



PACKER SELLS DOWN MACAU STAKE

P3



FILIPINO MILITANTS THREATEN THREE HOSTAGES

Muslim militants have threatened to kill three more hostages in their jungle base in the southern Philippines

P13



TRUMP-CLINTON LIKELY TO CLASH FOR WHITE HOUSE

Trump now is all but certain to lead the Republican Party into the fall presidential campaign against Hillary Clinton

P15

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA's military is appealing to the younger generation with a slick new recruitment video featuring aircraft carriers, tanks and special forces troops, all set to a rousing rap-rock soundtrack. With lyrics such as "just waiting for the order to kill, kill, kill," the video appears aimed at millennials brought up on first-person shooter video games such as "Call of Duty." [More on p10](#)



CHINA-AUSTRALIA
Australia's treasurer says his government will never sell Australia's largest cattle empire to foreigners. Chinese-based Dakang Australia Holdings withdrew its application to buy an 80 percent stake in Australia's largest private landholding, S. Kidman & Co. Ltd. [More on p11](#)



INDONESIA Several passengers aboard an Etihad Airways flight were injured yesterday when their plane ran into sudden turbulence as it prepared to land in the Indonesian capital, Jakarta. [More on p13](#)



SYRIA An international coalition leading the military campaign against the Islamic State in Syria and Iraq agreed to accelerate their contributions but did not publicly specify what those would be. The group also called on Iraqi leaders to reconcile political differences.

[More on backpage](#)

THE WORLD IS WATCHING

355,000 sign petition to close Canidrome

P7

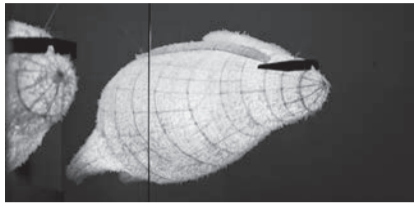


RENATO MARQUES

Documentaries enjoy spotlight moment in Macau

P5 MDT REPORT

'Little Rabbit Lanterns' in Lisbon



The exhibition "Little Rabbit Lanterns - An Exhibition of Carlos Marreiros & Friends" kicks off with an opening ceremony today at Gallery Espaço Arte Livre, in Lisbon, Portugal. According to a press release issued by Albergue SCM, the exhibition "is a small selection of lanterns displayed over ten exhibitions with the same name, held since 2009, in different places." The 30 artists featured in the show were invited by Albergue SCM to create their works inspired by the rabbit lantern. These lanterns combine traditional Chinese techniques with contemporary creativity and have been made by artists from different parts of the world such as Macau, China, Hong Kong, Portugal, Netherlands, Italy, The Philippines, France and Thailand.

Vegetarian food carnival to kick off next Friday

Buddha's Light International Association of Macau is organizing a vegetarian food carnival, from May 13 to May 15, at the Fisherman's Wharf, to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the association and the birthday of Buddha, according to a report by Macao Daily News. The organizer invited more than one hundred vegetarian food restaurants from Macau, Taiwan, and Philippines to participate in the celebrations, and to provide a selection of diverse vegetarian dishes. Additionally, Buddhism lectures and movies, will be offered. Approximately 20,000 gifts will be given to the participants.

Zhuhai food suppliers inspected for selling unqualified seafood

Results from a seafood sampling inspection conducted by the Guangdong Food and Drug Administration show that 27 percent of the products analyzed did not meet safety standards, according to a report by Macao Daily News. The samples contained prohibited drugs, such as Malachite green. Eight food suppliers in Zhuhai are included in the official report's blacklist, as their products which tested positive for the aforementioned substances included perch, shrimp, razor shell and clams. The Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) said that these problems have not been found in products imported from mainland. IACM claimed that all seafood imported from the mainland goes through a mandatory hygiene inspection before being eventually supplied to markets.

ONE of the five standing committee members who represent Macau in the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) has failed to disclose his secret Singaporean nationality, as unearthed by new revelations in the Panama Papers.

According to the South China Morning Post (SCMP), Ngan In-leng produced his Singaporean identity card when registering two offshore companies that he helped to set up around a decade ago.

The CPPCC member did not disclose his Singaporean identity to Hong Kong's Companies Registry, which makes its details public online. He is suspected of having used the identity to register companies through Panamanian law firm, Mossack Fonseca, instead of his Macau identification.

Ngan is the second CPPCC standing committee member found in possession of a foreign nationality. The Panama Papers investigation also pulled up the case of property

PANAMA PAPERS

Macau CPPCC member holds Singapore identity



Ngan In-leng

tycoon, Lee Ka-kit, who is alleged to have declared British nationality when setting up of-shore entities.

However, the Chinese government does not recognize dual nationality, and a CPPCC spokesperson two years ago said that no committee delegates held any overseas nationality.

Political analyst, Larry So, told the SCMP that Ngan's Singaporean nationality was unsurprising as "a number of members of the CPPCC have more than one nationality. As long they don't shout [about] it to the public, the central government doesn't care."

Another delegate of the CPPCC, who spoke on the

Ngan was the founder of airline Viva Macau

condition of anonymity to the newspaper, echoed So's remarks, adding that Ngan's dual nationality was not a problem as long as it was legitimate.

Ngan, who was the founder of the bankrupted airline Viva Macau, is often regarded as an influential member of the large Fujian community in Macau. According to the SCMP, he has kept a low profile since the airline went bankrupt and the government revoked its carrier license in 2010. **DB**

HONG KONG

Zhang's visit may embolden separatists

ZHANG Dejiang, the director of the central coordination group for Hong Kong and Macau affairs, is due to make a three-day official visit to Hong Kong later this month to speak at the 'Belt and Road' Summit. Analysts have, however, warned that the visit could trigger support for HKSAR separatists ahead of the Legislative Council (Legco) election later this year.

The senior official of China, who has been invited by Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying to speak at the summit, is not involved in the 'Belt and Road' initiative in an official capacity.

Hong Kong Economic Journal writer Lam Hang-chi speculates that "Zhang is coming here with a hidden agenda [...]" he

may be visiting to gauge the city's status quo first hand."

But his visit, which is expected to include a denunciation of Hong Kong separatists, may create more harm than good for Beijing should local residents flock to pro-democracy and pro-independence candidates in the Legislative Assembly elections.

"Under today's political climate, dissidents, radicals and all those who appear to be suppressed by the authorities can easily draw voters' sympathy," writes Lam Hang-chi.

Furthermore, the number of these voters and supporters need not be large, since even a small share of the vote can net an influential number of seats under



Zhang Dejiang

the current polling arrangements of the Elections Ordinance.

This year's election may register growth in the pro-independence camp following increased pressure and interference from Beijing over the last few years and the HKSAR government's refusal to commence electoral reform consultations. **DB**

'Precious Moments' photo contest open from May 17

PARTICIPANTS in the 'Precious Moments in Macao' photography competition may submit their works online from May 17, according to an announcement made by the Government Information Bureau (GCS). This year's competition has a special award entitled "Our Waters."

According to GCS, the aim of the competition is to chronicle the city's developments and events of the over the past year,



and to select suitable photos for the Macau Yearbook. "Submitted photos should depict changes in the cityscape and the bright side of people's lives over the past year to undersco-

re Macau's best qualities," the organizers announced.

Winners of the first, second and third prizes will receive cash prizes of MOP8,000, MOP5,000 and MOP3,000 respectively, in addition to a trophy.

A total of up to 50 Merit Prizes will also be awarded and their winners will each receive a certificate as well as a cash prize of MOP500.

Winning works and outstan-

ding entries will be featured in publications and government promotional materials, and suitable entries will be used as illustrations in the 2016 Macau Yearbook.

Anyone wishing to enter can visit the website photo.gcs.gov.mo to register and upload their photographs from May 17 to June 7.

The judging of the entries will take place on June 26. Results will be announced in July.

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MDT's Website has logged over 120 million page views since January 1st, 2012 up to today.

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TOURISM

1.5m border crossings during May holidays

IMMIGRATION authorities recorded almost 1.52 million border crossings across the seven Macau checkpoints over the Labor Day holiday weekend, according to data released by the Government Information Bureau yesterday.

The total number of tourist arrivals in that period amounted to 529,427, representing a year-on-year decline of 1.23 percent over the holiday period from 2015.

Over the extended weekend between April 30 and May 2, immigration services logged 759,447 entries, with the vast majority entering via the Border Gate (551,888).

A further 79,335 entered via the Outer Harbor Ferry Terminal, 55,402 through the Lotus Bridge and 42,033 via the Taipa Temporary Ferry Terminal. Crossings administered by immigration services at the Macau International Airport totaled 23,980.

The number of departures



over the three-day period roughly matched the number of entries, recording a total of 760,063.

Most of these departures were made via the Border Gate (561,854), but there were also significant numbers recorded at other crossing locations, including the Outer Harbor Ferry Terminal (76,287), the Lotus Bridge (53,608), the Taipa Temporary Ferry Terminal (34,994) and the Macau International Airport (25,765).

The Inner Harbor Ferry Terminal recorded no entries and no departures this year, as it has been closed to ferry operations since January.

GAMING

James Packer sells down Macau stake

MELCO Crown Entertainment (MCE) announced yesterday that it had entered into a share repurchase agreement with Crown Asia Investments (CAI), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Crown Resorts Limited (Crown), pursuant to which it will repurchase 155,000,000 ordinary shares from CAI. The aggregate purchase price is USD800.84 million, representing a price of USD5.1667 per share.

The repurchase operation means that the equity interests of Melco and public shareholders in MCE will be increased to approximately 37.9 percent and 34.7 percent respectively, while CAI's equity interest in MCE will be reduced from 34.3 percent to approximately 27.4 percent.

With the repurchase, Melco will become the single largest shareholder of MCE. According to a press release, Lawrence Ho will be "re-designated" as chair-



Lawrence Ho (left) speaks as James Packer listens during a October 2015 news conference at the Studio City casino resort

man, and will continue to be the executive director and chief executive officer of MCE. James Packer, executive chairman of Crown Limited, should resign from his position as MCE's co-chairman.

"The transaction will meaningfully strengthen Melco's financial position through incorporating MCE's full financial contributions into the group's portfo-

lio as an accounting subsidiary. It demonstrates Melco's positive outlook for Macau's long term future. It will also enhance the group's overall portfolio of high-quality assets and facilitate our efforts in realizing Melco's global expansion vision," Lawrence Ho said.

In yesterday's press release, Melco also announced that together with other members of a multinational consortium (Hard Rock International and Cyprus Phasouri [Zakaki] Limited), in mid-March this year it was shortlisted to the next phase of the casino tender process in the Republic of Cyprus.

"The Cyprus premium integrated resort project, along with the Group's latest business development in Spain, showcase Melco's focus on further strengthening the group's presence in overseas markets to build a company based on sustainable growth," the press release stated.

AD

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SMEs lack digital marketing strategy, says entrepreneur

PEOPLE are consuming more digital content on a daily basis, especially on social media sites. However, Macau cannot adapt to this change as the region lacks digital marketing strategy, says Alberto Bettencourt, MCMedia Asia's executive director.



Alberto Bettencourt

Bettencourt was one of the speakers in the recently held seminar for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) organized by the Permanent Secretariat of the Forum for Economic and Trade Co-operation between China and Portuguese-Speaking Countries (Forum Macau). He claims that SMEs could be more effective if the region could develop a digital marketing strategy.

"Digital marketing is more affordable than spending time doing campaigns through e-mails," Bettencourt told the Times.

He believes that the region should quickly alter to such marketing, otherwise SMEs won't be as successful as they could be. "Companies can ac-

quire new clients especially in those social media sites like Facebook and YouTube. You could attract them to interact with you and eventually they'll be hooked to your business," he clarified.

He stressed that digital media is becoming pervasive as it continues to become the source of news and social interactions.

"To have a website is not enough [...] and when you create customers, you have to nurture them," he said. "That's how you make money in companies."

He also noted that even the five-star resorts in the city do not

keep track of their customers' information, failing to consolidate consumer feedbacks and preferences.

"They do not keep track of anything," he said. "How can they keep in contact with such wealthy Chinese tourists who spent thousands on their service?"

Bettencourt also revealed that he is planning to engage in a partnership with an institution in Europe so as to create a post-graduate course on digital marketing, as there is currently no such course in the region.

Staff reporter

COOPERATION

Macau promoted in Brazil

Macau economic mission is taking part in APAS 2016 in São Paulo, an international trade fair for the supermarket sector organized by the Paulista Association of Supermarkets. The event ends today.

The delegation, organized by the Macau Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM), is meeting with entrepreneurs and institutions to promote the region as a business platform with links to Portuguese-speaking countries.

IPIM is also contacting entrepreneurs interested in placing Brazilian food products in the Exhibition Centre for Food from Portuguese Speaking Countries, which started operating on March 31 in Macau.

The statement released by IPIM advised that the mission would host business meetings between businesspeople from Macau and São Paulo to promote the food exhibition center and Macau as a service platform for economic cooperation and trade between China and the Por-



tuguese-speaking countries.

APAS 2016 is one of the largest fairs in Latin America dedicated to supermarket operators, in order to provide business opportunities for food products from Brazil.

IPIM has also recently organized an exhibition of products from Portuguese-speaking countries in Jiangmen, in the Chinese province of Guangdong.

This was IPIM's first activity of the year after it launched similar initiatives in 20 Chinese cities in 2015. MDT/Macauhub

AD

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<p>total: 36 horas/hours 12 sessões/sessions</p>		<p>propina/fee: MOP 1080 *</p>	
<p>início/starts: 10/05/2016</p>		<p>patrocínio/sponsor: Fundação Macau</p>	
<p>fim/finishes: 28/06/2016</p>			
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		<p>Geology and Geophysics of Hong Kong By Dr. Roderick J. Sewell & Professor Chan Lung-Sang 13 May 2016 (Friday) 18:00 - 20:30 Language: English Venue: NAPE 1 Speakers' Hall</p>	
		<p>We are Geographers! By Prof. Rui Pedro Julião 17 May 2016 (Tuesday) 19:00 - 20:30 Language: English Venue: NAPE 1 Speakers' Hall</p>	
		<p>Composing with Soundscapes By Prof. José Alberto Gomes 20 May 2016 (Friday) 18:30 - 20:00 Language: English Venue: NAPE 1 Speakers' Hall</p>	
		<p>Breakfast Roundtable: China's Global Energy Strategy By Dr. David Zweig 25 May 2016 (Wednesday) 8:30 - 10:30 Language: English Venue: Sofitel Macao, 6th Floor *Free Breakfast, Registration Required at 8796 4433</p>	
		<p>An Introduction to Ignatian Spirituality By Fr. Luis Sequeira, S.J. 05, 12, 19, 26 May & 02 June 2016 (Thursday) 18:30 - 20:00 Language: English Venue: Seminary Auditorium</p>	
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Q&A PENNY LAM
INT'L DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL CURATOR

'We want to continue to develop this festival'

Daniel Beitler

PENNY Lam is a documentary filmmaker and the curator of the Macau International Documentary Film Festival, the first of which was held last month, concluding on May 1.

The festival brought together 18 documentary films by directors from Asia, Europe and the U.S., including the renowned Portuguese director Pedro Costa, and the Iranian director Jafar Panahi, who is associated with the Iranian New Wave film movement.

Macau's market for film festivals is still maturing, however interest in it is beginning to grow in the city. Several new festivals have been established in recent years promoting foreign and locally produced films, including the Macau International Film and Video Festival and the recently announced Macau International Film Festival.

Penny Lam sat down with the Times to discuss why he and his team decided to organize Macau's first documentary film festival, and what they have in store for next year.

Macau Daily Times (MDT) - Can you explain your affinity for documentaries?

Penny Lam (PL) - Shooting documentaries is unique; it's not like making other films. As a documentary filmmaker you can experience the same things as your subjects. For exam-

ple, I made a documentary about Catholic priests and I went to live with them for a period [of time]. I would wake up early like they did, and eat with them and go to church, and so on. In a way I adopted their lifestyle for a while... and it can be very surreal. We only have one life, but through filmmaking you can experience more than one, and that is what interests me.

MDT - Why did you want to run the documentary festival?

PL - The main reason is that we don't have festivals in Macau that focus on documentaries and, in some ways [there are negative] stereotypes in Macau. People think that documentaries are not 'films', but something else. They tend to think of documentaries as very political or very serious or boring, and not something that you can go to the cinema to enjoy. We want to introduce real documentaries as a film genre to Macau, so that people who normally [associate] them with television can have the chance to watch them as film.

MDT - Why did you choose the theme of "doMEmentary," a fusion of "documentary" and personal perspective?

PL - Documentaries are often thought about as concerning society, but we want to introduce them in the opposi-

te way: they can be very small, very personal.

In this way, people in Macau can feel engaged – especially as media is so close to everyone's life today. The idea is essentially that, in documentary-making, you can start from something very small.

MDT - What has the reception been like from Macau?

PL - Most of the comments from the audience indicate that people enjoyed the documentaries. They said that they found the films very entertaining and very enjoyable. Sometimes when people buy tickets they might still think that the documentaries will require concentration and patience to enjoy. But often this is not the case. What surprised me actually, was that some films that were a disaster at the box office sold well in Macau. A few films – like "Taxi" – sold out, both screenings in fact.

MDT - Will you do this again next year and what are your early thoughts about it?

PL - Our team has discussed a bit about the next edition already and we want to continue to develop this festival, but that is going to take a few years. For the next few years we want to focus on those that are audience-friendly.

What I mean by that is [those that are] not too academic, or too serious, or too artistic. We



Penny Lam

want to show those with good production value to get the message out.

MDT - What do you make of the broader changes that the Macau film festival market has experienced recently?

PL - The festivals are helping to broaden the interest in Macau and have been attracting more professionals to Macau

over the last 10 years. Macau audiences don't care yet how famous the film or director is – for example if they have won awards – but I think that's a good thing. For example, in Hong Kong if you show a film that was premiered at Cannes, it will attract a lot of attention. I think how you present a film in Macau is still very important. If you present it well, [local audiences] will give it a try.

DOCUMENTARY

Filmmaker: Refugees still a taboo topic in the city

REFUGEES play a vital part in Macau's history, although sadly it's not the kind of stories residents hear every day, revealed Filipa Queiroz, director of "Boat People," a local documentary to be premiered on May 10 at the Cultural Center, as part of the Macao Indies section of the International Film and Video Festival (MIFVF).

Although the TDM journalist has long-planned to film a documentary on refugees, she admitted that it wasn't easy to look for



Filipa Queiroz

ex-refugees in Macau, until she received an e-mail from a former refugee who was willing to share his story.

The director believes that the film's concept is to discuss a subject that continues to be a "taboo" in Macau to the point that it is not even mentioned in local schools' history books.

"I guess there was a difficulty, especially in the Chinese community, to talk about this", said Queiroz. "I think refugees are heroes because they were brave enough to go out of their

comfort zones and go on an adventure," she added.

Meanwhile, the director told the Times that journalism plays a huge part in producing documentary films, claiming that this entire documentary is based on old magazine articles and newspapers.

"During the filming of the documentary, the main characters told us that everybody was busy with something else and the Vietnamese refugees weren't an important discussion," she revealed.

She believes that in this

generation, filmmakers try to portray refugees and migrants as "desperate characters," adding that such stereotyping is unnecessary.

"We decided to create the movie with a spirit of courage and positivity because we shouldn't look at them with pity," she said. "It's a desperate situation but it doesn't have to be told in such a way."

Last year Ms Queiroz won an award at the competition "48 Rush Hours" (included in the MIFVF), with "The Bicycle Diaries." **Staff reporter**



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Daniel Beittler

ANIMAL WELFARE | THE WORLD IS WATCHING

GREYHOUND advocates and animal lovers around the world turned their attention to Macau this week to once again decry the treatment of greyhounds at the Canidrome, after animal welfare organization Anima Macau challenged company representatives to a public debate over the merits of keeping the racing track open.

The treatment of greyhounds on what international observers are calling “the world’s deadliest greyhound racetrack” is an issue that has drawn considerable attention from Europe.

A group known as Stop Exportation of Greyhounds from Ireland to China is campaigning to prevent Irish greyhounds from being sent to the Canidrome. As many as 800 greyhounds are suspected to be housed there and more than 30 are killed each month.

It recently emerged that exports of Irish greyhounds are beginning to fill the gap in the market created by the fact that Qantas and Cathay Pacific airlines decided not to freight the animals to Hong Kong.

The reception from Europe has been overwhelmingly in favor of the Canidrome’s closure. An article from the Times uploaded yesterday to the website was flooded with comments from around the world, calling for “an end to this needless cruelty” and shaming the Canidrome for not agreeing to

Europe rallies to call for Irish greyhound export ban



Albano Martins

participate in the debate.

Simultaneous protests were held in Dublin yesterday and outside the Embassy of Ireland in London, organized by the Campaign for the Abolition of Cruel Sports, while a second group, the Irish Council Against Blood Sports, conducted a separate lunchtime demonstration outside Ireland’s Department of Agriculture.

Over the weekend, protests will be held in other European countries, including Italy and Germany.

A petition hosted on www.change.org, calling for the closure of the complex, also picked up momentum this week and has now collected over 355,000 signatures as of

last night.

The petition, which is led by local Anima Macau President Albano Martins, will be presented to the Department of Agriculture in Dublin during an additional demonstration planned for June 2 in the Irish capital.

Activists and columnists from Ireland’s media have denounced the silence from the government on the issue and the seeming unwillingness of the Department of Agriculture to intervene in recent weeks.

Martins’s claim is that as Macau’s economy is largely dependent on tourism, the government pays a great deal of attention to how external visitors view the MSAR. He has therefore called for

international condemnation of the Canidrome in hopes that it will pressure the MSAR government into not renewing the license of the facility – a decision on which is expected to be made later this year.

“Macau’s leaders care a lot about how the rest of the world sees them,” writes Martins on the petition. “If the world speaks up against the Canidrome’s outdated and barbaric treatment of these animals, Macau’s government has to listen.”

“Our strategy with all the international organizations is to block [imports from] outside because the government does not block inside [domestic legislation],” he added at a press conference on Tuesday.

The government has

made no indication that it will not renew the Canidrome’s license. In recent years it has supported the complex through

granting tax cuts, which the facility’s critics say is the only financial means of keeping the Canidrome economically viable.

Canidrome draws int’l condemnation on MDT

YESTERDAY the Macau Daily Times website (macaudailytimes.com.mo) was flooded with comments from international observers expressing their condemnation of the Canidrome facility and calling for its closure.

“The noble thing to do would be to end this trade and close down this industry,” wrote one user. Another criticized the facility for “refusing” or not agreeing to participate in the proposed Anima-Canidrome debate, saying that “[whomever] has a clear conscience is not afraid to answer questions. Shame!”

Many of the comments also stressed that the world is now waiting to receive the response from the Macau government, with one commentator adding, “in every country we are watching you!”

AD

RETAIL

Giordano sales contract 9.6 percent



HONG Kong-based clothing retailer Giordano International said that the group’s sales for the first quarter of 2016 dropped 9.6 percent year-on-year to just over HKD1.3 billion. Taking into consideration 2015 exchange rates, sales fell by 7 percent over the period.

According to the company, weak consumer sentiment and cooler weather during the spring season has depressed sales in the Greater China region during

the first quarter.

Hong Kong and Macau also recorded a 7 percent decrease in sales, however comparable store sales improved by 1 percent despite government statistics reporting an 11 percent year-on-year decrease in apparel sales figures in Hong Kong over January and February.

The results echo statements from other retailers of late, particularly in the luxury sector, who have opted to expand in Macau at the expense of Hong Kong in recent months.

In other regions, the company reported an unsatisfactory performance in the Middle East which was the result of weak regional economic conditions as well as merchandise issues, the latter of which the company says has now been rectified. Meanwhile, Southeast Asian markets have shown recent sales growth following the launch of new merchandise.



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Hong Kong skyline

Hong Kong bank funds said frozen for some tangled in 1MDB probe

HONG Kong bank accounts belonging to several unnamed individuals have been frozen amid global investigations into the finances of a troubled Malaysian state fund, according to people with knowledge of the matter.

Those who had their funds locked are being probed by authorities in countries outside of Malaysia, such as Singapore, the people said, asking not to be identified because of the sensitivity of the matter.

Malaysia Development Bhd. (1MDB), which defaulted on its debt last month, is at the center of multiple inquiries stretching from Switzerland to the U.S. amid allegations of money laundering and embezzlement, and has consistently denied wrongdoing. Malaysia's central bank last week fined 1MDB and announced it was ending its investigation.

It's not clear which Hong

Kong authorities ordered the accounts freeze or if the banks acted on their own volition. The Financial Times in September reported that Hong Kong police were investigating some deposits related to 1MDB after a complaint was lodged. Malaysia said those claims were baseless and politically motivated, the newspaper reported.

Hong Kong's anti-corruption agency and the police said they don't comment on individual cases.

Authorities in Singapore said in February they had frozen "a large number" of accounts in connection with possible money-laundering related to the 1MDB probe. The Southeast Asian nation has charged two men following investigations into their dealings with the fund and related entities. Prosecutors there describe the probe as its "most complex cross-border investigation."

Authorities in other coun-

tries such as Switzerland are also examining claims that 1MDB was used to funnel money to politically-connected individuals. A Malaysian parliamentary committee had identified at least USD4.2 billion of irregular transactions by the fund.

Prime Minister Najib Razak chairs the advisory board of 1MDB and has faced calls from opposition politicians and former leader Mahathir Mohamad to resign as premier over alleged mismanagement at the fund. He has consistently denied wrongdoing.

The Malaysia attorney general's office in January cleared Najib of any graft in receiving a large donation in his personal accounts from the Saudi royal family before the 2013 general election, with most of the money later returned. It rejected at least two requests from Malaysia's central bank for criminal proceedings against 1MDB. **Bloomberg**

MARKETS

Global stocks lower on growth concern

Joe McDonald, Beijing

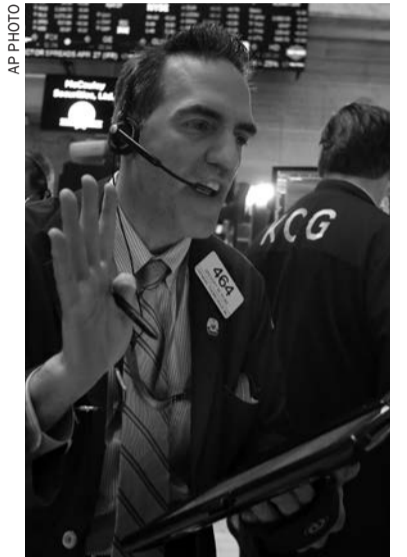
GLOBAL stock markets were mostly lower yesterday after weaker Chinese manufacturing and a cut in Europe's growth outlook fueled fears about the global economy.

ASIA'S DAY: Sydney's S&P/ASX 200 fell 1.5 percent to 5,271.10 and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index lost 0.7 percent to 20,525.83. Seoul's Kospi shed 0.5 percent to 1,976.71 and India's Sensex retreated 0.3 percent to 25,156.02. The Shanghai Composite Index was unchanged at 2,991.27 and benchmarks in New Zealand, Singapore, Taiwan and Indonesia also fell. Japanese markets were closed for a holiday.

GLOBAL GROWTH: Weaker manufacturing in China and a cut in the eurozone's growth forecast fueled concern about the global outlook. The latest data, combined with the Australian central bank's decision to cut interest rates, "challenged expectations of growth recovery," Citigroup said in a report.

ANALYST'S TAKE: "The wind in the sails of a global stock rally seems to have lessened lately," Bernard Aw of IG said in a report. "Technical traders might say that some correction is necessary for the rally to continue, but I feel that the underlying factors are beginning to turn its tail."

CHINA: A survey of manufacturers found activity weakened in April despite government efforts to stimulate the slowing economy. A prolonged slowdown could hurt prices of commodities, for which Chinese factories are major customers, and the economies that supply them. Worries about China were largely responsible for a



bout of turmoil in global financial markets early this year.

WEAKER EUROPE: European officials trimmed their economic growth forecasts for the 19 countries that share the euro currency, citing an unpredictable global outlook marked by political uncertainty and weakness in emerging markets. The European Union forecast the eurozone economy would grow by 1.6 percent this year, down by 0.1 point from its expectations three months ago. European Union Commissioner Pierre Moscovici said the recovery "remains uneven."

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude added 7 cents to USD43.72 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract plunged \$1.13 on Tuesday to close at \$43.65. Brent crude, used to price international oils, was off 3 cents at \$44.93 in London. It tumbled 86 cents on Tuesday to \$44.97.

CURRENCY: The dollar rose to 106.99 yen from Tuesday's 106.68 yen. The euro edged down to \$1.1482 from \$1.1499. **AP**

corporate bits

THE PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA RETURNS TO MACAU



The Venetian Macao announced the return of The Philadelphia Orchestra to town. Led by music director Yannick Nézet-Sguin, the orchestra will be performing at The Venetian Theatre on May 28-29. This will be the fifth consecutive year that the orchestra has performed in Macau. The highlight of the local performances will be a special guest appearance by acclaimed Chinese pianist Lang Lang who

will join the Orchestra on the first night of the Macau show, while Japanese-American violinist Ryu Goto will make his Philadelphia Orchestra debut on the second night.

The Macau performances are supported by the Cultural Affairs Bureau, while The Venetian Macao is the presenting sponsor for the Asia tour which will see the Orchestra perform in Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong, and in Japan, Tokyo, Osaka and Kawasaki. Tickets for The Philadelphia Orchestra with Lang Lang on May 28 and The Philadelphia Orchestra 2016 China Residency and Tour of Asia on May 29 at the Venetian Theatre go on sale today at all Co-tai Ticketing box offices.

IKEA INTRODUCES PICK-UP POINT



IKEA introduced its new Macau Merchandise Pick-up Point, located at the Macau Tower. Encompassing 3,000

square feet, the new pick-up point will allow Macau customers to easily collect the products which they have ordered online or at Hong Kong IKEA stores.

"Customer feedback is very important to us. We listened to what shoppers had to say, which resulted in the new Merchandise Pick-up Point," said Patrik Lindvall, General Manager of IKEA Hong Kong. "We wanted to make shopping at IKEA even easier – picking up products that have been ordered in store or online, painlessly, is a huge part of that."

The new pick-up point also features parking space and what the company describes as a "cozy, inspirational waiting area."

MGM PRE-SCREEN MACAU-SHOT FILM



MGM Macau announced yesterday that it held a private pre-screening of "Book of Love" for over 400 MGM employees at the Macau Tower Convention and Entertainment Center ahead of the movie's release in Macau and Hong Kong today.

"Book of Love," which is also known as "Finding Mr. Right 2", has broken box office records in China, earning over RMB400 million (MOP493 million) within

the first four days of its release on the mainland.

The resort operator exclusively sponsored the movie's on-location filming in Macau last year.

"Through sponsoring film and TV productions, we are creating great opportunities to showcase Macau's beautiful landscapes, art, culture and diversified offerings to the world," said CEO and Executive Director Grant Bowie.

PORTUGAL

Budget deficit in 2016 is expected to reach 2.7pct of GDP

THE budget deficit in Portugal is expected to be 2.7 percent of GDP this year and 2.3 percent in 2017, the European Commission said this week in Brussels in its report on the Spring economic forecasts.

These deficits are higher than those included in the Stability and Growth Programme recently presented by the Portuguese government, which provides that the budget deficits in 2016 and 2017 will be 2.2 percent and 1.4 percent of GDP, respectively.

In its winter report the European Commission forecast that Portugal would this year post a budget deficit of 3.4 percent, a figure that dropped after the Portuguese government introduced additional measures to contain spending.

Considering that the Portuguese economy will grow 1.5 percent this year and 1.7 percent next year – while the government provides values of 1.8 percent in 2016 and in 2017 – the Commission warns that Portugal may be affected by “political uncertainty, developments in financial markets and a persistent deleveraging pressure on the private sector.”

The Commission also said public debt should be reduced to 126 percent of GDP in 2016, “mainly due to expected sales of financial assets, including Novo Banco” and to 124.5 percent in 2017, “due to primary budget surpluses and the growth of domestic demand.” **MDT/Macauhub**

Shanghai company buys trading company in Brazil

HUNAN Dakang Pasture Farming, a company of the Shanghai Pengxin group, has paid USD286 million to acquire 57 percent of Brazilian trading company Fiagril Ltd, reported financial news agency Bloomberg.

In a statement, Fiagril Participações, based in the state of Mato Grosso, reported its shareholders had reached an agreement with a Chinese company, whose shares are listed on the Shanghai Stock Exchange, for the sale of a stake in Fiagril, Lda.

Following this deal, Fiagril Ltd. now has three major shareholders – Hunan Dakang Pasture Farming, the founders of Fiagril Participações and Amerra Capital Management.

Fiagril Lda is one of the major Brazilian trading companies buying and selling grain, especially soybeans and corn, which moves and annually exports



about 2.5 million tons of goods, has a storage capacity of 1 million tons and 30 subsidiaries in the states of Mato Grosso, Amapá and Tocantins.

Amerra Capital Management LLC is a US investment company specialising in the agricultural sector, focusing on solutions for agricultural enterprises located in the Americas.

In the statement, Fiagril Participações did not mention the size of the stake sold or the value of the transaction.

state of Mato Grosso, said that China imported some 7 million tons of cereals from Brazil each year.

“Between January and September [2015] China imported 8.8 percent of total agricultural production in Brazil,” said Oliveira Filho.

According to Famato, the Chinese questioned whether increased demand would damage the environment.

Despite the state of Mato Grosso being Brazil’s largest cereal producer, just 6 percent of its area is taken up by production of soy, which is one of cereals China imports from Brazil.

The Chinese delegation, which visited a farm producing soy, maize in the municipal area of Campo Verde, some 130 kilometers from Cuiabá, announced it was interested in developing investment projects in roads, railroads and warehouses. **MDT/Macauhub**

Exports of agricultural products from Brazil to China may double or even triple following a visit last fall by a Chinese delegation to the state of Mato Grosso, an agricultural spokesman told news agency Agência Estado.

Amado de Oliveira Filho, a consultant from the Federation of Agriculture and Farming of Mato Grosso (Famato), who took part in a meeting in Cuiabá with representatives of the Chinese government and farmers from the

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Chinese singer Song Zuying performs during the "Cultures of China, Festival of Spring" concert at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

CHINA'S military has dispatched ships and planes — even constructed new islands to assert its maritime claims. Now it's deploying a new set of tools to uphold Chinese sovereignty: Magicians, singers and actors.

Famed singer of patriotic anthems Song Zuying headlined a tour of China's man-made islands in the South China Sea's Spratly islands

this week, underscoring Beijing's confidence in asserting its increasingly dominant position in the disputed region.

The performance, entitled "The People's Navy Advances," included songs, skits and magic tricks, part of a long tradition of the People's Liberation Army art troupes putting on shows to entertain, promote ideological conformity and stir public pride in the military and ruling Communist Party.

Among the songs performed:

"Ode to the South Sea Defenders," whose lyrics speak of "a troop of stout men with guns in their hands who battle the wind and fight the waves to guard the nation's door."

"On stilted platforms in the South Sea, [China's] five-starred red flag flaps in the wind, I've tasted all types of bitterness in the South Sea, (but) the people's happiness is my pride and glory," the song continues.

The singer Song, a star of the military arts troupe who

SOUTH CHINA SEA

After ships and planes, Chinese singers assert maritime claims

once performed with Celine Dion on state television, was a big hit with the construction workers and naval officers who attended the shows, the official Xinhua News Agency

■ **The performance, entitled 'The People's Navy Advances,' included songs, skits and magic tricks, part of a long tradition of the PLA art troupes**

reported. The event was also recorded for broadcast by state-run CCTV.

"I was so excited for [...] the troupe to come to the front-line islands," said Huang Tianjun, a member of the garrison atop Fiery Cross Reef. "We will most definitely hold fast here and defend every inch of the reef."

Along with the reef, known as Yongshu in Chinese, where China has constructed a

runway capable of handling its largest military aircraft, the performers also visited smaller Cuarteron Reef. Alongside China, Taiwan, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia and Brunei all claim territory in the area.

Photos of the performances that spread across state media yesterday offered a rare glimpse of the extensive work China has been carrying out in the area, showing lighthouses, harbors and buildings all built atop coral reefs covered in sand and concrete.

In the background of some can be seen one of the navy's massive Type 071 amphibious dock ships capable of carrying four helicopters and as many as 800 troops.

Tensions have been rising in the area, in part because the U.S. has refused to acknowledge China's newly built territories as enjoying the legal status of naturally occurring islands, with their accompanying territorial seas and exclusive economic zones. Although it takes no formal stance on sovereignty claims, Washington has insisted on freedom of navigation in the South China Sea and the Navy has sailed and flown past and over the new islands to drive home the point, prompting an angry response from Beijing. **AP**

COURTS

Apple loses lawsuit over iPhone name

APPLE Inc. has lost a legal fight with a Chinese company that a Beijing court says is allowed to use the iPhone name on wallets and handbags.

The court said Apple failed to prove iPhone was a "famous brand" in China before the local company applied for a trademark in 2007, an official legal newspaper reported. Such status under Chinese law might limit its

use on other products.

The ruling last month allows Xintong Tiandi Technology to keep using the iPhone name, according to the Legal Daily, which is published by the ruling Communist Party's legal affairs committee. The company registered the name for use on handbags, mobile phone cases and other leather goods.

Phone calls to the Beijing Higher Level Peo-

ple's Court were not answered.

China is Apple's second-biggest market after the United States, though first-quarter sales in the Greater China region fell 26 percent from a year earlier.

Apple's iTunes and iBooks services also have been suspended in China, though the company said last month it hopes to resume operation soon.

Apple applied to trademark iPhone for computer- and software-related goods in 2002, according to the Legal Daily.

Xintong Tiandi applied to use the name on wallets and leather goods two years before Apple's smartphones went on sale in China in 2009, it said.

Apple filed suit in 2012 challenging the Chinese company's use of the name. **AP**



WHILE increasingly harsh attacks on China help propel Donald Trump to the Republican presidential nomination, the country's state media has largely shown restraint, taking only the occasional swipe at the billionaire developer.

"We can't continue to allow China to rape our country - and that's what they're doing. It's the greatest theft in the history of the world," Trump said while campaigning in Fort Wayne, Indiana, earlier this week. Trump's victory in the Midwestern state's primary yesterday saw his leading challenger, U.S. Senator Ted Cruz of Texas, drop out of the race and effectively sewed up the Republican nomination for president (see p15).

While China's Xinhua News Agency published an article this week quoting Western media and experts critical of Trump's rape comments, the state-run media giant offered no editorial response. Last week, the typically more bellicose Global Times newspaper had written that most of Trump's foreign policy would "prove hollow, nationalistic and inconsistent" and said he was "seriously wrong about how economies work in the present world."

The episode is indicative of the Chinese state media's response throughout the U.S. presidential campaign, in which the country has been a favorite target by candidates of both parties. Trump has accused China of manipulating its currency to boost exports and building a "fortress" in the South China Sea, where the county is placing weapons on disputed islands and the U.S. is sending warships to assert

Media pulls punches on Trump's escalating rhetoric



Donald Trump, the controversial billionaire who leads the Republican presidential nomination

navigation rights.

While foreign leaders from British Prime Minister David Cameron to Pope Francis have leveled public criticism against Trump since he emerged as the surprise Republican front-runner last year, China has avoided wading into the fight. In March, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang expressed confidence that ties between the world's two largest economies could endure the "eye-catching" election and that shared interests would continue to provide the foundation for relations.

China is now self assured enough to shrug off inflammatory criticism, said Jin Canrong, a professor of international relations at Renmin

■ The bellicose Global Times newspaper [wrote] that most of Trump's foreign policy would 'prove hollow, nationalistic and inconsistent'

University in Beijing.

"Trump's campaign was a series of dramas, and what

he was saying was purely designed for his success on the campaign trail," said Jin. "Relations between Beijing and Washington won't be changed given the solid economic ties. No matter what presidential candidates say, they'll treat China as an important business partner and world power."

The leading Democratic candidate, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, has also irked Chinese leaders with her positions on the South China Sea territorial disputes and human rights.

Asked about Trump's China comments at a regular press briefing in Beijing yesterday, Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman Hong Lei said the election

was an internal U.S. matter that he wouldn't comment on.

"It's important to point out that the core of bilateral economic-and-trade cooperation is mutually beneficial and accords with the common interests of both sides," Hong said. "We hope all the American people from different sectors view this relationship in a rational and objective way."

The reticence of China's state-owned media to take on Trump may stem from a bet that rhetoric will fade as the campaign progresses. U.S. allies Japan and South Korea showed similar restraint in March in response to Trump's calls for them to shoulder more of the burden for their own defense and possibly develop nuclear weapons. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said it would be "inappropriate" to comment on the U.S. election, while South Korean President Park Geun Hye vowed to help rid the world of nukes.

Chen Fengying, a global economics researcher with the China Institute of Contemporary International Relations, said the Chinese government was merely abiding by its policy against interfering in the internal affairs of other nations. He said Trump's "inelegant" rhetoric didn't deserve much concern.

"Don't take them seriously. They're used to woo voters," Chen said. "China-U.S. cooperation isn't affected." **Bloomberg**

TRADE

Australia rules out sale of cattle empire to Chinese consortium

Rod McGuirk,
Canberra

AUSTRALIA'S current government will never sell its largest cattle empire to foreigners, the treasurer said yesterday after blocking a takeover by a Chinese-led consortium.

Chinese-based Dakang Australia Holdings on Tuesday withdrew its application to buy an 80 percent stake in Australia's largest private landholding, S. Kidman & Co. Ltd., after Treasurer Scott Morrison last week

■ Many fear that Chinese-owned farms could supply [...] parent companies at discount prices or refuse to sell to Australian buyers

announced a preliminary view that the sale was contrary to the national interest.

Morrison said the main reason he opposed the 371 million Australian dollars (USD284 million) sale was that the collection of cattle ranches was too big.

"As a result of the decision I took last week ... Australia's largest land holding will not be sold to foreign interests," Morrison told the National Press Club. "There's got to be a limit and it was just too big."

S. Kidman & Co. Ltd. owns 10 cattle ranches, a bull breeding stud and a feed lot covering 101,411 square kilometers in four states. That's an area bigger than South Korea and almost the size of the U.S. state of Virginia.

Morrison said the company founded by beef baron Sir Sidney Kidman in 1899 might be sold into foreign ownership if the government changes at elections in July.

Kidman managing director Greg Campbell said he expected the consor-



Australia's Treasurer Scott Morrison

tium, led by a subsidiary of Shanghai Pengxin Group, would return after the election with a new offer for a smaller parcel of land or with a higher proportion of Australian investor money.

Morrison had offered no guidance on how much of Kidman land the Chinese might be allowed to buy, Campbell said.

"It's highly likely they'll back with a reapplication

after the election and get the populist hysteria out of the way," Campbell said.

Foreign ownership of farmland is an increasingly sensitive issue in Australia, where many fear that Chinese-owned farms could supply Australian-grown produce to Chinese parent companies at discount prices or refuse to sell to Australian buyers. **AP**

AUSTRALIA

Prime minister decides on July 2 election

bust. If the opposition center-left Labor Party wins the election, it will mean Australia's fifth change of prime minister in six years.

Turnbull replaced his unpopular predecessor Tony Abbott in a leadership ballot of lawmakers in the ruling center-right Liberal Party in September, only two years after the coalition government was elected.

The change of prime minister immediately boosted the government's standing in opinion polls, but recent polls suggest the government is now running neck-and-neck with Labor.

Ostensibly Turnbull has called an early election because a hostile senate has refused to pass legislation that would allow the government to create a building industry watchdog called the Australian Building and Construction Commission. The ABCC was disbanded in 2012 by a former Labor government, which is linked to the trade union movement.

While the plight of the ABCC seems an obscure issue to most voters, the political debate focuses attention on opposition leader Bill Shorten's history as a union official.

Before he entered parliament in 2007, Shorten was a

senior official of the Australian Workers Union, one of five unions targeted by government-commissioned inquiry into union corruption. Labor condemned the inquiry as a politically motivated witch hunt.

Shorten rejected suggestions by inquiry lawyers that he had had conflicts of interests when companies made donations to his union while he was negotiating with them over workers' pay. Even Labor supporters criticized him over news of the donations.

Australian National University political scientist John Wanna expects Turnbull will use the issue to focus on Shorten's union past during the campaign.

"He's going to turn the attack on Shorten: 'You're just a union thug; you're just a union hack; you've blocked us from bringing in a measure that would have made unions more accountable,'" Wanna said.

Labor is expected to exploit Turnbull's past support for Australia adopting an emissions trading system to cut greenhouse gas pollution. Australia, on a per capita basis, is among the world's worst polluters.

Turnbull's support in 2009 for a then Labor government's proposal to introduce an emissions trading scheme cost him the

leadership of the Liberal Party.

He was replaced by Abbott, who repealed a two-year-old carbon tax in 2014. The tax paid by Australia's worst industrial polluters had been due that year to transition into an emissions trading scheme with market forces determining the price of a ton of carbon.

Labor again wants the emissions trading scheme to replace the government's so-called Direct Action policy of paying polluters taxpayer-funded incentives to operate more cleanly, and Shorten has been reminding the public that Turnbull once described Direct Action as "an environmental fig leaf to hide a determination to do nothing."

Turnbull's coalition currently holds 90 of 150 seats in the House of Representatives, while Labor has 55 seats.

Turnbull will be hoping that the early election will not only return his government but provide him with a more compliant senate that is more likely to pass his legislative agenda.

All 76 senate seats are up for grabs. The government currently holds 33 senate seats, Labor holds 25 and the left-wing Greens party holds 10. The remaining eight are either independents or sole senators representing minor parties. **AP**



Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull

Rod McGuirk, Canberra

AUSTRALIA'S election campaign will officially start soon with climate change policy and union corruption in the national building industry shaping into key battlegrounds for the July 2 poll.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said yesterday that he was likely to visit Governor-General Peter Cosgrove this weekend to

lock down the date and officially start the election campaign.

A heartening historical fact for Turnbull is that no Australian federal government has lost power after a single three-year term since the tumultuous early years of the Great Depression. But Australia is now in an extraordinary era of political volatility as it grapples to diversify an economy that thrived on a mining boom that has gone

RESEARCHERS believe the ship that legendary explorer Captain James Cook used to sail around the world is still submerged somewhere in Rhode Island's Newport Harbor.

The Endeavour was part of a fleet of 13 ships the British scuttled during the Revolutionary War in 1778 to blockade the port. The roughly 100-foot vessel had been listed in records under a different name, the Lord Sandwich.

The Rhode Island Marine Archaeology Project, which is leading the search effort, recently used a grant from the Australian National Maritime Museum to locate documents in London identifying the groups of ships in that fleet and where each was scuttled.

The nonprofit thinks

the Endeavour is part of a group of five sunken wrecks.

It already has mapped nine sites in the harbor, including four of the five sites in that group.

It announced plans

■ Cook used the Endeavour to claim Australia for the British during his historic 1768-71 voyage

yesterday to investigate the fifth shipwreck this year.

Cook used the Endeavour to claim Australia

Researchers say they're closing in on Captain Cook's ship

for the British during his historic 1768-71 voyage.

In 2014, the Australian National Maritime Museum signed an agreement to help the Rhode Island group find the lost vessel.

"To be able to find the last resting place of the Endeavour would truly be a nationally significant event, if not internationally," Kevin Sumption said at the time.

Sumption is the director of the Australian museum, which features a replica of the Endeavour. The museum hopes to locate the wreck in time for the 250th anniversary celebrations of Cook's voyage. **AP**



A replica of the ship, the Endeavour, lies at anchor after it was removed from a sandbar in Botany Bay

Jim Gomez, Manila

PHILIPPINES

Muslim militants threaten to kill more hostages

MUSLIM militants have threatened to kill three more hostages in their jungle base in the southern Philippines more than a week after beheading a Canadian man when their multi-million dollar ransom demands were not met.

In a video circulated this week by the SITE Intelligence Group, which monitors jihadi websites, the captives from Canada, Norway and the Philippines pleaded for the Canadian and Philippine governments to heed the Abu Sayyaf militants' demand.

Six heavily armed Abu Sayyaf fighters stood behind the hostages, who were made to sit in a clearing and spoke briefly before a camera. A black flag hang in the backdrop of banana trees and lush foliage.

Norwegian hostage Kjartan Sekkingstad said that if the kidnappers' demand was not met, "we will be executed like our friend John."

The militants beheaded John Ridsdel on April 25 in the southern Philippine province of Sulu, an impoverished Muslim province in the south of the largely Roman Catholic country,

after they failed to get a ransom of 300 million pesos (USD6.3 million).

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau condemned the killing but vowed not to give in to the kidnappers' ransom demands. Following the beheading, the Philippine military launched an offensive, which security officials believe have killed more than a dozen gunmen so far.

Canadian captive Robert Hall asked the Philippine government to "please stop shooting at us and trying to kill us. They're gonna do a good job at that." He asked his government to heed the militants' demand.

Holding back tears, Filipino Marites Flor asked several officials and prominent Philippine personalities, including local presidential candidates, for help "because we want to be

AP PHOTO



Former Italian missionary Rolando Del Torchio waits for medical treatment at the Trauma Center Zamboanga city hours after his release from suspected Abu Sayyaf kidnappers in Jolo

PRESIDENTIAL FAVORITE DUTERTE 'ALL-INCLUSIVE' REMARK STIRS DEBATE

A **PHILIPPINE** senator expressed alarm over a presidential frontrunner's plan to allow communist guerrillas to play a political role in the government if he wins, saying this would cause rumblings within the military.

In his latest controversial remark, Mayor Rodrigo Duterte told reporters his administration would be an all-inclusive one in which communist guerrillas could take part in decision-making. He had earlier expressed openness to a coalition with revolutionary forces but later clarified that an all-inclusive government might be better so as not to

antagonize the military and police. Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, a former navy officer, told reporters the military, which has a history of failed coup attempts, could get restive if Duterte wins the presidential race and considers giving political concessions to the rebels. "There is a faction in the military that is averse to any form of power-sharing with the communists that Duterte is proposing," said the senator, who was among the leaders of a failed mutiny in 2003. "It's going to be very easy to recruit people for such military interventions."

freed alive."

A masked militant warned Canada and the Philippines that the three remaining hostages would be killed "if you procrastinate once again."

It was the first time, the three captives were shown in a video after Ridsdel's killing.

The four were seized from a marina on southern Samal Is-

land and taken by boat to Sulu, where Abu Sayyaf gunmen continue to hold several captives, including a Dutch bird watcher who was kidnapped more than three years ago, and eight Indonesian and Malaysian crewmen who were snatched recently from three tugboats.

The militants freed 10 Indonesian tugboat crewmen a few

days ago reportedly in exchange for ransom.

The United States and the Philippines have separately blacklisted the Abu Sayyaf for kidnappings for ransom, beheadings and bombings. The brutal group emerged in the early 1990s as an extremist offshoot of a decades-long Muslim separatist rebellion in the south. **AP**

EY474

Severe turbulence injures 32 on Etihad flight to Indonesia

SEVERAL passengers aboard an Etihad Airways flight were injured yesterday when their plane ran into sudden turbulence as it prepared to land in the Indonesian capital, Jakarta.

The United Arab Emirates' national airline said flight EY474, which departed from its hub in the Emirati capital of Abu Dhabi, was hit by "severe and unexpected turbulence" about 45 minutes before landing at



An Emirati man takes a selfie in front of a new Etihad Airways A380 in Abu Dhabi

Soekarno Hatta International Airport.

The plane landed safely but 32 passengers were injured, including nine who were taken to a local hospital for treatment, it said. The other 23 were being treated for minor injuries at the airport.

The airline did not provide details on the severity of the injuries, but said the turbulence was severe enough that it damaged cabin storage bins.

Haerul Anwar, a spokesman for the Jakarta airport, described nine of the injuries as serious. He said officials from the airport and Indonesia's National Transportation Safety Committee were inspecting the plane.

Etihad typically flies an Airbus A330-200 on the Jakarta route. Airline officials did not immediately respond to questions about the type of aircraft involved or the number of passengers onboard.

Etihad, like its older Gulf rivals Qatar Airways and Dubai-based Emirates, has grown rapidly in recent years primarily by luring long-haul transit passengers through its desert expanding hub. Founded in 2003, it has a good safety record and last year carried 17.6 million passengers. It holds stakes in several other airlines, including Air Berlin, Alitalia and Virgin Australia. **AP**



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Donald Trump



Hillary Clinton

Julie Pace & Scott Bauer,
Indianapolis

USA ELECTIONS

Trump, Clinton all but certain to face off in fall campaign

ONCE dismissed as a fringe contender, businessman Donald Trump now is all but certain to lead the Republican Party into the fall presidential campaign against Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton — a stunning political triumph for a first-time candidate whose appeal to frustrated voters was widely underestimated.

Trump's victory in Indiana yesterday [Macau time] and Ted Cruz's abrupt decision to drop out resolved the Republican nominee for 2016, but it still left the party in a deep state of uncertainty. Some Republican leaders remain acutely wary of the bombastic billionaire and have insisted they could never support him, even in a faceoff against Clinton.

Nebraska Sen. Ben Sasse, who has consistently said he could not support Trump, wrote on Twitter that he was being asked if the Indiana results changed his views. "The answer is simple: No," Sasse wrote.

Republicans such as Sasse worry both about Trump's views on immigration and foreign policy and his over-the-top persona. Hours before clinching victory in Indiana, Trump was floating an unsubstantiated claim that Cruz's father appeared in a 1963 photograph with John F. Kennedy's assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald — citing a report first published by the National Enquirer.

Trump still needs about 200 delegates to formally secure the nomination, but Cruz's decision to end his campaign removed his last major obstacle.

"Ted Cruz — I don't know if he likes me or he doesn't like me — but he is one hell of a competitor," Trump said of his last

fierce competitor, whom he had dubbed "lyin' Ted." Trump, in a victory speech that was much lower-key than usual, promised victory in November, vowing anew to put "America first."

Yesterday, Trump revealed in a broadcast interview that he'll "probably go the political rou-

Some Republican leaders remain acutely wary of the bombastic billionaire [...] they could never support him, even in a faceoff against Clinton

te" in naming a vice presidential running mate, saying he's inclined to pick someone who can "help me get legislation passed." Trump didn't identify any of the names under consideration.

He also said on MSNBC's "Morning Joe" show that he's hoping to decide within a week how to fund a general election campaign, but said he didn't want to accept money from super PACs. "Do I want to sell

a couple of buildings? I really don't want to do that," he said. But Trump did say he would help the party raise money.

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders eked out a victory over Clinton in Indiana, but the outcome will not slow the former secretary of state's march to the Democratic nomination. Heading into Tuesday's voting, Clinton had 92 percent of the delegates she needs.

"I know that the Clinton campaign thinks this campaign is over. They're wrong," Sanders said defiantly in an interview yesterday. But Clinton already has turned her attention to the general election.

She and Trump now plunge into a six-month battle for the presidency, with the future of America's immigration laws, health care system and military posture around the world at stake. While Clinton heads into the general election with significant advantages with minority voters and women, Democrats have vowed to not underestimate Trump as his Republican rivals did for too long.

Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus declared the GOP race over, saying on Twitter that Trump would be the party's presumptive nominee.

"We all need to unite and focus on defeating @HillaryClinton," he wrote.

Indeed, Trump's first challenge will be uniting a Republican Party that has been roiled by

his candidacy. While some GOP leaders have warmed to the real estate mogul, others see him as a threat to their party's very existence.

Even before the Indiana results were finalized, some conservative leaders were planning a meeting to assess the viability of launching a third party candidacy to compete with him in the fall.

Indiana was viewed as the last gasp for Cruz, the fiery Texas conservative. He campaigned aggressively in the state, securing the support of Indiana's governor and announcing businesswoman Carly Fiorina as his running mate but lost momentum in the closing days.

Cruz had clung to the hope that he could keep Trump from reaching the 1,237 delegates needed for the nomination and push the race to a rare contested convention. But aides said he made the decision to drop out early Tuesday evening, shortly after most polls in Indiana had closed.

"I've said I would continue on as long as there was a viable path to victory; tonight I'm sorry to say it appears that path has been foreclosed," Cruz told a somber crowd in Indianapolis.

The campaign of Gov. John Kasich, who has won only in his home state of Ohio, said in a Facebook post: "Tonight's results are not going to alter Gov. Kasich's campaign plans. Our strategy has been and con-

tinues to be one that involves winning the nomination at an open convention." Kasich trails Trump by nearly 900 delegates.

Only about half of Indiana's Republican primary voters said they were excited or optimistic about any of their remaining candidates becoming president, according to exit polling conducted by Edison Research for The Associated Press and television networks. Still, most said they probably would support the GOP winner.

Clinton, too, needs to win over Sanders' enthusiastic supporters. The Vermont senator has cultivated a deeply loyal following, particularly among young people, whom Democrats count on in the general election.

Sanders has conceded his strategy hinges on persuading superdelegates to back him over the former secretary of state. Superdelegates are Democratic Party insiders who can support the candidate of their choice, regardless of how their states vote. And they favor Clinton by a nearly 18-1 margin.

With Sanders' narrow victory, he picked up at least 43 of Indiana's 83 delegates. Clinton now has 2,202 delegates to Sanders' 1,400. That includes pledged delegates from primaries and caucuses, as well as superdelegates.

Trump now has at least 1,047 delegates. Cruz exits the race with 565, while Kasich has 152. **AP**

what's ON



THE EXHIBITION "TRAVELOGUE--WORKS BY PARK, SEUNG HOON"

TIME: 10am-6pm (Closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: June 26, 2016

VENUE: Gallery of Taipa Houses-Museum

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

"WEINGART TYPOGRAPHY" – EXHIBITION BY THE MUSEUM FÜR GESTALTUNG ZÜRICH

TIME: 10am-9pm

UNTIL: June 12, 2016

VENUE: Tap Seac Gallery, located at Avenida do

Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida, No. 95.

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

THE CHARMS OF FLOWERS – EXHIBITION OF TRADITIONAL CHINESE FLOWER ARRANGEMENT

TIME: 10am-6pm (no admission after 5:30 pm,

closed on Mondays, open on public holidays)

UNTIL: July 31, 2016

VENUE: Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de

Almeida, No. 95 C-D, Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2523

INK WASH OF THE FORBIDDEN CITY – PAINTINGS BY CHARLES CHAUDELOT

TIME: 10am-7pm (No admittance after 6:30 pm,

closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: June 19, 2016

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai,

s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: MOP5 (Free on Sundays and public

holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

MACAU GIANT PANDA PAVILION

TIME: 10am-1pm and 2pm-5pm daily (Except

Mondays, closed on the following day instead if a

public holiday falls on Monday and no admission

after 4:45 pm; six viewings per day)

VENUE: Seac Pai Van Park, Coloane

ADMISSION: MOP10

ENQUIRIES: Civil and Municipal Affairs Bureau (853)

2833 7676

THE COLLECTION EXHIBITION OF TAI FUNG TONG ART HOUSE

TIME: 2pm-6pm daily (Except Mondays)

VENUE: Tai Fung Tong Art House, Calçada da Igreja

de S. Lázaro 7

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 3537 / 2834 6626

Offbeat

CROSS-BEARING 'JESUS' ARRESTED AT APPLE STORE FOR TRESPASS

A man who calls himself "Philly Jesus" has a new cross to bear: He was arrested at a Philadelphia Apple store on a trespassing charge.

Philly Jesus' real name is Michael Grant. He dresses like Jesus, carries a large cross, preaches on sidewalks and poses for photos. He also performs baptisms in city fountains.

Police say the Apple store's manager told them Grant refused to leave Monday night despite being asked multiple times. They say his cross was blocking an aisle. He was handcuffed and arrested.

According to online court documents, Grant was charged with defiant trespassing and disorderly conduct. No lawyer information was listed. He was released after an arraignment early Tuesday.

Grant tweeted yesterday that he was "free at last."

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	RTPi Live
18:30	Helena's Shadow (Repeated)
19:20	Montra do Lilau (Repeated)
19:50	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Talk Show
21:40	Comedy
22:10	Helena's Shadow
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Champions League Highlights
23:45	Variety
00:15	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:45	RTPi Live

cinema



CINETEATRO

05 MAY- 11 MAY



CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR

ROOM 1
(2D) 2.30, 6.30, 9.15 pmROOM 2
(3D) 4.15, 7.00 pmDirector: Anthony and Joe Russo
Starring: Chris Evans, Robert Downey Jr.,
Scarlett Johansson, Sebastian Stan
Language: English (Cantonese)
Duration: 147min

THE HIMALAYAS

ROOM 2
2.00, 9.45 pmDirector: Lee Seok-hoon
Starring: Hwang Jung-min, Jung Woo
Language: Korean (Cantonese/English)
Duration: 124min

BOOK OF LOVE

ROOM 3
2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30pmDirector: Xue Xiaolu
Starring: Tang Wei, Wu Xiubo
Language: Mandarin (Cantonese/English)
Duration: 130min

MACAU TOWER

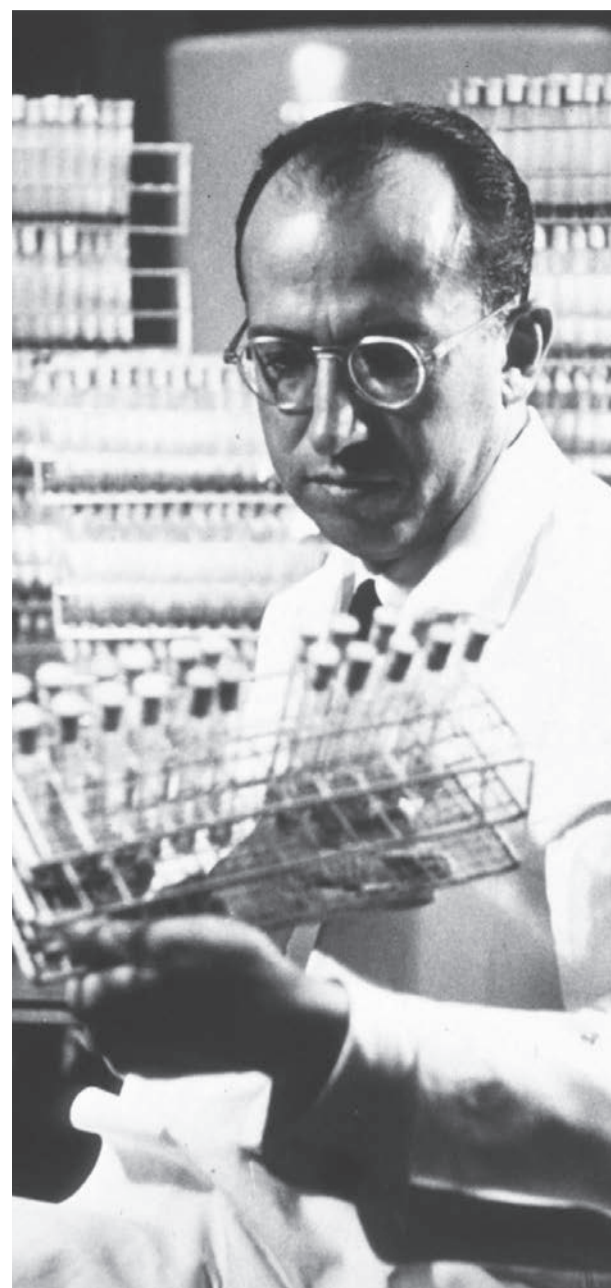
27 APR - 18 MAY

CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR

1.15, 4.00, 6.45, 9.30 pm

Director: Anthony and Joe Russo
Starring: Chris Evans, Robert Downey Jr.,
Scarlett Johansson, Sebastian Stan
Language: English (Cantonese)
Duration: 147min

this day in history



1955 DR SALK PROMOTES POLIO VACCINE IN UK

Dr Jonas Salk, the world-famous American virologist currently on a trip to the UK, has witnessed a ceremonial polio vaccination in London.

Margaret Jenkins, aged 21, of Bromley in Kent became the 500,000th person in London to receive the polio vaccine in the first of two injections at the special lunchtime clinic at Guildhall in the City.

Miss Jenkins, a shorthand typist, said she decided to have the vaccination after she had seen two of her friends suffer from the crippling disease, poliomyelitis.

She is due to have her second injection tomorrow at City Hall, once again overseen by Dr Salk, who first developed the killed-virus vaccine against polio that came into use last year.

He is in the UK for a congress of the Royal Society for the Promotion of Health.

Polio is a highly infectious virus which spreads from the intestines, attacks the brain and spinal cord and can cause paralysis, muscle wastage and death.

There has been a sharp rise in the demand for the vaccine following the death from the disease of Birmingham City full back Jeff Hall last month.

Local health departments have been overwhelmed with applicants and have ordered an extra million doses.

On 22 April daily inoculations at Manchester Town Hall were suspended because of a shortage of the vaccine.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

By the 1960s the Salk vaccine - first used to prevent polio in 1954 - was replaced by the Sabin vaccine, administered orally.

The Sabin vaccine, named after the Polish-born American microbiologist Albert Bruce Sabin, was a weakened live vaccine that provided greater immunity and for longer.

Since widespread vaccination began in 1955, the crippling virus has been wiped out everywhere except for a few regions of Asia and Africa. There have been no cases in the western world since 1991. The World Health Organisation (WHO) plans to eradicate polio by 2005.

Dr Jonas Salk founded the Salk Institute for Biological Studies and then devoted his attentions to world peace, speaking at conferences around the world. He died in 1995 aged 80.

YOUR STARS

Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Emotionally, you are at your peak right now. It's a great time to work on old issues that have bothered you in the past and may be holding you back from a brighter future. Do the work!

Taurus

April 20-May 20

You are communicating well today — and even better with romantic partners or family members. Focus on deep relationships and see if you can all come up with some sort of agreement or compromise.

Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

You may get quite a lot done today — if you can just put aside your doubts and worries. Communication is fraught with tension and ambiguity, but you can pass through it to a place of clarity.

Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Your emotional well-being is quite important, and you should find that you're better able than ever before to keep it healthy. Make sure that you're checking in with all your people.

Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Try something totally new today. In fact, go further and drag a friend or family member in with you — your leadership qualities are perfect to shake someone else out of their rut. It's fun!

Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Your best friends are trying to get things back on track, and you can give them the boost they need to get there. It's easy and doesn't cost you a thing, but it does earn their eternal gratitude.

Libra

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

Reconnect with your people today — especially those you were close to until fairly recently. You have a new infusion of emotional energy that should help you rebuild bridges with ease.

Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

Intuition is your most serious asset today, so make the most of it. Your personal energy is growing stronger by the hour, and you definitely need to deploy it before things start to get really crazy.

Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Even if you have your doubts, you need to go in deep today — otherwise, things are sure to get weirder and weirder for you as the day progresses. Half measures just won't do for you.

Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

If you're not sure what to do next, look around and see if you can find a new problem that needs solving. Your brainy energy is perfect for tackling the issues that matter the most.

Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Try not to push too far — overreaction is a real possibility, and you may find that your energy is better spent on moving forward than on dwelling on the past. Enjoy what you've got.

Pisces

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

A bright idea pops up in your head today that keeps you focused on the positive aspects of your life. Keep following it up until you can see where it leads. This is the start of something really big!

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle.

WEATHER

CHINA

Table of weather conditions for various Chinese cities including Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, etc.

WORLD

Table of weather conditions for world cities including Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Autobahn auto; 5- Wrigley varieties; 9- Sacred song; 14- Soccer legend; 15- Raw materials; 16- Bitterly pungent; 17- Open to rebuttal; 19- Singer Lopez; 20- Non-Rx; 21- Greek vowels; 22- Novelist Calvino; 23- Heavy napped woolen fabric; 25- Again; 26- Vehement speech; 27- Twisted; 30- Single things; 31- Headgear of a monarch; 32- Silent assent; 34- Good one!; 35- France; 36- Brief letter, paper money; 37- Bambi's aunt; 38- Proverb, saying; 39- Impudent; 40- Flagrant; 42- Short flight; 43- Type of rock, briefly; 44- Absence of sound; 48- Puff up; 50- Relinquish; 51- Consume; 52- Playwright Pirandello; 53- Blown about; 55- Like some vbs.; 56- Nebraska City's county; 57- Brain wave; 58- Dutch painter Jan; 59- "Show Boat" composer; 60- Salts;

DOWN: 1- Well-timed; 2- Belonging; 3- Concerned with volts and amps; 4- Relay race part; 5- Beard type; 6- Living in a city; 7- "Alice" diner; 8- Opposite of NNW; 9- Template; 10- Illegible handwriting; 11- Seed cover; 12- Start to type?; 13- Start of the 16th century; 18- Requirements; 22- Amazed; 24- London gallery; 25- Battery pole; 27- Shorthand pioneer; 28- Slaughter in Cooperstown; 29- Specks; 31- Loud sound; 33- Susan of "L.A. Law"; 35- Numbskull; 36- Back of the neck; 38- Censure; 39- Mends a shoe; 41- Orbital extreme; 42- Concealed; 44- Spanish Mister; 45- lift?; 46- Escapade; 47- Kett and James; 48- Songwriter Bacharach; 49- Italian bread?; 50- Make reference to; 52- Fleur-de-; 53- Large bowl-shaped pan; 54- Intelligence;



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PSP 28 573 333
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Ryan Nakashima,
Hawthorne (Calif.)

NEW SPORTS

Meet the next competition of the modern age: Drone racing

DECKED out in high-tech goggles, pilot Steve Zoumas dives low and sees the final gate zooming toward him: a 20-foot-tall metal-framed box ringed with neon. Boom! His sight goes black. The crowd lets out a collective “Whoa!” as pieces of his aircraft, which has just smashed into a concrete barrier, go flying.

Zoumas is just fine, though; it’s his drone that’s toast. The pilot takes off his goggles and crosses to the pilots’ lounge for the replay. Once again his quadcopter drone, a buzzing machine roughly the size of a loaf of bread, zooms daringly around obstacles and through hairpin turns; once again, it meets its demise.

“I was pushing it that lap,” says Zoumas, a 31-year-old construction company owner. “I just wanted to put on a show for the crowd.”

Welcome to drone racing, a would-be sport in which men, and a few women, fly remote-controlled drones against competitors at up to 80 miles per hour along looping courses with hairpin curves and drops. Many races take place in open fields, but here, racers and spectators have gathered in an abandoned, rubble-strewn mall set up with course-marking gates across two floors.

Fans sit on bleachers behind protective mesh, passing around antenna-equipped goggles to see the pilot’s view. Big-screen TVs show off unique camera angles while glowing copeters whizz by, emitting the high-pitched hum of weed whackers on steroids.

Racing is a labor of love for many pilots. Many are born tinkers, and spend hours customizing their drones with new parts or building them from scratch. Some say they’ve spent more than USD10,000 on fra-

mes, motors, batteries, propellers and camera mounts.

Fred Loo, a 31-year-old pilot known as “Flying Bear,” says he and his wife even put off having kids so he can spend more time racing. He says he’d give up his high-paying Silicon Valley job in a heartbeat if he could figure out how to fly drones for a living.

Of course, that’s the sticking point. Drone racing is still so-

■ Drone racing is still something of a guerrilla sport, even though ESPN has agreed to air a drone special on its ESPN3 channel this fall

me-thing of a guerrilla sport, even though ESPN has agreed to air a drone special on its ESPN3 channel this fall. Money is tight, and most pilots have to keep their day jobs. While high-profile races such as the World Drone Prix, held in Dubai last March, pay out as much as \$250,000 to the winning pilot, such affluence feels very distant here in the shell of the Hawthorne Plaza mall.

That could change if drone racing hits it big, attracting a mass audience and the sponsors who



Drones readied prior to races held by the Drone Racing League at a vacant mall in Hawthorne

want to sell them stuff. Serial entrepreneur Nick Horbaczewski, who founded the Drone Racing League last year, thinks he knows how to pull that off.

The trick, he says, is making the audience feel the same thrill as the pilots. That’s why his league lights up each quadcopter and its pilot’s goggles with matching colored LEDs, which help spectators track the tiny speeding drones. It’s also why pilots wear T-shirts emblazoned with nicknames like “KittyCopter,” “Rekrek” and “Zoomas.” Pilot backstories and slick editing build up the drama for videos put online.

The fast-talking 35-year-old helped turn “Tough Mudders,” a quirky half marathon in which people pay to slog throu-

gh artificial quagmires, into a \$100-million-plus business as its chief revenue officer. He sank his own money into the drone league last year, though he also raised \$8 million from the likes of Miami Dolphins’ owner Steve Ross, the talent business Creative Artists Agency and media giant Hearst.

But there’s plenty of turbulence ahead. Similarly promising quasi-athletic leagues have crashed and burned before. Take professional paintball, which seemed like a sure-fire winner at its peak in 2005. A sport in which combatants shoot at one another across an obstacle-strewn field promised a built-in audience of gun enthusiasts and video-gamers.

Paintball thrived for several

years, airing its own show on ESPN3 and drawing sponsors like Budweiser, Monster energy drinks and the U.S. Army. Then manufacturers of paintball equipment consolidated and cut back on ad spending. Interest in the sport dwindled, and its main league folded in 2014.

Further complicating things, multiple drone-racing leagues are vying for attention. Horbaczewski’s major competition is the International Drone Racing Association, which last month announced it’ll have a special on ESPN3 in the fall. There are a handful of other big leagues around the world, and grassroots races pop up all the time.

The hodgepodge of organizations has bewildered would-be sponsors, frustrating some who found the experience of backing a race a sinkhole for time and money. Multicopter Superstore, a Santa Cruz, California-based online retailer of drone parts, already sponsors pilots like Loo with discounts and access to new gear at grassroots events.

But owner Michael Silveira says he spent \$20,000 sponsoring the IDRA’s U.S. National Drone Racing Championships last year, to disappointing results. His company’s logos weren’t displayed as agreed at an after-party he helped pay for, he says. That would have stung more had promised crowds actually turned up for the event. Attendance was less than 100, although he’d been told to expect 10,000 fans.

“That hurt quite a bit,” Silveira says. “Now we’re a little hesitant about doing things.” AP

FOOTBALL | CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Atletico Madrid reaches final on away goals, Oblak

Agoal from Antoine Griezmann sent Atletico Madrid to the Champions League final for the second time in three seasons despite a 2-1 defeat at Bayern Munich yesterday.

Atletico, which lost to city rival Real Madrid in the 2014 final, progressed on the away goals rule with an aggregate score of 2-2 after winning the first leg of their semifinal in Madrid 1-0.

Atletico striker Fernando Torres had the chance to settle it with a late



Atletico’s Antoine Griezmann (left), celebrates after scoring his side’s opening goal during the Champions League second leg semifinal soccer match between Bayern Munich and Atletico de Madrid

penalty, only for Manuel Neuer to save his spot kick.

Torres wasn’t the only

one to miss from the spot. Atletico’s Jan Oblak saved a penalty from Thomas Mueller in the first half,

minutes after Xabi Alonso leveled the tie with a free kick in the 31st.

Griezmann scored in the 54th to put Atletico in the driving seat, before Robert Lewandowski headed Bayern back in front on the night in the 74th to set up a furious finale.

Bayern needed one more goal to avoid going out at the semifinal stage for the third straight season to a Spanish team and poured everything forward — only to be denied by Oblak and his defenders.

“We’re into the final. We

can be proud and happy. Bayern have amazing players up front and it was impossible to keep a clean sheet,” Oblak said.

Atletico will play either Manchester City or Real Madrid in the final in Milan on May 28. Their first leg match finished 0-0 last week in Manchester, with the return match in Madrid today (Macau time).

Atletico coach Diego Simeone described Bayern as “the best team that I played against in my career. It’s great to see how my team played with such

intensity. I was literally in love with this game.”

Simeone, whose side defeated Barcelona in the quarterfinals, added: “We have played against two of the three best teams in Europe. We’ve knocked them out, and I’m very proud of that.”

Torres had no preference over another Madrid derby or an Anglo-Spanish final in Milan.

“We have the chance to create history,” he said. “We want to win the tournament and the opponent is irrelevant.” AP

opinion

HK Observer
 Robert Carroll



PANAMA PLAGUE. WHO'S LOSING?

The Panama papers, a la Wikileaks and Snowden bombshells, are not only embarrassing the powerful the world over but highlight the injustice and the rot that dirty money brings. It also seems to have provoked yet another major attack on press freedom here - Ming Pao anybody? Another editor disposed of.

The rich cleverly avoid income tax while the middle class, and better-off poor, bear the brunt and pay hidden taxes that black money-fuelled inflated property prices bring. The major benefactors of the latter being, of course, the property speculators who pay no income tax.

Ming Pao the influential local newspaper has lost another professional and courageous editor. This time thankfully not to extreme violence; tellingly, soon after publishing an in-depth exposition of the Panama investigation, led by the now sidelined editor. If there's anyone out there who believes there isn't a connection between the firing and the reports which implicated the very rich here and over the border, let's raise our hats to you as an example of flabbergastingly impressive optimism; namely belief in the good will of the newspaper's management. The newspaper's journalists and staff beg to disagree and they have made their feelings felt and made sure society at large is aware of the issue.

That tax avoidance is legal and yet evasion is illegal is not under question. If avoidance were an option for the man in the street wondering how he can pay for a roof over his head and how he can give his kids a reasonable start in life - if he can afford any - then perhaps we could be more charitable to the beneficiaries. But it's not the case, neither here nor in economically mature democratic societies.

I am not going to be 'holier than thou' on this but consider the other side, beyond income tax; the fall out in societies welcoming money of dubious origin. Take Hong Kong and London for example. Since one spawned the other in terms of its modern incarnation there are many significant similarities. Yes, of course, the territory has been Chinese for many centuries - I'm not flying colonial flags here - but it was only a rural back-water. I'm talking about comparing what dirty money does to major cities.

First of all there's no doubt that money begets money and who in the financial sector, except managers of ethical funds and those who have a squeaky clean images to burnish, want to limit offshore options - and thereby their own sources of revenue? The turning of heads and ignoring of societal issues in that world is usually not just justified by profit but lauded. But look at what deluges of money desperate for legitimization, and, equally to avoid prying eyes at home, does to communities; unaffordable housing and the breakdown of local community life.

Back to London and Hong Kong. Why is it tolerable that hundreds of thousand of empty flats bought with black money lie empty when so many cannot afford city housing; forced into rabbit-hole rooms or exiled to distant suburbs?

Is it not because the bankers and property developers in bed with government are keeping it that way, all in the name of 'free markets'?

One of London's major strengths used to be its vibrant local neighborhoods that spawned not just local business catering to the local community but a creative industry force renowned the world over; that became core industries. All that is under threat as London continues to welcome Russian, Chinese and Middle Eastern "investment" in property with no questions asked. Isn't there a similar story here?

The Panama plague.

THE SOUTHEAST EUROPEAN BUSINESS FORUM BUZZ DRAWS GLOBAL INVESTORS

The countries of southeastern Europe are aiming to attract more investment from international business executives gathered at a conference in Sarajevo.

The annual event, which opened yesterday, this year has gathered investors from 30 countries, including China, India, Malaysia, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and others.

First held in 2010, the Sarajevo Business Fo-

rum has positioned itself as one of the most important investment events for southeastern Europe.

This year Bosnia, Albania, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia say they are determined to present themselves as "one region and one economy," seeking investments into agriculture, infrastructure, tourism, energy and other areas.

FBI returns to home of reputed mobster linked to USD500M Boston art heist



Federal authorities search a home of reputed mobster Robert Gentile

Dave Collins, Hartford, (Conn.)

FEDERAL authorities returned this week to search the Connecticut property of a reputed mobster suspecting of having knowledge about the largest art heist in U.S. history.

FBI agents went to the Manchester home of Robert Gentile. It wasn't immediately clear why they were there. Agents sent up a small tent in the front yard.

Federal prosecutors believe the 79-year-old Gentile knows about the still-unsolved 1990 theft at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston. Thirteen pieces of art worth an estimated USD500 million were stolen and never recovered, including paintings by Rembrandt and Edouard Manet. No one has been arrested.

Authorities have searched Gentile's home before, including one time with ground

penetrating radar in his yard in what Gentile's lawyer called a veiled attempt to find the artwork. Agents also have removed items from Gentile's house and searched a backyard shed.

Federal officials declined to say why FBI agents went to Gentile's home. Gentile's lawyer, A. Ryan McGuigan, who was at the scene, also declined to comment.

"The FBI is conducting court-authorized activity [...] in connection with an ongoing federal investigation," said Kristen Setera, a spokeswoman for the FBI in Boston. "We will have no further comment at this time."

Gentile has told authorities that he doesn't know anything about the stolen paintings, and McGuigan has denied prosecutors' allegations that Gentile is a made member of the Philadelphia Mafia.

Assistant U.S. Attorney

John Durham has said in court that Gentile once told an undercover FBI agent that he had access to two of the stolen paintings and could negotiate the sale of each for \$500,000.

Durham also has said that authorities have evidence Gentile, who currently is charged in a weapons case, talked about the paintings with at least three fellow prisoners at a Rhode Island jail, including giving them information on who to call about the art and what code name to use.

McGuigan has alleged that because the FBI believes Gentile has not been forthcoming with everything he knows about the heist, the agency has set him up for arrests twice in the last three years.

Gentile is charged with selling a loaded .38-caliber revolver for \$1,000 to a cooperating government witness at his Manchester home. He has pleaded not guilty and is detained without bail.

In May 2013, Gentile was sentenced to more than two years in prison for illegally selling prescription drugs and possessing guns, silencers and ammunition. In that case, Durham said federal agents found in Gentile's home a handwritten list of the stolen paintings and their estimated worth, along with a newspaper article about the museum heist a day after it happened. **AP**

Station	Air quality
Roadside	30-50 Good
High Density Residential Area	30-50 Good
Ambient	30-50 Good

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

SYRIA Secretary of State John Kerry warns Syria's government that it faces an August deadline for starting a political transition to move President Bashar Assad out.

KENYA police say they have disrupted a cell of extremist medics linked to the Islamic State who are suspected of plotting an anthrax attack.

HONDURAS Court records show the Honduran government and a development company repeatedly sought to tar slain environmental activist Berta Caceres and her colleagues as violent anarchists for their protests against a hydroelectric project on indigenous lands.



EUROZONE As winter turned to spring, the eurozone economy appears to have lost some of the momentum that saw it grow faster than the U.S. in the first quarter of the year. A brace of economic indicators yesterday showed business activity moderated in the past couple of months. Eurostat said retail sales across the 19-country single currency bloc fell by 0.5 percent during March.



CANADA A raging wildfire emptied Canada's main oil sands city, destroying entire neighborhoods of Fort McMurray, Alberta, where officials warned yesterday that all efforts to suppress the fire have failed.

USA The Connecticut woman who underwent a face transplant five years ago after being attacked by a chimpanzee is back in a Boston hospital after doctors discovered her body is rejecting the transplant.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



VIP only. A Sotheby's employee holds Lesedi La Rona Diamond in New York City. The diamond the size of a tennis ball that is the largest discovered in more than a century could sell at auction for more than USD70 million. Sotheby's says it will offer the Lesedi la Rona diamond in London on June 29.