated Press that Blatter "cannot be permitted to plan his succession and manage this election process."

"President Blatter's resignation cannot be dragged out any longer. He must

leave now," Prince Ali, a FIFA vice president for four years until May, said in a statement to the AP.

"An interim independent leadership must be appointed to administer the process of the elections, in addition to the reforms that are being discussed prior to the elections," he added.

Reformers want FIFA to appoint a respected figure from outside the sport to oversee the next election and reforms of FIFA.

Kofi Annan, the former United Nations secretary general from Ghana, has been mentioned for the role.

"The rumors linking Mr. Annan to the FIFA job are just that: rumors," Annan's office told the AP, stressing

that he is currently "fully committed" to other roles.

Bility, the Liberian federation head, said he was "very disappointed" with the Feb. 26 election date.

"It does not reflect the urgency of the situation," he told the AP by telephone. "The anxiety, the wait cannot help knowing that we expect to have a new leadership."

Bility said he is sure he will secure the nominations required to make the ballot.

"I am very encouraged," he said. "You know I am keen viewing those rumors of those who are running. I don't see any new faces. They are all names who have been around for all these years." **AP**

opinion

Our Desk

Catarina Pinto



UNDER GOV'T SURVEILLANCE

It's as ironic as it could get: a surveillance software provider gets a taste of its own medicine when it is hacked, and soon finds millions of its emails disclosed and archived by WikiLeaks.

Hacking Team, an Italian tech company well known for developing and selling cyber surveillance software to governments across the globe, was recently revealed to have exchanged emails with Macau's anti-graft agency for a surveillance software demonstration.

The Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) had expressed interest in acquiring the company's Remote Control System – described as a "spyware-based system for attacking, infecting and monitoring computers, and smartphones."

The CCAC was keen on monitoring smartphones, one of the emails read.

The idea that, for the sake of national security, police forces and government agencies could make use of surveillance software – during particularly sensitive investigations, for instance – isn't exactly new.

But the massive hack into Hacking Team's data brings to light the extent of this surveillance, and makes one wonder who and what exactly government and police forces have been hacking into.

As cyber culture journalist and researcher Joshua Kopstein points out in an article published by Al Jazeera America, "The problem is that law enforcement wants both backdoors and hacking powers – and we still haven't had a debate about the latter. What kind of suspects should law enforcement be allowed to hack?"

"What will stop authorities from planting evidence on someone's computer? Given the well-known problem of attribution in online crime investigations, how will they ensure they're hacking the right person and that no innocents will get caught up in the process?"

The problem is, I'd say, that we the citizens have no assurances that governments or police forces will only use hacking when no other option is available. Nor do we know that they won't hack into the mobile phone or computer of the wrong person. Even more so, we have no assurances that their hacking intentions are noble – if most acts of hacking are truly well-intentioned, anyway.

However, history has proved that hacking has sometimes been used in the name of the so-called public interest, shedding light on questionable government secrecy and actions.

But again the problem with hacking is that – as with so many other tools – it may fall into the wrong hands.

The massive amount of leaked data shows that the company had sold surveillance software to repressive regimes across the globe. Questionable customers included Ethiopia, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Uzbekistan, Bahrain or Tunisia.

However, what amazed me the most was their compelling advertising efforts. A video on the company's webpage advertises the capabilities of the RCS software: "Is passive monitoring enough? You need more." It goes on: "You need to look through your target's eyes" – when I read this I can't help but wonder if someone somewhere is really watching.

"You have to hack your target while your target is browsing the web; exchanging documents; receiving SMSes; crossing borders (...) being stealthy and untraceable; immune to protection systems, hidden collection infrastructure. Deployed all over your country, up to hundreds of thousands of targets, all managed from a single place. Exactly what we do. Remote Control System Galileo. The Hacking Suite for Governmental Interception." Disturbing, to say the least.

THE BUZZ
CHEATING WEBSITE ASHLEY MADISON
HACKED, PERSONAL INFO POSTED

The parent company of Ashley Madison, a matchmaking website for cheating spouses, says it was hacked and that the personal information of some of its users was posted online.

Toronto-based Avid Life Media Inc. says it has had the hackers' posts, which included personal information, taken down and has hired a technology security firm. The company

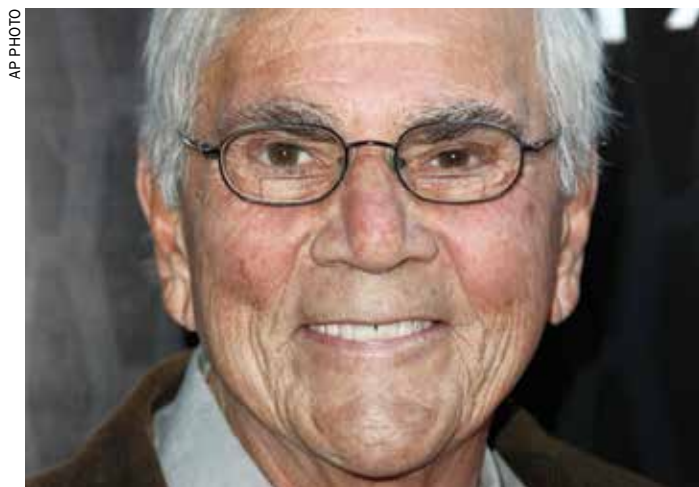
and law enforcement are investigating.

The breach was first reported late Sunday by Brian Krebs of Krebs on Security, a website that focuses on cybersecurity.

Avid Life, which also operates matchmaking websites under the CougarLife and Established Men brands, says it has 40 million members around the world.

OBITUARY

Rocco, who played Moe Greene in 'The Godfather,' dies at 79



ALEX Rocco, the Emmy-winning character actor best known for taking a bullet through the eye as the Las Vegas casino boss Moe Greene in "The Godfather," has died. He was 79.

Rocco's daughter, Jennifer, announced his death Saturday. Details were not immediately available.

Rocco's career spanned five decades, and he remained active up until his death, including a recurring role on the Starz series "Magic City." His distinctively gravelly voice made him a frequent tough-guy presence in both hardboiled tales ("The Friends of Eddie Coyle," "St. Valentine's Day Massacre," "Get Shorty") and comedic

sitcoms ("The Simpsons," "The Facts of Life").

His most famous role came in 1972's "The Godfather," where he played the humbled casino owner who meets his fate on a massage table, with a bullet through his thick eyeglass lenses. His confrontation with Al Pacino's Michael Corleone – in which he condescended to the new boss: "I made my bones when you were going out with cheerleaders!" – was among the movie's many indelible scenes.

"Without a doubt, my biggest ticket anywhere," Rocco told the AV Club in 2012. "I went for. I dunno, one of the Italian parts. Maybe the Richard Bright part.

But Coppola goes, 'I got my Jew!' And I went, 'Oh no, Mr. Coppola, I'm Italian. I wouldn't know how to play a Jew.' And he goes, 'Oh, shut up.'"

The Boston-born Rocco also memorably voiced the cigar-smoking studio head of "Itchy and Scratchy" on "The Simpsons." And he played Charlie Polniacsek on the 1980s sitcom "The Facts of Life."

He won an Emmy for best supporting actor in a comedy series in 1990 for the short-lived Jon Cryer sitcom "The Famous Teddy Z."

Born on Feb. 29, 1936, as Alessandro Federico Petricone Jr. in Cambridge, Mass., Rocco studied acting under Leonard Nimoy on his arrival to Los Angeles. His first role was in a Russ Meyer film, 1965's "Motor Psycho."

Nimoy helped rid Rocco of his thick Boston accent, and the actor would forever after find consistent work – from Pixar's "A Bug's Life" to "Family Guy" – for his singular voice.

Rocco is survived by his wife, actress Shannon Wilcox, his daughter Jennifer, son Lucien and a grandson. AP

THE
DECISIVE MOMENT



Heated summertime. People cool off in a public fountain past Rome's Palazzo Chigi government office, yesterday. Temperatures in Rome this week could hit 38-39C: sizzling heat and oppressive humidity have gripped Italy this month.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	35-55 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	70-100 Moderate
Ambient	70-100 Moderate

SOURCE: D5M6

WORLD BRIEFS

YEMEN The death toll in Yemen from the Shiite rebel shelling of a town near the southern port city of Aden rose yesterday to nearly 100, the head of an international aid group said, describing it as "the worst day" for the city and its surroundings in over three months of fighting.

ARGENTINA Conservative Horacio Rodriguez Larreta won the mayoral run-off election in Buenos Aires, in a closer race than his opposition party had hoped for in the key region ahead of presidential voting later this year.



USA Jet-setting stallions and high-flying hounds at New York's Kennedy Airport can look forward to a new luxury terminal that will handle the more than 70,000 animals flying in and out every year. The ARK at JFK, its name inspired by Noah's biblical vessel, is billed as the world's first air terminal for animals. The USD48 million, 16,500-square-meter shelter and quarantine is set to open next year.

USA Demi Moore says she is stunned and saddened by the death of a 21-year-old man in the backyard pool of a Los Angeles home she owns.



UK Renowned physicist Stephen Hawking has joined a Russian billionaire to launch a major new effort to listen for aliens in the search for extraterrestrial life. Hawking has offered his support to tech entrepreneur Yuri Milner's Breakthrough Initiatives project – a USD100 million quest to see if extraterrestrial intelligence exists.