

LAS VEGAS SANDS PAYS USD9M FINE
Las Vegas Sands is paying a USD9 million fine to settle a Securities and Exchange Commission probe



P3

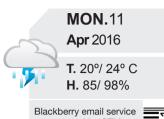
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## WORLD BRIEFS

**HKD 9.50** 

HONG KONG Revelers dressed up as Donald Trump and several movie characters as they watched Fiji clinch its 16th title at Hong Kong's biggest annual social event, the Rugby Sevens. Fiji beat New Zealand by 21 points to 7 yesterday in the final match of the three-day event. More on p19

JAPAN Foreign ministers from the Group of Seven industrialized countries are meeting in the western Japanese city of Hiroshima until today. More on p20



BELGIUM The extremists who struck Brussels last month and killed 32 people initially planned to launch a second assault on France in the wake of the November attacks in Paris, authorities said yesterday. More on p14

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# Activists call for Coloane tower project halt ...



Hong Kong emerges as hub for creating offshore companies



# UM hosts Portuguese education event

THE International Conferen-**⊥** ce on Teaching and Learning Portuguese as a Second Language took place during the weekend at the University of Macau (UM). The conference, which was co-organized by the UM, the University of Lisbon and Beijing Foreign Studies University, attracted nearly 100 scholars, professors and postgraduate students in the field of Portuguese language education. These visitors hailed from 36 universities around the world, including from Macau, Taiwan, mainland China, Portugal, Brazil, South Korea, Japan and India.

Among the event's highlights was the creation of the Association of Teachers of Portuguese Studies in Asia – a professional association for Portuguese language teachers. It will be supported by the UM, which will offer assistance to teachers and create opportunities for collaboration.

Macau not only plays an important role in the relations between China and Portuguese-speaking countries, but also has the responsibility to promote Portuguese language education in the Asia-Pacific region in order to help others in the region rapidly adapt to the changes brought by globalization, cultivate bilingual talent in all professional areas, and create new collaboration opportunities," said Sou Chio Fai, director of Tertiary Education Services Office (GAES).

"Portuguese is not just a subject for academic study at UM; it is also one of Macau's two official languages, and the language of our legal system," recalled Lionel Ni, acting rector of UM, in his speech. "University of Macau has always attached great importance to Portuguese language education."

Hong Gang Jin, dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, was directly involved in the organization of the conference as well as the creation of the professional association. In her speech she highlighted

Macau's "unique history, culture, linguistic environment, and geographic location."

"We not only have a deep sense of responsibility in the promotion of Portuguese language and culture, but also a noble mission to cultivate linguistically capable and culturally competent Portuguese bilingual or trilingual [people]," she

Prof Hong also recalled that UM's Department of Portuguese has 35 years of history and is the largest Portuguese department outside of Portugal and

Regarding the role of UM in the new association, Prof Hong said that they would provide support by offering assistance to teachers. Staff reporter

## AP LEARNING CENTER FOR PORTUGUESE LANGUAGE

Services Office (GAES) is working to achieve the goal set by govern-

**THE TERTIARY** Education

ment policy proposing to create an Asia-Pacific Learning Center for Portuguese language in Macau, according to the Director of GAES, Sou Chio Fai. The director was speaking on the sidelines of the opening ceremony of the event on Friday. "I think we have all

the necessary conditions. Like we heard just now in the conference, aside from Portugal and Brazil, Macau has the largest learning center for Portuguese language in the UM. We need to work together. GAES is investing as part of the trial project to [give further] incentive [to the project], so we are working towards that goal," Dr Sou Choi Fai said.

**MUSIC** 

## 'The Great Pianist' concert in Macau

MACAU Orchestra has collaborated with French pianist Alexandre Tharaud for its upcoming concert entitled "The Great Pianist: Alexandre Tharaud and Macau Orchestra.'

Alexandre Tharaud, acclaimed as a modern "poet of the piano," became well known as an outstanding pianist following the release of the French film "Amour" – winner of the Palm d'Ór at the 65th Cannes Film Festival in 2012 and the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film in 2013.

The pianist, who has recorded over 20 albums, has also won a series of awards including first prize at the Maria Canals International Music Competition of Barcelona and second prize at the ARD International Music Competition in Munich.

With his unique music style and skilled technical performances, Tharaud has been described by the Washington



**Alexandre Tharaud** 

Post as "a pianist of brilliant thought and action."

According to a statement issued by the Cultural Affairs Bureau, Tharaud and the orchestra will collaborate in a performance of Edvard Grieg's "Piano Concerto in A minor". The program also features the delicate "Symphony No. 8" by Ludwig van Beethoven.

The concert will be held on June 5 in the grand auditorium of the Macau Cultural

## Over 100 work safety violations in 2015



**THE** Labor Affairs Bureau **L** (DSAL) released data that show more than 100 violations in the use of the Occupational Health and Safety Cards in 2015. Wong Chi Hong, director of DSAL, does not consider the situation to be critical, TDM reported.

According to this data, 112 cases were reported during the previous year – 102 of which were linked to employees, 10 to employers. Referring to the reasons for such violations, Hong said, "Sometimes violations occur because the employees forget to renew their cards." Hong also claimed that many construction sites apply strict security measures by requiring workers to

present the cards in order to enter the site.

Eight fatal work accidents happened last year. These incidents were mainly associated with aerial tasks and working at heights.

Wong expressed his concern by saying that the authority hopes to create legislative regulations on work safety issues. However, since the legislation requires a huge amount of work, the department is considering focusing firstly on construction safety. "Heavier penalties that could go up to at most five times the [current] maximum fines are under consideration," Wong advised, according to a Macao Daily News report.

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# Activists call for Coloane tower project halt

he online non-governmental organization (NGO) "Our Land, Our Plan" presented a petition to the Chief Executive's Office yesterday as part of a call to "Save Coloane," relating specifically to the residential project planned for Coloane Hill.

The petition, signed by 6,877 people, includes six demands addressed to the Chief Executive. They request that the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau of Macao (DSSOPT) halt the issuing of the building permit for the project, and they further ask for the public release of all environmental impact assessment reports, so as to disclose the decision-making process and rationale for relaxing the height limit imposed by the government.

"Besides our hopes that the DSSOPT will not issue the license, we look forward to the Chief Executive enabling the decision to be officially discussed through the Urban Planning Committee," said Amy Sio, member of "Our Land, Our Plan." "Otherwise,



Macau's resources will become private-owned property, or the government will stop the issue, leaving it with unanswered questions."

Nonetheless, there have also been doubts hovering over the planning of the environmental impact assessment report. According to Amy Sio, the first criterion for assessing a given location is suitability: "How is it possible that, in light of the first criterion, a non-suitable location still allows a project to be continued?" she questioned.

Sio admitted that the letter carries the purpose of coercing Chui Sai On to use his discretionary rights to halt the project. She argued that the residents who signed the letter are mainly concerned about the environment in Macau, thus clarifying

that people do not oppose the city's development. As to further initiatives, she revealed that there are organizations considering a referendum on this issue.

According to Sio, the "Save Coloane" campaign will continue throughout April, having already been available at three locations, namely the Red Market, Avenida Horta e Costa and Rua do Campo. The movement has been supported by 10 local NGO groups, including New Macau Association, Macao Youth Dynamics, Macao Community Development Initiative,

# ■ The 'Save Coloane' campaign will continue throughout April

Global Village Association, Our Land, Our Plan, along with five other environmental protection organizations.

"Our Land, Our Plan" is an online organization focusing on the development of the city, on urban planning, and on a better relationship between man and [the] land, according to Scott Chiang, president of New Macau Association. Staff reporter

## Psy heading to Macau



According to Korea JoongAng Daily, Korean-Pop artist Psy is set to attend the upcoming China Music Awards, which will be held on Friday night at the Cotai Arena. Psy will attend the China Music Awards along with compatriots VIXX and iKon, as will Chinese stars Wang Leehom and JJ Lin. Held since 1994, the China Music Awards are regarded as some of the most respected music awards available, recognizing achievements in the Chinese music industry. The awards ceremony will air on Chinese streaming video site iQiyi, as well as on V, the video service of the South Korean company

## ID holds Sports Day for the Disabled



The Macau Sports Day for the Disabled was held at the Macau Olympic Complex yesterday. The event, organized by the Sports Bureau (ID), attracted more than 2,000 participants. Nine categories of sport were provided for all participants, along with three physical test programs. This year, it added table tennis to the list of games, and also welcomed non-disabled participants.

## IACM: Tree burial spaces available

The Civil and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) is encouraging citizens to choose tree burials. Hundreds of spots are not being utilized, TDM reported. Leong Kun Fong, a member of the Administration Committee, noted that there are around 440 tree burial spots available for residents, while only just over ten are occupied. These spots are located at the United Chinese Cemetery in Taipa, which is under the administrative supervision of the IACM. Leong said that the department has received few inquiries to date, and he expects to see more local people choosing this kind of burial. According to IACM, the area for tree burials will be expanded and more spots will be added.

# Las Vegas Sands antes USD9m to settle corruption case with SEC



Sands Casino complex is lit up in Macau

## Michael Liedtke

Las Vegas Sands is paying a USD9 million fine to settle a regulatory investigation that painted an unflattering picture of the casino owner's expansion into a gambling mecca in China.

The resolution announced last week closes a Securities and Exchange Commission probe that began more than five years ago.

The corruption case revolved around Las Vegas Sands' efforts to become a major player in Macau, an enclave in China that has turned into a gold mine for U.S. casinos.

The SEC penalized Las Vegas Sands for its dealings with a consultant paid \$62 million to serve as a "beard" for some of its business in Macau and Beijing. The inquiry concluded some payments weren't properly authorized or documented.

Las Vegas Sands Corp. neither admitted nor denied any of the SEC's findings. The company, controlled by billionaire Sheldon Adelson, had conceded in its 2012 annual report that it had probably violated the book-keeping and controls provisions of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act that prohibits overseas bribery.

Although the SEC didn't accuse Las Vegas Sands of resorting to bribery, its conclusions depicted a company willing to go to extreme lengths to establish itself in China. The company now generates most of its revenue in Macau, a former Portuguese colony where Las Vegas Sands operates four casinos and a variety of hotels.

The SEC alleges Las Vegas Sands violated anti-corruption laws shortly after it connected in 2006 with an unidentified consultant claiming to be a former Chinese government official.

The next year, Las Vegas Sands used the consultant to conceal its purchase of a Chinese basketball team to play in an arena located in one of Macau casinos in hopes of luring more gamblers to its casino, according to the SEC. The agency alleged Las Vegas Sands needed a "beard" to buy the team because the Chinese Basketball Association prohibited its franchises from being owned by gambling companies.

Some of the payments made to the consultant for the basketball deal were initially recorded as "bank charges and loan," the SEC discovered.

Las Vegas Sands employed the same consultant to buy a large building in Beijing that was supposed to be turned into a business center with a "men's club" in the basement, according to the SEC. Las Vegas Sands planned to name the center after its CEO and open it in time for the Summer Olympics that were held in Beijing in August 2008. Adelson sent a letter inviting then-President George W. Bush to attend the building's ribbon-cutting ceremony in early 2008, according to the SEC.

The building purchase raised red flags with the SEC because Las Vegas Sands did the deal without any research into whether there was a need for a business center and various payments to the consultant who handled the negotiations were mischaracterized as fees for property management and "arts and crafts."

The Adelson Center project was abandoned in September 2008.

In its statement, Las Vegas Sands acknowledged the consultant worked with company executives who weren't "sufficiently monitored." The company later received a \$44 million refund from the consultant as part of a settlement.

In the SEC settlement, Las Vegas Sands will submit to reviews by an outside consultant during the next two years to ensure its record-keeping and internal controls adhere to U.S. law.

"We understand that running an industry-leading compliance operation takes time, resources and the full support of senior management. I'm proud to say our company has exactly that," Adelson said Tuesday. **AP** 

## Taxi drivers protest against 'police abuse of power'

#### **Renato Marques**

large group of taxis dri-Avers surrounded the traffic police building at Avenida de Sidónio Pais on Thursday night to protest against what they claimed to be "selective law enforcement and abuse of power" by the police.

The protest was apparently triggered after a police officer fined a taxi driver for violating passenger pick-up and dropoff regulations near the Venetian Macao by stopping on a yellow line.

The dispute that broke out afterwards between the two eventually led to the police officer taking the driver into custody, where the driver claims to have been held for about six hours.

The incident, according to several other taxi drivers who joined the protest, is not new and such occurrences are becoming increasingly frequent.

One of the taxi drivers who attended the protest said that he was involved in a similar situation about six months ago,



ned them at the site.

The gathering protest re-

sulted in major traffic con-

gestion and a special inter-

vention team from the Public

Security Police Force (PSP)

was called to put an end to

the demonstration. The spe-

cialist team helped to remo-

ve the aggrieved drivers and

convince them to leave the

when he was taken to the police station with handcuffs on and forced to stay there for a long period of time, left alone in a corner and not allowed to even go to the toilet.

Several media reported that, at the peak of the protests, about 50 taxi drivers and their respective cars were gathered around the police building demanding the release of their colleague who had been taken into custody.

After a few "heated" moments that almost constituted physical confrontation, tempers among the crowd started to cool upon the arrival of a high-ranking police official. The official addressed the taxi drivers and disclosed the news of their colleague finally being released, who eventually joiprecinct with their vehicles.

Police claimed that the protest caused trouble to residents living in the neighborhood and also greatly affected the flow of traffic. The police officials urged protesters to express their concerns in a more peaceful manner and noted that the authorities will continue to crackdown on any violations by taxi drivers.

The incident occurred just one day after a group of over 20 taxi drivers staged a protest in front of the Legislative Assembly building, showing opposition to the Transport Bureau (DSAT)'s recent proposal of new taxi service regulations, as the Times reported.

DSAT's proposal aims to regulate the taxi industry by starting to carry out sting operations, revoke taxi licenses and apply fines and suspensions to drivers and taxi owner companies.

**ANIMAL RIGHTS** 

## Irish greyhounds may substitute Aussie supply

THREE Irish greyhounds have been imported to Macau's Yat Yuen Canidrome, reports The Sunday Times, despite the fact that the Irish Department of Agriculture has previously refused the Irish Greyhound Board a permit to export the dogs to China due to animal welfare concerns.

The newspaper says that, according to eyewitnesses familiar with Irish greyhound ear-markings, the names of the dogs raced at the Canidrome match those of animals registered with the Irish Greyhound Board.

Albano Martins, president of the Society for the Protection of Animals (Macau), or Anima, said that the Irish greyhounds - the first of their kind in the MSAR – may be an attempt to determine whether Ireland can fill a supply vacuum.

The Australian Broadcasting Corporation's "7.30" revealed in December that approximately 30 underperforming dogs are killed each month at the Canidrome, where as many as 800 are housed in often unsanitary conditions.

The alleged maltreatment exposed during the investigation led to Australian airline Qantas canceling its freight services for the export of greyhounds to

## TAXI DRIVERS' DEMONSTRATION

**TAXI DRIVERS** plan to show their dissatisfaction with the proposal for new taxi regulations today. The Public Security Police Force (CPSP) announced yesterday that the demonstration will begin today at around 10:30 a.m. Drivers will depart from the Border Gate Square,

pass by Av. Norte do Hipódromo, Rotunda da Amizade, Avenida de Venceslau de Morais and Estr. Da Bela Vista, and finally stop at the Transport Bureau (DSAT), where drivers will deliver a letter. The police expect between 50 and 100 taxis to join the demonstration.

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**HE** University of Saint Joseph held its annual Open Day at the Saint Joseph Seminary Campus on Saturday, welcoming nearly 700 guests and prospective students with various booths and activities.

This year, the event featured a 3D Corner in the Students' Exhibition Room allowing participants to go on a 3D virtual tour of the USJ Green Campus, and shuttle buses were arranged to take guests to the campus under construction at Ilha

The rector of the University of Saint Joseph, Fr Peter Stilwell, is hopeful to move onto the new campus by the upcoming school year.

"Hsin Chong, the construction company, gave us a very detailed list of dates of when they will finish each part of the campus, and they are still proposing to have it ready and approved [...] by the end of July. So that would mean that during the summer months we will be able to do some moving," says the rector.

He also added that the moving would still depend on when the construction company finally hands the campus over to the university.

In regards to university programs, the institution will **EDUCATION** 

# USJ's Open Day attracts over 700 participants



**USJ** students

cation and Media.

being happy with what they're



Bishop Stephen Lee (left) and Father Peter Stilwell

launch its bachelor courses in getting in USJ." Fashion Design, Portuguese The rector claimed that one and Chinese Language and Culthird of the institution's stu-

ture in September, as well as a dents are international, sugges-Master's degree in Communiting that around 300 students are from different parts of the "We are aiming for 200 stuworld. dents," says Fr Stilwell. "We are The university also revealed [influenced by] the competition from other higher educatio-

that the central government is reviewing its measures for ennal institutions, dependent on rolling mainland students at the quality of what we provide Hong Kong and Macau univerand [dependent on] the people sities.

"We were informed by Beijing

that they've looked at our case carefully [...] We in fact thought that we were going to have the green light, then we got a letter from the Macau government, [...] which said that the central government was reviewing the criteria for enrolment of mainland students to higher education institutions in Hong Kong

and Macau." However, Stilwell said that the school is still looking to attract mainland students, despite the

## USJ hopes to move to the new campus over the summer

proposal to enroll 60 students from China having been rejected. He added that serving international students is the institution's "niche" in Macau's higher education market and that the university is looking to attract more foreign students.

Moreover, the Bishop of Macau, Stephen Lee, admits that he is still unaware of the reasons behind the rejected proposal but hopes that there will be more opportunities for students from mainland China and other countries to come and study, as the university aims to become more "international." Staff reporter

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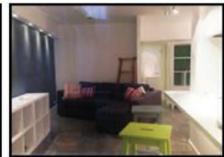


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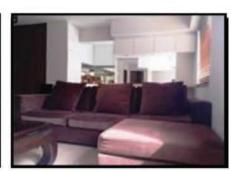


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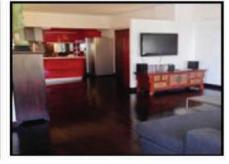
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**THE** December 2017 deadli-▲ ne set by the Hong Kong government for the completion of their portion of the Hong Kong -Zhuhai-Macau Bridge looks increasingly unrealistic, according to a report from Hong Kong Free Press (HKFP).

The report points out that the project, which includes an artificial island where the Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities (HKBCF) will be located, has been struck by several delays, which have resulted in the **Highways Department recently** applying for a 4.5-year extension to the land use of the HKB-CF site office.

The previous concession will expire in July this year, while the Highways Department's **TRANSPORT** 

# Contractors say deadline for HK-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge is unconvincing



The under construction Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge

application represents an extension to December 31, 2020.

Civil engineers told HKFP that it "is normal for site offices to be maintained for about a year after a project has been completed," which seems to mean that the Hong Kong government is expecting to complete the project not by December 2017 – as mentioned previously – but in 2019, although some engineers have already expressed that "that date might be too optimistic."

In response to questions on this topic, the Highways Department reaffirmed statements made during the Legislative Council Public Works Subcommittee in December 2015: "While we anticipate that the absolutely essential works for commissioning the HKBCF would be completed by the end of 2017, there would be remaining works

not absolutely essential for the commissioning of the HKBCF that would be completed beyond 2017." Hence, the department proposed to extend the land use time to end in 2020 for the site offices of the resident site staff and contractors. However, engineers seem unconvinced, as they say that contractors generally aim to close the site office down as soon as possible due to it being expensive to maintain.

## CE reveals NPC outcome

 $I^{\mathbf{N}}$  an article that appears under a new section of the cabinet of the Chief Executive's (CE) website entitled "Words of the Chief Executive," CE Chui Sai On has outlined five measures that he believes will help Macau consolidate its unique position and support China's development.

Returning from China's

NPC and CPPCC sessions last month and sharing his findings, Chui said that the development of the country would help drive Macau's stability and prosperity. Furthermore, in reference to Beijing's "Belt and Road" initiative, he noted that the city was capable of enhancing and consolidating its own role in national strategic development.

The Chief Executive suggested that the implementation of Macau's role within the country's Five-Year Development Plan and the promotion of the territory's "Centre and Platform" policies as part of the "Belt and Road" initiative would be essential in driving the MSAR's stability and

prosperity.

In terms of Macau, the CE stressed the importance of developing social support for young people and improving the city's social welfare. Strengthening the effectiveness of governance in Macau was also deemed important and that included boosting interdepartmental cooperation in the public sector and the promotion of anti-corruption measures.

The final element con-

tributing to Macau's stability and prosperity, according to Chui's article, is full compliance with China's Constitution and Macau's Basic Law. As per the information relea-

sed by the Government Information Bureau, the Chief Executive neither expanded on this point, nor clarified how it would promote prosperity in the MSAR.

## CHUI AT THE AL ON APRIL 22

CHIEF EXECUTIVE Chui Sai On will attend a plenary session of the Legislative Assembly (AL) on April 22 and answer legislators' questions on government policy and social issues. The CE attends plenary sessions at the AL in April and August each year.

AD







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# 'Brexit' voter turnout impact weighed after Dutch referendum

**Deborah Hyde** 

PINION polls show as many as one in three U.K. voters are undecided about whether they will vote and if they would back leaving or staying in the European Union at the June referendum, spurring debate about what a low turnout would mean for the result and for the pound.

Developments that could impact sterling in coming months are surveys on voting intentions, the selection of the official "in" and "out" campaign groups, the refugee crisis and political developments in the EU.

The spread between implied and realized volatility in the pound versus the dollar on the three-month tenor rose to a record on Thursday, as voters in the Netherlands used a referendum on a treaty between the European Union and Ukraine to rebuke Dutch and EU leaders.

The Dutch news prompted U.K. Prime Minister David Cameron to say he hopes the result won't affect the British referendum, in a speech targeted at encouraging younger people to vote. Last month, he said the U.K. result is on a knife edge and could be decided by those who bother to vote.

Lynton Crosby, a political strategist who organized the government's election campaign in 2015, says those in the "leave" camp are still more



likely to cast a vote on polling day.

Most recent polls show the two camps are virtually neck and neck. End-March telephone polls, deemed to be more accurate, showed the remain camp's lead had narrowed.

The turnout at the Dutch referendum was just 32 percent. If the turnout were anywhere near that low in the U.K. vote, it would raise the possibility of a U.K. exit, according to Nomura analyst Philip Rush.

Meanwhile, JPMorgan analyst Allan Monks says this risk may be overdone as interest in the "Brexit" debate looks high relative to past referendums and elections. Uncertainty over jobs and economic stability, versus attitudes toward migration and security are the factors that will impact the result, Monks adds.

Cameron's 9.3 million pound plan to send a leaflet "to set out the facts" on the referendum to every U.K. household was attacked as "propaganda" by Justice Secretary Michael Gove, one of the leading campaigners for a U.K. exit.

The Bank of England said last month uncertainty over the U.K. referendum may hold back investment and growth, though MPC member Kristin Forbes said there's not yet enough data to estimate the impact.

The U.K. current-account deficit surged to 7 percent of GDP in the fourth quarter of 2015, before the referendum date was known, and adds to concern a vote to leave could see a sharp slowdown in investor inflows. Standard Chartered analyst Eimar Daly says uncertainty is leading to reduced foreign inflows, with M&A deal announcement values down sharply since December 2015.

The Electoral Commission's deadline to determine the official "leave" and "remain" campaigns is April 14, and the referendum period starts the day after. The decision gives the lead campaign groups higher spending limits.

JPMorgan says a successful

implementation of the deal between the EU and Turkey to stem migration flow would lower the likelihood of "Brexit."

UBS Wealth Management analyst Ricardo Garcia says if the deal leads to lower migrant inflows, that will be more important in voters' minds than last month's terror attacks in Brussels. Once the campaign starts formally and Cameron campaigns more pro-actively, it will be important to see if the undecideds make up their minds and which campaign they back. Most will probably favor staying in the EU, Garcia adds.

Polls show the "remain" and "leave" campaigns are fairly balanced, and the number of undecideds range from 16 percent to 28 percent in surveys since end-February.

RBC says betting markets are a better gauge of implied probabilities. For now, they show around 69 percent support for the "stay" campaign, according to betting odds website oddschecker.com.

UBS Wealth Management sees around a 30 percent chance of "Brexit," while Citigroup puts the likelihood at 30 to 40 percent. Meanwhile, IHS sees 35 to 40 percent probability of a vote to leave.

The vote may spur persistent political and economic uncertainties that may not end even if the U.K. votes to stay, Citigroup analysts say.

Even if the U.K. votes to remain in the EU, divisions resulting from the referendum could lead to early elections, according to Morgan Stanley analysts. The bank's economists say even if the "remain" camp wins, slower growth and weaker inflation would push the first BOE rate increase back to early 2017, while ING analysts say if the U.K. votes against "Brexit," the BOE could lift rates as soon as November. **Bloomberg** 



## Singapore edges ahead of HK as No. 3 financial center

**Chanyaporn Chanjaroen** 

SINGAPORE edged past Hong Kong as the world's No. 3 financial center, according to a survey by London-based research firm Z/Yen Group.

The Southeast Asian city-state ranks behind London and New York, and two points ahead of Hong Kong on the Global Financial Centres Index, published April 6 on the firm's website. The index, which has a scale of 1,000 points, is based on surveys of 2,520 financial-services professionals, according to the press release.

The ranking reflects key competitive areas including business environment, financial sector development and infrastructure of the 86 hubs around the world covered by the survey.

Tokyo ranks fifth and Zurich sixth in the results. Z/Yen Group first published the survey in March 2007, according to its website.

According to the most recent official data, Singapore lagged behind Hong Kong in terms of total assets under management. Assets held by Singapore's fund management industry climbed 30 percent to SGD2.36 trillion (USD1.75 trillion) in 2014, the latest figure available, according to the Monetary Authority of Singapore. Hong Kong's combined fund assets amounted to a record HKD17.7 trillion (\$2.3 trillion) in that year, according to the city's Securities and Futures Commission. **Bloomberg** 

## **corporate bits**

## WYNN PALACE PREVIEW REVEALED TO TEAM MEMBERS



Wynn Macau last week organized what the company has termed an "experiential day," offering team members an introductory preview of the soon-to-open resort, Wynn Palace. The activity, which was held over three consecutive days, allowed participants to visit the exhibition area and to learn about the facilities that the new property will offer.

According to a statement from the company, around 3,000 team members from the gaming division attended across the three days. Some of these team members will be transferring to the new resort once it opens, which is expected to happen some time in the second half of this year.

Last week, Steve Wynn told investors that the Wynn Palace opening, originally slated for June, might be delayed until August. "We were thinking of August 8 for the opening," Wynn said during a presentation in Las Vegas.

## GRAND HYATT PRESENTED WITH MACAU'S BEST MICE HOTEL AWARD



The Grand Hyatt Macau was named the "Best Meetings and Conventions Hotel in Macau" at the 9th Annual TTG China Travel Awards 2016 ceremony, which was held in Shanghai last week.

The hotel has been responding to high demand for meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions (MICE) events in the Asia-Pacific region and in China, representatives wrote in a

statement. They added that the hotel has been pioneering innovative new technologies to improve its MICE offerings in terms of creativity and sophistication.

"Grand Hyatt Macau has been focusing on every aspect of our services to ensure that we provide signature experiences and 'moments of more' at each touch point," said Paul Kwok, General Manager of Grand Hyatt Macau upon accepting the accolade on April 7. "We're thrilled to receive this recognition from our industry partners and guests," he added.

The prestigious TTG China Travel Awards honor excellence in the travel industry in the Greater China region as voted by travel industry professionals and guests.



## Angola to hold talks on IMF loan

support made by Angola to the International Monetary Fund's technical assistance, is intended to help design and implement policies and reforms to improve macroeconomic and financial stability, said the

Negotiations between the Angolan authorities and the IMF should start this month

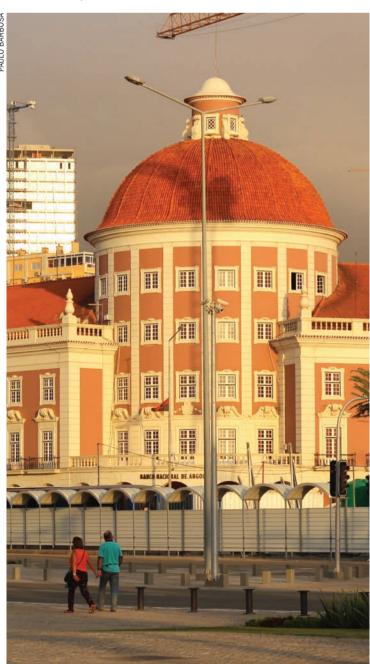
country's Minister of Finance last week.

"In the case of Angola this is not a request for economic recovery, as the debt of

HE request for Angola is healthy, without pressure in the short term being more oriented to the medium and long term," the minister said, according to news agency Angop.

Armando Manuel added that, despite the adverse global economic environment, Angola was one of the few oil producing countries that quickly adjusted its fiscal framework, and one of the few who started a reform in order to improve the quality of public spending, especially to reduce subsidies to petroleum products.

Negotiations between the Angolan authorities and the International Monetary Fund should start during the spring meeting of the fund and the World Bank, taking place in Washington from April 15 to 17, after being proposed in Luanda. MDT/Macauhub



The National bank of Angola, Luanda

#### ADVERTORIAL

## Create A Better



## **Environmental Sustainability**

This month, MGM's green champions have been working together to raise awareness for environmental protection by shining a light on waste prevention, climate change action, and biodiversity protection.

#### Let's Waste Less!

Did you know that by 2050, it's predicted there will be more plastic in our oceans than fish¹? Unnecessary waste creates pollution, contributes to climate change and squanders valuable natural resources. Understanding the urgency of the world's waste crisis and the need for society to rethink how we waste, MGM has launched the Let's Waste Less! campaign to join together and fight for a more sustainable future.

Throughout March and April, we have launched several initiatives challenging employees to think twice about waste. Employees got creative during our Recycling Bag Design Competition, where trash became treasure with the use of diverse items such as recyclable plastic bottles, magazines, packaging, upholstery materials, guest room key cards and newspapers, to create a stylish bags. The Let's Waste Less Masterpieces are now proudly on display back-of-house, reminding us that our waste streams include a treasure chest of items that are needlessly thrown away and instead could be reduced, reused and recycled.

This design competition also accompanies our Green Ideas Competition where we are calling upon the help of all employees to submit ideas on how we can improve our work processes to send less waste to landfill and incineration.

This campaign is in support of the 9th Macao International Environmental Co-operation Forum & Exhibition which took take place from March 31 to April 2, focusing on the theme of waste reduction. MGM was an active supporter of this incredibly worthwhile and collaborative event where businesses, government and community came together to raise awareness and collaborate for a cleaner, more waste-free Macau.

### Spotlighting climate change and environmental protection

On March 19 at 830-930pm, MGM MACAU participated in Earth Hour 2016, the global effort to raise awareness of climate change and environmental protection. Along with several MGM Resorts International properties, MGM joined the worldwide collaborative event by dimming the property's exterior lighting, with all treatment rooms at The Spa powering off and illuminating treatment rooms with ambience candles.

Earth Hour is now one of the world's largest shows of solidarity for environmental protection, with more than 178 countries and territories and millions of people around the world standing together and switching off at the same time to spotlight the need for collaboration



## Protecting biodiversity

Creating a greener and cleaner Macau for many generations to come is an ambition we all share. On March 16, MGM once again joined Macau Green Week, organized by the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau of the Macao SAR government (IACM), to help preserve Macau's natural environment. Over 40 volunteers with green fingers joined the biodiversity maintenance program at Hác-Sá Reservoir Country Park to help preserve Macau's green spaces under the guidance of IACM's tree

Luisa Kuan from our Food and Beverage department, said, "I'm very glad to be part of this meaningful cause to restore and maintain the trees on Macau's mountains. We got to enjoy the fresh air and scenic hikes and I've learnt a lot about the techniques of growing plants from IACM's tree specialist today".

<sup>1</sup>The New Plastics Economy - Rethinking the future of plastics, World Economic Forum, Jan 2016

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#### Erika Kinetz, Kelvin Chan

N 2009, Jasmine Li, whose grandfather was the fourth most powerful politician in China at the time, donned a floral Carolina Herrera gown and debuted at a ball in Paris. That same year, a British Virgin Islands company she would later come to own for USD1 was born in an aging building in a red-light district of Hong Kong, just one example of the city's key role in helping the world's elite shuttle their wealth offshore.

The information about Li, who has not been accused of wrongdoing, comes from a tremendous cache of documents leaked from the Panamanian law firm Mossack Fonseca and published by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists. Those records highlight the central role Hong Kong has come to play in designing offshore financial vehicles.

Hong Kong brims with people expert at packaging and protecting wealth. The back pages of newspapers teem with advertisements for corporate formation companies, one-stop shops promising fast bank account

It's quite natural that Hong Kong would grow to play a significant role in the plumbing infrastructure of globalization.

ASSET RECOVERY LAWYER

## Hong Kong emerges as hub for



A man uses his smartphone in Central, Hong Kong

opening, corporate compliance, tax and accountancy services. Offshore vehicles are used to minimize tax, mitigate political risk and circumvent onerous regulations in China. And they are completely legal.

But Hong Kong's offshore financial machinery works so well, and so discreetly, that it can be abused by those seeking to hide illicit assets or evade taxes. As traditional havens like Switzerland cave to years of grinding pressure from European and American tax authorities, unsavory money is drawn to Hong Kong, which despite reforms retains its reputation for secrecy, non-cooperation, and a light regulatory touch, watchdog groups and lawyers

"Hong Kong attracts this type of hot money from across the region and globally, partly because of its perceived stability," said Iain Willis, a partner at Latymer Partners, a corporate intelligence advisory firm in London. "Light-touch' financial regulation, easy rules on company incorporation and limited transparency" add to its appeal, he said.

Hong Kong was Mossack Fonseca's go-to spot for financial intermediaries, home to 2,212 accountants, banks and other middlemen Mossack Fonseca used to set up 37,675 offshore companies for its global clients from 1977 to 2015 — more than any other place in the world, according to ICIJ's analysis.

China's Foreign Ministry dismissed ICIJ's reports as "groundless," and the government has aggressively censored discussion of them.

Hong Kong tax authorities said in an email Friday that they would "take necessary actions" based on the offshore leaks, and work to "enhance the efficiency and effectiveness" of enforcement as required.

Mossack Fonseca tapped a Hong Kong firm called P&P Secretarial Management which is run by an accountant named Wai-hon Chiu, according to corporate filings — to register Harvest Sun Trading in the British Virgin Islands. P&P Secretarial is not listed in

the telephone directory, and its contact details are not easy to find on the Internet. Its name is not among the three businesses listed at the entrance to the second-floor office it now occupies in Hong Kong's Wan Chai district. The front door opens onto a lone ivy plant stuck in a corner of two blank white walls. There is no receptionist, and unannounced visitors are not welcome.

"The boss is away. He will be back next week," said a woman in a dark dress, who confirmed that P&P Secretarial did indeed have a presence in the office which did not bear its name. She refused to give her name.

Great fortunes run through small offices like this, and not just from clients of Mossack Fonseca, which derived nearly a third of its business from Hong Kong and China, according to ICIJ.

"It's quite natural that Hong Kong would grow to play a significant role in the plumbing infrastructure of globalization," said Martin Kenney, an asset recovery lawyer in the British Virgin Islands. "They are the architects, designers and engineers of the structures."

In part, the prominence of offshore vehicles in Hong Kong has to do with its special relationship with mainland China. Many investors set up offshore vehicles so they can sell mainland assets without being subjected to layers of government approval. Others have used, and sometimes abused, offshore structures to take advantage of China's tax breaks for foreign

**SOUTH CHINA SEA TENSIONS** 

## Vietnam demands that China move oil rig

VIETNAM China remove an oil exploration rig from an area of the South China Sea where their border is still being demarcated, and said Beijing's unilateral actions were complicating regional tensions.

The oil rig was at the center of a standoff between the countries in 2014 when Chinaparked it near the Paracel islands, which Vietnam claims as its exclusive economic zone. The incident sparked deadly riots in Vietnam.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Le Hai Binh said China has moved

re the countries are negotiating the demarcation of their sea border.

"Vietnam resolutely opposes and demands that China abandon drilling plans and immediately withdraw the Hai Duong 981 oil rig from this area, and that it not take additional unilateral actions that further complicate the situation" in the South China Sea, Binh said in a statement, referring to the oil rig by its Vietnamese name.

Vietnam lodged a protest with the Chinese Embassy in Hanoi, he said.

the Gulf of Tonkin when any operation of a new thouse on Subi Reef is lighthouse on one of the seven artificial islands it has recently constructed in the South China Sea was "illegal and invalid."

Rejecting Vietnam's demands, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said the oil rig is conducting standard exploratory activities within waters under China's "undisputed" jurisdiction.

"We hope the parties concerned can see this objectively and rationally," Hong told reporters at a regularly scheduled news briefing.

Hong also said the

de- the oil rig into an area in Binh also said Chi- operation of the ligha matter falling within China's sovereignty.

The lighthouse is intended to "better fulfill China's international responsibilities and obligations and provide more public facilities to the regional countries, so as to maintain freedom and safety of navigation in the South China Sea," Hong said.

The relocation of the Chinese oil rig last Sunday came just days before Vietnam's legislature swore in new Prime Minister Nguven Xuan Phuc, who has vowed to defend Vietnamese sovereignty. AP

Johnson Lai, Pengjia Islet

TAIWANESE Pre-**⊥** sident Ma Yingjeou called for peace in Asia's contested waters on Saturday as he visited a small island in the East ChinaSea, one of his last symbolic foreign policy moves before leaving office next month.

Ma's visit to Pengjia, about 56 kilometers north of Taiwan proper, was his administration's second propaganda trip to an island in three weeks. It came four years after Ma last visited Pengjia to propose a plan to address territorial disputes among China, Taiwan and Japan over the nearby chain known as Senkaku in Japanese and Diaoyutai in Chinese.

During his eight years as president, Ma has sou**TAIWAN** 

## Ma visits

ght to carve out Taiwan's position as a mediator in the region's numerous territorial disputes while asserting its own claims, even though it has been locked in a decades-long standoff with Beijing, which considers Taiwan a breakaway province.

Pengjia, considered the northernmost part of Taiwan's territory, is not contested and is home to about 40 residents, a weather station and coast guard facilities. It lies some 120 kilometers west of the Japanese-controlled Senkakus, which are hotly disputed by China, in particu-

## creating offshore companies

■ Despite a recent crackdown on secrecy, Hong Kong is still ranked as the second most secretive jurisdiction in the world, after Switzerland

companies. More foreign direct investment to China between 1979 and 2014 ostensibly came from the British Virgin Islands than from anywhere else, aside from Hong Kong, according to the U.S. Congressional Research Service .

Hong Kong does not tax income that originates abroad, a policy that supports the proliferation of foreign-registered companies. Hong Kong's independent legal system and effective escape route from mainland China's currency controls — it's easier to move money between mainland China and Hong Kong than elsewhere — also add to its appeal, lawyers say.

The kind of political uncertainty that drove investors offshore before Hong Kong's 1997 handover persists today. The Basic Law, a mini-constitution that enshrines China's "one country, two systems" policy toward Hong Kong, expires



People are reflected in glass displaying a poster featuring a 100 dollars Hong Kong colonial bank note

in 2047. "We are on borrowed time," said David Webb, a former investment banker and Hong Kong shareholder activist

Offshore vehicles have become so commonplace that 75 percent of Hong Kong-listed companies are actually domiciled in Bermuda or the Cayman Islands, according to an analysis by Webb.

But there are other, more controversial uses of Hong Kong's offshore machinery.

The Panama Papers, together with past leaks published by ICIJ, show how China's own political and economic elite use Hong Kong intermediaries to get their money out of China. While the leaks contain no allegations of wrongdoing, they are a sore spot for China's top leadership, which has been trumpeting nationalism and moral virtue as it tries to slow capital flight and fight corruption.

Much of the wealth that runs through Hong Kong comes from mainland China, which is widely seen as a growth market in the offshore industry. The top source of funds that Mossack Fonseca helped move offshore was China, according to an analysis of ICIJ data by the Guardian newspaper.

In 2009, when Chinese President Xi Jinping's brother-inlaw Deng Jiagui wanted to register two companies in the British Virgin Islands, his advisers at Mossack Fonseca turned to a Hong Kong firm called Wong Brothers & Co., according to ICIJ's documents.

The firm's lead partner is an accountant named Charles Chan-lum Chow. Chow was a member of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, a government advisory body, in southern Guangdong province from at least 2003 to 2013, according to state media reports and government web-

sites. He spent 12 years on the board of China Aerospace International Holdings, the listed subsidiary of the main contractor for China's space program.

Chow did not respond to requests for comment.

Deng's companies went dormant before Xi took power, according to ICIJ, and no allegations of wrongdoing have been made. It's not clear what happened to whatever Xi family assets those companies once held.

"Everybody in the elite needs Hong Kong," said Hofung Hung, an associate professor at Johns Hopkins University. "Everybody. Even Xi Jinping's family needs it. They don't have an incentive to shut this channel to move money out."

It's not just Chinese running money through Hong Kong. When a company linked to France's far-right National Front party wanted to move money out of the country, associates of party leader Marine Le Pen used shell companies in Hong Kong, according to a report in Le Monde newspaper based on the Panama Papers. The French daily has also linked a separate Hong Kong firm with family members of Algeria's governing elite.

The company that helps run two of those firms, P&B Management Services, is housed in a dimly-lit office in Wan Chai district, according to Hong Kong corporate filings. Staff there declined to speak with a reporter.

Large-scale counterfeiters from Germany, Austria and Japan, as well as China, run off-shore structures out of Hong Kong to launder their money, said Douglas Clark, a lawyer at Hong Kong's Gilt Chambers.

"That's part of Hong Kong being a trading city and entrepot," he said. "It welcomes everyone."

Despite a recent crackdown on secrecy, Hong Kong is still ranked as the second most secretive jurisdiction in the world, after Switzerland, by the Tax Justice Network, a U.K. advocacy group.

Rules are only as good as their enforcement, said John Christensen, Tax Justice Network's director, adding that "Hong Kong has never had a strong supervisory culture."

In 2014, Hong Kong began requiring companies to have at least one real person serving as a director. This effectively barred the practice of creating impenetrable daisy chains of corporate ownership, in which one mysterious company was controlled by another mysterious company.

But clients can easily register companies under other people's names. "They can always find their relative as the nominee," said the director of a small incorporation firm also based in Wan Chai district, who would only give his surname, Lee, for fear of compromising client privacy.

He said most clients don't mind using their real names in filings. The big secrecy business runs out of the gleaming skyscrapers of Hong Kong's Central business district, where elite firms charge ten times his rates, he said.

"Wealthy people, they won't come here," he said. "They'll go to Central. They don't mind paying a few thousand more for more secured, private service."

AP

## island, urges peace in contested waters



Ma Ying-jeou (center), smiles as he leaves a lighthouse, during his visit to Pengjia Islet in the East China Sea

lar. Taiwan also claims the islands, although its conflict with Japan has been considerably less heated, with the two sides reaching fishing agreements in 2013.
After arriving by helicopter Saturday, Ma

unveiled a monument to maritime peace at a ceremony and commemorated the fishing deal he had signed with Japan.

"I hope that we will be able to have peaceful cross-strait relations with China, and we can find peace in the South China Sea and the East China Sea," Ma said. "In war there are no winners."

Political observers in Taiwan said the island visit represents a symbolic stroke before Ma steps down from the presidency on May 20, when Tsai Ing-wen will be sworn in as Taiwan's new leader.

"Ma Ying-jeou wanted to [maintain] his legacy over these issues," said Kaocheng Wang, dean of the College of International Studies at Tamkang University in Taipei, Taiwan's capital. "I think he personally thought that is a successful policy to both claim our sovereignty, to safeguard our sovereignty and also to boost his popularity."

In January, Ma flew to Taiping Island in the South China Sea's intensely contested Spratly group to demonstrate that Taiping is a self-supporting island entitled to an exclusive economic zone rather than a "rock," as the Philippines claims in an international lawsuit.

Washington, a crucial ally of Taiwan, called that trip "extremely unhelpful" to efforts to maintain stability in a region widely considered a potential military flashpoint.

In March, Taiwanese Deputy Foreign Minister Bruce Linghu led two dozen journalists on another trip to Taiping.

While Taiping is the largest naturally occurring island in the Spratlys, it has been dwarfed by man-made features created by China by piling sand atop coral reefs and topping them with lighthouses, airstrips, harbors and other infrastructure. AP



## N. Korea says it successfully tests long-range rocket engine

NORTH Korea said Saturday it has successfully tested a new intercontinental ballistic rocket engine that will give it the ability to stage nuclear strikes on the United States.

The engine's ground test, if true, would be a big step forward for the North's nuclear weapons program, which saw its fourth atomic test earlier this year. But the North may still need a good deal of work before it can hit the U.S. mainland with nuclear missiles. South Korean officials say North Korea doesn't yet have a reliable intercontinental ballistic missile, let alone the ability to arm it with a nuclear warhead.

The test, announced by the North's official Korean Central News Agency, is only the latest in a string of what from actions and rhetoric



South Korean soldiers walk by a signboard showing the distance to the North Korea's capital Pyongyang and to South **Korea's capital Seoul** 

Washington and its allies consider North Korean provocations, including last month's launch of a medium-range ballistic missile that violated U.N. Security Council resolutions that prohibit any ballistic activities by North Korea. It was the North's first medium-range missile launch since early 2014.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Mark Toner called on North Korea to "refrain

that further destabilize the region and focus instead on taking concrete steps toward fulfilling its commitments and international obligations."

The North has also threatened pre-emptive nuclear strikes against Washington and Seoul and fired short-range missiles and artillery into the sea in an apparent response to ongoing U.S.-South Korean military drills and tough U.N. sanctions imposed over the recent nuclear test

and a long-range rocket launch earlier this year.

Some analysts think young leader Kim Jong Un's belligerent stance is linked to a major ruling party congress next month meant to further cement his grip on power. The outside pressure and anger caused by bombastic threats and repeated nuclear-related tests, the argument goes, is meant to rally the North Korean people around Kim as he stands up to powerful enemies trying to crush the North.

It is also possible that such efforts to promote military accomplishments to domestic audience are meant to make up for a lack of tangible economic achievements ahead of the Workers' Party congress, the first since 1980, said Kim Dong-yub, a North Korean expert at Seoul's Institute for Far Eastern Studies. AP

## Earthquake rattles Pakistan's capital, other cities

Munir Ahmed, Islamabad

Apowerful earthquake rattled Pakistan's capital and other cities across the country yesterday, causing panic among people but with no immediate reports of casualties or major damages.

Pakistani official Arif Ullah told The Associated Press that the magnitude-7.1 quake was centered near Afghanistan's border with Tajikistan. Germany's GFZ Research Center for Geosciences set the quake's magnitude at 6.5.

In Islamabad, terrified residents fled their homes and offices as buildings swayed. Television footage showed people praying in public.

Tremors were felt as far away as the Indian capital, New Delhi.

Ahmad Kamal, a spokesman at National Disaster Management Authority, said they have not received any information about damages from the earthquake-hit areas. However, he said that post-quake landslides were a potential threat, and said he had asked regional authorities to prepare for all possible contingencies.

A Pakistani student, Kiran Saeed, said she was studying at home when her chair shook and initially she thought someone had deliberately pushed it. "When I turned back, no one was there and then the walls started shaking. We came out of the home and everyone was reciting verses from Quran," she told the AP from Rawalpindi, a garrison city near Islamabad.

Sahiba Bibi, an Islamabad resident, said she almost fell to the ground when the tremors began.

"I am still very terrified," she said.

Yesterday's quake was the strongest one since October when magnitude-7.5 earthquake damaged thousands of homes in the northwest. AP

AD 📗





Anna Mathews, India

massive fire broke out during a fireworks display in a Hindu temple in south India yesterday, killing more than 100 people and injuring at least 200 others, officials said.

The fire started when a spark from the unauthorized fireworks show ignited a separate batch of fireworks that were being stored at the Puttingal temple complex in Paravoor village, a few hours north of Kerala's state capital of Thiruvananthapuram, said Chief Minister Oommen Chandy, the state's top elected official.

## ■ Thousands had been packed into the temple complex when a big explosion erupted

Thousands had been packed into the temple complex when a big explosion erupted around 3 a.m., officials said. The blaze then spread quickly through the temple, trapping devotees within.

Most of the 102 people died when the building where the fireworks were stored collapsed, Chandy told reporters at the temple complex.

Local TV channels broadcast images of huge clouds of white smoke billowing from the temple, as fireworks were still going off in the night sky. Successive explosions from the

# Massive fire kills more than 100 in south India temple fire



A man walks carrying empty shells of fireworks past a collapsed building after a massive fire broke out during a fireworks display at the Puttingal temple complex

building storing the fireworks sent huge chunks of concrete flying as far as a kilometer, according to resident Jayashree Harikrishnan.

The temple holds a competitive fireworks display every year, with different groups putting on successive light shows for thousands of devotees gathered for the last day of a sevenday festival honoring the goddess Bhadrakali, a southern Indian incarnation of the Hindu goddess Kali.

This year, district authorities

denied permission for the fireworks display, Chief Minister Chandy said.

The state's High Court had earlier mandated that fireworks must be stored more than 100 meters from temples — orders that were flouted at the Paravoor temple, said Loknath Behera, a top police official.

"We will be investigating how the orders were flouted and who was responsible for the decision to go ahead with the firework display," Chandy said. Krishna Das, a resident of Paravoor village, said he had started walking away from the temple as the fireworks display was about to end when a deafening explosion followed by a series of blasts went off.

"I had been in the temple just a few minutes before watching the fireworks," Das said. He said he saw scores of people running away, chased by fire and chunks of concrete and plaster from the temple building.

Das said as soon as the first explosion was heard, a power

outage hit the complex.

"It was complete chaos. People were screaming in the dark. Ambulance sirens went off, and in the darkness no one knew how to find their way out of the complex," he said.

He said that six ambulances had been parked outside the temple complex as a precaution. They were used to rush the injured to hospitals in the nearby cities of Kollam and Thiruvananthapuram.

Local villagers and police pulled out many of the injured from under slabs of concrete.

Many of the buildings within a kilometer of the temple were damaged with cracks in the walls or broken window panes from the impact of the explosion, Das said.

By morning, firefighters had brought the blaze under control, officials said. Rescuers sifted through the wreckage in search of survivors, while backhoes cleared the debris and ambulances drove away the injured.

As day broke, thousands of anxious relatives reached the temple in search of their loved ones. Many wept and pressed police officials and rescue workers for information on their family members.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, accompanied by doctors, was flying to Kerala to meet with the survivors and victims' families.

At one of the main hospitals in Thiruvananthapuram, senior physician Thomas Mathew said that judging from injuries, a stampede was also likely to have occurred at the temple.

"There were few women or children among the injured. Most were men," Mathew said. **AP** 

## Philippine clash leaves 18 soldiers, 5 militants dead

Jim Gomez, Manila

THE Philippine military suffered its largest single-day combat loss so far this year when 18 soldiers were killed in fierce fighting with Abu Sayyaf extremists that also left five Islamic militants dead, including a Moroccan fighter, the military said yesterday.

At least 53 other soldiers were wounded in Saturday's daylong clashes with the Abu Sayyaf militants and allied gunmen in the hinterlands bordering the towns of Tipo Tipo and Al-Barka on Basilan island, regional military spokesman Maj. Filemon Tan and other army officials said.

The large combat casualties were reported as the Philippines marked the Day of Valor Saturday to remember Filipino veterans who died in World War II.

Government forces were deployed to kill or capture Abu Sayyaf commander Isnilon Hapilon, who has publicly pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group and has been hunted for years for his alleged involvement in several terrorist attacks, three military officials told The Associated Press Saturday. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not allowed to speak publicly about the military assault.

Washington has offered a reward of up to USD5 million for information leading to Hapilon's capture and prosecution.

The Abu Sayyaf militan-

ts, many of whom were armed with M203 grenade launchers, apparently managed to reinforce their ranks quickly as the fighting raged and gathered between 100 and 150 fighters, allowing them to inflict heavy casualties on government troops, the officials said.

The fighting lasted for more than nine hours, they said.

Among the slain militants was a Moroccan, who was identified as Mohammad Khattab, and a son of Hapilon, Tan said, adding about 20 other gunmen were wounded.

It's the largest single-day government combat loss this year in the south, where the military has been battling Muslim separatist rebels and extremists, and Marxist guerrillas.

Last year, 44 police commandos were killed in clashes with various Muslim insurgent groups in southern Mamasapano town while on a covert mission that was fraught with faulty planning and execution but nevertheless killed a top Malaysian terror suspect in Southeast Asia.

Outrage over the police deaths stalled a peace deal with the largest Muslim insurgent group some of whose fighters got entangled in the fighting.

The Abu Sayyaf was founded in 1991 in Basilan, about 880 kilometers (550 miles) south of Manila. With an unwieldy collective of preachers and outlaws, it vowed to wage jihad, or holy war,

but lost its key leaders early in combat, sending it on a violent path of extremism and criminality.

The United States and the Philippines have separately blacklisted the Abu Sayyaf as a terrorist organization for carrying out deadly bombings, extortion, kidnappings for ransom, and beheadings of locals and foreigners, including Christian missionaries in the south.

More than a decade of U.S.-backed Philippine offensives have weakened the Abu Sayyaf, but it remains a key security threat.

The brutal group has been blamed for a spike in kidnappings for ransom in recent weeks, including the separate abductions of 10 Indonesian tugboat crewmen near southern Tawi Tawi province and four Malaysian tugboat crewmembers off Malaysia's Sabah state on Borneo Island.

An Abu Sayyaf faction freed a former Italian missionary on Friday after six months of jungle captivity on Jolo island in Sulu province, also in the south. There has been speculation that a huge ransom was paid to secure the freedom of Rolando del Torchio, who was flown to Manila on Saturday, but the military said it was unaware of any such payment.

The militants are believed to be holding three Filipinos and 18 foreigners, including two Canadians and a Norwegian, mostly in their jungle encampments on Jolo Island. AP

#### Raphael Satter, Paris

HE attackers who struck Brussels on March 22 initially planned to launch a second assault on France, Belgium's Federal Prosecution Office said yester-

But the perpetrators were "surprised by the speed of the progress in the ongoing investigation" and decided to rush an attack on Brussels instead, the office said in a statement. It didn't provide any details on the initial plot or its targets and the office couldn't immediately be reached for further comment.

Two suicide bombers killed 16 people at Brussels Airport on March 22. A subsequent explosion at Brussels' Maelbeek subway station killed another 16 people the same morning. Investigators have found intimate links between the cell behind those attacks and the group that killed 130 people in Paris on Nov. 13.

Yesterday's statement provides confirmation of what many have suspected: the series of raids and arrests in the week leading up to the Brussels attacks — including the capture of key Paris attacks fugitive Salah Abdeslam — pushed the killers to action.

Belgian police detained four men in Brussels raids over the weekend who were charged with participating in "terrorist murders" and the "activities of a terrorist group" in relation to the Brussels attacks. One of them, Mohamed Abrini, has

# Officials: Group that hit Brussels planned second France attack

also been charged in relation to the Paris attacks, prosecutors

Abrini has acknowledged being the "man in the hat" spotted alongside the two suicide

■ The series of raids and arrests in the week leading up to the Brussels attacks may have pushed the killers to action

bombers who blew themselves up at Brussels Airport, officials said. Surveillance footage has also placed him in the convoy with the attackers who headed to Paris ahead of the Nov. 13 massacre.

Abrini was a childhood friend of Brussels brothers Salah and Brahim Abdeslam, both suspects in the Paris attacks, and he had ties to Ab-



Police secure the area in Brussels on March 15 after police launched an anti-terror raid linked to last year's Paris attacks

delhamid Abbaoud, the Paris attackers' ringleader who died in a French police raid shortly afterward. Brahim Abdeslam blew himself up in the Paris bombings while Salah Abdeslam was arrested in Brussels on March 18 - four days before the attacks there - after a four-month manhunt.

The other suspects charged over the weekend were identified as Osama Krayem, who left the Swedish city of Malmo to fight in Syria and was described by one relative as having been "brainwashed." Also charged were Herve B. M., a Rwandan national, and Bilal E. M.

The past couple of days' developments represent a rare success for Belgian authorities, who have been repeatedly criticized for bungling the bombings investigation. Despite the progress, Brussels remains under the second-highest terror alert, meaning an attack is still considered likely.

"There are perhaps other cells that are still active on our territory," Belgian Interior Minister Jan Jambon told RTL television on Saturday.

In a separate development, Brussels' STIB transport network announced that 12 stations closed since the attacks would reopen today. Eighteen of the capital's 69 stations will remain closed until further notice, including Maelbeek. AP

## Turkish strikes leave dozens of Kurdish villages empty

## **Balint Szlanko, Merga**

**OZENS** of villages have been abandoned and hundreds of families displaced close to Iraq's northern border with Turkey as a result of Turkish air strikes targeting militants from the Kurdistan Workers' Party, better known as the PKK.

Of the 76 villages of the Barwari sub-district of Dohuk governorate, which lies along the Turkish border, between half and a third are empty, save for a few people occasionally returning to check on their property or work on their farms, according to Kurdish government officials.

On a recent trip into the mountains of northern Iraq, long a refuge for the PKK that has fought a three-decade war against Turkey for Kurdish rights, Associated Press reporters visited the village of Merga, only a few kilometers



its residents, like dozens of villages close to Irag's northern border

from the Turkish border.

The village, a small hamlet of perhaps a dozen houses surrounded by oak, apple and almond trees and set in a green valley among the snow-peaked mountains of the Zagros mountain range, had no inhabitants left except for four old men who said they came there only occasionally to look after their gardens.

"The aircraft keep coming here continuously. They bomb the mountain, they bomb the edge of the

villages," said Fawzi Ali, a local farmer, who had just driven up from Dohuk, where he had moved with his family last year, to check on his property. "People cannot live here."

He said none of the four villages nearby — Hassa, Yekmal, Kharaba, and Shilaza — had any people in them.

"There is nothing here. Nothing except the mountains," he said.

Another man, Isho Iohanna, said of one airstrike that, "We had never seen such missiles before. These missiles shook the houses and the fruits were falling from the trees."

It is not clear exactly how many villages have been affected. According to Ismail Mustafa Rashid, governor of the Amedi district, which includes Barwari, 35 villages have been abandoned. According to Aziz Mohammed Taher, head of the agricultural department in Barwari, 25 villages have been evacuated.

They had no exact information on how many people have left the area as most seem to have moved in with relatives or rented houses in nearby villages and towns. Both officials estimated that hundreds of families have been af-

The airstrikes, which target PKK bases in the area, seem to have largely spared the villages themselves. No civilian casualties have been reported since last August when eight people were killed in the village of Zergele.

Ali said the guerrillas of the PKK were moving through the mountain valleys and it was clear that it was them that the aircraft were targeting.

They are in the area but nobody knows where they are exactly. They are in the mountains. They are everywhere," he said.

Going up to the village and back, a team of AP reporters passed by PKK patrols three times, driving on the mountain roads in their trucks.

In the village of Asey, the last populated settlement on the road toward the border, Mayor Serbes Hussein said people had started abandoning their villages in the summer of last year when the airstrikes first began.

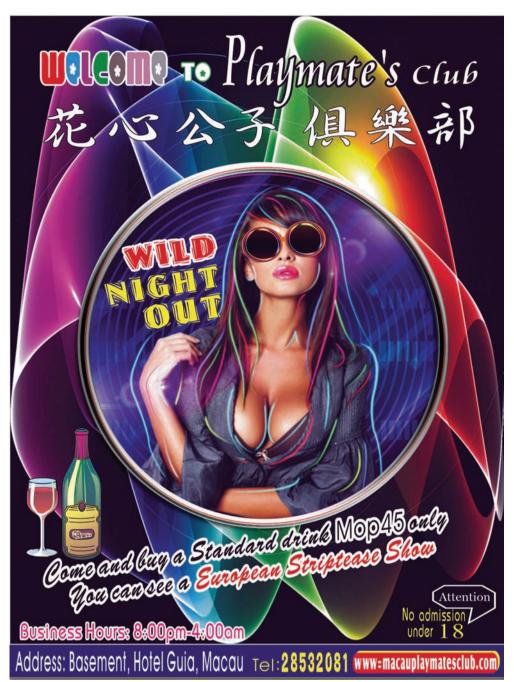
He said the conflict was having a big impact on the

"It is an area very rich in agriculture, mostly famous for its apples, and people were producing huge amounts to sell them in the fruit market of Dohuk," he said, adding that seasonal labor in his village was also suffering from lack of work caused by the evacuations.

According to Aziz Mohammed Taher, an entire harvest of apples has been lost last year.

Many of Barwari's villages, including Merga, are populated by Assyrian Christians.

Since the early 1980s, the war between the PKK and Turkey has killed up to 40,000 people. A two-year ceasefire was abandoned last summer, leading to fighting in Turkey's southeast and regular Turkish air strikes in northern Iraq. The PKK has used the mountains of northern Iraq as a refuge since the late 1990s. AP







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## what's ON



HIDDEN LANDSCAPE - WORDS BY SEASON LAO AND TANG KUOK HOU

TIME: 12pm-7pm

(Closed on Sundays and public holidays)

UNTIL: April 23, 2016

VENUE: Estrada da Areia Preta No. 52, Edificio da Fabrica de Baterias N.E. National, 3rd Floor, Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6064

Where the World Heritage Shines - Photography Exhibition of the Historic CENTRE OF MACAU

TIME: 10am-8pm UNTIL: April 16, 2016 VENUE: Old Court Building, Avenida da Praia Grande, Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8504 0802

Moist and Salty

- Galo Fanzine Photo Exhibition

TIME: 12pm-7pm

(closed on Tuesdays, open on public holidays)

UNTIL: May 1, 2016

VENUE: Ox Warehouse, at the intersection of Av. Coronel Mesquita and Av. do Almirante Lacerda

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2853 0026

FORMER HOME OF REVOLUTIONARY LEADER

YE TING

TIME: 10am-6pm daily

(Except Wednesdays, open on public holidays)

VENUE: 76, Rua Almirante Costa Cabral

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8399 6699

## **Offbeat**

## 3 RESCUED ISLAND CASTAWAYS SPELLED 'HELP' WITH PALM FRONDS



The men rescued in this tale of three castaways were not na-Tom med Hanks, or Gilligan, or Robin-Crusoe. son Though they might as well have been.

In a scene straight from Hollywood, or a New Yorker cartoon, a U.S. Navy plane spotted the word "help" spelled out in palm fronds on a beach on a deserted island in the

The three men, missing for three days after a wave overtook the skiff they were traveling in, were found waving their orange life jackets on the tiny Micronesian island of Fanadik, several hundred miles north of Papua New Guinea, officials said Saturday.

The men's families reported them missing Tuesday after they failed to show up at the Micronesian island of Weno. where they were traveling from their home island, Pulap.

"Fortunately for them, they were all wearing life jackets and were able to swim to the deserted island." U.S. Coast Guard spokeswoman Melissa McKenzie said.

A local boat picked the men up and took them to a hospital. McKenzie said she didn't have information on the men's condition Saturday, but officials told the Washington Post they were not injured.

Two bulk carriers searched a combined 17 hours for the men as part of AMVER, a U.S. Coast Guard voluntary search and rescue program. With AMVER, rescue coordinators can identify participating ships in the area of distress and ask them to help.

In the last two weeks, 15 people have been rescued in the Pacific with the help of 10 AMVER vessels and six aircrews, the U.S. Coast Guard said. AP

## **IV** canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	RTPi Live
17:35	Fillers
17:40	Trail of Lies (Repeat)
18:30	Contraponto (Repeated)
19:30	Soap Oepra
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Sports
22:10	Trail of Lies
23:00	TDM News
23:30	UEFA Champions League 2015/2016
	Magazine Programme
00:05	Fillers

Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)



#### **CINETEATRO**

00:10

00:40

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

**гоом 3** 7.30 pm **Director: Byron Howard, Rich Moore** Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English) **Duration: 108min** 

### **MACAU TOWER**

24 Mar - 27 Apr

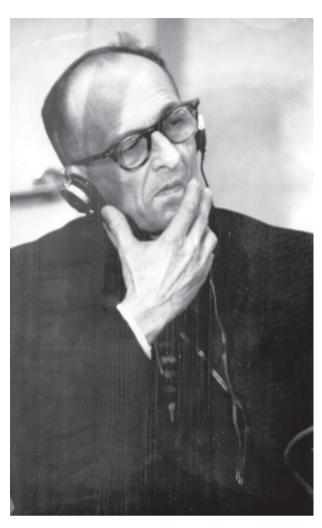
BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE\_

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

Starring: Amy Adams, Jesse Eisenberg, Diane Lane

Language: English (Cantonese)

**Duration: 153min** 



## 1961 Nazi war crimes trial **BEGINS**

The trial has begun in Israel of the man accused of helping Hitler in his plan to exterminate the Jews.

Adolf Eichmann faces 15 charges, including crimes against humanity, crimes against the Jewish people and war crimes.

He sat in a bullet-proof glass dock flanked by two guards specially chosen because their families had not suffered directly at the hands of the Nazis. The three judges hearing the case in Jerusalem were all refugees from the Nazi regime in Germany.

The charges were read out in Hebrew by chief judge Mr Justice Moshe Landau and translated into German for the prisoner. It took one hour and 15 minutes to list all the details of the charges against Adolf Eichmann during which time the 55-year-old stood stiffly in the dock.

The first issue the court dealt with was its competence to hear the Eichmann case at all. His lawyer, Dr Robert Servatius, argued that as the state of Israel did not exist at the time of the alleged offences it had no jurisdiction.

Dr Servatius said that his client was "free of guilt" and was being prosecuted for things he was drawn into by the Nazi state. Whatever the judgement, many say it is remarkable the case against Adolf Eichmann has even been brought.

After the end of the Second World War he escaped from a prison camp and avoided facing the Nuremberg War Crimes Tribunal.

In 1950 he arrived in Argentina which was a safe haven for many Nazi war criminals. However, last year a team of Israeli secret agents abducted him and smuggled him to Israel.

**Courtesy BBC News** 

## IN CONTEXT

In December 1961 Adolf Eichmann was found guilty on all charges and sentenced to death.

The following May he was hanged in a prison near Tel Aviv. Eichmann's case was the highest profile Nazi trial since 1946 when 12 high-ranking Nazis were sentenced to death at Nuremberg in Germany.

Several other trials involving alleged Nazis have been held over the years in Israel, Germany and the UK.

However, in 1993 a court in Israel overturned the conviction  $\,$ of John Demjanjuk for being the notorious Nazi "Ivan the

The court accepted Mr Demjanjuk, who had been stripped of his US citizenship, had been the victim of mistaken identity

## MacauDaily MPHEIDER \*

## YOUR STARS



#### Aries

#### Mar. 21-Apr. 19

If you're just plain stuck, use your energy to help a colleague. Not only will it keep you from blowing your fuses, but it will earn you some relatively instant



#### Gemini

#### May 21-Jun. 21

The more you have on your desk, the less clearly you can see all of your responsibilities. At this point, it's just one big blur. Do your best to make it through the day and save getting organized for tomorrow.



## Leo

## Jul. 23-Aug. 22

You can do research until the cows come home, but at the end of the day, the most important information you have is based on instinct. Now all you have to do is convince colleagues of what you already know.

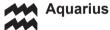


duality, today. Acting professional is a must, but if the difference between your private and office persona is too great, you're bound to fall into the chasm. Walk carefully.



## Nov. 22-Dec. 21

You're too busy thinking to keep track of pesky material details. Losing things is just one sign that you have a lot on your mind. Don't let that general distraction interfere with work.



## Jan. 20-Feb. 18

You may be tempted to put yourself first today. If you think you can get away with it, you're misleading yourself. Pushing the envelop works when you're working but not when you're slacking off.



#### **Taurus**

#### April 20-May 20

That everyone in your office should be on the same page is not some far out, futuristic fantasy. It's easier than you realize to get colleagues to work together. Don't be afraid to start on your secret plan.



#### Cancer

#### Jun. 22-Jul. 22

When you're stuck in 'daydreaming' mode, it's not wise to do any detailoriented tasks. That's your philosophy, anyway. Your boss doesn't share it, so the least you should do is make it look like you're working.



## Virgo

## Aug. 23-Sept. 22

You're just about ready to throw in the towel. Don't. There won't be any new projects with as many confusing details as this one, so keep up the pace until

Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21



#### Libra

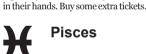
#### Sep.23-Oct. 22

You're feeling the effects of too much It's time to put the mystery back in your dreams. If you used to fantasize about romance but now you fantasize about a lack of paperwork, it's time to change



## Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19 People have used art and music to impress others from time immemorial. There's nothing wrong with using art to connect with others.



## **Pisces**

especially those who hold your future

## Feb.19-Mar. 20

You don't have to go over the top to do something good for yourself. Treating yourself to lunch or even a new organizer is all it takes to transform things enough to make it through the day.



#### SUDOKU

### Easy

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## Easy+

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## Hard

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## WEATHER

MIN

	IVIIIN	IVIAA	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	5	17	clear/overcast
Harbin	-4	11	cloudy/clear
Tianjin	8	19	clear/cloudy
Urumqi	6	13	drizzle/cloudy
Xi'an	14	21	overcast/drizzle
Lhasa	4	18	clear/cloudy
Chengdu	14	25	clear/cloudy
Chongqing	17	26	cloudy
Kunming	13	26	clear
Nanjing	12	21	cloudy
Shanghai	14	21	cloudy
Wuhan	16	26	cloudy/clear
Hangzhou	12	20	cloudy/overcast
Taipei	22	25	heavy rain/rainstorm
Guangzhou	21	26	overcast/drizzle
Hong Kong	21	24	moderate rain/heavy rain

MΔX

CONDITION

		_		_
٧V	O	К	L	D

Moscow	3	14	drizzle
Frankfurt	4	14	cloudy/clear
Paris	7	17	cloudy/drizzle
London	7	15	drizzle
New York	5	10	cloudy/overcast

### CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Pianist Myra; 5- Zingers; 10- Knowledge; 14- Prefix with meter; 15-Olds model; 16- Apart; 17- Narrow inlets; 18- Knobby; 19- Russo of "The Thomas Crown Affair"; 20- Plaything; 21- Formation of a zygote; 23- And others, in Latin; 25- Mil. school; 26- Pertaining to tea acid; 29- Pressed; 33- Moral principle; 35-Impudent; 37- Exist; 38- Entrance; 39- Anthology of artwork; 40- \_\_\_\_ Day vitamins; 41- Thanksgiving tuber; 42- \_\_\_\_ by land...; 43- Steer clear of; 44- Takes by theft; 46- Sisters' daughters; 48- Arch type; 50- Swiss city; 53- Needed to borrow books; 58- 100 yrs.; 59- Work without \_\_\_; 60- Angry; 61- Actress Petty; 62- "Give that cigar!"; 63- Frasier's brother; 64- Breaks off; 65- Aardvark's prey; 66- Great Lakes tribesmen; 67- Comics canine;

DOWN: 1- Poker Flat chronicler; 2- "Silas Marner" author; 3- Homebody; 4- Bro's counterpart; 5- East Indian fig tree; 6- Sleep like \_ \_; 7- Change the decor; 8-

Actress Sonia; 9- Ungrammatical usage; 10- Rio Grande city; 11- Is in the red; 12- Rajah's wife; 13- Baby blues; 21-Bluish white metallic element; 22a soul; 24- Hideout; 27- Wight, for one; 28- Small house; 30- Instant; 31- .. saw Elba: 32- Six feet under: 33- Brevers rival; 34- Precisely; 36- Mystical Muslim; 39- Resembling a goose; 40- Cooking appliance; 42- Gymnast Korbut; 43-Breezed through; 45- Main arteries; 47-Exit; 49- Aluminum-bronze coin of Iceland; 51- "Otello" composer; 52- Licorice-like flavoring; 53- Tibetan priest; 54instant; 55- Crooked; 56- Colombian city; 57- Suit to \_\_\_; 61- Summer sign



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	65					66						67

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**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

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Chun Leong Car Park, Taipa 0sq ft / HKsD 1.8M HKD 0sq ft

Car park for Sale Ref: 15050514

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Tim Dahlberg, Las Vegas

ANNY Pacquiao may not be ready for retirement just quite yet.

Pacquiao returned from the biggest loss of his career with a bang Saturday night, knocking down Timothy Bradley twice on his way to a unanimous 12-round decision in their welterweight showdown.

Pacquiao shook off the ring rust from a layoff of nearly a year after losing to Floyd Mayweather Jr. to beat Bradley for a second time in the rubber match between the two fighters. In doing so, the Senate candidate in his native Philippines showed he may have to reconsider his plans to retire and devote his full time to politics.

Pacquiao (58-6-2) knocked down Bradley (33-2-1) in the seventh round, though Bradley seemed to have slipped. He left no doubt in the ninth with a big left hand that sent Bradley sprawling.

The fight was scored 116-110 by all three ringside judges. The Associated Press had it 117-110.

In the final seconds, many in the crowd of 14,665 at the MGM Grand arena were on their feet chanting "Manny! Manny!" as Pacquiao tried to end the bout with a flourish. He never came close to finishing off Bradley, though he was so far ahead on the ringside scorecards that it didn't matter.

If the fight was indeed the end of the 37-year-old Pacquiao's career, it was a remarkable one. Aside from the loss to Mayweather last year he did little wrong in winning eight weight class titles in 21 years as a pro.

"As of now I am retired," Pacquiao said. "I am going to go home and think about it but I want to be with my family. I want to serve the people."

Pacquiao had no problems with the right shoulder he injured against Mayweather as he stalked Bradley across the ring, looking to land big shots. He landed enough of them to make Bradley wary, and the knockdown in the ninth round seemed to take the rest of the



Manny Pacquiao celebrates after defeating Timothy Bradley in their WBO welterweight title boxing bout on Saturday, in Las Vegas



Manny Pacquiao (right) hits Timothy Bradley during the bout

**BOXING** 

# Manny Pacquiao unanimously outpoints Timothy Bradley

fight out of Bradley.

"Manny was strong the entire fight and he was also very patient," Bradley said. "I wasn't

As of now I am retired. I am going to go home [...] to be

with my family.
I want to serve the people.

MANNY PACQUIAO

professional enough to stay patient myself and I walked into shots."

Both fighters took some time to get untracked, with the early rounds offering little action. Pacquiao seemed a bit rusty from his layoff and Bradley was unwilling to get inside and trade punches.

Pacquiao began picking up the pace and stalking Bradley, though, coming in behind a right jab and following it with his left hand. In the seventh round, he seemed to graze Bradley with a pair of punches and Bradley went to his knees for what referee Tony Weeks ruled a knockdown.

"He was very quick, very explosive," Bradley said.

Ringside punching stats showed Pacquiao landing 122 of 439 punches to 99 of 302 for Bradley.

Pacquiao said before the fight that he felt refreshed after his layoff and stronger than ever. He hadn't scored a knockout at 147 pounds since stopping Miguel Cotto in 2009, and went after Bradley with big left hands to try to break that streak.

"I was looking for a knockout in every round," Pacquiao said. "He's a very tough fighter and a very good counter puncher."

Pacquiao, who was guaranteed USD7 million, was fighting for the first time since losing to Mayweather last May in the richest fight ever. He lost a unanimous decision in that fight, blaming his lackluster performance on the shoulder injury that flared up in the fourth round and required surgery afterward.

Still, Pacquiao was a 2-1 favorite against Bradley, who beat him on a controversial decision the first time they fought before losing a unanimous decision in the second fight in 2014.

Bradley vowed this would be his best fight, with new trainer Teddy Atlas in the corner giving him instructions. Atlas fulfilled his job, jumping into the ring after each bell to lecture Bradley, sometimes having to be pushed out of the ring by Nevada boxing officials so the next round could start.

"Teddy obviously made a difference," Pacquiao said. "This was the best Timothy Bradley I have faced in the three fights.

If it was Pacquiao's last fight, he goes out as one of the biggest pay-per-view attractions in the sport. Pacquiao headlined 22 pay-per-view fights, generating more than 18 million buys and \$1.2 billion in PPV revenue.

His next career probably won't be as lucrative, with Pacquiao running for the Senate in elections next month in the Philippines. Should he win—and he is one of the favorites—it would be almost impossible to remain an active fighter.

Pacquiao said in the days leading up to the fight that his family — particularly his wife — wanted him to retire.

"Thank you boxing fans," he said in the ring afterward. **AP** 

**RUGBY | HONG KONG SEVENS** 

## Fiji beats New Zealand to defend title

FIJI beat New Zealand 21-7 yesterday to defend its title at the Hong Kong Sevens rugby tournament.

Kitione Taliga and Semi Kunatani scored tries in the second half after the two sides were tied 7-7 at halftime.

With three more rounds remaining, Fiji is in first place in the overall standings with 128 points, five ahead of New Zealand.

The win comes after

both teams made dramatic comebacks in their respective opening pool matches on Friday against Canada and France. Fiji rallied 15-5 down with two minutes to go to pip Canada 19-17, while New Zealand overcame a 17-0 deficit to beat France 19-17.

South Africa finished third yesterday after beating Australia 14-12 and is in third place in the standings with 122 points. Australia, with 105 points, rounds out the top four.

England beat the United States 19-0 in the Plate final. James Rodwell, who holds the record for the most caps as an England sevens forward of all time, said during the competition that, "the boys were pumped [...] there is no place like Hong Kong for us."

Japan beat host Hong Kong 24-14 to secure a spot as a core team in all 10 rounds of the 2016-17 series. Japan will replace the bottom-ranked of the current core sides at the end of the season in London.

Fiji holds the record for the most number of wins in the Hong Kong Sevens tournament, having secured the title of the competition 16 times since it was founded in 1976. New Zealand trails behind with 11 wins. MDT/AP



The Fiji rugby team celebrates after winning the final match against New Zealand at the Hong Kong Sevens rugby tournament yesterday

## ■ ■ MacauDaily 澳門每日時報 ®

## opinion

Insight Paulo Barbosa



## TO PLAY OR NOT TO PLAY **POLITICS — THAT IS THE QUESTION**

1. The plan to create a municipal body "with no political power" was restated at the Legislative Assembly (AL) by the Secretary for Administration and Justice, Sonia Chan.

Not many details were given regarding this consultative body during a recent AL plenary session, with the secretary pledging to organize a public consultation on the matter. As the Chief Executive had done previously, Chan justified the need to set up the new organization by citing the need to abide by the Basic Law. "We need to think that the members of this council should reflect public opinion and also provide a better service to the population," she said at the AL

The difference between the future institute and the IACM is not very clear, nor is it clear as to whether the latter will be dissolved. If the proposed institute is basically the same thing, we are talking about a name change. If it is created to abide by the Basic Law (a good principle), then it must be stressed that there are other more relevant aspects set out in the Basic Law that are still unregulated, such as the provision that a Trade Union Law should be enforced.

Looking at the documents issued by the government regarding this matter, it is worth noting that there seems to be a concerned effort to stress that the future municipal body has "no political powers," perhaps as opposed to Hong Kong, where the municipal bodies are elected and make political de-

But even if the body is consultative, if its members aim to "reflect public opinion and also provide a better service to the population," aren't they being political by doing so?

I wouldn't go as far as certain philosophers who claim that everything is politics. But when someone is contributing to reach common decisions that affect a group of people, they are engaging in politics, even if their power is very limited. Therefore, it seems that this stress on the term "with no political power" derives from a somewhat apolitical view of the world, where only a few privileged are entitled to engage in politics and all others should follow.

2. Also at the AL, the issue of the contributions made by employers and employees to the social welfare system was brought up again by some lawmakers. This issue exemplifies an inability to decide when a "consensus" isn't reached.

According to the current rules, each workplace pays MOP45 monthly to the social welfare system. The employer pays MOP30 and the worker pays the remaining MOP15. With such a ridiculously low contribution, it is no wonder that the government claims to support 90 percent of the welfare system, with employers and employees contributing only 10 percent, and obviously Macau has a welfare system that provides a meager pension for the elderly and retired. If people contribute with MOP15 per month, what can they expect other than money for soup when they are old?

Contributions haven't been raised for the past four years because there's no agreement on the proportion to be paid by workers and employers. The bosses' representatives claim that the proportion to be paid should be equal and that paying MOP60 monthly would mean spending "too much money" to feed the welfare system.

In many countries, the contributions depend on incomes and can consist of several thousand patacas per month. In return, the elderly receive dignified pensions that allow them to have quality of life.

Here, the stalling and the old habits (when social welfare systems were non-existent and people would work as long as they were physically able to do so, with the family supporting the unable) make it normal to have the ordinary citizen receiving an aged pension of MOP3,350 per month, plus a yearly allowance of MOP8,000.

This indecision has consequences. With the resources available, authorities could stop waiting for unreachable consensus and set up a modern welfare system that is fair to all those who have contributed reasonably.

The setting up of the "Non-mandatory Central Provident Fund System" is a good step and contributes to the savings of many elderly citizens. But it isn't enough to solve this problem.

## HONG KONG TEEN DEMOCRACY ACTIVIST FORMS NEW POLITICAL PARTY

Hong Kong teen activist Joshua Wong yesterday unveiled a new political party that plans to field candidates in upcoming elections, marking the next step in the pro-democracy movement's evolution in Hong Kong.

Wong and several other young activists who led pro-de-

mocracy protests that gripped Hong Kong for 79 days in late 2014 said their new party is called Demosisto.

The teenager was the most visible face of the street protests, in which young activists occupied major thoroughfares of the HKSAR to protest Beijing's plan to restrict elections.



# Kerry to offer no US apology for Hiroshima

**Bradley Klapper, Hiroshima** 

John Kerry won't say sorry for America's atomic bombing of Hiroshima when he visits a revered memorial.

A U.S. official traveling with Kerry ruled out an apology ahead of today's tour with other foreign ministers of the Peace Memorial Park and Museum in the city where 140,000 Japanese died from the first of two atomic bombs dropped by the U.S. in the closing days of World War II more than 70 years ago.

Kerry, who will be the most senior American government official to have stopped by, planned to lay flowers, and was expected to express the sorrow that all feel upon reflection about the bombing the first use of a nuclear weapon against an enemy in history.

The official said Kerry intended to use the occasion to promote President Barack Obama's vision of a nuclear-free world and the need to prevent proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The official previewed Kerry's plans on condition of anonymity because the official was not authorized to publicly discuss them before the event.

Obama has yet to decide whether he might visit Hiroshima and the memorial



Doves fly over the cenotaph dedicated to the victims of the atomic bombing at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park

when he attends a Group of Seven meeting of leaders in central Japan in late May, according to the official.

The president said in an interview during his first year in office that he would be "honored" to travel to Hiroshima.

For many years, top U.S. officials avoided going to Hiroshima because of political sensitivities. Many Americans believe the dropping of atomic bombs in August 1945 were justified and hastened the end of the war.

Japanese survivors' groups have campaigned for decades to bring top officials from the U.S. and other nuclear weapon states to see Hiroshima's scars as part of a grassroots movement to abolish nuclear weapons.

No serving U.S. president

has visited the site. It took 65 years for a U.S. ambassador to attend Hiroshima's annual memorial service, and six more years to win Kerry's

The U.S. official said Japan didn't seek an apology from Kerry, and that neither side is looking in to reopen the question of blame for the various atrocities of the war.

Instead, he said both countries wanted the event to show the strong ties they developed since peace in 1945 and their shared efforts to promote a peaceful world.

The museum includes harrowing images of the destruction and shocking exhibits, including the torn clothing of children who perished and skin, fingernails, deformed tongues and other horrible examples of the exposure to the blast and its residual radiation.

Some explanations mounted on the wall, however, don't align with the views of all historians and experts in the United States or elsewhere.

For example, one suggests that the United States used the weapon in part to justify the extraordinary costs of the Manhattan Project to develop it. Disagreements over motivations and possible justification rage among historians, ethicists and others to this day. AP



WORLD BRIEFS

Station

Roadside

High

**Density** 

Residental

**Ambient** 

Air quality

Moderate<sup>1</sup>

40-60

45-65

35-55

Moderate

Moderate

said 23 people were killed and 70 injured in the deadliest encounter between soldiers and militants in the nation's south this year. Eighteen soldiers died in the 10-hour clash in Basilan province on Saturday, while five of the fatalities were members of the al-Qaeda-linked terrorist group Abu Sayyaf. More on p13

**TURKEY**'s state-run news agency says a Syrian journalist has been seriously wounded in an attack in Turkey - the latest victim of a series of assaults against Syrian journalists in the country.



**PAKISTANI** opposition leader Imran Khan yesterday called on Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to resign over documents leaked from a Panamabased law firm that he said indicate that the premier's sons own several offshore companies.

**AUSTRALIA** A state has ordered a review of how radicalized prisoners are managed after a teenage inmate reportedly carved an Islamic State motto on his army veteran cellmate's forehead, officials said yesterday.

**EL SALVADOR For** nearly a week late last month, a modicum of peace appeared to have settled over El Salvador. After the country's leading criminal gangs called a unilateral truce, violent crime suddenly plunged, and the homicide rate fell to around nine a day.

**SOMALIA** A car bomb killed four people when it detonated outside a restaurant in the Somali capital, Mogadishu, police said. Al-Shabaab, an al-Qaeda-linked militant group, has waged an insurgency in the Horn of Africa nation since 2006 in a bid to impose a strict version of Islamic law.

