



**PACKER: RISING CASINO DEBT MAKING BOND MARKET WARY**

Aussie gaming billionaire Packer's casino empire borrowings are rising too fast for some bond investors' comfort

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**COUTINHO RUNS FOR LISBON PARLIAMENT, DENIES NEW PARTY LINK**

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**FIFA: THE KOREAN CANDIDATE**

South Korean Chung Mong-Joon announced yesterday in Paris he's running for the top post at corruption-ridden FIFA

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**WORLD BRIEFS**



**THAILAND** A bomb exploded at a popular shrine near a key political protest site in central Bangkok yesterday evening, the government said, reportedly killing more than a dozen people and injuring many others. The bomb exploded inside the Erawan Shrine, and another undetonated bomb was found near the complex, said Maj. Gen. Weerachon Sukhondhapatipak, a spokesman for Thailand's ruling junta. The shrine is a tourist landmark also popular with Thais.

**S KOREA**'s high military court upholds a death sentence for a soldier convicted for killing five comrades in shooting and grenade attacks last year.



**N KOREA** The rival Koreas have resumed cross-border propaganda warfare as North Korea yesterday matched South Korea's loudspeaker campaign with broadcasts of its own that reportedly included criticism of Seoul and praises for Pyongyang.

**NEPAL** A general strike imposed by smaller political parties protesting a proposed new constitution that would split Nepal into six federal states crippled daily life across the Himalayan nation yesterday.

**JAPAN**'s economy contracted at a 1.6 percent annual pace in the April-June quarter in the latest setback for the country's "Abenomics" growth strategy.

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AP PHOTO

**TIANJIN EXPLOSION**

# Foreign companies suspend operations, residents protest

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**BUSINESS**

# Booming app innovations boost youth IT entrepreneurship

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## GAMING ALERT

# Packer's rising casino debt making bond market wary

BLOOMBERG



James Packer

## Benjamin Purvis

**A**USTRALIAN billionaire James Packer's casino empire borrowings are rising too fast for some bond investors' comfort.

With Crown Resorts Ltd.'s debt pile swelling and profits down, the cost of insuring the gaming operator's notes against non-payment climbed to the most expensive level in two years. The deterioration of the Melbourne-based company's balance sheet could also pressure its credit ratings.

Crown's net debt grew 47 percent to A\$2.5 billion (USD1.8 billion) in the last financial year and it may borrow more to develop its attractions in Australia and a potential new casino in Las Vegas. At the

same time earnings have dropped and its Macau joint venture is producing less cash as China's corruption crackdown puts the brakes on high rollers. Packer has also changed his own role by stepping down as chairman last week.

"They're sailing close to the wind with some of their credit metrics," said Scott Rundell, chief credit strategist at Commonwealth Bank of Australia in Sydney. "We reckon the ratings agencies should place them on negative outlook, although that's not to say they will."

The yield premium over the swap rate on Crown's November 2019 Australian dollar bonds widened to as much as 179 basis points this month, the most on record based on CBA prices.

Crown's credit default swaps have risen 22 basis points this year to 159 basis points as of Aug. 14, the third-worst performance in the 25-member iTraxx Australia index, based on CMA prices. The contracts reached as high as 164 basis points on Aug. 13, the highest since August 2013.

The company is rated two steps above junk at both Moody's Investors Service and Standard & Poor's. Both have a stable outlook and said there was no immediate impact on their ratings from Crown's latest earnings announcement. Moody's did describe the results as "credit negative."

Net income after adjusting for one-time items and an unusual rate of winnings was A\$526 million in the 12 months ended June 30, down 18

percent from a year earlier, Crown said last week. The profit received from its stake in Macau-focused Melco Crown Entertainment Ltd. slumped 45 percent.

Leverage remains within the limits of the current rating at Moody's "but represents a significant reduction in headroom and increases the risk of downward rating pressure in light of a number of major projects that Crown is undertaking," Moody's analyst Maurice O'Connell wrote in a report.

Crown plans to spend more than A\$1.4 billion on its facilities in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth in the next three financial years, according to the latest earnings presentation. Its Alon casino project on the Las Vegas strip is in

the design stage.

Crown's Chief Financial Officer Kenneth Barton said last week the balance sheet is in "reasonably good shape" and that the company looks "to maintain metrics that are consistent with our current rating." Expenditure over the coming few years "looks to be sort of well covered by operating cash flow," he said on a conference call with analysts.

The company has previously taken steps to protect its ratings, according to Anthony Ip, a credit sector specialist at Citigroup Inc. He cited in particular a decision to issue subordinated notes, as well as the inclusion of provisions in Crown's most recent unsecured bond for investors to receive a higher coupon should the credit score be lowered.

## ■ Crown's credit default swaps have risen 22 basis points this year, the third-worst performance in the 25-member iTraxx Australia index

"I got some comfort from their earnings presentation in that they will try to structure the project funding so that it protects their credit rating," he said.

The company had about A\$197 million of cash as of June 30 and total outstanding debt of A\$2.66 billion, regulatory filings show.

In addition to the pressure on Macau gaming revenues from the Chinese government's anti-corruption drive, Melco Crown faces challenges relating to issues such as gaming table allocations and smoking bans. At home, Crown is being affected by the mining slump in Western Australia at its Perth venue.

"Crown's credit profile is certainly under pressure and we see a few cracks around the edges," said CBA's Rundell. "It's not terminal, but over the near term there are more headwinds than tailwinds."

**Bloomberg**

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# Booming app innovations boost youth IT entrepreneurship

Brook Yang

**W**ITH a growing number of local youths participating in information technology (IT) entrepreneurship in recent years, the industry is seeing a diverse range of innovations, many with the intention of improving everyday life via mobile apps.

Awarding prizes to three new concepts — apps that will allow users to locate check-in counters in airports, predict traffic on the road ahead, and seal a special message into a certain location — the annual “InnoICT Business Plan Competition” that concluded yesterday again bore witness to this trend in the industry.

The contest, jointly organized by the Macau New Technologies Incubator Centre (Manetic) and the Tertiary Education Services Office since 2010, aims to foster innovations and promote ICT development in Macau by offering support for the winning teams to convert their business plans into a reality. Initially intended for residents who are studying at a local tertiary education institution, the competition was later expanded to accept entries from Macau students studying abroad.

This year, the contest saw the participation of 31 teams comprising of 90 students, with 19 teams from local institutes and the rest from mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and England.

Standing out from the 31 submissions, engineer Lo Kuok Chi's design for a Bluetooth indoor micro-localization system was crowned the champion for its potential to be used in a variety of different ways.

The electrical engineer, who previously studied part-time at the Open University of Hong Kong, introduced his app as a way to allow dri-



vers to record their parking location in an indoor lot and later find their way back to their parked car through Bluetooth positioning. He explained that the app needs tailor-made maps for each venue, such as airports and shopping malls. The app will not only assist general users but also guide people with visual impairment.

Manetic's executive director, Gibert Chan, told the Times that “the winning design has enormous potential to be applied in a wide range of fields, which gives it a good chance of succeeding and being further developed.” He added: “the first runner-up submission is a novel idea that we have never seen before.”

Representing the first runner-up team, Chim Chi Wai, a senior undergraduate from the National Taiwan University, explained that their mobile app allows users to leave a message at a chosen location, specifying that the message can only be retrieved from that precise position.

“It's not only text messages but also audio, images and

videos; all these messages will be kept in Cloud storage,” he said. The youngster added that although Macau's IT industry hasn't matured, his team is planning to set up a company here and launch their app while they finish studying. “Because most of our team members are from Macau; besides, Macau has been promoting entrepreneurship,” he explained.

Chim and his team are not alone in planning an IT startup in Macau. Ms Chen Min-Chi, studying information technology at the National Cheng Kung University in Taiwan, has also decided to move to Macau with her teammate after graduation to complete and implement their traffic monitoring system.

“We've seen many applications demonstrating real-time traffic conditions, but our software is able to predict traffic through data-processing such as vehicle speed,” she explained.

Apart from cash prizes, the winning teams will all receive support in registering their business and incuba-

tion services from the sponsors to help convert their business plan into a reality. With the competition in its sixth year, Mr Gilbert Chan recognized that “many of the previous winners have established their startups and are to date running a sustainable business.”

“They have been providing various services to government departments and organizations, especially through app development,” he said. However, he added that the lack of human resources is still causing a bottleneck in their long-term development plans.

The new champion, Lo Kuok Chi, further acknowledged that the quality of resources being put into the IT industry differs greatly from those contributed by the neighboring city of Hong Kong, a better place for entrepreneurship than Macau.

“Whether due to the well-established grooming of engineers, or the suitability of supporting facilities, HK already has all that and that's what Macau needs to think of,” he suggested.

## Fiscal surplus down by 60 pct year-on-year

Macau's fiscal surplus between January and July has dropped by 59.1 percent when compared with the same period of last year, standing at over MOP27.18 billion, according to the latest Central Account released by the Financial Services Bureau. During the period, public revenue was recorded at nearly MOP64.49 billion, representing a 32 percent drop year-on-year. Within that, direct taxes from gaming amounted to MOP51.93 billion, down by 35.7 percent. Meanwhile, public expenditure increased by 27.9 percent to MOP37.3 billion, reflecting an execution rate of 42.4 percent of the budget.

## Hengqin Port to become entry and exit point for migrant labor from mainland



Transport Bureau director Lam Hin San has said that local imported workers would gradually begin to use the Hengqin Port to enter and leave the region before and after work, as the authorities have pledged to further such an approach in a bid to mitigate the mounting burden on local traffic. Since talks with local gaming operators over the possibility of the casinos offering carpool vehicles, three companies have begun driving their employees between their workplaces and the Border Gate. The average daily volume of passengers involved in the commute has reached 4,000. In addition, for all six companies that give their mainland workers free rides between their workplaces and the Hengqin Port, the frequency during rush hours per day totaled 85 trips, with more than 2,700 people benefitting from the service.

## Lawmaker pushes for facial detection system in border auto-channels

Lawmaker Si Ka Lon has questioned the Security authorities in his written inquiry about the effectiveness of the newly implemented facial detection system at border checkpoints. The lawmaker noted that the system being used to check visitors' identities was introduced in 2011 with the purpose of identifying non-local residents who have previously committed a crime, especially that of overstaying, and preventing them from re-entering the region. Si questioned whether the authorities have expanded their use of the system into other fields in order to maximize the technology's crime-fighting potential.

## International student card applications open

**T**HE Tertiary Education Services Office (GAES) has opened applications for the International Student Card. Local students who are enrolled in Macau's higher education institutions or attending universities abroad can apply until October 30, GAES said in a statement.

Applications must be submitted onli-

ne by October 30 via the Macau higher education students' blog at student-blog.gaes.gov.mo. Students must then pay the requisite fee at their university. The card will be issued within two to four weeks of receiving payment. Students looking to obtain a card immediately can request one at the Hong Kong Overseas Studies Centre.

The International Student Identity Card (ISIC) has been endorsed by UNESCO and is issued to students in over 130 countries. The card features several benefits including discounts and promotional offers for plane tickets, EURail passes, accommodation, food, museums, concerts and other cultural events.

## PROPERTY

## Transaction value and numbers see snapback in Q2

**T**HE local private real estate sector enjoyed a boom in transaction values and quantities during the last quarter, following previous declines for three straight months, the latest figures from the Statistics and Census Service have revealed.

However, the transactions total for the first half of the year suffered a year-on-year plunge, with a price drop of 45.4 percent, while the number of transactions fell 38 percent.

In the second quarter, a total of up to 1,864 residential units were sold or purchased, at a combined price of MOP11.74 billion, suggesting a 67.3 percent rise in number and 92.8 percent rise in value of sales. Amongst those properties, the number of existing housing unit transactions went up to 1,408 at a total cost of MOP7.28 billion, up by 54.2 per-



cent and 69.7 percent respectively. In addition, pre-sale units accounted for 456 of the sales, totaling MOP4.47 billion, up by 126.9 percent and 147.9 percent.

The average price of housing units went up by 6.5 percent quarter-to-quarter to MOP95,345 per square meter of usable area, while the average price of pre-sale units rose by 6.1 percent to MOP128,654 per square meter. The price

hike was exceptionally obvious in Taipa, where 28.6 percent of growth was recorded, while the Macau Peninsula and Coloane saw drops of 8.6 percent and 4.9 percent respectively.

The average price per square meter of office units climbed by 1.9 percent quarter-on-quarter, while that of industrial units dropped by two percent.

New private buildings currently under cons-

AVERAGE PRICE PER SQUARE METER OF RESIDENTIAL UNITS (MOP)			
	ALL RESIDENTIAL UNITS	EXISTING RESIDENTIAL UNITS	PRE-SALE RESIDENTIAL UNITS
Total	95,345	81,795	128,654
Peninsula	84,832	78,890	112,145
Taipa	116,642	90,763	177,529
Coloane	109,308	68,889	110,734

AVERAGE PRICE PER SQUARE METER OF RESIDENTIAL UNITS BY USABLE FLOOR AREA (MOP)			
	ALL RESIDENTIAL UNITS	EXISTING RESIDENTIAL UNITS	PRE-SALE RESIDENTIAL UNITS
< 50.0 m2	91,944	81,795	128,654
50.0 - 99.9 m2	89,608	78,890	112,145
100.0 - 149.9 m2	107,996	90,763	177,529
> 150.0 m2	107,963	68,889	110,734

AVERAGE PRICE PER SQUARE METER OF EXISTING RESIDENTIAL UNITS BY YEAR OF BUILDING COMPLETION (MOP)				
	< 5 YEARS	6 - 10 YEARS	11 - 20 YEARS	> 20 YEARS
	116,952	95,183	83,384	67,843

truction, with a total floor area of close to 309,000 square meters, are expected to generate 1,804 residential units and 1,463 parking spa-

ces upon completion. Thanks to the brand-new resort facilities in the Cotai Strip, the gross floor area of buildings already completed in the

second quarter reached around 1.168 million square meters, offering 858 housing units and 2,985 parking bays. **Staff reporter**

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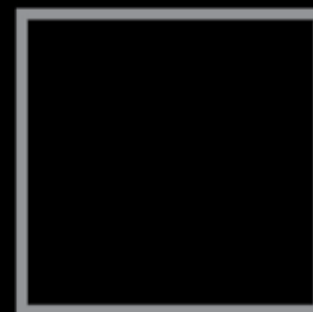
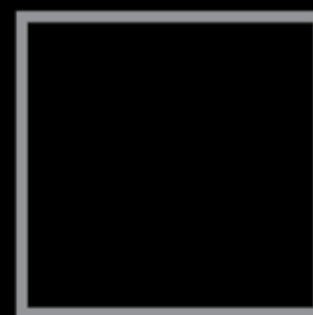
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# Pereira Coutinho runs for Portuguese Parliament, denies new party link

Catarina Pinto

**M**ACAU'S Legislative Assembly lawmaker José Pereira Coutinho has confirmed his intentions to run for a seat at the Portuguese Parliament this autumn, but denied that he will be running for the Portuguese general elections under the Democratic Republican Party ticket.

Portuguese Member of the European Parliament (MEP) António Marinho e Pinto launched the Democratic Republican Party (PDR) last year after deciding to leave the Earth Party, under which he had secured a seat at the European Parliament.

A source close to lawmaker Coutinho had told the Times that he would be running under the PDR's ticket.

The lawmaker and president of the Macau Civil Servants Association (ATFPM) said that he would only be disclosing further information, including which ticket he is running under, once the elec-

**Serving as a lawmaker in both Macau and Portugal might raise legal issues**

tions for the Council of the Portuguese Communities begin in September.

"Yes, I'm considering running [for Portuguese Parliament]. But we are now focusing on the elections for the Council of the Portuguese Communities and we will disclose further details when appropriate," he told The Times over the phone.

"It's not that party. It's not. I cannot disclose any further details for now," he stressed.

Mr Coutinho hinted that this year's general elections would provide a good source of momentum to make sure that Portuguese communities' concerns reach the national Par-



Pereira Coutinho

liament.

"We believe it's time for someone to voice Portuguese communities' concerns in Lisbon. We want their hopes, wishes, and demands to have a voice. We are also looking to ensure that promoting the Portuguese language and culture abroad is seen as a priority by [the government] in Lisbon," he explained.

Mr Coutinho is positive he will be able to juggle his work at Macau's Legislative Assembly with his obligations to the Portuguese Parliament if he wins a seat.

"I wouldn't have to be based in Lisbon, and everyone knows how important it is for someone representing the Portuguese communities to actually be in close contact with them [outside Portugal]," he recalled, adding that it would be possible to strike a balance, enabling him to take on both jobs.

However, Lusa news agency reported that serving as a lawmaker in both Macau and Portugal might raise legal issues. Under Portuguese parliamentary by-laws, government officials of overseas

countries and lawmakers representing a foreign country cannot serve as Parliament lawmakers.

Portuguese Prime Minister Pedro Passos Coelho's ruling coalition will face the Socialists, the biggest opposing party, in the country's general elections on October 4.

Coutinho is currently in Lisbon, where he said he will be meeting with representatives of different entities to discuss enhancing the relations between Portugal and Macau.

He told Lusa news agency that he will be meeting with party representatives in Portugal. Mr Coutinho added that his views are "independent," but acknowledged that he has had a good relationship with the Portuguese government throughout the years, and is able to hold talks with any political party.

José Pereira Coutinho is also running for the Council of the Portuguese Communities (CCP) elections that are due to take place on September 6. CCP, of which Coutinho is a member, is the Portuguese government's advisory body on emigration and issues facing Portuguese communities abroad.

He concluded by saying that, "we are confident we can do more for the Portuguese communities across the world. I've had the chance to meet the Prime Minister and he said he is looking to attend the opening of the Portuguese Consulate in Guangzhou [scheduled for October]. It's something that we have been demanding and we hope it helps to boost the Portuguese economy."

## COUTINHO CALLS FOR GOV'T TO LEGISLATE ON TRADE UNIONS

**LAWMAKER JOSÉ** Pereira Coutinho has called on the government to draft laws to regulate trade unions, collective bargaining and strikes. Through a spoken enquiry, Coutinho recalled that under article 27 of Macau's Basic Law, citizens are entitled to establish associations, and to strike. However, he said that these rights are not be-

ing properly safeguarded, due to the lack of specific laws regulating trade unions and collective bargaining. Furthermore, he asked the government if Macau is complying with international labor conventions. Legislative Assembly lawmakers have vetoed a trade union bill tabled by lawmaker Coutinho for the sixth time this year.

## CRIME

# Mainland woman nabbed for aggravated theft after half a year at large

**L**OCAL police arrested a woman from the mainland last Friday who has been at large since February, when she allegedly stole HKD15,000 worth of cash from a male friend in his hotel room, according to the Judiciary Police (PJ).

It has been alleged that the suspect, aged 40 and surnamed Niu, contacted the 43-year-old victim over the

phone at 4:00 a.m. on February 14 after she learnt that he was visiting Macau at the time. The pair spent a couple of hours gambling in the casino of the man's hotel before heading to the victim's room to rest at 8:00 a.m.

The man, also from the mainland, woke up two and a half hours later, realizing that his friend had left the room. Alerted by her

sudden departure, the mainlander then discovered that the cash he was keeping inside his closet had gone missing and called the police. However, the suspect had already fled the territory for her hometown, Anhui.

The PJ officers arrested the suspect on August 14 upon her undocumented arrival into Macau. The suspect admitted to the theft

and confessed that all of the ill-gotten money had already been gambled away.

In a separate case, an illegal immigrant was apprehended by the Public Security Police Force last Thursday for attempting to bribe a police officer into releasing her after she was caught in the street under suspicion of illegally entering the city.

The suspect, surnamed Wang, who spent RMB5,500 in order to illicitly enter the region on August 11, grabbed HKD3,000 worth of banknotes from her handbag and shoved them into the officer's hands, hoping to be immediately released. The incident occurred near the Hotel Fortuna. She claimed that she was intending to visit the local casinos.

## MAINLANDERS NABBED USING DRUGS IN HOTEL ROOM

**THREE MALE** mainlanders are facing prosecution after being found taking drugs in their hotel room in the Nape area by local police last Thursday. According to the authorities, the trio has admitted that they were in possession of the 1.72 grams of methamphetamine discovered inside a cabinet drawer in the room. The incident was discovered after one of the suspects failed to show his identification card to the police during a regular patrol.

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MARKETS

# Hong Kong stocks seen losing haven appeal on Fed move, yuan

Kana Nishizawa

**H**ONG Kong investors who sought shelter from China's rout in local shares say the clock is running out on that trade.

While a gauge of Hong Kong stocks has fallen since the end of April, the decline is less than half that of a measure of Chinese shares listed in the city. Hong Kong's currency peg to the dollar means the expected rate increase by the Federal Reserve will weigh on the city's developers, says HSBC Holdings Plc. Morgan Stanley says yuan depreciation will hurt retailers.

The role of local shares as a haven in the China selloff made the MSCI Hong Kong Index the most expensive since November relative to the measure of mainland stocks. Pictet Asset Management Ltd. and HSBC say that's another headwind for homegrown shares, especially as investors bet on further stimulus on the mainland.

"If the rate rise comes in, MSCI Hong Kong has property companies so they will be impacted," said Herald van der Linde, the Hong-Kong based head of Asia-Pacific equity strategy at HSBC. "Hong Kong may look a little bit less exciting then, and by that time maybe China is cheaper. In the longer run the Chinese companies will outperform."

The MSCI China Index is a measure of 144 mainland stocks mostly trading in the for-



An investor sits in front of a monitor displaying share prices at a securities brokerage in Hong Kong

mer British colony. China Mobile Ltd. accounts for 9 percent of the gauge, whose smallest company has a market value of about USD2 billion. The MSCI Hong Kong gauge comprises 40 stocks from the city and Macau, with AIA Group Ltd. making up about about 19 percent of the index. MSCI China slid 0.6 percent yesterday, while the Hong Kong gauge retreated 0.8 percent.

Hong Kong investors turned to local companies as the rout in mainland A shares destroyed about \$4 trillion in

market value. Hang Seng Bank Ltd. and Cheung Kong Infrastructure Holdings Ltd., which gets most of its sales outside the mainland, were among a handful of Hong Kong shares that rose even in the selloff.

Macquarie Investment Management Ltd. made the shift in April after taking profit from Chinese companies it had favored for seven years. Hong Kong shares tend to be more defensive, which probably attracted investors during volatile conditions, said Sam Le Cornu, who oversees about

\$3 billion in Asian equities.

Traders see a 48 percent chance that the U.S. will raise interest rates next month. That would translate into higher mortgage costs in a city where property companies make up about a quarter of the MSCI Hong Kong measure.

China's surprise devaluation will hurt the city's retail industry by reducing the purchasing power of mainland tourists, who account for as much as half the sales at luxury malls, Morgan Stanley wrote in a report.

Local companies probably

Investors turned to local companies as the rout in mainland A shares destroyed about USD4 trillion in market value

won't see sharp rallies for the rest of the year because valuations are at a premium to the MSCI China, Dan said. The MSCI Hong Kong traded at 15.8 times estimated earnings at the end of last week, compared with 10.3 for the mainland gauge.

The yuan's devaluation will ease deflationary pressure and be good for Chinese equities, according to Nomura Holdings Inc. If it increases capital outflow, the government will cut the ratio of reserves lenders must set aside for the deposits they hold, the brokerage said in a report.

Investors will become more confident in the Chinese economy and "buy those oversold China shares," said Ben Kwong, a director at brokerage KGI Asia Ltd in Hong Kong. "With the interest-rate hike and slowing economy, Hong Kong will face increasing challenges." **Bloomberg**

## corporate bits

### BROADWAY MACAU STREET DANCE COMPETITION 'THAT SPIRIT 4 X KEEP IT REAL THAILAND'



Broadway Macau is bringing street dance onto The Broadway. Hosted by União Geral das Associações dos Moradores de Macau and the Associação de Juventude Voluntária de Serviço Social de Pak Wai de Macau, coordinated by the Centro de Actividades Pak Wai, and joined by the Macau International Street Dance Asso-

ciation (MISDA), Broadway Macau is the venue sponsor of this 30-team-strong dance competition.

A hundred of street dancers came to The Broadway to show off their best moves. After a day of music and dance, champions were awarded in the following categories: the 1 on 1 Tricks & Power award went to BBOY A tab; 1 on 1 Footwork

battle winner was BBOY off; the Showcase championship went to team "Ngo Di Yan". The title of 2 on 2 battle champion went to Mental Fusion, who will also represent Macau at the Street Dance Competition in Thailand.

"The Macau Street Dance Competition is an amazing opportunity for emerging and established dance artists to show their moves to the world through up-close-and-personal performances. Broadway Macau was honored to sponsor and host this year's competition with everyone in Galaxy Entertainment Group looking forward to more collaborations with performing artists in both the live music and dance scene," said Kevin Clayton, Chief Marketing Officer at Galaxy Entertainment Group.

### FADO LAUNCHES PORTUGUESE INSPIRED PAVLOVA COLLECTION

Fado restaurant at Hotel Royal Macau is presenting a sweet collection of Portuguese inspired pavlovas. Light, fluffy and made from egg white, pavlovas have inspired Fado's Executive Chef Luis Américo to reinvent the recipe by topping this meringue cake with 4 traditional Portuguese flavors: Egg Cream, Crème Brulee, Serradura and Port Wine Chocolate.

Those who have a love of rich egg-yolk desserts will enjoy the Pavlova with Classic Egg Cream and Roasted Almonds, which is a mix-and-match of egg custard and crunchy meringue; the Pavlova with "Crème brulee" and Cinnamon blends pudding and egg white together;



the Pavlova with Lemon Curd and "Serradura" is a fresh and playful creation; while last but not least, the Pavlova with Port Wine Chocolate Mousse and Fresh

Strawberries rounds off the selection.

The Portuguese Inspired Pavlova Collection is available from September 1st onwards.



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AFRICA

# China's diplomacy focuses on preferential loans for infrastructure

**T**HE review that China is making to its development aid model should strengthen cooperation with multilateral agencies, keeping preferential loans for infrastructure central, according to an analysis by the Brookings Institution.

Yun Sun, an analyst at Brookings who has studied the role of Africa in China's diplomacy, said in his latest work on the subject that loans with preferential terms (or subsidized loans), similar to those that have been granted to Angola and Mozambique are already the largest component of Chinese foreign aid, accounting for almost 56 percent of the total between 2010 and 2012.

In relation to Africa in the "near future" the "bulk" of the aid is likely to be granted through preferential loans, which together with development aid are a set of "highly valuable financial resources for (Africa's) vast infrastructure development needs," said Yun Sun.

In the next few months the Chinese Foreign Ministry is expected to issue a set of guidelines for external aid to frame the high growth figures expected in the coming years, in line with those recorded in the recent past.

Between 2010 and 2012, China's aid reached 90 billion yuan, nearly a third of the total since 1949, becoming a "formidable alternative to Western aid," according to Yun Sun.

Some analysts in China have been advocating a reduction in the weight of preferential loans and infrastructure projects, but this seems to clash with the current priorities of the Chinese government, which include establishing links, particularly along the "New Silk Route."

Sun Yun said that in coming years



Xi Jinping (L, front) shakes hands with Angolan workers while visiting a social housing project constructed by Citic Construction Company in Kilamba Kiaxi, Angola, in 2010

preferential loans for infrastructure "will be considered favorably within Chinese foreign aid."

In Africa, Angola and Mozambique are among the main beneficiaries of these loans – China is already the biggest bilateral creditor of Mozambique, where major investments are being prepared with Chinese capital after increasing funding to the country by 160 percent since 2012.

With a new loan of USD400 million announced last month, the weight of funding from China to Mozambique is expected to grow almost 50 percent over the current level.

The new loan is for construction of a 600-kilometer power transmission line between the provinces of Zambézia and Nampula, according to the Mozambican government.

In the case of Angola, the two countries established a strategic partnership in 2010, with China providing credit lines and Angola repaying them with oil, which led to two-way trade increasing over 2000 percent between 2002 and 2012.

The level of support for Angola was such, and as the aid scheme so effective, that it was eventually extended to other countries under the name "Angola Model" – financing agreements with low interest rates for African countries, guaranteed with the supply of raw materials.

For African countries, this support came at a time when they had great difficulty in accessing financing.

The Chinese foreign aid budget supports the difference between market interest rates and subsidised interest on loans, enough to increase demand for this financing, which also secures contracts for Chinese companies and helps ensure a market for natural resources, said the analyst at Brookings, an American private institution.

Yun Sun also said that the future of Chinese support would involve further multilateral funding, with joint initiatives of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, led by China, the World Bank and Asian Development Bank. **MDT/Macauhub**

ANGOLA

# Cabinda Gulf Oil extracts 5 billion barrels this year

**T**HE Cabinda Gulf Oil Company, a subsidiary in Angola of US group Chevron, this year extracted 5 billion barrels in blocks Zero and 14, after operating in the country for 60 years, the company's managing director said recently in Cabinda.

John Baltz said that despite the unfavorable situation created by the fall in the price of oil on the international market, the company maintains production efficiency levels.

"The company is facing the challenge of the low price of oil on the international market but over 60 years of working in Angola, has been able to deal with times of crisis," he said, cited by Angolan news agency Angop.

Meanwhile, the International Energy Agency (IEA) released its monthly report on the oil market saying that excess supply of oil worldwide will continue over the next year, despite growth of consumption.

The IEA also reported that oil reserves – already at record levels – would continue to grow, even with consumption increasing to a five-year high in 2015 and supplies from outside the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) falling next year for the first time since 2008.

"Although rebalancing has already started the process should be continued, since surplus supply is likely to persist until 2016 – suggesting that global reserves will grow even more," said the International Energy Agency report.

Estimates from the International Energy Agency show that surplus supply worldwide will reach 1.4 million barrels per day in the second half of this year, before slowing to about 850,000 barrels per day in 2016. **MDT/Macauhub**



AD



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# Foreign companies around Tianjin blast suspend operations



A man stands near the charred remains of new cars at a parking lot near the site of an explosion at a warehouse in northeastern China's Tianjin municipality

Erika Kinetz, Shanghai

**F**OREIGN companies have suspended operations around the Tianjin port as officials scramble to contain the toxic fallout of last week's deadly chemical explosions, which dealt a blow to northern China's emerging economic hub.

Toyota, which has operations near the blast evacuation zone, said it had suspended three production lines, which account for over half of its China capacity, through tomorrow.

Thousands of Volkswagen, Toyota, Hyundai and Renault cars, most of them pricey im-

ports, parked on lots near the blast were decimated.

The operations of Panasonic, logistics company Singamas Container Holdings and, reportedly, Deere & Co. have also been disrupted.

The list of name-brand companies impacted by the blast is a testament to Tianjin's rise, but regulatory and safety lapses at the hazardous goods warehouses that exploded draw attention to the sometimes shaky infrastructure China has laid down as it pursues ultra-fast growth.

The port lies at the heart of one of China's new free trade zones, designed to draw foreign investment and crea-

te an economic hub for China's northeast that could one day rival the Pearl and Yangtze river deltas. The broader Binhai New Area has long been on the radar of Beijing's technocrats, who hope to integrate Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei into a single, thrumming economic powerhouse.

"This wasn't just an incident in some third-rate city. It was right at the heart of everything," said Chet Scheltema, a regional manager at international business consultancy Dezan Shira & Associates, who has lived and worked in Tianjin.

He said the explosions called attention to deficiencies in China's soft infrastructure,

things like safety standards and emergency preparedness, which are usually overshadowed by China's shiny skyscrapers and impressive roads.

"There's still a lot to be done that's not immediately obvious," he said. "When you're trying to recruit your CEO and his or her family from the U.S. and they see these kinds of things on TV, or their family and relatives see this, they start to talk and think, should I really be going to China? Are they really the state-of-the-art economy we thought they were?"

Airbus built its first assembly line outside of Europe in Tianjin, which turns out four A320

aircraft per month. Spokesman Jacques Rocca said its facilities, 40 kilometers from the port, were unaffected. "We are evaluating what could be the impact in the coming weeks, but it will depend on the capability of the port of Tianjin to recover its activity," he said.

The Tianjin Maritime Bureau said yesterday that 85 ships had been delayed or canceled, but that port traffic is now normal.

Genscape, which monitors commodity and energy markets, has documented normal oil and petrochemical tanker traffic at the port. Fishing boat traffic fell by half the day after the blast, but has now partially rebounded, said Amir Bornae, an oil analyst at Genscape.

Panasonic, which has a product development center 5 kilometers from the blast site, kept its offices closed yesterday, out of concern for employee safety. A spokeswoman said executives were still evaluating whether to open the office today.

Hong Kong-listed logistics company Singamas Container Holdings, which has two depots close to the blast, told the stock exchange yesterday that it had suspended operations at the site and lost contact with one employee. The filing said the company did not anticipate a material impact on business.

U.S. farm equipment maker Deere & Co. also reportedly suspended its Tianjin operations. Employees from the company's Beijing office refused to comment yesterday.

Automakers have been hit hard because Tianjin is one of China's major ports for car imports. Volkswagen said it had lost around 2,700 vehicles. Renault said 1,500 Koleos SUVs were damaged. Hyundai said it had around 4,000 vehicles, mostly high-end cars, parked at the site. The companies said they were still assessing the economic value of those losses. **AP**

**C**HINA'S Hebei province has notified 3,785 companies within its jurisdiction to halt or cut production to ensure air quality before a parade in Beijing next month, according to two people who received the notice.

The parade will be held on Sept. 3 to mark the 70th anniversary of Japan's surrender in World War II. The affected companies include steel mills, chemical and cement plants, according to the notice from the Hebei Air Pollution

## AIR POLLUTION

# Hebei said to tell 3,785 companies to cut output for WWII parade

Prevention and Control Work Leading Group.

China increasingly relies on production cuts in nearby provinces to ensure blue skies and clean air in the capital city during events that are deemed internationally significant. The nation is the wor-

ld's largest steelmaker and Hebei is its largest producing region. The move follows similar cuts made ahead of last November's APEC meeting in Beijing.

"The steel industry is already suffering financially as steel demand is contracting in China, so

this time the mills are actually quite willing to cooperate," said Lu Fan, analyst at Sinosteel Futures Co. in Beijing.

Hebei province's largest mill, Hebei Iron & Steel Co., has had its shares suspended since June.

Less than 10 percent

of steel mills surveyed by Sinosteel were profitable as of last week, while the ratio of blast furnaces in active use dropped to a record low at 78 percent, Fan said.

Production cuts will be carried out in two phases, said the people, who asked not to be

identified because the notice hasn't been made public. Reductions from Aug. 28 to 31 will affect some 3,213 companies within so-called key areas, while all companies listed in the notice will be affected over Sept. 1 to 4, they said.

The notice is dated Aug. 8 and was sent to companies last week, the people said.

Two calls to the media office at the Hebei Air Pollution Prevention and Control Work Leading Group rang unanswered yesterday. **Bloomberg**

Paul Traynor, Tianjin

# Gov't orders nationwide safety check after Tianjin blasts

**B**EIJING yesterday ordered a nationwide check on workplace safety and to correct all irregularities five days after huge explosions at warehouse in the port city of Tianjin killed 114 people and left 70 people missing.

The directive from the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology lamented the frequency of fatal workplace incidents and demanded a thorough national inspection on all safety risks.

Meanwhile, prosecutors have been tasked with investigating possible dereliction of duties and abuse of power that may have contributed to Wednesday night's blasts.

"We must thoroughly investigate (the incident) and hold accountable all those responsible," said Premier Li Keqiang, as quoted by state media. "We must give an answer for families of the victims, an answer for all residents of Tianjin, an answer for all Chinese people, and an answer for history."

Upset at government negligence, about 100 people whose residences were damaged in the explosions gathered yesterday for a protest to demand compensation from the authorities.

Wednesday's blasts originated at a warehouse for hazardous material, where 700 tons of sodium cyanide — a toxic chemical that can form combustible substances on contact with water — were being stored in amounts that violated safety rules. That has prompted contamination fears and a major cleanup of a 3-kilometer-radius, cordoned-off area in this Chinese port city southeast of Beijing.

Chinese work safety rules require such facilities to be at least 1,000 meters away from residences, public buildings and highways. But online map searches show the Ruihai International Logistics warehouse was within 500 meters of both an expressway and a 100,000-square-meter apartment complex. Those apartments had walls singed and windows shattered, and all the

AP PHOTO



Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, center right, visits fire fighters working at the massive blast site in Tianjin

residents have been evacuated.

"We victims demand: Government, buy back our houses," said a banner carried by the residents at a protest outside the Tianjin hotel where officials have held daily news conferences about the disaster. "Kids are asking: How can we grow up healthy?" read another banner.

Tianjin officials have been hard-pressed to answer how the warehouse was allowed to operate in its location. Questions also have been raised about management of the warehouse, and the country's top prosecuting office announced Sunday that it was setting up a team to investigate possible offenses related to the massive blasts, including dereliction of duty and abuse of power. Ruihai's gene-

ral manager is in hospital under police watch.

Bian Jiang, a resident of one of the nearby housing complexes, said he was asleep when the first explosion struck Wednesday shortly before midnight.

"Twenty seconds later I heard the second explosion and saw the rising mushroom cloud. Then, I was thrown out of bed by the force of the blast. I was wondering if we would be able to get out alive," he said, adding that his home is now ruined. "All the windows are gone."

The blasts claimed the lives of at least 114 people, with 70 still missing, including 64 firefighters and six policemen, Tianjin government spokesman Gong Jiansheng told a news conference yesterday.

## Upset at gov't negligence, about 100 people whose residences were damaged gathered for a protest to demand compensation

Also yesterday, He Shushan, a deputy mayor, confirmed there were 700 tons of the toxic chemical sodium cyanide on the site at the time of the blasts, although the authorities said there have not been any substantial leaks. Authorities also said they had sealed all waterways leading into the sea from the blast site and built retention walls to prevent any runoff.

Sodium cyanide is a toxic chemical that can form a flammable gas upon contact with water, and several hundred tons would be a clear violation of rules cited by state media that the warehouse could store no more than 10 tons at a time.

The ministry's directive ordered government authorities at all levels to check whether com-

panies within their jurisdiction that produce and store hazardous materials comply with safety regulations, especially if they keep a safe distance from residential areas and do not exceed storage limits.

The death toll includes at least 21 firefighters — making the disaster the deadliest for Chinese firefighters in more than six decades — and their toll could go much higher because 64 remain missing. About 1,000 firefighters responded to the disaster.

The public has raised concerns whether firefighters were put into harm's way in the initial response to the fire and whether the hazardous material — including compounds combustible on contact with water — was properly taken into account in the way the firefighters responded.

The massive explosions late Wednesday night happened about 40 minutes after reports of a fire at the warehouse and after an initial wave of firefighters arrived and, reportedly, doused some of the area with water.

The Tianjin blasts are among the deadliest industrial accidents in China in recent years. In June 2013, a fire at a poultry plant in the northeastern province of Jilin killed 121 people. In August 2014, a dust explosion at a metal plant in the eastern province of Jiangsu left 97 people dead. **AP**

AP PHOTO



Residents hold banners and placards as they stage a protest. The banner reads "Vanke Harbour City developer, love party, believe the government, please buy back."



Sri Lankan election workers carry ballot boxes and a police officer carries ballot papers from a polling material distribution center in Colombo

## SRI LANKA

## In elections, focus is on former strongman

Bharatha Mallawarachi, Colombo

**S**RI Lankans voted in parliamentary elections yesterday that will decide the political future of a former strongman leader seeking a comeback eight months after being unseated in a shocking election defeat.

Mahinda Rajapaksa, who was Sri Lanka's leader for nine years until his Jan. 8 presidential election defeat to a former ally, is running for prime minister, a position that is second to that of president.

Since that election loss, there has been a reversal of fortunes for Rajapaksa, his family and friends, who were once all powerful controllers of the island nation. Some of them now face investigations or lawsuits for corruption, misuse of power and even murder. Jagath Dissanayake, a 40-year-old businessman from the western city of Gampaha, said that he voted to continue what he called positive changes that the country has seen since Rajapaksa's defeat.

He said he voted to build a "decent country that respects the rights of all the communities and safeguards the democratic rights of the people." Dissanayake noted that Rajapaksa's camp lost in the presidential election and said he

should be defeated again and "sent home forever."

Others, however, said the allegations against Rajapaksa were politically motivated.

"A lot of allegations were leveled at Mahinda Rajapaksa and his team, but so far no one has been sentenced and punished. For me it means they were politically motivated allegations," said Lalantha Rasika, a 41-year-old businessman.

Rajapaksa was hailed a warrior king for defeating the Tamil Tiger separatists to end a nearly 26-year civil war. However, he is accused of using his popularity to take control of parliament, the courts, armed forces and all government institutions.

He was also accused of widespread human rights abuses and suppressing freedoms.

Rajapaksa was seeking an extended period of rule after abolishing a two-term limit for presidents when he lost in his attempt to win a third term.

His main rival is the incumbent, Ranil Wickremesinghe, a two-time prime minister.

President Maithripala Sirisena, who was Rajapaksa's health minister, is backing Wickremesinghe with whom he formed an alliance in the January election after breaking

away from Rajapaksa's government.

Sirisena recently sent a letter to Rajapaksa, which he also released to the media, saying he would not appoint him prime minister even if he secures a majority in Parliament. Sirisena also accused Rajapaksa of promoting ethnic disharmony.

A majority for Rajapaksa would put Sirisena in an uneasy position, with loyalists likely to pressure him to name Rajapaksa prime minister. The prime minister acts for the president in his absence and replaces him if he is impeached, incapacitated or dies.

A majority for Wickremesinghe, meanwhile, would create a cohabitation government between the parties, led by Sirisena and Wickremesinghe, who have traditionally been bitter rivals.

Sri Lanka's Parliament has 225 members, so any party or coalition must win at least 113 seats to form a government.

A local monitoring group, the Campaign for Free and Fair Elections, said that voter turnout was high and that election laws were being followed.

The group said some candidates who attempted indirect campaigning near polling stations were told to stop by the police. AP

## AUSTRALIA

## Rebel lawmaker introduces gay marriage bill

Rod McGuirk, Canberra

**A**maverick lawmaker broke from conservative government ranks yesterday to introduce legislation that would legalize gay marriage in Australia as a new opinion poll confirmed that most Australians support such a reform.

Warren Entsch, a 65-year-old former crocodile farmer who has been dubbed a progressive redneck in the media, introduced a private member's bill that would allow same-sex marriage throughout Australia.

Entsch has conceded that his bill has little chance of reaching a vote because the ruling coalition decided last week that government lawmakers should be bound by the party line opposing gay marriage.

"I certainly wouldn't have been introducing it if I didn't hope that I could have a vote on it," Entsch told reporters.

Several lawmakers in Prime Minister Tony Abbott's Liberal Party have said they would defy the government's wishes by voting for gay marriage if such a vote is allowed.

The push for gay marriage within government ranks is a leadership test for Abbott, a former Roman Catholic seminarian who has been described as Australia's most socially conservative prime minister in decades.

A poll by Sydney-based market researcher Ipsos published by Fairfax Media newspapers yesterday found that 69 percent of respondents supported le-

galizing same-sex marriage and 25 percent opposed it. Support had grown by 12 percentage points since December 2011.

The poll was based on a weekend, nationwide telephone survey of 1,402 voters. It had a 2.6 percentage point margin of error.

The latest poll also provided more bad news for the government which has trailed the opposition in a range of opinion polls since April last year. It found 54 percent of respondents preferred the opposition center-left Labor Party while 46 percent preferred the ruling coalition.

While 15 percent of respondents supported Abbott compared to the leader of the Liberal Party, 41 percent preferred senior minister Malcolm Turnbull, a gay marriage advocate whom Abbott replaced as party leader in 2009.

Abbott has promised that if his government retains power at elections next year, he will allow the public to decide the gay marriage issue with a popular vote.

Turnbull said in his blog on Sunday that such a vote should be held before the election, which is due around September.

"It would be better if same-sex marriage were not a contentious issue at the next election," Turnbull wrote. "There are sincere, conscientious differences of opinion throughout the community and on both sides of the political divide and issues like this are better dealt with outside of the frenzied hurly burly of an election campaign." AP



A woman carries a sign in favor of same sex marriage

Alfian Kartono, Jayapura

INDONESIA

# Vanished plane debris sighted, half-million in gov't cash aboard

A passenger plane with 54 people on board that crashed in the mountains of eastern Indonesia was carrying nearly half a million dollars in government cash for poor families to help offset a spike in fuel prices, a local postal official said yesterday.

Smoldering wreckage of the Trigana Air Service turboprop plane was spotted from the air yesterday morning in a rugged area of the easternmost province of Papua, rescue officials said. There was no immediate word if there were any survivors from Sunday's crash, which happened in bad weather.

Four postal workers aboard the plane were escorting four bags of cash totaling USD468,750 in government fuel aid, Haryono, the head of the post office in Jayapura, the provincial capital, told The Associated Press.

The ATR42-300 twin turboprop plane was flying from Jayapura to the city of Oksibil when it lost contact. Transportation Ministry spokesman Julius Barata said there was no indication that the pilot had made a distress call.

The cash from the Social Affairs Ministry was to be distributed among poor people in remote areas to cushion the jump in fuel costs, said Haryono, who like many Indonesians goes by one name.

"They were carrying those bags (of cash) to be handed out to poor people in Oksibil through a post office there," Haryono said.

President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo's administration raised fuel prices late last year and slashed government subsidies, a move the government says will save the state billions of dollars but has already sparked angry protests around the country.

Officials said the wreckage was spotted about 12 kilometers from Oksibil. Henry Bambang Soelistyo, the chief of the National Search and Rescue



This photo released by the National Search and Rescue Agency (BASARNAS) of Indonesia shows part of the wreckage identified as the missing Trigana Air Service flight that crashed in Oksibil, Papua

Agency, said search and rescue teams were preparing to try to reach the crash site by air and foot.

The plane was carrying 49 passengers and five crew members on a scheduled 42-minute flight. Five children, including two infants, were among the passengers.

"Smoke was still billowing from the wreckage when it was spotted by a plane search," said Soelistyo who is leading the rescue operation from Sentani Airport in Jayapura, adding that bad weather and rugged terrain were hampering efforts to reach the wreckage located in a mountainous area at an altitude of 2,600 meters.

He said elite forces from the air force and army will build a helipad for evacuation purposes near the crash site. Much of

Papua is covered with impenetrable jungles and mountains. Some planes that have crashed in the past have never been found.

Search planes went into the air early yesterday after residents of a village not far from Oksibil told local police that they saw a plane flying low before crashing into a mountain, said Ludyanto, who heads the search and rescue operation from Jayapura.

The airline's crisis center official in Jayapura's Sentani airport, Budiono, said all the passengers are Indonesians and there were nine names on the initial passenger manifest were eventually replaced by other persons — a common practice among small domestic airlines in the country.

Budiono also said that among

the passengers were three local government officials and two members of the local parliament who were to attend a ceremony yesterday in Oksibil marking the 70th anniversary of Indonesia's independence from Dutch colonial rule.

Oksibil, some 280 kilometers south of Jayapura, was experiencing heavy rain, strong winds and fog when the plane lost contact with the airport minutes before it was scheduled to land.

Widodo said in a statement ahead of Indonesia's 70th independence anniversary ceremony that he was calling "for a moment of silence and pray for the crew and passengers ahead of our independence anniversary."

European plane maker ATR said in a statement late Sunday

Smoldering wreckage of the Trigana Air Service turboprop plane was spotted from the air yesterday morning

that it "acknowledges the reported loss of contact" with the Trigana flight "and is standing by to support the relevant aviation authorities." ATR, based in Toulouse, France, makes regional planes with 90 seats or less.

Indonesia has had a string of airline tragedies in recent years. In December, all 162 people aboard an AirAsia jet were killed when the plane plummeted into the Java Sea as it flew through stormy weather on its way from Surabaya, Indonesia's second-largest city, to Singapore.

The sprawling archipelago nation of 250 million people and some 17,000 islands is one of Asia's most rapidly expanding airline markets, but it is struggling to provide enough qualified pilots, mechanics, air traffic controllers and updated airport technology to ensure safety.

From 2007 to 2009, the European Union barred Indonesian airlines from flying to Europe because of safety concerns.

Trigana Air Service, which commenced operations in 1991, had 22 aircraft as of December 2013 and flies to 21 destinations in Indonesia. AP

BANGLADESH

# 13 in to face charges for killing teenager

POLICE in northeastern Bangladesh are seeking charges against 13 men for beating a 13-year-old boy to death in a case that stunned a nation used to violent crime because a video of the boy being tortured was posted online.

Detective Branch Inspector Suranjit Talukdar on Sunday sent the charges to a court in Sylhet city involving the



case of Samiul Islam Rajon, who died of internal bleeding. The attackers allegedly punished him after accusing him of stealing a bicycle. The court will decide on the next course of action.

A 28-minute chilling video of the beating of the boy, who cried for help, went viral online, triggering protests in the South Asian country, where such incidents are

not rare. His body bore at least 64 injury marks, according to an autopsy report.

In the video, the boy is heard screaming in pain and pleading with his attackers: "Don't beat me please, will die, will die." The attackers laughed at the boy when he asked for water.

Like many poor children in Bangladesh, Rajon was forced to leave

school to work to help his family, in his case selling vegetables.

The main suspect who was visible in the video fled to Saudi Arabia where he worked and was on leave when the incident took place. He has been detained there and is waiting repatriation to face trial. The other 12 men were arrested by police with the help of local residents, who caught some of the attackers when they tried to dump the body.

If convicted of murder, the attackers could face the death penalty. AP

USA

# Rape case points to sordid tradition at elite prep school

BLOOMBERG



Lynne Tuohy, Concord

**S**T. Paul's School boasts a glittering roster of alumni that includes senators, congressmen, a Nobel laureate and the current secretary of state. The elite prep school also allegedly has a sordid tradition of sexual conquest where graduating boys try to take the virginity of younger girls before getting their diplomas.

Details of a practice authorities say was called the "Senior Salute" were spelled out in stark terms by a former student at the New Hampshire school who is charged with raping a 15-year-old girl on the roof of a campus building in May 2014.

Owen Labrie, now 19, has pleaded not guilty to several felonies. During his trial, which began yesterday, prosecutors are expected to call current and former students to testify about the sexual culture

at one of the country's most selective boarding schools.

Labrie, of Tunbridge, Vermont, talked openly about the tradition when he was interviewed by Concord police. On a campus where upperclassmen studiously avoid their younger peers in most settings, Labrie told a detective some students "take great pride" in having sex with younger students before they leave school.

Labrie also told the detective of a contest where boys compete to "score" with the most girls, keeping a running tally written in indelible marker on a wall behind washing machines. The school kept painting over the scoreboard so it eventually was moved online. He acknowledged to the detective he was "trying to be number one," the detective wrote.

A counselor who contacted police after hearing from the alleged victim's mother also told an investigator about the

tradition, the Concord Monitor reported last year, citing a police affidavit. The same affidavit said the school had been trying to educate students against "sexual scoring."

Prosecutors have not indicated how far back they believe the "Senior Salute" goes.

A student leader honored at graduation — two days after the alleged assault — with the Rector's Award for "selfless devotion to school activities," Labrie was accepted to Harvard but the school said in September that he is no longer enrolled. He told the detective that he tried to educate other students not to engage in the "Senior Salute" and that the school wasn't doing enough to curtail the tradition.

"The school has to put its foot down on this culture," Labrie is quoted as saying in a police affidavit. "It's not healthy."

Founded in 1856, St. Paul's is an Episcopal school nestled on

800 pastoral hectares on the outskirts of downtown Concord, New Hampshire's capital. It enrolls about 530 students and admitted girls for the first time in 1971. Tuition, room and board currently totals USD53,810.

## Graduating boys try to take the virginity of younger girls before getting their diplomas

The school belongs to the Eight Schools Association, a sort of Ivy League for prep schools in the U.S. northeast.

Secretary of State John Kerry graduated from St. Paul's in 1962, alongside former FBI Director Robert Mueller.

Doonesbury creator Garry Trudeau is an alum as are 13 U.S. ambassadors, three Pulitzer Prize winners, two World Series of Poker winners, actor Judd Nelson and sons of the Astor and Kennedy families, according to the school's website.

The school also has a robust international presence: 17 percent of the 2014-15 class came from 25 countries and notable alums include Bernard Makihara, the former CEO of the Mitsubishi Corporation, and Edmund Maurice Burke Roche, a conservative member of the British Parliament and the maternal grandfather of Diana, Princess of Wales.

The school's rector, Michael Hirschfeld, told The Associated Press in an emailed statement that "breaches of school policies or the trust upon which they are founded, are addressed swiftly and judiciously."

Hirschfeld declined to address questions about the "Senior Salute."

"St. Paul's School has policies in place to ensure that our students are safe, secure, and treated equitably," Hirschfeld's statement said.

During a speech at family weekend at St. Paul's in October 2014, Hirschfeld said the sexual assault allegation "has provided us with an important opportunity to reconsider elements of our shared life that do not appear in our strategic plan."

"Are we confronting the transmission of healthier elements of school culture as effectively as we could?" he asked rhetorically.

Labrie's lawyer, J.W. Carney Jr., declined to comment, including on whether Labrie will testify or if his defense would raise the issue of the school's sexual culture.

Prosecutors say Labrie took his victim by surprise, before she could resist or flee, and raped her repeatedly. He is charged with three counts of aggravated felony sex assault, endangering the welfare of a child and using a computer to lure the girl to the on-campus meeting.

Labrie denied having intercourse with the girl, telling police that they partially disrobed, kissed and touched. He also acknowledged putting on a condom. Labrie said the freshman girl was eager to have sex, but the aspiring divinity student said he had a "moment of self-restraint" and stopped.

"He stated it was a moment of 'divine inspiration,'" Det. Julie Curtin wrote in her affidavit.

Asked why the girl would lie about having sex with him, Labrie said it's a "great source of pride for younger students" to have sex with seniors. **AP**

BRAZIL

# Anti-gov't protesters take to the streets over Rousseff corruption scandal

Stan Lehman, Sao Paulo

**B**RAZILIANS took to the streets of cities and towns across the country Sunday (yesterday, Macau time) for anti-government protests being watched as a barometer of discontent with the increasingly unpopular President Dilma Rousseff.

Called mostly by activist groups via social media, the demonstrations assailed Rousseff, whose standing in the polls has plunged amid a snowballing corruption scandal that has embroiled politicians from her Workers' Party as well as a sputtering economy, a weakening currency and rising inflation.

But the protests drew relatively modest crowds, likely giving the president some breathing room. Huge numbers had come out for two earlier rounds of demonstrations this year.

Turnout appeared significantly lower in Sao Paulo, Brazil's in-



A man holds up a sign that reads in Portuguese "Dilma out, PT out!" referring to the Brazilian Workers Party (PT), during a protest demanding the impeachment of President Dilma Rousseff in Rio de Janeiro

dustrial and economic capital where dissatisfaction with Rousseff has run particularly high and protests in March and April drew thick crowds. The president's supporters also staged a small counter-demonstration in front of the offices of her mentor and predecessor as president, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

The Datafolha polling firm estimated 135,000 people demonstrated against Rousseff on

Sao Paulo's Avenida Paulista, one of the city's largest avenues, while state police put the number at 350,000.

In Rio de Janeiro, several thousand people, many brandishing green and yellow Brazilian flags, demonstrated at Copacabana Beach. Protests took place in some 16 states, including in the Amazonian metropolis of Belem, Recife in the northeast, and the central city of Belo Horizon-

te. In the capital, Brasilia, a march on a central avenue flanked by ministries and monuments appeared to have drawn several thousand participants.

The demonstrations were called largely by web-based activist groups with demands ranging from Rousseff's impeachment to a return to military dictatorship like the one that ruled the country in 1964-85.

But an end to corruption appeared to be a top demand. The widening probe into corruption at the state-run Petrobras oil company that began more than a year ago has exposed how widely official graft permeates Brazilian society, snaring top members of the Workers' and other political parties as well as executives of powerful construction companies.

Marisa Bizquolo, who joined in the Sao Paulo protest, said she held Rousseff responsible for the Petrobras scandal.

"She must be impeached or re-

sign for ultimately she is responsible for all the corruption and the economic mess this country is in," said Bizquolo, a doctor. "But I am concerned that there is no one who could take her place and run a decent government. We have no leaders."

Amid the corruption probe and an economic crunch that has seen the once-booming economy teeter on the brink of recession, Rousseff's popularity ratings have fallen to a level not seen since 1992, when President Fernando Collor de Mello was forced from office after being impeached for corruption.

A poll earlier this month said only 8 percent of those surveyed considered Brazil's government to be "great" or "good." By contrast, 71 percent said the government is a "failure." The Datafolha poll was based on interviews with 3,358 people on Aug. 4 and 5 and had an error margin of plus or minus 2 percentage points. AP

AD



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## what's ON



**I AM MY OWN LANDSCAPE**  
 – EXHIBITION BY CRYSTAL CHAN  
 TIME: 12pm-8pm (Tuesdays to Sundays)  
 3pm-8pm (Mondays)  
 UNTIL: August 22, 2015  
 VENUE: Albergue SCM, No. 8,  
 Calçada da Igreja de S. Lazaro  
 ADMISSION: Free  
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2550 / 2852 3205

**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

**PHOTOGRAPHS OF OLD TEMPLES IN MACAU**  
 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

**2015 ART TROUPE-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAMME**  
 – INGENUITY EXHIBITION  
 TIME: 10:30am-6:30pm (Closed on Mondays)  
 UNTIL: October 31, 2015  
 ADMISSION: Free  
 VENUE: 10 Fantasia - A Creative Industries Incubator,  
 10, Calçada da Igreja de S. Lázaro, Macau  
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 4582

## Offbeat

## BENT IN TAIWAN STORM, 2 MAILBOXES BECOME CELEBRITIES



A pair of roadside mailboxes that were uniformly bent by a falling signboard during a typhoon earlier this month have become celebrities in Taiwan, drawing steady lines of people to snap photos and inspiring fan merchandise.

Many Taiwanese think that the public mailboxes resemble faces, and this side-by-side pair – one green and one red – now looks especially cute because their poles are bent in their mid-section at similar angles.

"They look like they're smiling," said Taiwan's mail service Chunghwa Post publicity officer surnamed Huang. "That's pretty special. So we see a lot of people out taking photos."

The mailboxes, two of 10,986 around Taiwan, gained fame after Typhoon Soudelor ripped across the island Aug. 8, killing eight and injuring 420 before claiming another 21 lives in China. Strong winds tore a signboard from a building in central Taipei, bending the mailboxes to the right on their poles as it fell.

Security guards now protect the mailboxes while chukking fans pose next to them, either bending themselves or pretending to push the boxes.

## TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
17:40	The Presence of Anita (Repeated)
18:30	TDM Sports
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Non-Daily Portuguese News
21:40	Documentary Series
22:10	The Presence of Anita
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

## cinema

## CINETEATRO

13 Aug- 19 Aug



## FANTASTIC FOUR

ROOM 1  
 2.15, 5.55, 7.45, 9.45 pm  
 Director: Josh Trank  
 Starring: Miles Teller, Kate Mara, Michael B. Jordan  
 Language: English (Chinese)  
 Duration: 100min

DORAEMON THE MOVIE:  
NOBITA AND THE SPACE HEROES

ROOM 1  
 4.05 pm  
 Director: Yoshihiro Osugi  
 Language: Cantonese (Chinese/English)  
 Duration: 100min

## ATTACK ON TITAN

ROOM 2  
 2.15, 4.05, 5.55, 9.45 pm  
 Director: shinji Higuchi  
 Starring: Haruma Miura, Kiko Mizuhara  
 Language: Japanese (English and Chinese)  
 Duration: 90min

DORAEMON THE MOVIE:  
NOBITA AND THE SPACE HEROES

ROOM 2  
 7.45 pm  
 Director: Yoshihiro Osugi  
 Language: Cantonese (Chinese/English)  
 Duration: 100min

DORAEMON THE MOVIE:  
NOBITA AND THE SPACE HEROES

ROOM 3  
 2.30 pm  
 Director: Yoshihiro Osugi  
 Language: Cantonese (Chinese/English)  
 Duration: 100min

## TO THE FORE

ROOM 3  
 4.30, 7.15, 9.30 pm  
 Director: Dante Lam  
 Starring: Eddie Peng, Siwon Choi  
 Language: English (Chinese)  
 Duration: 117min

## MACAU TOWER

30 Jul - 19 Aug

## MISSION IMPOSSIBLE ROGUE NATION

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm  
 Director: Christopher McQuarrie  
 Starring: Tom Cruise, Jeremy Renner, Simon Pegg,  
 Rebecca Ferguson  
 Language: English (Chinese)

## this day in history



Sir Matt Busby

## 1989 MAN U SOLD IN RECORD TAKEOVER DEAL

Manchester United Football Club has been sold for £20m in the biggest takeover deal in the history of British football.

The new owner is Isle of Man-based property tycoon and former footballer, Michael Knighton.

Manchester United chairman Martin Edwards is to receive more than £10m for his majority share in the club and will stay on as chief executive.

There had been rumours for some time that Mr Edwards was planning to sell his stake but the deal was shrouded in secrecy.

The sale of his shares ends 25 years of Edwards family control of what has been dubbed "the world's most famous football team".

At the press conference to announce the sale he defended what he called his "sad" decision.

"I believe that under new direction and with new financial backing this club can go even further," Mr Edwards said.

Since taking over at Manchester United in 1980 after the death of his father, Louis, Mr Edwards' large annual salary and his sacking of a popular manager have alienated many fans.

Manchester United gained its worldwide reputation after a golden era in the 50s under Sir Matt Busby and his "Busby Babes".

Players who followed them like Bobby Charlton, Dennis Law and George Best also helped enhance the club's reputation and its trophy cabinet.

But in recent years Manchester United has been - by its standards - in the footballing doldrums and attendance at matches has dropped off.

It is badly in need of a cash injection for both new players and facilities. The new owner has promised to spend £10m refurbishing Manchester United's Old Trafford ground - England's largest stadium apart from Wembley.

"Manchester United is a legend. It is undoubtedly in my view the greatest football club in the world," Mr Knighton told reporters.

"I consider myself to be a football enthusiast first and a businessman second," he added.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The deal with Michael Knighton collapsed after his financial backers backed out.

He went on to buy Carlisle United instead.

Mr Edwards had already rejected a bid of £10m from newspaper magnate, Robert Maxwell in 1984.

In 1991 Manchester United was successfully floated on the Stock Exchange with the club being valued at £18m.

In 2001 Manchester United was the most successful stock market listed football club in the world making a pre-tax profit of nearly £22m.

Between 1991 and his resignation as chief executive in 2000 Martin Edwards is believed to have earned millions by gradually selling off his shares.



**YOUR STARS**

**Aries**  
Mar. 21-Apr. 19  
You suddenly feel the need to defend your bank account, right when you should be enjoying cracking into it. Trust your feelings. There are plenty of generous ways to get around spending a small fortune.

**Taurus**  
April 20-May 20  
You have less cash to grease the wheels. You already know the season requires a lot of diplomacy, but this year it's even more important than ever. Start practicing now.

**Gemini**  
May 21-Jun. 21  
It may feel like all you think about are bills, errands and lists, but they're all about something bigger than they are. The most important things can't be calculated. Focus on them.

**Cancer**  
Jun. 22-Jul. 22  
Somehow, cleaning up doesn't hold the same appeal now that you're connecting with others. Whenever someone makes money, someone else loses it. That includes you.

**Leo**  
Jul. 23-Aug. 22  
A quick review of your budget is all it takes to tell you the obvious. But a major overhaul of your spending plan for the season won't be a wrenching as you fear, if you reassess your strategy now.

**Virgo**  
Aug. 23-Sept. 22  
It's the wrong time to start new projects, unless it's to tidy up. If you get organized, be sure to include balancing your checkbook as part of your plan.

**Libra**  
Sep.23-Oct. 22  
You'll be plenty busy with details in the coming days, and none of them have to do with making money. If you have the craving for doing nothing at all, get it out of your system while you can.

**Scorpio**  
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21  
It's not too late to do some planning, but that takes the right information. Knowing exactly how much you can afford to spend should be the first thing on your to do list.

**Sagittarius**  
Nov. 22-Dec. 21  
It may be getting down to the wire, but don't ask for a raise. It's not a present if you have to ask for it, and a bonus falls under that category. Just sit back and be patient.

**Capricorn**  
Dec. 22-Jan. 19  
The less time you give yourself for research the more money you'll end up spending. Connect with others long distance and get the answers you need.

**Aquarius**  
Jan. 20-Feb. 18  
All the warmth and good cheer can be deceiving. Be just as careful in business deals now as you would at any other time of year. Beware with illusion.

**Pisces**  
Feb.19-Mar. 20  
You're tempted to help those in need even though you feel you can hardly help yourself. You're far from indigent, so give what you can. You'll figure the rest out later.

**THE BORN LOSER** by Chip Sansom



**SUDOKU**

**Easy**

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

**Easy+**

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

**Medium**

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

**Hard**

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

**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	22	31	thundershower
Harbin	20	29	thundershower
Tianjin	25	31	thundershower
Urumqi	15	27	clear
Xi'an	21	24	drizzle to moderate rain
Lhasa	13	24	shower/cloudy
Chengdu	21	26	moderate to heavy rain
Chongqing	22	25	heavy rain/moderate rain
Kunming	18	24	drizzle/moderate rain
Nanjing	24	30	cloudy
Shanghai	25	32	cloudy
Wuhan	24	29	cloudy/moderate rain
Hangzhou	24	32	cloudy
Taipei	26	30	drizzle
Guangzhou	27	34	clear
Hong Kong	28	33	cloudy
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	9	16	drizzle
Frankfurt	15	19	drizzle
Paris	12	22	overcast
London	13	19	overcast/drizzle
New York	24	32	clear/cloudy

**CROSSWORDS**

**ACROSS:** 1- Wharves; 6- Step; 11- Green prefix; 14- Actress Barkin; 15- Ahead of time; 16- Author Deighton; 17- Move effortlessly; 18- Squeeze; 19- Praiseful poem; 20- Away from port; 22- Pertaining to Benedict XVI; 24- Sparkle in the light; 28- Divide; 30- Simpler; 31- Baffled; 32- Fragrant compound; 33- The amount overdue; 37- \_\_\_ de mer; 38- Horse opera; 39- "Rope-a-dope" boxer; 40- Steamer; 43- Unit of capacitance; 45- Little laugh; 46- Vacuum tube having three elements; 47- Foursome; 49- Apprentice; 50- Lama lead-in; 51- Cassini of fashion; 52- Sorority letter; 53- Inventor Nikola; 56- Angry; 61- Siamese, calico, or tabby; 62- Kind of kitchen; 63- Sarge's superior; 64- Mine find; 65- Pipe cleaner; 66- Sniggler;

**DOWN:** 1- Cribbage marker; 2- Unwell; 3- Certain Ivy Leaguer; 4- Roulette bet; 5- Athletic shoe; 6- Native American tent; 7- \_\_\_ avis; 8- Before, of yore; 9- Capp and Capone; 10- Labored breathing; 11- Get hitched quick; 12- Chest or closet material; 13- Like Nash's lama; 21- Camera type, briefly; 23- Hebrew month; 24- Abounds; 25- Attended; 26- Pineapple fiber; 27- Never, to Nietzsche; 28- Throat problem; 29- Manipulator; 31- Bandleader Shaw; 33- Oohed and \_\_\_; 34- Composer Copland; 35- Forest clearing; 36- Breed of duck revered for its feathers; 38- Dept. of Labor division; 41- \_\_\_ boy; 42- Deserved; 43- Easily broken; 44- Broadcast; 46- Type of shirt; 47- Golden Horde member; 48- Fill with joy; 49- Grassy plain; 50- Art \_\_\_; 51- Actor Ken; 54- Musical aptitude; 55- RR stop; 57- Future flounder; 58- "You've got mail" co.; 59- Overtime cause; 60- Always



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- 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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HKD 6,500sq ft  
**Near Lady of Carmel Church**  
Ref: 15035434

**Fountainside Studio Apartment**  
Macau  
**1 Bedroom Apartment**  
New development  
HKD 12,800 / 567 sq ft  
Ref: 15070517

**Jou Fai Kuok**  
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HKD 7,815sq ft  
**Near Ruins of St Pauls**  
Ref: 15075447

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AP PHOTO



CYCLING

### Froome leads Team Sky at Vuelta

Tour de France champion Chris Froome will lead Team Sky at the Spanish Vuelta as he looks to become only the third rider to win both of the Grand Tour races in the same year. Team Sky announced yesterday a nine-man lineup for the Vuelta, which starts in Puerto Banus on Saturday. Froome, confirmed as the team leader rather than a support rider, says "I've had a good rest after the Tour and now I'm ready for my next challenge." Jacques Anquetil (1963) and Bernard Hinault (1978) are the only riders to have won the Tour de France and the Vuelta in the same year. The 30-year-old Froome has twice been a runner-up at the Vuelta.

NASCAR

## Kenseth in control at Michigan, wins 3rd Cup race of season

Noah Trister Sports Writer

**M**ATT Kenseth had little to say about how NASCAR's rules package affected his race at Michigan International Speedway.

"I didn't see much of the race, which was totally fine with me," he said. "We were up front the whole time."

Kenseth started in the lead, stayed there for most of the race and finished with his third Sprint Cup victory of the season yesterday (Macau time), beating Kevin Harvick by 1.7 seconds.

It was the second race under NASCAR's high-drag aerodynamic package, which was also in place at Indianapolis last month in an effort to improve passing. At Michigan, Kenseth won while leading 146 of 200 laps — so whatever excitement there was occurred further back in the pack.

"Cars could really, at the end of the straightaway, gain on

AP PHOTO



Matt Kenseth

others, two or three car lengths," said Jason Ratcliff, Kenseth's crew chief. "But they just couldn't do much once they got there, and they got down in the corner. They were kind of helpless. On the restarts, it got exciting. ... I'd say eighth place back, it was fun to watch. Like Matt said, I'm glad he was watching it in the rear-view mirror."

Kenseth led for 73 percent of the laps Sunday, the highest percentage by anyone in a Cup

race this year. He'd led for only 147 laps all season before dominating this 400-mile race in his No. 20 Toyota.

It was his 34th career victory, and Joe Gibbs Racing has won five of the last six Cup races — two by Kenseth and three by Kyle Busch.

"You really need to enjoy it, because about 10 races back, we were struggling, trying to get there," Gibbs said. "You just hope now that we'll be able to hold some momentum here and head into the Chase, but it's very hard to do. In pro sports, it can come and go in a week."

JGR came into the race with the top three qualifiers in Kenseth, Denny Hamlin and Carl Edwards. Hamlin finished fifth and Edwards was sixth.

Martin Truex Jr. finished behind Harvick in third. Austin Dillon, who was sent to the back at the beginning of the race because of an engine change, managed a fourth-place showing, and Kyle Busch took another step toward wrapping up a spot

in the Chase with an 11th-place run in his backup car.

Kenseth had a comfortable lead before a caution with 17 laps remaining tightened things up, but he had little trouble holding off Harvick after the restart.

NASCAR used a special high-drag aerodynamic package for this race and last month's at Indianapolis Motor Speedway. It was supposed to improve passing, but aside from one brief duel at the front between Kenseth and Dillon with about 55 laps left, there was little drama in terms of lead changes.

Kenseth led for the first 22 laps, and there were 16 lead changes after that.

Clint Bowyer's Chase chances look more tenuous after he went into the wall Sunday and finished 41st. He's now 15th in the standings.

Busch came into the race in 30th place, needing to avoid major mistakes because although he has four wins in 2015, a top-30 ranking is required for entry into the Chase. Busch wrecked his car in practice Saturday and had to start the race from the back, but he had a solid, uneventful day, even leading for a couple stretches.

He's now 29th in the standings, 23 points ahead of 31st-place Cole Whitt. **AP**

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FOOTBALL

# S Korean Chung Mong-Joon announces bid to run for FIFA president

Jerome Pugmire  
Sports Writer, Paris

**A**NNOUNCING his bid to run for FIFA president, Chung Mong-Joon pledged to help the governing body clean itself up if he gets elected. Speaking at a news conference in Paris yesterday, the South Korean said "it is my privilege and honor to announce my candidacy," before quickly turning his sights on long-serving president Sepp Blatter.

After 17 years as FIFA president, Blatter said on June 2 he was standing down, under pressure from American and Swiss federal investigations of widespread corruption implicating senior FIFA officials. "The real reason FIFA has become such a corrupt organization is because the same person and his cronies have been running it for 40 years. Absolute power corrupts absolutely," Chung said. "It has pained me to witness the spectacle of the FIFA president being booed by the fans at football stadiums everywhere. In 2011, when a European sports magazine conducted a survey asking 'What do you think about FIFA President Joseph Blatter?' 95 percent said 'Blatter is ruining football.'"

On May 27, a United States federal investigation of corruption in world soccer was unleashed on FIFA. Though Blatter won re-election two

**FIFA has become such a corrupt organization because the same person and his cronies have been running it for 40 years**

CHUNG MONG-JOON  
CANDIDATE



South Korea's Chung Mong-Joon

days later, it took only four more days before he decided to step down.

Chung, a FIFA honorary vice president, promised change if he wins the election on Feb. 26.

"Under these circumstances, the FIFA president must be a crisis manager and a reformer. He must be more than just a head of the technical department," the 63-year-old South Korean Chung said at a Paris hotel. "After decades of an ever-widening circle of corruption, FIFA needs a leader who can bring back common sense, transparency and accountability."

UEFA President Michel Platini has already declared his candidacy and is widely favored to replace Blatter. The former France midfielder, a FIFA insider after 13 years as an executive committee member, has taken advantage of his access to soccer power-brokers.

At the Champions League final in Berlin and FIFA meetings in Zurich and St. Petersburg, Russia, he outlined his plans and gained early support.

"Michel was a great football player. I played golf twice with Michel, his swing is not that great, it's lucky he chose football instead of golf," Chung said, who criticized Platini for having a "father and son" and "mentor-student" relationship with Blatter over the years.

Platini was formerly a supporter of Blatter.

Would-be candidates must apply by Oct. 26. FIFA mem-

bers from the 209 national federations elect the president.

Prince Ali bin al-Hussein of Jordan, who lost the last FIFA election vote 133-73 to Blatter on May 29, is also touted to stand again. Former Brazil great Zico, who scored 48 goals in 71 games for his country, and Liberian soccer federation president Musa Bility are also among those reportedly planning to run.

Chung was a member of FIFA's executive committee from the mid-1990s until 2011. During that time, he was an opponent of Blatter.

In a clear swipe at Platini, who is now an outspoken opponent of Blatter, Chung said "it has suddenly become very fashionable to be Blatter's enemy, this is too convenient."

A former equestrian rider and cross-country skier and president of the Korean Football Association, Chung failed in his bid to become mayor of Seoul last year.

Chung launched his campaign despite having little obvious support in Asia, where South Korea's influence has weakened.

Asian Football Confederation leaders have welcomed Platini's bid and FIFA executive committee member Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah of Kuwait, an influential Olympic powerbroker, is seen to have presidential ambitions.

Chung's cousin, Korean FA president Chung Mong-gyu, was defeated in April standing for one of Asia's four FIFA executive seats. **AP**

## Chinese soccer association gains more independence

**T**HE Chinese soccer association is gaining more independence in the hopes that it can better promote the sport in the world's most populous country.

China's General Administration of Sports said yesterday that it is removing the national federation from its organizational chart, freeing it from government bureaucracy so it will have more latitude in making decisions, such as those related to expenditures, activities and personnel management.

Critics have long said that the association, which oversees training, soccer leagues and the national team, has had its hands tied up by onerous rules on go-

vernment entities.

Members of the Chinese public have for decades lamented on the poor performances of the national team, a chronic problem that has even caught the attention of Chinese President Xi Jinping, believed to be an avid fan.

A top-level work team on deepening China's reforms, as led by Xi himself, in February approved plans to reform the sport in China. It said to make China a strong soccer country is consistent with the Chinese dream for revival.

The decoupling of the soccer association from the government is widely seen as a crucial step to inject more autonomy into the sport. **AP**

## Rooney's form a concern as United back in Champions League



Wayne Rooney (10) of Manchester United maneuvers around Clarence Goodson (21) of the San Jose Earthquakes at the Avaya Stadium in the first half of the International Champions Cup North America

Steve Douglas  
Sports Writer

Wednesday, 2:45am  
Man Utd v Club Brugge  
H 1.3, D 6, A 13

**M**ANCHESTER United will want more than just a first-leg lead from its Champions League playoff against Club Brugge tomorrow (Macau Time).

A goal from Wayne Rooney would be very welcome, too.

Rooney's form is the main concern in an otherwise solid start to the season from United, which has won both of its opening games in the Premier League by 1-0 scorelines.

The England captain is United's No. 1 striker this season following the offseason departures of Robin van Persie and Radamel Falcao, yet he hasn't scored in the last eight games for his club and has only attempted one shot from open play this season.

Against Aston Villa on Friday, Rooney only touched the ball once in the penalty area all game.

Rooney should be given another chance to end his barren streak when Brugge visits Old Trafford for what might be the biggest mismatch of the 10 playoff matches. Each winning side over two legs enters the group stage starting next month, which will

earn those clubs 12 million euros (USD13.1 million) just for advancing — as well as 2 million euros for winning the playoff.

Club Brugge was the Belgian league's runner-up last season and is in third place after four games of the new season. It was a European Cup runner-up to Liverpool in 1978 and a Europa League quarterfinalist last season.

Seeking to return to the main draw of the Champions League after a year's absence, United should prove to be too much for the Belgian visitors.

Crucially, the 20-time English champions look more assured defensively with a midfield barrier of Michael Carrick and new signing Morgan Schneiderlin offering better protection, while Louis van Gaal's high pressing game is proving difficult for opponents. Van Gaal also has the option in midfield of Germany captain Bastian Schweinsteiger, who could be handed his first competitive start.

The Dutch coach will want to see more from his attack, with Netherlands forward Memphis Depay yet to justify his billing as potentially the next Cristiano Ronaldo at Old Trafford. It may only be when Rooney finds his form that Depay will prosper. **AP / Oddschecker.com**

opinion

Views on China

William Pesek, Bloomberg

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES ARE HUNG UP ON CHINA

For the Chinese government, November 2016 can't arrive soon enough. Last week's currency devaluation ensured Beijing will serve as a political punching bag during America's presidential campaign.

Donald Trump set the stage with tweets like "Devalue means suck the blood out of the United States!" and "I've been warning about China since as early as the 80's. No one wanted to listen. Now our country is in real trouble." Republican Senator Lindsey Graham called the devaluation «just the latest in a long history of cheating,» while Democratic Senator Bob Casey urged the Treasury Department to label China a currency manipulator.

There's a time-warp quality to this sort of China bashing. The assumption among some officials in Washington still seems to be that China is trying to boost its export machine at the expense of American workers. But China's economic priorities – and the motives for its economic policy – have shifted dramatically in recent years.

If China were really trying to close factories in Detroit and Seattle, its devaluation would have been on the order of 15 percent or 20 percent, not a mere 3 percent. China is far more concerned about its service sector than manufacturing. Since 2013, services have generated a larger share of China's growth than exports. And that share continues to grow: In the first half of 2015, services accounted for 50 percent of GDP, a rise of 2.1 percent from a year earlier.

The Chinese government, moreover, has reason to think it can outcompete American manufacturing, even in the absence of currency shenanigans. In the five years prior to the devaluation, the yuan surged an inflation-adjusted 33 percent against major trading partners. Chinese businesses nonetheless held their own against the competition. So far this year, China's share of global exports surged to an unprecedented 15 percent from 8.7 percent five years ago.

The reality is China's devaluation was a response to financial markets that have been trying to drive the yuan lower. Beijing probably also wanted to buy itself some breathing room to redouble its economic reform efforts. It's much easier to take on state-owned enterprises and encourage the creation of new small-and-midsize services when giant exporters (a group SOEs dominate) are happy.

Neither of these goals should cause unease in Washington. The first (a market-determined yuan) is exactly what the White House has long recommended, while the second (a services boom) is something that can only help American manufacturers.

To be sure, there's plenty of reasons to criticize Chinese trade practices. Nomura political analyst Alastair Newton has said that when the history of the early 21st century is written decades from now, the impact of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 may pale in comparison to another epochal moment that year: China's entry into the World Trade Organization.

The prevailing opinion had been that would force Beijing to play by global rules. Instead, China has been bending the international trading system to its own preferences. Global economic norms proved no match for China's subsidies for politically-connected enterprises, questionable respect for intellectual property rights, state-sponsored computer hacking, opaque crackdowns on foreign companies and poor labor and environmental standards.

American officials can also fairly criticize Beijing for exporting pollution, allowing runaway military spending, engaging in provocations in the South China Sea, and supporting rogue regimes like North Korea. But currency policy doesn't deserve a prominent place on any such list.

In fact, U.S. officials should welcome China's devaluation, and respond by requesting a diplomatic quid pro quo: We will look the other way (as we do with Japan) so long as you accelerate efforts to expand service industries. A services boom in mainland China would mean more than just an increase in the number of companies like Alibaba hoping to trade on New York's stock exchange. It would also mean increased living standards for China's 1.3 billion people, which could mean more imports of American goods.

In economics, as in politics, you have to choose your battles, and China's currency policy is a fair subject for debate. But if America's presidential candidates choose to crudely criticize the yuan's devaluation, it's their own motives that should be examined, not China's.

THE BUZZ MAN CHARGED IN STABBING DEATH OF MORGAN FREEMAN'S STEP-GRANDDAUGHTER

Police have arrested a 30-year-old man in connection with the fatal stabbing of actor Morgan Freeman's step-granddaughter on a Manhattan street.

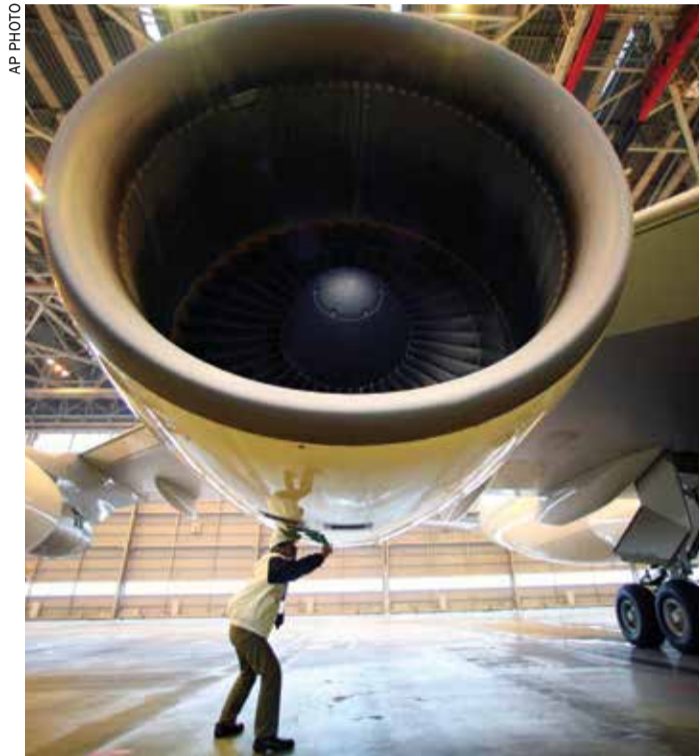
Lamar Davenport, of New York City, was charged with second-degree murder yesterday, a day after 33-year-old Edena (eh-DEEH'-nah) Hines was found lying on the

street with multiple stab wounds to the chest. Police say the Davenport was in a relationship with Hines. She was found in front of her apartment building on West 162nd Street and was pronounced dead at Harlem Hospital.

Freeman issued a statement saying that "The world will never know her artistry and talent, and how much she had to offer."

AVIATION

Indian airline makes huge order for 250 Airbus jets



INDIAN budget airline IndiGo finalized an exceptionally large order for 250 single-aisle Airbus A320neo jets yesterday to keep up with rapid growth in the country's air travel.

IndiGo, India's largest domestic airline, had signed a preliminary order last year and firmed it yesterday, Airbus said in a statement. Airbus called it the biggest ever order by number of jets for the planmaker based in Toulouse, France.

At list prices, the jets would cost USD26 billion,

though customers usually negotiate discounts.

Several Asian low-cost carriers are building up fleets amid growing demand, and both Airbus and rival Boeing Co. have been wooing Indian airline companies.

India is expected to become the third largest aviation market globally by 2020, with the number of airline passengers tripling to some 450 million trips per year, as an expanding middle class trades up from slow train journeys to

IndiGo said the order would allow the company to further develop low-cost travel in India and abroad

taking a plane.

IndiGo's president, Aditya Ghosh, said the order would allow his company to further develop low-cost travel in India and abroad. The company has already taken delivery of around 100 Airbus aircraft that were part of an order for 180 aircraft worth \$15.6 billion signed in 2011.

Despite the projected growth, airlines in India are generally unprofitable due to high fuel costs and stiff competition. Except for IndiGo, most other airlines, including state-owned Air India, have been incurring huge losses and are in financial distress.

The A320neo is an upgraded, more fuel-efficient version of Airbus' popular A320 jets, usually used on mid-range flights. AP

Station	Air quality
Roadside	10-30 Good
High Density Residential Area	10-30 Good
Ambient	15-35 Good

WORLD BRIEFS

USA Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump wants to deny citizenship to the babies of immigrants living in the U.S. illegally as part of an immigration plan that emphasizes border security and deportation for millions.



RUSSIA-IRAN Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov is set to host his Iranian counterpart Mohammad Javad Zarif for talks expected to focus on the implementation of a nuclear deal between Tehran and world powers, as well as efforts to mediate the Syrian conflict.



EGYPT President Abdel-Fattah el-Sisi has signed into law a new anti-terrorism bill, state media reported yesterday, a text that has prompted criticism from rights groups and even some senior judges. The 54-article law, published on state news agency MENA, provides an extremely broad definition of terrorism, describing it in one article as any act that disturbs public order with force.

ISRAELI forces shot and killed a Palestinian after he stabbed an Israeli police officer at a West Bank checkpoint yesterday, the latest in a series of recent stabbing attacks that have escalated tensions in the region.

SYRIA The United Nations humanitarian chief said yesterday he is "horrified" by the attacks on civilians that are taking place in Syria, warning that the protracted conflict not only "severely affects" the lives of millions of people in the country but also threatens the stability of the entire region. Stephen O'Brien told reporters that "attacks on civilians are unlawful, unacceptable and must stop."

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



King's Cross. A passenger runs to catch a train at King's Cross railway station, London, yesterday. More than 29 million passengers annually rely on mainline train services from King's Cross, according to the British Office of Rail Regulation.