

ANM CALLS FOR URBAN RENEWAL COUNCIL RETHINK

The newly-established Urban Renewal Council has an overrepresentation of commercial interests, accuses New Macau

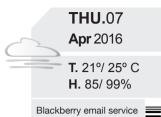




CHINA RESTRICTS TRADE WITH NORTH KOREA

China has banned most imports of North Korean coal and iron ore. Pyongyang is under U.N. sanctions in retaliation for nuclear tests

P10



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WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA-MYANMAR

Aung San Suu Kyi, the newly installed foreign minister, and her Chinese counterpart, Wang Yi, said that the two had "reached consensus" to approach existing problems through negotiations. Wang's trip - the first high-level diplomatic visit since Suu Kyi's party filled top government offices last week - signaled China's interest in firming up ties tested by the previous military-backed government's halt of projects such as the **USD3.6** billion Myitsone dam.



BANGLADESH A

new report estimates that some 20 million Bangladeshis are still being poisoned by arsenic-tainted groundwater drawn from government wells. That number remains unchanged from 10 years ago, despite years of action to dig new wells. More on p11

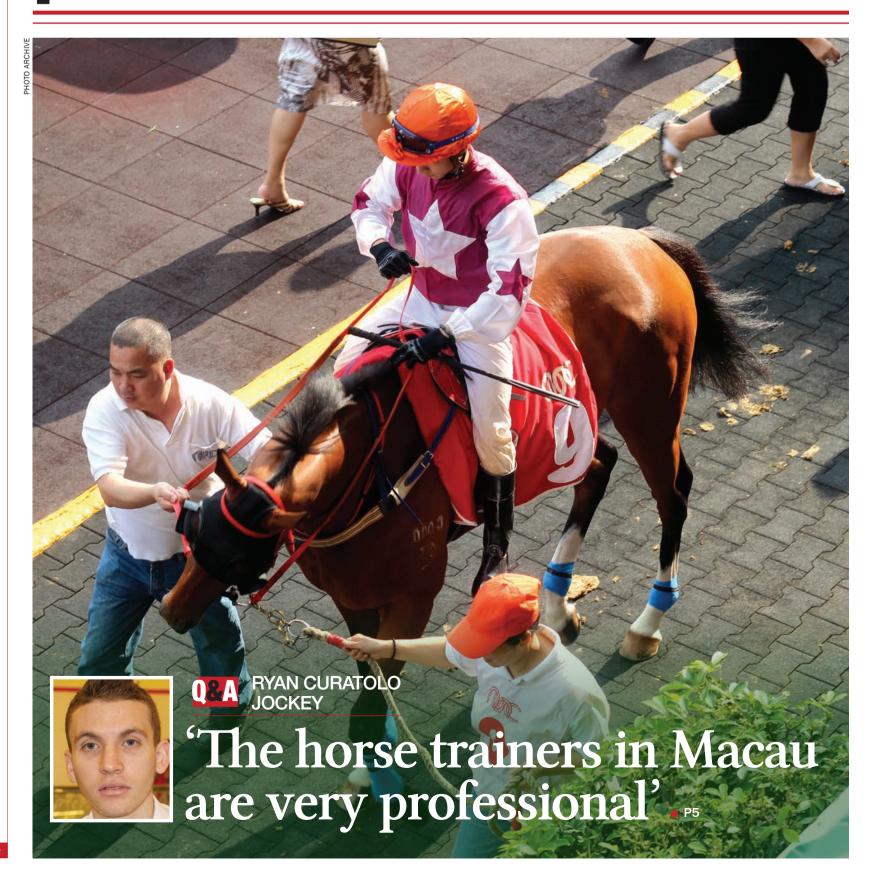
VIETNAM Vietnam's prime minister steps down after 10 years in office, leaving behind a mixed legacy of promoting failed state enterprises but at the same time attracting foreign investment and daring to challenge China. More on p12

AUSTRALIA A

Zimbabwean circus acrobat who infected his girlfriend with HIV through frequent unprotected sex won an appeal in Australia's highest court against a conviction for deliberately passing on the virus that causes AIDS. The five High Court judges ruled there was no evidence that Godfrey Zaburoni, 37, had intended to infect the woman, whose name is suppressed, during a twoyear relationship.

More on backpage

Panama Papers could add to outrage in US presidential race. P14,15



Audit finds UN deficiencies linked to alleged bribery case

Edith M. Lederer

 ${\bf N}$ internal audit has fou-And important deficiencies and lapses in the U.N.'s involvement with two foundations and several non-governmental organizations linked to an alleged bribery case involving former General Assembly president John Ashe.

The audit by the Office of Internal Oversight Services obtained this week by The Associated Press said the U.N.'s failure to check out certain NGOs before dealing with them put the United Nations "integrity, independence and impartiality" at risk.

The office gave the U.N. Secretariat a "partially satisfactory" overall result in complying with U.N. policies and procedures, saying "important — but not critical or pervasive — deficiencies exist."

Ashe, a former U.N. ambassador from Antigua and Barbuda who served in the largely ceremonial post of president of the 193-nation assembly from September 2013 to September 2014, is accused by U.S. federal authorities of turning the position into a "platform for profit" by accepting more than USD1 million in bribes. The alleged conspiracy involves six others including

The Office of Internal **Oversight** Services gave several examples of the U.N.'s failure to check out foundations and organizations



Ng Lap Seng (left) leaves federal court with his attorney Ben Brafman

a billionaire Macau real estate mogul, two diplomats and a humanitarian organization officer.

Ashe's arrest last October put a spotlight on the money the U.N. and its key players accept from outside entities and how donations and partners are vetted. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon ordered the audit days later.

The Office of Internal Oversight Services gave several examples of the U.N.'s failure to check out foundations and organizations that exposed the world body to the risk it could be involved with organizations whose interests conflicted with the U.N.'s.

It said the United Nations Office for Partnerships accepted a \$60,000 contribution from the Global Sustainability Foundation, whose leader Sheri Yan was an adviser to Ashe during his presidency and is accused in the alleged scheme, without performing any due diligence check.

There was no evidence of checks before projects were undertaken with the International Organization for South-South Cooperation whose president, Francis Lorenzo, a deputy U.N. ambassador from the Dominican Republic, also has been charged in the alleged bribery scheme.

The Sun Kian Ip Group Foundation headed by Macau billionaire Ng Lap Seng, accused of lying about plans

for \$4.5 million in cash brought into the U.S. over several years aboard private jets, was also audited. Prosecutors say Ng wanted to build a multibillion-dollar U.N.-sponsored conference center in Macau as a sort of satellite operation for the world body.

The auditors said the foundation co-sponsored a forum on South-South cooperation in Macau in August 2015 with the U.N. Development Program. All participants, including some U.N. staff, received iPads worth at least \$599 plus taxes — and three U.N. staffers kept them until after the audit was announced, which violates the U.N. policy on gifts.

It recommended that the secretary-general take "appropriate corrective action" against the staff members.

The auditors made a series of other recommendations including urging the secretarygeneral to ensure that all U.N. bodies check out NGOs, businesses, foundations and other civil society organizations before they are engaged as U.N. partners.

U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said the secretary-general "is pleased that the audit ... shows that many of the control systems in place within the organization were found to be working properly."

But he said Ban "is concerned at the findings related to instances where proper procedures were not followed." AP

HEALTH

Ongoing campaign against dengue, Zika virus

THE Health Bureau has decla-**▲** red that the Ovitrap index for January and February is lower than last year's number. This has been primarily attributed to infrequent cold weather this year. However, experts say they expect the number of mosquitos in Macau to increase this month as hot and humid weather is headed to the city.

According to a TDM report, the Dengue Fever Prevention Working Group has been handing out fliers on mosquito control to residents.

"We usually launch anti-mosquito measures during April, however we started this antimosquito campaign in March due to potential outbreaks of Zika virus and dengue fever," said Leong Iek Hou, head of the bureau's Center of Disease Control and Prevention.

Leong is calling on residents to take precautionary measures, such as removing stagnant water from vases and avoiding mosquito breeding sites.

Meanwhile, residents are advised to be vigilant on the possible hazards of dengue fever, especially during the warmer months of July and August.

According to the bureau, Macau has already recorded three imported cases of dengue fever this year, two of which are from Malaysia and the other from Indonesia.

Although several imported Zika virus cases have been confirmed in the neighboring Guangdong province, no case has been recorded in Macau.

Only last month, the Guangdong province reported two more imported cases of Zika virus infections, bringing the total number of cases to 12 in the province.

Young musicians' competition open to applicants

THE "34th Macau Young Mu-**⊥** sicians Competition" open to applicants between April 22 and 29, according to a press statement released by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC).

The competition, which will be held between July 25 and August 7 across several venues in Macau, celebrates Chinese and Western instruments and seeks to develop an interest in classical music among young musi-

According to the IC, this year's competition features 32 categories of solo Chinese and Western instruments and vocal solos, with elementary, intermediate and advanced levels in each category.

First, second and third prizes, certificates of merit and certificates of competence will be awarded to winners in each category. First-place winners will further be eligible to participate in a competition for special awards.

Additionally, prizes will be awarded as scholarships to certain firstplace prize-winning individuals across the categories and advanced levels. The amount of the scholarship will be equal to the net amount of the winner's first year tuition fee in a music-related course, says the IC.

In order to apply, candidates are required to pay an application fee of MOP 80, and submit supporting documents to the IC.



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Jason Chao (left) and Scott Chiang (right)

Daniel Beitler

HE New Macau Association (ANM) has urged the government to extend participation in the newly-established Urban Renewal Council (CRU) to community leaders and academics, adding that the CRU has an over-representation of commercial interests at the present time.

Representatives from the asso-

ciation, including president Scott Chiang and vice-president Jason Chao, held a media briefing yesterday afternoon shortly before presenting a petition at the rear entrance to the government's headquarters.

Pointing to the experience of "nearby regions," Chiang told the reporters that, "urban renewal can be a deep conflict between [the] interests of the community and that of developers [...] a balance of

Urban Renewal Council is an evolutionary 'step backward,' says ANM

voices from communities, professionals and commercial entities is crucial."

They fear that an over-representation of commercial interests in the 27-member council could transform the CRU into a champion of developers' causes, at the expense of contributing to the body's stated goal of "improving human lives."

"When we look at the regulation, we see that there are 27 members in the council and 21 of them ought to be from the public, but it [the regulation] doesn't specify that kind of composition," said Chiang.

"Now we have a very unbalanced composition of members with [an] overrepresentation from the commercial sector," he added.

To restore balance to the commercially-dominated council, ANM proposes that Chief Executive Chui Sai On expands the size of the council to accommodate the voices of community leaders and academia.

"If the government is embarrassed to ask [an existing] council member to leave [to make space for a restructuring], then they can simply expand the number of people in the council" and thereby embody greater representation, said Chiang.

The association also condemned the withdrawal of the new council's requirement for public disclosure, highlighting the omission in recent legislation of a clause found in an earlier statute which stated that "meetings are public in the discussion on the preparation, execution, review and amendment of urban development plans [except where confidentiality is required by law]."

"Contrary to this trend," the ANM statement read, the new regulations have established the CRU "without such a requirement to make any part of its meetings public."

"The popular belief that such a technical panel will not interest the general public is not true," Chiang told reporters. "People get more and more familiar with how things ought to work in that area and the government officials learn more about how to communicate with the public regarding their policies. So it is of mutual benefit."

The ANM president concluded by stating, "Evolution has taken an unlikely step backward when a council body founded in 2016 is worse than that from 2014."

Offshore revelations unlikely to be probed

SPEAKING on the sidelines of the presentation of the petition calling for a rethink on the new Urban Renewal Council, Jason Chao said that ANM are "looking forward to the full disclosure of the Panama Papers."

"We know that there are Macau communities involved in the scandal but we need to conduct more thorough research into the papers to see the extent of the involvement," said Chao, before adding that the use of offshore companies by wealthy individuals and corporations "was not new to us."

"Of course the public prosecutor and the judiciary bodies should always go after and investigate corruption claims but unfortunately over the past few years we have submitted numerous criminal complaints and corruption complaints regarding the government [and] we have not seen any productive investigative results."

"The bigger problem is: do we still have faith in the judiciary bodies?" Chao posited.

"We don't see that the efforts in combating corruption have been very consistent [and] if we cannot count on the judiciary police in Macau [to fully investigate the claims] then maybe we have to depend on the investigations from other jurisdictions," he suggested.



Taxi drivers protest against new regulation proposal

OVER 20 taxi drivers protested in front of the legislative assembly building yesterday to oppose the proposal for new taxi service regulations, TDM reported.

The Transport Bureau (DSAT) recently submitted a proposal to start carrying out sting operations, revoke taxi licenses, and apply suspensions, all in order to regulate the taxi industry. Those who protested are hoping that DSAT will withdraw the proposal.

"Plainclothes officers frequently make unfair use of the law, so we therefore decided to protest against it," declared Chan, vice president of the Taxi Driver Rights Association. According to Chan, DSAT engaged in conversations only with a few representatives from the taxi industry. Protesters left the area around ten minutes after being persuaded to move on.

Later in the afternoon, the association went to DSAT to deliver a letter, in which it opposed the authority's proposed policy amendments.



The president of the association, surnamed Cheung, attended this activity and stated that "there are no taxi drivers in the Traffic Advisory Board, which means it can't speak for our industry." He then complained that the government has applied excessive fines to taxi operators but never provided them with subsidies, whereby, in his words, "the industry is getting smothered." Although sympathetic to their plight, Cheung also expressed disagreement with taxi drivers who drive slowly around the border gate around midnight. He further declared that drivers are planning to protest again on Monday.

The recent DSAT proposal anticipates sanctions for taxi drivers caught breaking the law more than four times within one year. In addition, a second-level penalty will consist of a one-month suspension.

Suncity denies Grace Poe donations

CUNCITY Group denied Oyesterday that it has made any campaign contributions to Philippine senator and presidential candidate Grace Poe, in response to various reports last month claiming that documents traced donations amounting to PHP150 million (USD3.22 million) in "political donations" from a Subsidiary of the VIP gaming consolidator.

"Suncity Group has never donated campaign contributions through any way or to any candidate," the company said in a statement. "There is no doubt that the reports are misrepresentations, groundless and totally false," it continued, adding that such reports have "resulted in a serious impact" to the operator.

The statement echoes earlier denials from Grace Poe who refuted allegations that she had received donations from any organization linked to Suncity Group.

The Daily Tribune, the newspaper that broke the news last month asserting that donations had taken place, said that the alleged contributions may have breached Philippine laws banning companies from



Grace Poe

making donations for election purposes.

However, Suncity maintained that the reports were false. "We strongly condemned [sic] all untrue reports and reserve the right to take further legal action," the group said.

In a separate case, a Philippine senate inquiry held earlier this week continued to investigate the theft of more than USD81 million from Bangladesh Bank, linked to two Macau-based junket operators, one of which is part of Suncity Group.

A suspected PHP903 million (USD19.5 million) is thought to have flowed to Chau Cheok Wa of Suncity Group.

According to a Nikkei report lawyers for the junket operator said that they will submit a report to the Philippine senate once they complete accounting for the funds. **DB**

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Daniel Beitler

RYAN Curatolo is a 23-year-old jockey originally from Marseilles in France who came to Macau two-and-a-half years ago after a friend who was involved in the local circuit recommended that he proceed with his career here.

He was trained in Paris between the ages of 14 and 18, before moving to the U.S. to compete at an apprentice level in cities such as Miami, New York and Los Angeles.

Since arriving in Macau he has accrued over 50 wins, including winning the Macau Guineas Group One in 2014 with a horse named "Hostwin Donnatello."

Curatolo's success led him briefly back to Paris last month, where he received an award from the French government called, "Young Hope of 2016," for young and up-and-coming French expatriates.

Macau **Daily Times** (MDT) - What brought you to Macau?

Rvan Curatolo (RC) -When I was in the USA I won about 185 races in total over two-and-a-half years between 2010 and 2013, which eventually led to an opportunity to come to Macau in the winter [of 2013].

I had a friend who was running in Macau at the time. We met for dinner in New York and he said, 'you know, you should go to Macau. There is a good vibe there and a good life there.' So I checked online and I thought okay let's apply to come to Macau. Who knows what is going to happen?

After my application was accepted I was only supposed to compete here for three months, but the three months went so well that I decided to stay and it's now been more than two years.

It's been a great experience in Macau and I have met a lot of good and interesting people along the way. But it's a different culture and you have to adapt and sometimes that's not

MDT - How popular is horse racing and the Jockey Club in general in Macau?

RC - People in Macau are more into casinos than horse racing when they come here. In Hong Kong the only gambling that is allowed is horse racing so visitors cannot bet outside of this [area]. In Macau people have so much choice that they are more likely to go to the casinos than to the horse races. Probably because they find it more interesting.

There are less people [attending the competitions] than there used to be. When I first arrived in 2013 the popularity had already fallen, but it has not been affected [by the slow-



RYAN CURATOLO

'The horse trainers in Macau are very professional'



Ryan Curatolo

down in gaming]. Since then, the number of attendees is mostly at the same level, but I couldn't tell you how many people exactly.

It seems that there are a lot of people who don't know about it. When I talk to people about it most of them seem surprised to find out that there is a racing track at all. I think that the Jockey Club has a lot of potential, but what they also need is more [horse] owners.

MDT - How are the horses treated at the Jockey Club? What do you make of concerns for their welfare?

RC - They treat the horses really well in Macau.

MDT - Really?

RC - Yes, seriously. I have heard some complaints before from some of the owners in Hong Kong because of previous incidents there [in Hong Kong]. But in Macau it is much better and they treat the horses well.

In my experience - because I have raced in many places – the horse trainers in Macau are very professional. They use the right medication, the right vitamins for the horses, they feed them well, and so on. And in regards to the training – they know what they're doing.

I believe that in France the care given to the horses is among the best - and I say that not just because I am from France, but because over there we don't use any medication or drugs. But in the U.S. they use a lot of medication and there are a lot of horses that get injuries because they are pushed too hard and raced too often. Actually in Macau we don't see a lot of horses get injuries. It's a

There is also a park behind the track and the horses go there for some space and to play [socialize] with the other horses.

MDT - What are your thoughts on the issue of the treatment of dogs at the Canidrome?

RC - I have been to the dog racing many times. The place is very old; they need to renovate the whole place. I don't know what is going on inside. I can't really judge because I don't know. (...) I believe that these types of dogs – the greyhounds - are born to run, to go fast. It's not a little dog that they force

[to run]. If they don't want to run when the gate opens, they won't. But you can see that they really have the intention to run by themselves. Aside from that I'm not really familiar with what goes on.

MDT - A recent investigation by ABC's "The 7:30 Report" suggests that the track is too hard for the dogs, that they are kept in unsanitary conditions, and that they are killed once they are unable to compete. What do you make of this?

RC - Oh, I didn't know that. I have heard things that suggest that they don't treat the dogs

that well, but I didn't know that it was about the track being too hard and that they killed the dogs [afterward].

They really need to renew the track as part of the renovation. Actually the whole place is in really bad condition, as I said. When I visited before I noticed that the facilities are not well maintained, but I don't really know anything about the treatment of the dogs.

As a jockey I love the horses, and you really need to love them. Equally if you are training [and racing] the dogs, you need to love them too. Without the animal there is no race. For me. as a jockey, without the horse I am not a jockey, right?

MACAU DERBY DRAWS CLOSER

THE SJM Macau Derby 2016 will take place this year on April 17, featuring seven races within the local racecourse. It will include the Main Derby, the Macau-Hong Kong Trophy, the Chairman's Challenge Cup, the Grand Lisboa Cup, the Sand Classic Cup, the Oceanus Cup, and the Lisboa Challenge Final, with prizes ranging between hundreds of thousands

to millions of Hong Kong dollars. Now in its fourteenth consecutive year of SJM title sponsorship, the event is "the day when every [local] jockey wants to shine as we will be competing with jockeys and horses from the Hong Kong Jockey Club," according to jockey, Ryan Curatolo. "It is a hard race to win," Curatolo admits, "but with a good horse and some luck it is possible!"

Kelly Wong and Peter Lun to appeal



Kelly Wong and Peter Lun, two of the defendants in the Hotel Lisboa prostitution ring case, will appeal the Court of First Instance (TJB) ruling that found them guilty, according to Radio Macau. Wong, the former assistant deputy manager for the "Young Single Ladies" of Hotel Lisboa, was condemned to two years and five months behind bars for the crime of having financially profited from prostitution. Lun was sentenced to five months of imprisonment, time already considered served since he had been kept in pretrial detention. The Public Prosecutions Office (MP) has also previously stated that it is considering an appeal of the TJB's ruling.

GAMING

Wynn announces continued plunge in Q1 results

WYNN Resorts announced the preliminary expectations of its financial results for the first quarter of this year, which ended on March 31.

The report indicated that both revenue and profit in the company's Macau operations are expected to continue their downward spiral amid the ongoing anti-corruption campaign being orchestrated by Beijing.

Net revenues for Wynn's Macau operations in the first quarter of 2016 are expected to range between USD603 million to USD613 million, down from the USD705.4 million generated in the same quarter last year, across both the VIP and mass-market sectors.

According to Bloomberg, the company generated about 60 percent of its USD4.08 billion in revenue in Macau last vear.

At the same time, adjusted property EBITDA (net earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization) is expected



to range from USD187 million to USD195 million for the first quarter of 2016, compared to USD212.3 million recorded for the first quarter of 2015.

Wynn is slated to open its newest Macau resort, the USD4.1 billion Wynn Palace during the second quarter of this year, but the opening will have to compete with new resorts fronted by Sands China and MGM, which are also expected to open in 2016.

In contrast, the company's Las Vegas operations are expected to fare more consistently against last year, with net revenues potentially reflecting marginal positive growth.

Net revenues for the first quarter are expected to amount to between USD384 million to USD394 million, compared to USD368.9 million, while adjusted property EBITDA is expected to fall between USD105 million and USD113 million, compared to the USD110.7 million for the first three months of last year.

Wynn Resorts will hold an investor presentation in Las Vegas today [Macau time] that will be streamed on the company's we-

The results announced are preliminary and subject to the completion of the final financial statements, Wynn added in their report. **DB**

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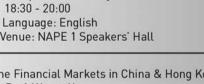


The Impact of International Human Rights Law on Chinese Criminal Procedures By Prof. Yue Liling 12 April 2016 (Tuesday) 19:00 - 21:00 Language: English Venue: NAPE 1 Speakers' Hall

Augmented Exuberance By Tobias Klein 15 April 2016 (Friday) 18:30 - 20:00 Language: English

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The Financial Markets in China & Hong Kong By Prof. Wayne Yu 18 April 2016 (Monday) 10:30 - 12:30 Language: English



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Most surveyed gamblers spent under MOP1,000

total of 52 per-Acent of Macau casino visitors admitted to spending less than MOP1,000 (USD125) on gambling during their trip to the city, according to the recently published Macau Visitor Profile Survey Fourth Quarter Report by the Tourism Research Centre (ITRC) at Macau's

■ 26 pct of respondents said they had gambled during their trip to Macau

Studies.

The findings revealed significant growth from the 38 percent of visitors whose gambling fell under MOP1,000 in an ITRC survey of Macau visitors in the second quarter of 2015, implying that those who've been forced to "tighten their belts" go beyond the high rollers.

The Q4 2015 report shows the results of a field survey of 1,042 visitors' identities, spending habits and reasons for traveling between October and December 2015, of which around 26 percent of respondents said they had gambled during their trip.

The Q4 survey indicates that a total of 20 percent of gamblers admitted they wagered MOP5,000, down from 25 percent in the second quarter. Twelve percent of the survey participants said they spent MOP2,001 to MOP5,000; 16 percent spent MOP1,001 to MOP2,000; 20 percent spent MOP501 to MOP1,000; and 32 percent spent under MOP500.

About 60 percent of the respondents were female, while 72 percent of visitors were under 35 vears of age, and 65 percent held a tertiary level education degree.

Meanwhile, China's weakening economy was observable in the ITRC's recent report, as the proportion of visitors from Institute for Tourism mainland China fell - 62 percent, down from 68 percent in the second quarter. Hong Kong accounted for 18 percent while Taiwanese visitors rose to 10 percent. Other Asian countries accounted for nine percent, while the rest garnered a mere one percent.

> Moreover, the report indicates that 43 percent of Q4 visitors were same-day guests, while more than half of tourists stayed overnight, 81 percent of whom stayed in Macau for two or three days. Sixtyone percent were repeat visitors, and 59 percent had visited more than three times in the past five years. **Staff reporter**



Lionel Leong

Q1 gaming revenue within gov't expectation

HE year-on-year decrease in casino gaming revenue recorded in the first quarter of 2016 was within the local government's expectations, according to the Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong.

On the sidelines of the swearingin ceremony of the new director and the new deputy director of the Macau Economic Services, Leong said that the fall in gaming revenue over March and for the quarter is in line with what the government forecast when they were preparing the budget proposal for this fiscal year.

Official data showed that gaming revenue in March amounted to approximately MOP18 billion, showing a reduction of 16.3 percent year-on-year. Gaming revenue in the first quarter recorded a 13.3 percent year-onyear decline, to approximately MOP56 billion.

The Secretary for Economy and Finance said the issues impacting the region's gaming industry were related to the performance of economies in other places and other external factors beyond the control of the MSAR. He noted that the external conditions had not significantly altered. Local casinos would benefit if there were positive changes in the performance of neighboring economies, he added.

Amid the ongoing adjustment period for the local gaming industry, the government pledged to step up their efforts to promote high-quality services and to boost the development of non-gaming offerings in casinos. These efforts could help further diversify the sources of Macau's visitors. New visitors might include a greater number of middle-class families from international markets, Leong said.

Regarding the mid-term review of the city's gaming industry, the secretary revealed that he had instructed the team of people involved in the translation work related to the review to speed up their efforts.

The mid-term review will examine the achievements of the city's six gaming operators since the liberalization of the gaming industry in 2002. The concessions and sub-concessions will expire on various dates between 2020 and 2022.

'MACAU LOVES LOCALS' ASSESSMENT

WHEN ASKED by reporters about the effectiveness of the "Macau Loves Locals" campaign, Lionel Leong said he believed such a campaign should not be thought of as a way to increase gaming revenue. According to the secretary, the campaign serves to allow local residents to enjoy non-gaming offerings at hotels and resorts managed by the region's six casino operators





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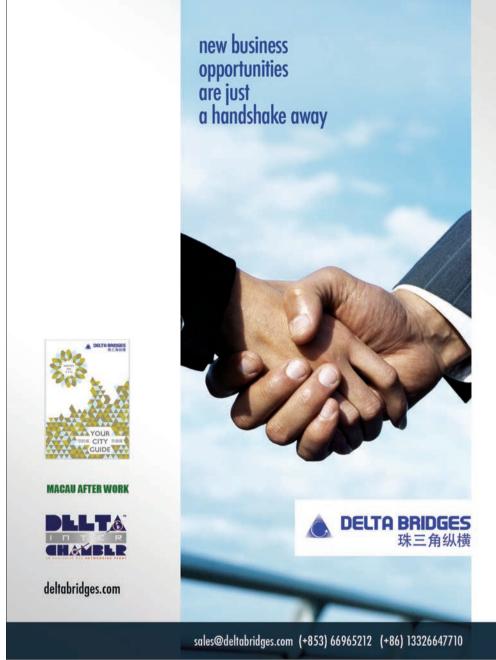
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MARKETS

Chinese stocks halt four-day winning streak as financials slump

HINESE stocks fell from a three-month high, dragged down by banks and insurers.

The Shanghai Composite Index slipped 0.1 percent at the close. Industrial & Commercial Bank of China Ltd. and China Life Insurance Co. led declines for financial companies. The benchmark gauge trades at the priciest levels since January after rebounding 15 percent from that month's low. Consumer companies most immune to swings in the economy advanced with Kweichow Moutai Co. jumping to a 10-month high. The Hang Seng China Enterprises Index declined for a third day.

A report due next week will also probably show inflation climbed to 2.4 percent in March. While below the government's 3 percent target, it may be enough to give it pause before easing monetary policy. An official factory gauge last week showed improving conditions for the first time in eight months, while industrial profits halted a seven-month losing



People walk past the Nasdaq MarketSite in New York

streak.

"Policy swings could still create uncertainties in the Chinese markets," said Tai Hui, the Hong Kong-based chief Asia market strategist at JP-Morgan Asset Management. "We do have some stabilization in data, which is providing some support."

The Shanghai Composite halted a four-day winning streak, closing at 3,050.59. The gauge trades at 12.8 times projected 12-month earnings, the highest in three months, compared with 11.5 for the MSCI Emerging Markets Index, according to data compiled by Bloom-

The CSI 300 Index slipped 0.2 percent. The H-shares gauge fell 0.1 percent, while the Hang Seng Index in Hong Kong increased 0.2 percent.

A gauge of financial shares in the CSI 300 dropped 0.7 percent for the steepest loss among 10 industry groups. China Minsheng Banking Corp. declined 1.8 percent. ICBC retreated 0.7 percent. China Life Insurance slumped 1 percent.

Kweichow Moutai, the biggest Chinese liquor maker, jumped 4.8 percent, while rival Wuliangye Yibin Co. climbed 1.8 percent. Morgan Stanley named Kweichow Moutai as one of 13 stocks that will be able to withstand lingering deflation because of its pricing power.

China's bond market is showing more concern about inflation. The data are scheduled to be released April 11.

"With food prices climbing continuously, inflation risk is surfacing," said Gu Xiaoxiao, an analyst at Haitong Securities Co., which was graded the best in fixed-income research by China's New Fortune magazine in 2015. "The increase in the consumer price index may be within the government's target of 3 percent in the first half of this year, but it could break that in the second half. We predicted two more interest-rate cuts previously, but now it seems unlikely. **Bloomberg**

ENERGY

China coal miner fails to make bond payment amid slowing economy

Chinese coal mi-Aner failed to make a bond payment yesterday, highlighting rising credit risks in the nation as economic growth

The Shanghai Clearing

House hadn't received funds from Chinacoal Group Shanxi Huayu Energy Co. to pay holders of its 600 million yuan (USD92.5 million) 6.3 percent notes, according to a statement on the clearing house's website yesterday. The coal miner, which is based in the northern province of Shanxi, sold the securities last year.

Chinese firms are struggling with surging debt burdens amid the country's worst economic slowdown in a quarter-century. At least 13 companies have defaulted on bonds in the past two years even as the central bank loosened

monetary policy. Dongbei Special Steel Group Co., whose chairman was found dead by hanging last month, defaulted on securities a second time in two weeks on Tuesday.

Two calls to Shanxi Huayu Energy went unanswered. The firm said earlier this week that it may miss the 637.7 million yuan payment in principal and interest on the notes due yesterday. Bloomberg

CK HUTCHISON SELLS EURO BONDS IN FIRST **POST-MERGER DEBT OFFERING**



Li Ka-shing

CK Hutchison Holdings Ltd has sold 2 billion euros worth of bonds, the company's first debt sale since being formed through a merger by billionaire Li Ka-shing.

The Hong Kong-based conglomerate sold 1.35 billion euros worth of seven-year notes at 110 basis points above ben-

chmark rates and 650 million euros worth of 12-year bonds at 138 basis points, according to data compiled by Bloom-

The company has interests in ports, telecommunications, retail and energy through which it generated more than half of its revenue in Europe last year.

Li's CK Hutchison is the latest overseas issuer to be lured to the euro-area debt markets by declining borrowing costs after the European Central Bank expanded its stimulus program last month. FedEx Corp. and Fomento Economico Mexicano SAB are among other noneuro area companies that have contributed to 38 billion euros of debt sales in the wake of the ECB's decision.

FACEBOOK REARRANGING NOTIFICATION **BUTTONS TO HIGHLIGHT VIDEO**



Facebook is rearranging the notification panel on its mobile apps in an effort to increase the number of people watching live videos on its social network.

Announced yesterday, the shift is part of Facebook's efforts to turn its live video feature into a marquee attraction as more people use their smartphones to record and share snippets of their lives.

Facebook is moving the button for its Messenger service so that the new video option can be highlighted on the notification panel. When pressed, the video button will show a directory of live streams from a user's friends, as well as segments available to anyone on the world's largest social network.

Messenger notifications will move to the top of Facebook's mobile apps, near the search box. The app update for Apple and Android devices will be rolled out in phases and will take several weeks to complete.

Facebook is also adding filters to live video and making it possible to express more emotions in response to a post by selecting "love," "haha," "wow," "sad" or "angry" emojis. These options are to run in conjunction with Facebook's "like" button for photo and text posts.

The update underscores Facebook's commitment to its live video option, which was introduced last year to compete against Periscope, a similar service run by its smaller rival



Joe McDonald, Beijing

THINA has banned most imports of North Korean coal and iron ore, the country's main exports, in a significant increase in pressure on the North under U.N. sanctions against its nuclear and missile tests.

China buys an estimated twothirds of impoverished North Korea's exports, making Beijing's cooperation essential for trade penalties approved by the U.N. Security Council last month to succeed.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has intensified nuclear activities in defiance of U.N. sanctions, conducting his country's fourth nuclear test in January and test-firing missiles.

In a sign of frustration with its ally, China signed onto Security Council sanctions last month that include mandatory inspections of cargo bound to and from North Korea. The council called on all countries to "redouble their efforts" to enforce the sanctions.

The latest Chinese restrictions announced earlier this week ban most imports of North Korean coal, iron ore, gold, titanium, vanadium and rare earths — a key revenue source for the mineral-rich North. The CIA estimated North Korea's 2013 exports at USD4.4 billion, with 65 percent of that going to China and the bulk of it made up of mineral sales.

Some imports for civilian use will be allowed so long as they are not connected to nuclear or missile programs, the Ministry of Commerce said. It gave no indication how large such purchases might be.

The announcement also banned sales of jet fuel to North Korea, but said civilian aircraft would be allowed to refuel during flights to China.

President Barack Obama and



A TV screen shows North Korean leader Kim Jong Un during a news program, at Seoul Railway Station

Beijing restricts trade with North Korea over nuclear tests

his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, promised to cooperate to promote denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula during a nuclear security conference last week in Washington.

In a statement yesterday, the U.S. government welcomed Beijing's trade restrictions as part of efforts to enforce U.N.

"We will continue to urge China to do more until we see concrete signs that Kim Jong Un has come to the realization that the only viable path forward for his country is denuclearization," said the statement released by the American Embassy in Beijing.

Beijing balked at previous demands by Washington and other governments to use trade as leverage against North Korea. Chinese diplomats said the potential humanitarian impact of sanctions had to be considered.

Beijing is North Korea's only major ally and aid donor but says its influence over Kim's government is limited.

Chinese leaders are reluctant to lean too hard on North Korea for fear the collapse of Kim's government could set off a flood of refugees and possibly lead to U.S. and South Korean troops being stationed in the North near China's border.

In February, a Chinese diplo-

mat told reporters the United States should offer North Korea incentives to return to negotiations, such as progress on a peace agreement. The two countries are still technically at war because the 1950-53 Korean War ended with a cease-fire, not a peace treaty.

Despite such reservations, Beijing went along with the Security Council sanctions last month that also restrict operations of North Korean banks and ban trade in dual-use nuclear and missile-related items. China is one of five permanent Security Council members with power to veto U.N. action.

Security Council resolutions

prohibit nuclear weapons development by North Korea and all ballistic missile activity.

A defiant North Korea carried out a nuclear bomb test in January and called it a "H-bomb of justice." It launched a longrange rocket in February, and in March fired a missile that flew about 800 kilometers before crashing into the sea off the country's east coast.

Kim has ordered tests of a nuclear warhead and ballistic missiles capable of carrying it. Last month's missile launch came during annual South Korean-U.S. military drills which North Korea has criticized as a rehearsal for an invasion. AP

PROPERTY

Homelink said to seek funds at USD6.2 billion value

EIJING Homelink Real Estate Brokerage Co. is seeking to raise funds in a financing round that will give the property company a valuation of about 40 billion yuan (USD6.2 billion), according to people familiar with the matter.

Homelink, which focuses on rental and second-hand real estate transactions, is raising about \$1 billion and has attracted funding from Chinese Internet giants including Tencent Holdings Ltd. and Baidu Inc., said the people, who requested not to be named because the matter is private.

Homelink, which started its first physical store in Beijing in 2001, expanded to 5,000 outlets across 24 cities in China by October. The company has moved online to build a database that includes information on 56 million property units and expects transactions initiated on its platform to rise 67 percent to at least 1 trillion yuan (\$154 billion) by 2017 from last year, according to a report by the state-run People's Daily.

Online property firms like listings site SouFun Holdings Ltd. and real estate agency E-House China Holdings Ltd. are benefiting from central bank monetary stimulus and an easing of housing-market regulations, particularly in the major cities. Steps the government has taken to encourage home buying include a reduction of minimum down payments and cuts in deed and business taxes on home transactions

If the funding goes through, Homelink would become China's sixth largest venture-backed company, according to CB Insights' unicorn-tracker. Globally, it would surpass ride-sharing service Lyft

Inc. in value and rank just below Indian online marketplace Snapdeal.

Homelink set up an online finance unit and lent about 300 million vuan worth of down payments through its lending platform as of the end of February, the company said.

Wang Yiduo, a spokeswoman for Homelink, said the company is in the process of fundraising in a text message, declining to comment further. Canny Lo, a spokeswoman for Tencent, didn't respond to an e-mailed query. Baidu declined to comment.

Tencent, Baidu and Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. have contributed to a surge in venture deals in China. The value of investments in the country more than doubled to \$37 billion last year and hit \$12.2 billion in the first quarter, according to London consultancy Pregin Ltd. Bloomberg

SHANDONG

Rescuers save 3-year-old boy who fell into well

D ESCUERS in eastern China have Kperformed a dramatic televised rescue of a three-year-old boy who fell about 10 meters into a narrow well.

The boy had been playing when he slipped and tumbled into the shaft that in total was 90 meters deep in the city of Weifang in Shandong province. Complicating the rescue, the well mouth was only 30 centimeters in diameter

Over two hours on March 31, rescuers pumped in oxygen from canisters and used sensors and cameras to communicate and monitor his condition.

He was finally pulled to safety after he grasped a loop at the end of a rope and was declared exhausted but healthy after an examination. China's state television station CCTV broadcast pictures of the rescue. AP

AP EXCLUSIVE

Bangladesh failing to spare millions from arsenic poisoning

Katy Daigle & Julhas Alam Khirdasdi

OR more than two decades, Nasima Begum and her family have been drawing water from a tube well painted red to warn Bangladeshi villagers that it's tainted by arsenic, knowing they're slowly poisoning themselves.

"We use this water for washing, bathing and drinking, the 45-year-old said. There is simply no other option. Taking loans from neighbors to care for her ailing husband and four children, she has nothing left to invest toward digging a new tube well that goes deeper to reach safe water.

But she shouldn't have to, according to a government program aimed at establishing safe tube wells in poor villages.

That hasn't happened for this impoverished village, a clutch of tin-roofed huts set amid farm fields about an hour's drive from Dhaka, Bangladesh's capital. Nor has it happened in countless other villages still relying on arsenic-contaminated groundwater decades after it was revealed as a major threat across the country.

An estimated 20 million people in Bangladesh are still being poisoned by arsenic-tainted water — a number that has remained unchanged from 10 years ago despite years of action to dig new wells at safer depths, according to a new report released yesterday by Human Rights Watch.

The New York-based rights group blames nepotism and neglect by Bangladeshi officials, saying they're deliberately having new wells dug in areas convenient for friends, family members and political supporters and allies, rather than in places where arsenic contamination is highest or large numbers of poor villagers are being exposed.

Government officials refused requests by The Associated Press for comment on the findings.

Human Rights Watch based its report on a survey of about 125,000 government wells dug from 2006 to 2012 specifically to give villagers safer options, after an earlier survey of 5 million wells found millions exposed to water that exceeded Bangladesh's arsenic contamination limit of 50 parts per billion. Bangladesh's limit, which is the same as in neighboring India, is far higher than the World Health Organization's recommended limit of 10 ppb.



A Bangladeshi woman collects arsenic-tainted water from a tube-well in Khirdasdi village, in the outskirts of Dhaka

"What we found was basically poor governance," said Human Rights Watch senior researcher Richard Pearshouse, who authored the report. "There is no technical problem that can't be solved if the political will is there. But what we see is that the government is using many of its valuable resources in areas where there is no need for deep tube wells from the government."

Arsenic is a naturally occurring and toxic element found in the soil and groundwater of some areas of the world, including vast delta regions like Bangladesh and eastern India.

It also kills about 45,000 Bangladeshis every year.

At least 30 countries have been found to have arsenic in their groundwater, including U.S., Canada and China.

Scientists first discovered arsenic in Bangladesh's groundwater in 1993, sounding alarm bells worldwide about a massive public health crisis pouring from the millions of hand-cranked tube wells tapping water from underground.

The government took action and began testing many of the wells, painting them green if they were safe, or red if unsafe. International aid groups, including the World Bank and UNI-CEF, also invested funding to help the government dig more wells at safer depths.

For years, there was a percep-

tion that the problem had been solved. But scientists studying arsenic-tainted tube wells in Bangladesh began noticing a pattern in where the wells were placed.

"We had found that the deep wells the government had ins-

At least 30 countries have been found to have arsenic in their groundwater, including the U.S., Canada and China

talled were clustered, with some villages being very much privileged and others not at all," said geochemist Alexander Van Geen from Columbia University in New York. "We sensed there might be some elite capture of a public good."

Human Rights Watch interviewed 134 people for its report, from villagers at risk to government engineers and officials, some of whom tacitly acknowledged that officials were ignoring the science of which areas were high risk.

The problem is partly rooted in the government's own rules for a program to supply water to rural areas from 2010 to 2015. Those rules say that the poorest and neediest communities should be given priority, but also that members of the national parliament should decide where to allocate 50 percent of those placements.

"There is widespread and systematic diversion of government tube wells," said Pearshouse, the report's author. "These people are not putting them in the right

Compounding the problem, there are also wells presumed to be safe that are in fact not safe at all. Around 5 percent of the government's wells turn out to be contaminated above 50 pbb. They might have just been poorly installed, or perhaps a leak has developed in the pipe. Or it may just simply have hit a rare, deep deposit of arsenic.

That's less of a risk than the typical contamination of private wells, which are usually shallow. Experts estimate up to 20 percent are tainted.

Human Rights Watch found that some wells set up by the World Bank and UNICEF were contaminated. Out of 20,000 wells dug from 2007 to 2012 by UNICEF, 1,700 were unsafe. The U.N. charity's chief of water and sanitation in Dhaka said the wells had either been improved

or replaced by September. "The problem has been fixed," Hrachya Sargsyan told the AP.

Meanwhile, the World Bank has said that it does not know whether any of the 13,000 wells it supported from 2007 to 2012 were contaminated, but that it will check, according to the report.

Experts estimate that some 20 percent of Bangladesh's 10 million tube wells, most of which are private and shallow, are likely to be contaminated.

Wells that go to depths of about 150 meters (164 yards) or deeper are usually considered safe, but even that is not certain. Scientists say the only way to be sure is to test every well. The government's last testing survey was conducted 10 years ago, and scientists say it's time for ano-

But digging deeper wells is expensive. A shallow well can be dug for about \$60, while a well dug to 150 meters can run up to \$900.

Many people in Bangladesh, an impoverished South Asian country, simply don't have the means.

"We are poor people," said Hazrat Ali, a farmer who has not found safe water despite setting up three tube wells. "There are no rivers and canals close by. From where shall we collect water? For this reason we drink this arsenic mixed water." AP

PHILIPPINES

Life story, movie star father lift Poe in presidential race

Teresa Cerojano, Manila

ER life story could have Home straight out of a soap opera. As a newborn, Grace Poe was abandoned in a Catholic church and adopted by movie star parents, giving her a powerful narrative and name that have helped catapult her to front-runner in the Philippine presidential race.

A political newcomer, elected to the Senate just three years ago, Poe has promised to cut taxes, fight crime and offer free kindergarten-to-college education for the poor. But it is the popularity of her late father, regarded as the king of Philippine movies, and her humble beginnings that appeal to the masses in this country where presidents have traditionally come from the landed gentry and political elite.

The 47-year-old candidate's campaign speeches are peppered with dialogues from the movies of her late father Fernando Poe Jr., popularly known as FPJ, who often played roles of an underdog battling powerful opponents to champion the poor and oppressed. He too ran for president in 2004 but lost amid allegations he was cheated in an election many viewed as marked by fraud. He died months later, unable to carry out his battles off the screen.

His daughter is pledging to fight real-life poverty and despair — and her father's public image is a huge asset in her campaign.



Presidential candidate Sen. Grace Poe waves to her supporters following a rally to mark the 105th International Women's Day in Manila, Philippines

"I like her because Fernando Poe is my idol," said Eliza Oledan, a laundrywoman with nine children, after hearing Poe a rally in Manila. "I also like her platform of government, especially that she will make college education free." One of her children had to stop schooling due to lack of money, Oledan said.

Poe's compelling life story nearly cost her her candidacy, however, when opponents claimed that because she was a foundling, it wasn't clear that she was a natural-born Filipino, as the constitution requires. Last month, the Supreme Court declared her qualified to run.

Other detractors have questioned her allegiance because she once renounced her Filipino citizenship to become a naturalized U.S. citizen. Poe later gave up her U.S. passport to accept a government post. Her husband and children are American citi-

If elected president on May 9, Poe tells voters she will offer a free lunch program for all public day care and elementary

schools, more job opportunities for women and more aid to farmers.

She told an audience of mostly college students that she would increase Internet speed in the country, among the slowest in Asia. And she told businessmen she would improve infrastructure and push to amend the economic provisions of the constitution that discourage foreign investments.

"I think I can deliver on those promises," she told The Associated Press. "Filipinos should really have a leader that unifies."

Asked if she believes her poignant life story is boosting her campaign, she said it's important that the candidate has a story to tell, but most important is that "the candidate would be able to understand the story of our people, and in our case we don't want anyone left behind."

Temario Rivera, a political science professor at the University of the Philippines, credits Poe's popularity to her fresh public personality untainted by corruption allegations, her ability to connect with ordinary peo-

I like her because Fernando Poe is my idol.

> **ELIZA OLEDAN LAUNDRYWOMAN**

ple and her father's popularity.

"The foundling narrative is a very powerful narrative," he said. The celebrity status of her family as well as her and her father's underdog image "hits the right note, especially for a society where many continue to be poor and marginalized."

A recent survey by independent pollster Social Weather Stations gave Poe support from 34 percent of would-be voters. Tough-talking Mayor Rodrigo Duterte got 31 percent while Vice President Jejomar Binay and former Interior Secretary Mar Roxas both got 17 percent.

Poe's critics have pounced on her lack of experience, but Rivera points out the same could be said of U.S. President Barack Obama when he assumed office. Poe needs to assemble a good team and be a fast learner, he added.

Some have been upset by the support she has received from a wealthy businessman who allegedly profited from a tax imposed on impoverished coconut farmers during the martial law regime of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Others have questioned her personal story. For years, rumors have swirled that she is the illegitimate daughter of Marcos with her adoptive mother's sister — a rumor Poe and her family deny.

At a recent rally, dressed in her trademark immaculate white shirt and blue jeans, Poe told the working class audience that those who question her being Filipino only need to look at her round nose, short height and dark hair.

"There are so many children who are found abandoned in garbage dumps in Manila," she said. "Every week, we hear news of children being thrown away. Can we say they are not Filipino?" AP

Yves Dam Van, Hanoi

VIETNAM'S prime stepped down yesterday after 10 years in office, leaving behind a mixed legacy of promoting failed state enterprises but at the same time attracting foreign investment and daring to challenge China.

In a formal vote, 430 of 462 members of the rubber-stamp National Assembly voted to remove Nguyen Tan Dung, three months before the end of his term, the government said on its website.

Dung's departure was a mere formality after he lost a leadership battle during the ruling Communist Party's congress in January. Dung lost to Nguyen Phu Trong, who was re-elected party general secretary for a se**VIETNAM**

Prime minister Dung steps down after 10 years in office



Vietnam's Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung

cond five-year term.

The National Assembly is scheduled to appoint Dung's deputy, Nguyen Xuan Phuc, as prime minister today. In Vietnam, the Communist Party general secretary, the prime minister and the president form the triumvirate of power.

Dung was easily the most high-profile prime minister Vietnam ever a good orator and mixed and reform elements wieasily with foreign leaders, which raised the country's profile. But within the party he was blamed for the failures of huge state-owned enterprises including the monumental collapse of the Vietnam Shipbuilding Industry Group and Vietnam Shipping Lines. Many of the state owned enterprises ended up with mountains of public debt.

"Over the course of his tenure, Dung distinguished himself as a highly public and entrepreneurial leader, even as the substance of his policy initiatives drew criticisms

thin the party," Jonathan London, a Vietnam expert at the City University of Hong Kong, said in an email interview.

Also, Dung's closeness with numerous newly and unusually wealthy Vietnamese raised suspicions among many. "Be that as it may, during Dung's tenure, Vietnam continued to grow and draw largescale foreign investment, defying regional and global trends," said London.

Dung's position as an experienced leader will be hard to fill.

"Dung's successor, Nguyen Xuan Phuc, who comes to the office with

had. He was charismatic, from both conservative considerable less punching power, is a study in contrast with Dung, said London. "In essence, none among Vietnam's current leaders will fill Dung's shoes."

Dung took office in 2006, during the global financial crises, followed by a global economic slowdown that severely impacted Vietnam, which at the time — and even today — largely depends on foreign investment and trade for economic growth.

Dung also won accolades from common Vietnamese for standing up to China in their territorial disputes in the South China Sea. AP









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USA ELECTIONS

Cruz win in Wisconsin leaves Trump a damaged front-runner

Julie Pace & Jonathan Lemire

REPUBLICAN Donald Trump emerged from Wisconsin as a damaged front-runner following a crushing primary loss to rival Ted Cruz, deepening questions about the billionaire businessman's presidential qualifications and pushing the Republican Party toward a rare contested convention nomination fight.

Democrat Bernie Sanders also scored a sweeping victory yesterday [Macau time] in Wisconsin's primary that gives him a fresh incentive to keep challenging Hillary Clinton. But Sanders still lags significantly behind Clinton in the all-important delegate count.

Both parties were turning their sights toward New York, which offers a massive delegate prize in its April 19 contests. It marks a homecoming of sorts for several candidates, with Trump, Clinton and Sanders all touting roots in the state.

Trump, who has dominated the Republican race for months, suddenly finds himself on the defensive as the race moves east. He's struggled through a series of missteps, including his campaign manager's legal issues after an altercation with a female reporter and his own awkward explanation of his position on abortion.

Exit polls in Wisconsin highlighted the deep worries about Trump surging through some corners of the Republican Party. A majority of Republican voters said they're either concerned about or scared of a potential Trump presidency, according to surveys conducted by Edison Research for The Associated Press and television networks.

Cruz has stepped forward as the candidate best positioned to block Trump, though it would likely take a convention battle to accomplish that goal. An ultraconservative Texas senator with a complicated relationship with Republican leaders, Cruz cast his Wisconsin victory as a "turning point" in the race and urged the party to rally around his candi-

"We've got the full spectrum of the Republican Party coming together and uniting behind this campaign," he said.

Trump was unbowed in his defeat. His campaign put out a biting statement accusing Cruz of being "worse than a puppet — he is a Trojan horse, being used by the party bosses attempting to steal the nomination from Mr. Trump."

Sanders still trails Clinton in the pledged delegate count and has so far been unable to persuade superdelegates — the party officials who can back any candidate — to drop their allegiance to the former secretary of state and back his campaign.

At a raucous rally in Wyoming, Sanders cast his victory as a sign of mounting momentum for his cam-



Republican presidential candidate Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, raises hands with Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker (left), and his wife Heidi (right), during a primary night campaign event in Milwaukee

paign.

"With our victory tonight in Wisconsin, we have now won 7 out of 8 of the last caucuses and primaries," he declared. Sanders is favored to win Wyoming's Democratic caucuses on Saturday, but it offers a small delegate prize.

With an overwhelming white electorate and liberal pockets of voters, Wisconsin was favorable territory for Sanders. In a sign of Clinton's low expectations in the Midwestern state, she spent Tuesday night at a fundraiser with top donors in New York City.

Clinton congratulated Sanders on Twitter and thanked her supporters in Wisconsin. "To all the voters and volunteers who poured your hearts into this campaign: Forward!" she wrote.

Because Democrats award delegates proportionally, Sanders' victory in Wisconsin did not cut significantly into Clinton's lead in the pledged delegate count. With 86 delegates at stake in Wisconsin, Sanders will pick up at least 45 and Clinton will gain at least 31.

That means Sanders must still win an unlikely 67 percent of the remaining delegates and uncommitted superdelegates in order to win the Democratic presidential nomination. The state-by-state nominating contests are choosing delegates who will select the presidential nominees at the parties' national conventions

With most of Wisconsin's delegates allotted, Clinton now has 1,274 delegates to Sanders' 1,025, based on primary and caucus results alone. When including superdelegates, Clinton has a wider lead -1,743 to 1,056. It takes 2,383 delegates to win the nomination.

Clinton's campaign has cast her overall lead as nearly insurmountable. Yet Sanders' continued presence in the race has become an irritant for Clinton, keeping her from turning her attention to the general election.

In the Republican race, Cruz won at least 33 Wisconsin delegates, while Trump carried at least three. Six delegates are still up for grabs, pending the outcome in two congressional districts.

With Wisconsin results included, Trump led with 740 delegates to Cruz's 514, while Ohio Gov. John Kasich had 143. It takes 1,237 delegates to win the nomination.

Trump still has a narrow path to claim the nomination by the end of the primaries on June 7. But by losing Wisconsin, the real estate mogul has little room for error in upcoming contests. He must win 57 percent of the remaining delegates to win the nomination before the convention. So far, he is winning just 46 percent. AP

CANADIAN WORKER FLIES MEXICAN FLAG ON TRUMP BUILDING

A MEXICAN-BORN Canadian

construction worker said he hung

Mexico's flag atop Vancouver's Trump International Hotel and Tower over the weekend to remind the billionaire who built the tower. Diego Reyna walked up 40 flights of stairs and recorded a 43-second video that said the building wouldn't exist without immigrants. "It was a symbolic act," Reyna said in a telephone interview. "When you say everyone in my family, my teachers, my children yet to be born are criminals and rapists, it is time to take a proactive effort." In the video he said Mexicans performed everything from drywall to concrete finishing on the project. During his campaign for the Republican presidential nomination, Trump has been criticized after Trump for saying Mexican immigrants are bringing crime and drugs to the U.S. and are "rapists." "This building is standing here today thanks to us, to our work," he says. "There's a little present for Mr. Trump, so every time you judge us you can think who is building your towers.'

Reyna, 30, said in a separate Facebook post that Mexicans didn't steal or rape but just did the best work they possibly could.

ANALYSIS

Panama Papers could add to outrage in US presidential race

Will Weissert

HE Panama Papers, which illustrate how a small L class of global elites find elaborate ways to shield their wealth from tax collectors, bank regulators and police, offer a glimpse into what's driving the populist outrage that has marked this year's presidential

The trove of 11.5 million leaked documents have thus far shed light mostly on foreign figures such as the prime minister of Iceland, who resigned after the public learned that he used a shell company to shelter large sums of money while his country's economy

The reaction in the U.S., meanwhile, has been relatively muted. But voters and experts say the documents validate the frustration felt by Bernie Sanders' supporters on the left, who feel hard work is no longer enough to get ahead in America, and the anger of Donald Trump partisans on the right who say it will take someone who knows the insider system to dismantle it.

"We've recently heard the startling revelations about the tax dodge that is taking place in Panama," Sanders told supporters in Wyoming yesterday night after his win in the Wisconsin Democratic primary. "In a time of massive income and wealth inequality, how does it happen that you have large, profitable multinational corporations who in a given year pay zero, not a penny, in federal income taxes?"

Retired Wisconsin high school teacher Steve Nibbe, who was voting for the Vermont senator in this week's primary, said word of the documents made him "sit up and take notice." But he said he was not shocked.

"It just seems that those who have wealth — and sometimes that comes with privilege - are able to do things that other people are not," said Nibbe, 60, from Verona, outside the state capital of Madison.

Joe Brettell, a Republican strategist based in Houston, doubted whether the public's fury could get much worse.

"The populist anger being fueled primarily by white working-class Americans didn't need any more fuel,' Brettell said. "They've already lived through the financial meltdown. They've already lived through the lack of middle class wage increases even as the stock market boomed."

The passports of at least 200 Americans are included in the documents, according to news organizations that have access to them, though none are thought to be as famous as celebrities and politicians from other countries, such as Russian President Vladimir Putin and Argentine soccer star Lionel Messi.

In all, 12 current or former heads of state are included in the legal records from Panama's Mossack Fonseca law firm. They were first leaked to the Sueddeutsche Zeitung newspaper based in Munich, Germany, and published Sunday by a consortium of news organizations around the world.

Charles Postel, a history professor at San Francisco State University who has studied American populism and wrote a book titled "The Populist Vision," said of Sanders, "This is just the type of thing that is animating his base."

He described Trump as "more of a nationalist."

"His issue is not that these rich people are not playing by the rules. It's that we need powerful people who will protect Americans," Postel said. "That's a different thing that provokes outrage."

The New York billionaire might even actually win points with supporters if he were among the rich and famous mentioned in the documents, Postel said.

"If Trump said, 'Of course I put half of my money in the Virgin Islands,' none of his voters would object to that," Postel said. "They'd say: 'Sure, he's a billionaire. If I was a billionaire, I wouldn't pay my taxes either." AP

Jill Lawless & David McGugh London

HE leak of millions of records on offshore accounts claimed its first high-profile political casualty yesterday as Iceland's prime minister stepped aside amid outrage over revelations he had used such a shell company to shelter large sums while Iceland's economy was in crisis.

Icelandic leader Sigmundur David Gunnlaugsson is the first major figure brought down by the publication of the names of rich and powerful people linked to the leaks, dubbed the Panama Papers.

China and Russia, meanwhile, took the opposite approach, suppressing the news and rejecting any allegations of impropriety by government officials named in the leak of more than 11 million financial documents from a Panamanian law firm.

Officials in Ukraine, Argentina and other countries are also facing questions about possibly dubious offshore tax-avoidance schemes.

The reports are from a global group of news organizations working with the Washington-based International Consortium of Investigative Journalists. They have been processing records from the Mossack Fonseca law firm that were first leaked to Germany's Sueddeutsche Zeitung newspaper.

One of the firm's co-founders, Ramon Fonseca, said it had filed a complaint with Panamanian prosecutors, alleging that the data was stolen by a hacking attack from somewhere in Europe, but he declined to give any details.

The announcement that Gunnlaugsson was stepping down as leader of Iceland's coalition government came from his deputy, Sigurdur Ingi Johannsson, who is also the country's agriculture minister. It followed the refusal by Iceland's president to dissolve parliament and call a new election, and after thousands of Icelanders protested outside the parliament building in Reykiavik.

No replacement has yet been named, and President Olafur Ragnar Grimsson did not immediately confirm that he had accepted the resignation. Yesterday, a government statement said Gunnlaugsson had suggested Johannsson take over as prime minister for "an unspecified amount of time," while Gunnlaugsson would stay on as leader of his centerright Progressive Party.

Gunnlaugson has denied any wrongdoing and said he and his wife have paid all their taxes. He also said his financial holdings didn't affect his negotiations with Iceland's creditors during the country's **PANAMA PAPERS**

Iceland's leader is first victim of offshore holdings leak



Iceland's Prime Minister Sigmundur David Gunnlaugsson

acute financial crisis.

The leaked documents allege that Gunnlaugsson and his wife set up a company called Wintris in the British Virgin Islands with the help of the Panamanian law firm. Gunnlaugsson is accused of a conflict of interest for failing to disclose his involvement in the company, which held interests in failed Icelandic banks that his government was responsible for overseeing.

Iceland, a volcanic North Atlantic island nation with a population of 330,000, was rocked by a prolonged financial crisis when its main commercial banks collapsed within a week of one another in 2008.

Since then Icelanders have weathered a deep recession

■ The leaked documents allege that Gunnlaugsson and his wife set up a company called Wintris in the BVI with the help of Fonseca law firm

and been subjected to tough capital controls — another reason the prime minister's offshore holdings rankle many.

China, on the other hand, dismissed as "groundless" reports that the Panamanian law firm had arranged offshore companies for relatives of at least eight present or past members of the Communist Party's Politburo Standing Committee, the apex of power in China.

Among those named in the leaked documents was the brother-in-law of President Xi Jinping. State media have ignored the reports and searches of websites and social media for the words "Panama documents" were blocked.

China's Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said he would not discuss the reports further and declined to say whether the individuals named would be investigated.

"For these groundless accusations, I have no comment," Hong told reporters at a regularly scheduled news conference.

Meanwhile, Ukraine's president was accused of abusing his office and of tax evasion by moving his candy business offshore, possibly depriving the country of millions of dollars in taxes.

Shell companies aren't in themselves illegal. People or companies might use them to reduce their tax bill legally, by benefiting from low tax rates in countries like Panama, the Cayman Islands and Bermuda. But the practice is frowned upon, particularly when used by politicians, who then face criticism for not contributing to their own countries' economies.

Because offshore accounts and companies also hide the names of the ultimate owners of investments, they can be used to illegally evade taxes or launder money.

Mossack Fonseca says it obeys all laws relating to company registrations and does not advise people how to evade taxes.

The firm said in a statement that "our industry is not particularly well understood by the public, and unfortunately this series of articles will only serve to deepen that confusion.

"The facts are these: While we may have been the victim of a data breach, nothing in this illegally obtained cache of documents suggests we've done anything wrong or illegal, and that's very much in keeping with the global reputation we've worked hard to build over the past 40 years of doing business the right way."

Members of the Group of 20 — which includes China — have agreed on paper to tighten laws relating to shell companies and make sure authorities can find out who the real owners are. Actual legislation at the national level has lagged behind the promises,

however.

The appearance of offshore accounts in political scandals is far from new. Shell companies played a role in the corruption scandal involving the Petrobras oil company in Brazil. The U.S. Justice Department said in an indictment last year that offshore accounts were used to mask the transfer of bribes to officials at FIFA, the global soccer federation.

Sueddeutsche Zeitung, working with Germany's NDR and WDR public television stations, reported Monday that 14 German banks had used Mossack Fonseca's services to set up 1,200 letterbox companies for clients.

The report said use of offshore company registrations had spiked after the European Union introduced regulations in 2005 requiring countries to exchange tax information on individual people, but not for companies. Many of the accounts, however, have since been closed.

The EU has since tightened its rules on offshore companies under its Fourth Anti-Money Laundering Directive, which is being phased in as national governments pass local laws to comply by June 26, 2017. The new rules tighten requirements for companies to keep accurate information on their real owners and to make that available to authorities. **AP**



what's ON



"Post Modern still life" Drawing & Painting BY MARCO SZETO

OPENING HOURS: 10am-6:30pm

UNTIL: May 15, 2016

VENUE: CalcadaDaBarra, No. 16 R/C LJ A, Edif.

San Chak, Macau

ADMISSION with free ticket ORGANIZER: Dare to Dream Gallery ENQUIRIES: (853) 2896 2820

THE CHARMS OF FLOWERS - EXHIBITION OF TRADITIONAL CHINESE FLOWER ARRANGEMENT TIME: 10am-6pm (no admission after 5:30 pm, closed on Mondays, open on public holidays)

UNTIL: July 31, 2016

VENUE: Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de

Almeida, No. 95 C-D. Macau ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2523

INK WASH OF THE FORBIDDEN CITY - Paintings by Charles Chauderlot

TIME: 10am-7pm

(No admittance after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: June 19, 2016 VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,

Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: MOP5

(Free on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

MACAU GIANT PANDA PAVILION

TIME: 10am-1pm and 2pm-5pm daily (Except Mondays, closed on the following day instead if a public holiday falls on Monday and no admission

after 4:45 pm; six viewings per day) VENUE: Seac Pai Van Park, Coloane

ADMISSION: MOP10

ENQUIRIES: Civil and Municipal Affairs Bureau

(853) 2833 7676

Offbeat

CHINESE NEWS AGENCY TELLS READERS TO IGNORE APRIL FOOLS' DAY

China's Communist Party has a new target in its campaign against pernicious Western cultural influences: April

"The so-called Western April Fools' Day does not conform to Chinese cultural traditions or socialist core values," the party's leading propaganda organ, Xinhua News Agency, said in a brief message on its official microblog Friday.

"Hope people won't believe in rumors, start rumors or spread rumors," the message concluded.

Along with official newspapers including the flagship Peo-

ple's Daily and state broadcaster CCTV, Xinhua has been key in the party's campaign to rid China of Western cultural influences seen as challenging its political orthodoxy.

Those include basic human rights and political concepts including freedom of speech and separation of powers, with professors, soldiers and rank-and-file party members all being told to keep their minds clean of such thoughts. The fact that communism is itself an imported Western political concept has not been openly discussed.

Despite its admonition against jokes and pranks, Xinhua's statement gave rise to credible attempts at humor from ordinary Chinese who mocked it on the country's wildly popular Weibo microblogging service.

Even the official Beijing News newspaper took issue with Xinhua's kill-joy attitude, asking, "what's wrong with giving people a holiday to express themselves, joke around and find some release?

Along with their distaste for humor, China's propaganda czars are also notoriously bad at spotting a joke. Stories from the satirical website The Onion have been reported as fact in the Chinese press, most famously in 2012 when a story about Kim Jong Un being voted the "sexiest man alive" appeared on the People's Daily website alongside a photo spread of the portly North Korean dictator.

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
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News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast 13:30

RTPi Live 15:00

18:05 Fillers

Trail of Lies (Repeated) 18:10

19:00 Montra do Lilau (Repeated)

19:30 Soap Opera

Main News, Financial & Weather Report 20:30

21:00 TDM Talk Show

21:40 Comedy

22:10 Trail of Lies

23:00 **TDM News**

Champions League Highlights 23:30

23:45 Crossing The Bridge

00:10

03:05 Europa League: Braga - Shakhtar Donetsk (Live)



CINETEATRO

07 APR - 13 APR



THE HUNTSMAN: WINTER'S WAR

(2D) 2.30, 6.30, 9.30 pm (3D) 7.30 pm Director: Cedric Nicolas-Troyan

Starring: Chris Hemsworth, Charlize Theron,

Emily Blunt

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 114min

BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE_

поом 2 2.15, 7.00 pm **Director: Zack Snyder**

Starring: Amy Adams, Jesse Eisenberg, Diane Lane Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 153min

ZOOTOPIA

ROOM 2

Director: Byron Howard, Rich Moore Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 108min

TRIVISA ROOM 3

2.15, 4.00, 5.45, 9.30 pm

Director: Jevons Au, Frank Hui, Vicky Wong Starring: Richie Jen, Jordan Chan, Ka Tung Lam Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 97min

ZOOTOPIA коом 3 7.30 pm

Director: Byron Howard, Rich Moore Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English) **Duration: 108min**

MACAU TOWER

24 Mar - 27 Apr

BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE_

1.15, 4.00, 6.45, 9.30 pm **Director: Zack Snyder**

Starring: Amy Adams, Jesse Eisenberg, Diane Lane

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 153min



1978 CARTER DELAYS N-BOMB **PRODUCTION**

The controversial neutron bomb developed by the Americans has been put on the back burner.

The bomb - properly called an Enhanced Radiation Weapon or ERW - is a specialised thermonuclear weapon which produces a minimal blast but releases large amounts of lethal radiation.

It is designed to kill people while minimising damage to property unlike a conventional nuclear missile.

President Jimmy Carter's administration had wanted to install neutron warheads on the Lance missile and artillery shells planned for deployment in Europe. US military chiefs believed the weapon would be ideal to use against an advancing Soviet army in Eu-

But many left-wingers and liberals in Europe and America dubbed it the "capitalist" bomb and condemned it for making nuclear war more likely.

They said the massive destruction and wide fallout area associated with conventional nuclear weapons was the chief deterrent to their use.

There have been mass protests against the N-bomb across Europe and several countries including Norway, Belgium and Holland have refused to have the N-bomb on their soil.

The decision to postpone production of the bomb came after a week of diplomatic confusion for which President Carter has been blamed.

However, he has kept open the option of proceeding with production at a later date so he can use it as a "bargaining chip" with the Russians in arms reduction negotiations.

The development of the neutron bomb is credited to US scientist Sam Cohen in 1958.

It was his idea to remove uranium casing from a hydrogen bomb to allow neutrons to trave distances and penetrate heavily shielded armour and

But in the 1960s President Kennedy decided against producing neutron weapons because it could have jeopardized the nuclear test moratorium in force at the time.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Jimmy Carter's successor, Ronald Reagan, changed US policy and gave the order for the production of neutron warheads to start in 1981

However, only a small number were produced and they were never deployed alongside America's other nuclear forces in Europe because of the controversy surrounding them.

France, which also tested and produced neutron warheads during the early 1980s, abandoned them in 1986 because of domestic and foreign pressure.

However, in 1999 China announced it had the technology to build a neutron bomb.

TamacauDaily in the service of the s

YOUR STARS



Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Your drive for success is faltering. Come up with some inner enthusiasm. Imagine piles of money, or an office with windows. Let extravagance be your guide! Then keep on keeping on.



Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

Don't be upset by a partner acting like your boss. If you tend to make everyone around you into an authority figure, don't be surprised if someone takes you up on your subliminal offer to let them boss you around.



Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Some may misinterpret your strong sense of what you want with arrogance. If their opinion isn't biased by their own ambitions, they may be onto something. Get your ego out of the way and take the time to listen.



Libra

Sep.23-Oct. 22

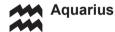
Don't let your past set your limits. What's done is done, and there's no point in continuing to be depressed about it. Those around you would be happy to move on, so jump on a new opportunity.



Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

It's not a fluke if you have some extra time on your hands this morning. Make your own lunch. It's not just that you have to penny pinch. It's also that you shouldn't be socializing with colleagues.



Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Your colleagues may waste their time accomplishing nothing all day, and it shouldn't affect you. But it does. Something subliminal is seeping into your way of doing things. Make an effort to block it out.



Taurus

April 20-May 20

You have plans, but no deep understanding of what they are. If someone else made them for you, then there's not much you can do. And if you made them yourself, there's no one to blame but you-know-who.



Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Ah, those days spent alone in your cubicle can be heavenly! But you have something to deal with, and you have to venture out. The best you can hope for is some kind of balance between both worlds.



Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

When will your hard work pay off? Don't despair. Imagine other times in your life where you felt this way if you need hope. You might have thought you'd be in high school forever, for instance!



Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

Why hold back? Shrewdness, selfcontrol, business savvy -- you've got it all, and you've used it all. Now your acumen and the stars line up, making it an excellent day



Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Strange how well your plans are working, now that impressing others isn't your number one goal. Having an objective worth aiming

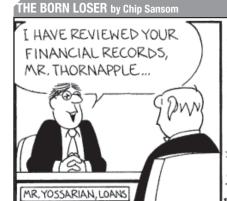


Pisces

for is an excellent motivator, so

Feb.19-Mar. 20

You need help, but don't pull any strings. If you have coworkers who can be of assistance, you're better off turning to them. Counting on friends in high places will only alienate you from others.



AND DUE TO YOUR LARGE CREDIT BALANCES, COMPARED TO YOUR INCOME, I CANNOT APPROVE YOUR LOAN, G

MR.YOSSARIAN, LOANS

IN OTHER WORDS, YOU WILL ONLY LOAN MONEY TO PEOPLE WHO DON'T NEED IT!

SUDOKU

Easy

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

9

8 5 1

9 8

Medium

9

2

4 8 1

4 9 6

3 4 8 1

7

9

2 3

5 7

Easy+

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA -			
Beijing	11	22	smoggy
Harbin	2	18	clear/cloudy
Tianjin	12	25	cloudy/overcast
Urumqi	5	18	clear
Xi'an	12	20	drizzle
Lhasa	5	19	shower/cloudy
Chengdu	16	22	drizzle
Chongqing	18	21	shower
Kunming	14	25	clear
Nanjing	13	16	moderate rain/heavy rain
Shanghai	13	19	moderate rain
Wuhan	14	16	heavy rain/moderate rain
Hangzhou	14	24	shower
Taipei	20	30	clear/cloudy
Guangzhou	21	28	overcast
Hong Kong	22	27	cloudy

		_		_
٧V	O	К	L	D

Moscow	3	8	overcast
Frankfurt	7	16	drizzle
Paris	6	15	cloudy/drizzle
London	5	12	cloudy/drizzle
New York	-3	6	flurry/clear

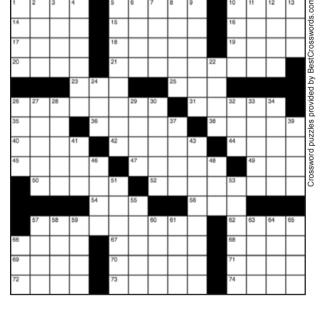
CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Meadowlands; 5- Singer Chris; 10- Indian wrap; 14- "___ quam videri" (North Carolina's motto); 15- Baseball manager Joe; 16- OPEC member; 17- James of jazz; 18- Beethoven dedicatee; 19- Hide in the shadows; 20- Not imaginary; 21- Double-breasted overcoat; 23- Attorneys' org.; 25- Cutting tool; 26- Financial combination of Japan; 31- Peachy keen!; 35- Class; 36- 1980s attorney general; 38- Indira Gandhi's father; 40- 1492 vessel; 42- Indian term of respect; 44- Interview-wear; 45- Benjamin; 47- Kidney-related; 49- Guys; 50- Pitchers; 52- Dependable; 54- Prefix with content; 56- Author Deighton; 57- Breed of riding horse; 62- Smooth-tongued; 66- Drug-yielding plant; 67- Tapestry; 68- Bean town?; 69- Ovid, e.g.; 70-71- Hearing organs; 72- Jamaican exports; 73- Flat-topped hills; 74- Hook's helper;

DOWN: 1- Suggestive look; 2- Italy's Villa d'___; 3- Hammett hound; 4- Aquanaut's base; 5- Repeats; 6- Boot bottom; 7- Dry and waterless; 8- Bears the ictus; 9- Character

actor Wynn; 10- Farm structure; 11- Stuck in ___; 12- Almost unobtainable; 13- Writing fluid; 22- Singer Stefani; 24- Powl; 26-Bluish white metallic element; 27- Skirt style; 28- Tell me about it!; 29- Scorch; 30-Doorkeeper; 32- Loser to DDE; 33- Pollex; 34- Corbeled bay window: 37- Mozart's ' kleine Nachtmusik"; 39- Magazine founder Eric: 41- Chowed down: 43- Stabilizes: 46-Writer Bombeck; 48- Falsehood; 51- Low bow; 53- Fishes; 55- Mr. Moto portrayer; 57- Diamond family name; 58- Composition in verse; 59- Teachers' favorites; 60- Mined materials; 61- Capital of Yemen; 63- Neeson of "Rob Roy"; 64- Former Hungarian premier Nagy; 65- Not acid; 66- Spring mo.





ÚSEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Emergency calls 999

Fire department 28 572 222

PJ (Open line) 993

PJ (Picket) 28 557 775

PSP 28 573 333

Customs 28 559 944 S. J. Hospital 28 313 731

Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333

Commission Against

Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300

IACM 28 387 333

Tourism 28 333 000 Airport 59 888 88

Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283

Water Supply - Report 1990 992 Telephone - Report 1000

Electricity - Report 28 339 922 Macau Daily Times 28 716 081



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RTURO Vidal's early header was enough for Bayern Munich to beat Benfica 1-0 at home and take a slender advantage from the first leg of their Champions League quarterfinal.

The Chilean midfielder struck in the second minute, heading home from five meters (yards) after being picked out by Juan Bernat.

Vidal had most of the chances for the rest of the game, with Benfica's defenders doing well to stifle Robert Lewandowski and Thomas Mueller, the home side's top-scoring forwards.

Lewandowski missed the best opportunity to wrap it up in the 89th, when he sent a wayward pass for Philipp Lahm with an open goal beckoning.

"We had enough goal chances. We'll go to Lisbon with the intention of winning the game, of scoring a goal or two," Bayern coach Pep Guardiola said after his 150th competitive game in charge of the Bundesliga club.

Benfica reserve 'keeper Ederson had to make a number of important blocks, with captain Nicolas Gaitan and Pizzi posing the visitors' greatest threat at the other end.

"Sometimes a 1-0 win has to be enough," Bayern goalkeeper Manuel Neuer said. "We're going to Lisbon and know that it's a close call."

Bayern is bidding to reach its fifth consecutive semifinal, while the Portuguese league leader is hoping to reach its first since

In the night's other quarterfinal, Luis Suarez scored twice to lead Barcelona to a 2-1 comeback victory over 10-man Atletico Madrid.

Vidal scored with Bayern's first foray forward. Franck Ribery crossed for Lewandowski, who played the ball back out to Bernat in more space on the left. The Spanish full-back picked out Vidal in the middle with a precise cross.

"Of course it's not nice, it wasn't our plan," Benfica coach Rui Vitoria said on conceding so early. "But we came with a plan and the players kept it tight. Of course, it could have knocked us off our stride. But we reacted very well."

Bayern kept attacking, with Douglas Costa testing Ederson from the right. Ederson was



Benfica's Raul Jimenez leaps over Bayern goalkeeper Manuel Neuer during the Champions League quarterfinal first leg soccer match between FC Bayern Munich and Benfica Lisbon at the Allianz Arena in Munich

FOOTBALL | CHAMPIONS LEAGUE ROUNDUP

Bayern beats Benfica; Suarez scores twice at Barcelona comeback against Atletico

playing in place of first-choice goalkeeper Julio Cesar, who was out with a groin injury.

Bayern was dominating possession with Benfica living on scraps. Pizzi and Gaitan combined for a well-worked free kick before the ball was deflected out for a corner.

On another free kick at the other end, Thiago Alcantara dinked a clever ball over for Mueller, but Ederson got down quickly to smother the danger.

Vidal went close with another header before Benfica finished the half strongly with Vidal making a painful-looking but important block to deny a fierce strike from Gaitan.

Victor Lindelof made a crucial interception on Lewandowski at the start of the second half, before the visitors resumed getting back in numbers and closing down space.

Benfica striker Jonas shot a good opportunity too close to the underworked Bayern goalkeeper before Bernat drew his shot wide at the other end.

Lahm, Javi Martinez and Alcantara then scrambled back to deny Jonas an equalizer.

Jonas had earlier picked up a yellow card, ruling him out of next week's second leg through suspension.

Lewandowski could have given Bayern more breathing space, but appeared caught in two minds about whether to shoot or pass in what was Bayern's best chance late on.

Despite the missed opportunity, Bayern has prevailed on each of the three occasions the sides have met in European competition.

"It's not bad for us," Bayern defender David Alaba said.

On the other match of the

night, Luis Suarez scored two second-half goals to lead Barcelona to a 2-1 comeback victory over 10-man Atletico Madrid in the first leg of their Champions League quarterfinal.

Fernando Torres opened the scoring in the 25th minute, but quickly went from hero to villain for Atletico when two reckless tackles saw him sent off in the 35th.

Atletico resisted the defending champion's push for an equalizer until Suarez finally leveled with an opportunistic goal in the 63rd.

Suarez then put Barcelona ahead in the 74th when he played Dani Alves wide before sending the Brazil defender's cross past goalkeeper Jan Oblak with an unstoppable header.

"This is one of the worst days of my life as a football player," Torres said. "I'm sad for having left my team with 10. In some way I feel responsible for the team not winning.

"I am sure that with 11 it would have been completely different."

That view seemed to be shared by Suarez.

"Torres's red card was crucial because everyone knows about the quality he has," Suarez said after scoring his team-high seventh and eight goals in the Champions League this season.

"It was a shame because it would have been great to come back against 11 players. The most important thing is that we won and they will have to score in the Calderon."

Barcelona's fightback came three days after Real Madrid ended Barcelona's Spanish record 39-match unbeaten streak with a 2-1 win at Camp Nou. **AP**

ASIAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Shanghai beats Gamba Osaka 2-0

GROUP leader Shanghai SIPG kept former champion Gamba Osaka winless in a 2-0 victory in the Asian Champions League yesterday. Shanghai's third straight win kept it atop Group G, while all but snuffing out the second-round hopes of 2008 champion Osaka. Wu Lei put the visiting Chinese team on the scoresheet in the middle of the second half, and Lu Wenjun doubled the lead on a deflected volley with 18 minutes left. Gamba's best chance came late in the first half when Takashi Usami's strike from the edge of the area was tipped over the crossbar by Shanghai goalkeeper Yan Junling.

The Melbourne Victory remained second in the group after drawing with South Korea's Suwon Bluewings 1-1 in a critical match between them. Melbourne stayed three points ahead of Suwon with two group matches to go.

Kwon Chang-hoon sco-

red for Suwon just before the hour mark, only for Kosta Barbarouses to respond for Melbourne just two minutes later.

Nguyen Anh Duc scored two penalties as Vietnamese champion Binh Duong defeated nine-man Jeonbuk Motors of South Korea 3-2 for its first win in Group E. AP

MacauDaily 澳門每日時報®

opinion

HK Observer

Robert Carroll



HKIFF, ART BASEL, AND RUGBY SEVENS: CONNECTING TO THE WORLD

Unless it's making rare headlines or in financial news, Hong Kong isn't usually on the international radar but from February to April it's been one major international event after another. This is when the world comes here and locals get exposed to a first-class array of cinematic and plastic arts from HKIFF, Art Basel and Central, and the Hong Kong Arts Festival, as well as participating in the most widely broadcast annual local sports event, the Rugby Sevens

Let's not undervalue the importance of these events, not least because the film fest brings an audience of 600,000 and the art fairs and the Sevens sell 150,000 and 120,000 respectively.

Firstly art. Whether exhibited, performed or shown through cinema, art has a role that goes beyond entertainment to be a crucible where imagination toils to exceed boundaries of ideas and techniques. The future belongs to the societies with the most creative forces at work where that can also be harnessed.

HKIFF and the art fairs are a two-way street with locals experiencing world-class events and overseas visitors left with imprints beyond a casual holiday experience, helping brand Hong Kong as an Alpha city. Surely that's a welcome reminder to China that Hong Kong as a brand is valuable beyond its business hub role in terms of the prestige of attracting global scale events and as a cultural melting pot. That's no small matter as Hong Kong vies to reposition itself vis-a-vis the mainland, adapting to China's phenomenal growth; bearing in mind that these events could not be held on the mainland under present circumstances. Why not?

Well, heavy censorship is ubiquitous for events of any size. Then there is the heavy-handed bureaucracy and the numerous hands outstretched for baksheesh. Holding the Rugby Sevens in Beijing - or another also highly-polluted metropolis - risks rugby authorities and players' reluctance to expose themselves to the horrific pollution. They'd be hosting a major rugby event too if there were more than a few local fans.

The Sevens is undoubtedly the most internationally publicized local event by a massive margin and has given Hong Kong a global platform par excellence. An outstanding success story, but the influence is limited to sport and tourism and the goodwill those bring. The massive wine fairs here are very important too as Hong Kong has become Asia's wine hub, but hardly influential beyond the wine trade and wine education whereas art and cinema can change mindsets.

In regards to changing mindsets, here's a man who does that: the visionary Elon Musk who was here earlier in the year to great acclaim for an official tech startup festival. He is the founder of Paypal and the first commercial space operator Space X, as well as being the CEO of Tesla. He has made innovation a byword for everything he touches, and he's made his mark here too as Tesla upturns the car market.

Thanks to the brand's popularity, electric cars are finally taking off here, re-assuring us that we're one step close to clean air. With the beyond expectations success of the new Tesla mass market car, the brand's popularity should continue to drive electric vehicle sales. Credit is due to the company which produces sexy electric cars people actually want to buy and to the government too for waiving 'the first' registration tax. Now getting back to that startup fair Musk attended. If local officials are so keen on feting a startup genius like Musk why not put words into action and make it easier to actually found a startup? We are greatly lagging behind Shenzhen in that area. Yes Shenzhen, where entrepreneurs deal with all the myriad obstacles of doing business on the mainland.

PANAMA PAPERS: LEAK FIRM MOSSACK FONSECA FILES HACKING COMPLAINT

A partner at Mossack Fonseca, the Panamanian law firm at the heart of a huge leak of confidential financial data, says it was the victim of a hack.

Ramon Fonseca, co-founder of Mossack Fonseca, said the company has filed a complaint with Panamanian prosecutors alleging that the data was stolen by a hacking attack from abroad.

Fonseca said the leak was not an "inside job" - the company had been hacked by servers based abroad.

Several countries are investigating possible financial wrongdoing by the rich and powerful after the leak of more than 11 million documents. (See p14-15)

Roadside 30-50 Moderate High Density Residental Area Ambient 30-50 Good

Air quality

Station

Coffee shops all the rage in North Korean capital

Eric Talmadge, Pyongyang

PYONGYANG may be one of the few major cities left on Earth where you can't find a Starbucks.

But it's brimming over with coffee shops.

The small, dimly lit cafes have been around in the North Korean capital for years, but the drink's popularity has surged in Pyongyang recently — enough so, in fact, that it's sparking a competition among shop owners to provide more of an upscale ambiance and a variety of coffees that would almost put the ubiquitous American chain to shame.

"Over the past couple of years the number of people who really know good coffee has grown a lot, and they look around the city to find the best places," said Ri Hyon A, a barista at a popular cafe who underwent training in China to learn the craft. "We have a lot of regulars."

Though Pyongyang is far more affluent and well-supplied than the rest of the country, the growth of coffee shops and the openly competitive effort to lure customers and turn a profit reflects a larger transformation that has long been underway in North Korea.

While capitalism is still officially frowned upon and the economy remains centrally controlled and largely stagnant, grassroots entrepreneurialism is not only growing but has become a necessity for many North Koreans.

Until the famine years of the 1990s, the government provided most citizens with their basic necessities and jobs. The economic crisis caused by the famine taught North Koreans to fend for themselves, however,



Barista Ri Hyon A speaks behind the counter of the Kumrung coffee shop in Pyongyang, North Korea

and forced a gradual opening to more capitalist-style activities.

For sure, life in rural areas remains much more hardscrabble — just getting a balanced diet, or meat on a regular basis, remains impossible for many.

But the growing grassroots economy has created something of a middle class in Pyongyang and some other cities, where more people have enough expendable cash to treat themselves to small luxuries like coffee, and businesses like street stalls selling drinks or snacks and more new restaurants aimed at meeting the new market demand are mushrooming.

Ri's coffee shop, one of hundreds now open for business in Pyongyang, greeOver the past couple of years the number of people who really know good coffee has grown a lot.

BARISTA

ted its first customers in January and sells everything from caramel Macchiatos to strawberry smoothies.

Ri said the shop has its beans flown in once a month from China.

"Cappuccino is popular with Koreans," she said. "Personally, my favorite is our original hand-dripped coffee."

Ri said that while she was training to be a barista in Beijing, she gave Starbucks a go.

"I tried it, but I didn't like the coffee very much," she said. "I think it's for people who don't really understand good coffee. But I was impressed by how many people go there." AP

WORLD BRIEFS



AZERBAIJAN-ARMENIA

A cease-fire has largely held yesterday around Nagorno-Karabakh despite claims of sporadic violations after an outburst of fighting raised fears of an allout war. Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry said its forces have been observing the cease-fire that was declared on Tuesday following three days of intense battles involving heavy artillery and rockets.



USA He won't be on November's ballot, but President Barack Obama is slowly embracing his role as the anti-Trump, taking on the Republican front-runner in ways that no other Democrat can. Republican **Donald Trump emerges** from Wisconsin as a damaged front-runner following a crushing primary loss to rival Ted Cruz. More on p14

USA FBI agents searching a computer for evidence of spying instead found child pornography, and the resulting criminal case is raising questions about how evidence gained through a secret national security court can be used.



MEXICO Ford Motor
Co. plans to build a
new USD1.6 billion
auto assembly plant in
Mexico, creating about
2,800 jobs and shifting
small-car production
from the U.S. at a time
when moving jobs
south of the border has
become a major issue
in the U.S. presidential
campaign.

