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# Mid-term gaming review disclosed today

■ Analyst expects 'nothing dramatic,' focus on local employment

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## WORLD BRIEFS



**CHINA-NORTH KOREA**  
Chinese President Xi Jinping extends his congratulations to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on his new title of chairman of the ruling Workers' Party of Korea, underscoring traditional ties between the communist neighbors despite recent strains.  
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**PHILIPPINES** Mayor Rodrigo Duterte emerged as the top winner of Filipino elections. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. [pictured] may be elected vice president and come tantalizingly close to the seat of power his dictator father Ferdinand Marcos lost in a pro-democracy uprising 30 years ago. And Manny Pacquiao is close to becoming a senator. More on p13

More on backpage

## DSEJ cancels classes on mild weather day



Children play close to the Nam Van lake yesterday afternoon. The Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) called off all classes yesterday morning due to a rainstorm warning while classes in kindergartens and primaries were cancelled all day. The weather was cloudy but mild during most of the day. Yesterday's episode is the latest among other wrong calls by DSEJ when cancelling school due to bad weather.

■ P5 MDT REPORT

**T**HE Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 which was carrying 227 passengers, predominantly Chinese, mysteriously disappeared in March 2014. Despite the extensive search, the plane is still missing, giving no closure to grieved families.

The search for MH370 challenged the airline to develop numerous strategies to handle the incident, however several tactics couldn't be applied as the aircraft is still unsearchable.

Vice President, Operations Control Centre of Malaysia Airlines of Malaysia Airlines, Fuad Sharuji was in Macau as part of a conference on crisis management. The crisis director for flights MH370 and MH17 has told the Times about his role in the immediate response and crisis communication plan of the troubled airline, stressing that several strategies had to be devised, ranging from "proactive to reactive."

"A lot of the strategies couldn't be applied so we had to change strategies as we went along," said Mr Sharuji on the sidelines of the Asia Emergency Management Conference yesterday. "Mainly because we had to react to a lot of media about conspiracy theories regarding MH370. And so we were more in reactive mode, so that makes it very, very difficult," he added.

Meanwhile the crisis director admitted that the aircraft MH17, which was travelling from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur in July 2014 and was shot down, killing nearly 300 on board; was easier to handle despite his claims of the "gruesome" scenario.

Sharuji, an Aircraft Maintenance Engineer who has over 35-years experience working

## CRISIS MANAGEMENT

# Flight MH370 'no closure' to date, says expert



Fuad Sharuji

for Malaysia Airlines, recalled that the airline had collaborated with the Malaysian government team and its special forces and would go to the crash site in Ukraine.

"The window given to us was very slim. There was only a good two hours to be at a crash site because it was a war zone," he said.

Conversely, Sharuji implied that the Malaysian government was fully involved in the search for the MH370 missing aircraft, along with the support of around seven states including Australia, Singapore and

Vietnam. He stressed that the search was fully coordinated and undertaken by its government. The Dutch government, however, had a vital role in the investigation, recovery of remains and repatriation of passengers in the crashed aircraft MH17.

"As for the Dutch government, [they] contributed a lot to the MH17 search, including tactical and criminal investigation [...] they helped carry all of the nearly 9,000 personal belongings [of the passengers] and flew them to Holland. Then we sanitized them and

returned them to their loved ones," explained the director.

Sharuji admitted that they struggled with the communication strategy despite hiring a media consultant as several communications were to be done in Mandarin.

Moreover, Malaysia Airlines had held daily family briefings for MH370 passenger's relatives for nearly two months in Beijing, providing meals, accommodation and medical assistance services. The airlines also established five family assistance centers in the area.

"The challenge is that there's

a lot more of what we don't know than what we know," the director admitted. "There's not much that we can tell them."

The airline also continues to provide post-traumatic stress assistance with local Chinese

**“We had to react to a lot of media about conspiracy theories regarding MH370. And so we were more in reactive mode.”**

FUAD SHARUJI  
CRISIS DIRECTOR FOR FLIGHTS  
MH370 AND MH17

counselors from Beijing. Though the director claimed that they have requested to stop the family meetings, he revealed that the Chinese government has advised them to continue with lesser frequency, resulting in only once a month face-to-face meetings.

Sharuji also revealed that several relatives have accepted compensation from the airlines but admitted that many are still in deep grief, and some are still refusing to accept explanations from the airlines, as they strongly believe in the conspiracy theories regarding the plane's disappearance.

Nevertheless, the director told the Times that there were certain departments in the airline that didn't function well during the search for the missing aircraft in supporting and handling the crisis more effectively.

"We never expected the lightning to strike twice, [...] but we had our business continuity plan and enforced the normal business plan to go on," he added. **Staff reporter**

## AEMC 2016 kicks off

**T**HE three-day Asia Emergency Management Conference 2016 (AEMC) kicked off yesterday at The Venetian with the theme "Prepare for Tomorrow, Today."

Thirty-three international speakers from over 16 countries and regions will hold seminars and panel sessions throughout the event. Three workshops, which start today, aim to allow attendees to gain practical insights that can directly be put into action in crisis management, event security and social media crisis communications.

Wilson Tong, fairs director of Vertical Exhi-

bition Services Co., Ltd claims that AEMC offers the ideal platform to meet with experts in the emergency management industry from across the globe.

"The theme includes four areas," Tong told the Times. "Prepare, prevent, respond and recover. [...] We need to take precautions, we need to plan and assess, as this will help us respond faster and recover better."

The conference also involves networking activities and an expo featuring consulting companies and businesses showcasing emergency response kits and products.



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PHILIPPINES

# 60pct of overseas voters registered in Macau cast their ballots

**O**VERSEAS Absentee Voting for the Philippine presidential election ended on Monday after a month-long voting period. The Consulate General of the Philippines in Macau is set to end the tallying of votes today.

Only 60 percent of registered Filipino voters cast their votes at the consulate, according to Philippine vice-consul in Macau, Ira Valdez.

She stressed to the Times that there were no major problems during the month-long voting period in the region, while all queries were always immediately forwarded to the Commission on Elections (COMELEC).

When asked if there were voters who didn't comply with the election rules, she said: "There were minor rule violations es-

pecially regarding the use of mobile phones inside the precinct. People were repeatedly reminded that taking photos of ballots is an election offense. Maybe it is also because a lot of people are just excited to vote," the vice-consul added.

**People were repeatedly reminded that taking photos of ballots is an election offense.**

IRA VALDEZ

Most of the voters gave positive feedback especially regarding the ease with which they could cast their vote, implied Valdez. The waiting period at the polling stations was relatively short.

The COMLEC decided that the overseas voting in Macau would be personal voting with manual counting, which suggested the votes could only be tallied in the Consulate after the polls closed on May 9.

"We have accredited poll watchers from various organizations and members of the Filipino community that can witness the actual tallying. The members of the Special Board of Election Inspectors at the Consulate attended training in Manila and Hong Kong as well," revealed the vice-consul. Meanwhile according to a



Election workers stack ballot counting machines and other election materials for temporary storage a day after the country's national elections

TDM report, the tally of votes will be held in four separate rooms with witnesses including a Macau-based Filipino priest, Fr Joey Mandia, who is the editor-in-chief of Macau's weekly Catholic newspaper "O Clarim."

Mandia told TDM that he has been actively engaging in political debates on social media along with his fellow citizens. "It's a different stage in our process of learning how to be democratic. I think it also shows a kind of maturity Overseas Filipino Workers [have

now that they have been] exposed to the life abroad so I think that prepares them to make better choices," Mandia stressed.

Mandia, who cast his vote in Hong Kong, added that voting in Hong Kong was automated unlike Macau, as the machine would only accept a minimum of 10,000 entries. Hong Kong accounts for over 93,000 registered voters of the 1.3 million overseas voters worldwide, while the region only had some 5,000 registered voters. **Staff reporter**

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# Report: Privacy probes slightly decrease

**T**HE Office for Personal Data Protection (GPDP) released yesterday its annual report on work regarding its activities last year.

Vasco Fong, co-coordinator of GPDP, has shared that 155 privacy probes were dealt with by the department.

According to Fong, the number has dropped by 39 compared to 2014, but 14 more than in 2013. "It reflects that people still care about their privacy," says Fong.

However, 69 cases have been dismissed by the GPDP due to inconclusive evidence.

The department has also made 63 suggestions to the parties subject to complaints for improvements in the use of personal data of others, and it found that 28 complaints had been wrongly addressed to GPDP considering their content. Only 18 cases, which represent 8 percent of the total, were



Vasco Fong (left)

eventually closed after payment of fines.

Moreover, the report shows that 66.7 percent of the investigations were of private entities, followed by individuals (27 percent) and public entities (6.4 percent). The report discloses that incidents with private entities took place mostly within the gaming industry, a total of 27 cases compared to the 16 in the retail industry. Financial and commercial industries as well as personal services are also more likely to breach the

protection of personal data. "Banks, travel agencies, insurance companies and casinos can easily obtain data from customers," Fong explained.

Approximately 1,834 inquiries related to personal data protection issues have been received by the GPDP, representing a slight decrease compared to 2014 and 2013, when 1,936 and 2,276 were recorded respectively.

According to Fong, both groups and individuals that experienced violations of

privacy did so mostly due to data security measures undertaken by themselves or because they were not qualified to access or use certain kinds of information.

Fong added that the amendment to the personal data protection law will not start this year because of "complex procedures." He said that the amendment of the personal data protection law will need to be discussed in detail due to the different issues and fields.

Regarding the establishment of GPDP as an independent department, Fong said that "plans and documents are ready, now we are waiting for a schedule."

GPDP is organizing a privacy protection activity, from May 9 to 15, as a reaction to the privacy protection event organized by Asia Pacific Privacy Authorities (APPA). The promotional event includes a privacy promotion day and word puzzles with prizes, among other activities. **Staff reporter**

## CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

# IC to stage Macau Pavilion in Shenzhen

**T**HE Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) will be organizing a Macau Creative Pavilion at the 12th China (Shenzhen) International Cultural Industries Fair to promote the participation of Macau's cultural and creative entities. The pavilion, which will be staged at the fair between May 12 and 16, aims to showcase and commercialize cultural and creative products from Macau, according to a statement by the IC.

This year, the design of the pavilion will be featuring multiple hues and irregular color patches, which the IC says are intended to "symbolize the urban vitality of Macau in a distinctive way."

Some of the participating cultural and creative entities from Macau include Native Ltd, JE Handcrafts Co. Ltd, Casa de Artesanato Nam Fan Lou, Soda Panda Product Design, Mobiliário Urbano

Designers Limitada, Leathership Creation Ltd and Follow Design Co. Ltd.

The IC has been organizing the participation of Macau's cultural and creative sector in the international fair since 2006. It has been inviting local cultural and creative entities to join in the Macau Creative Pavilion following its inception in 2010.

This year's Macau Creative Pavilion will be hosted in Hall 2, also known as the "Creative Living Hall," though the bureau has not specified why it would not be held in Hall 1, the "Cultural Industries Hall" which is about twice the size of Hall 2.

The international fair, which opens tomorrow, will be held at the Shenzhen Convention and Exhibition Center. It is expected to attract more than 2,000 exhibitors from government delegations, enterprises and organizations.

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## WRONG CALL

# DSEJ cancels classes on mild weather day

**T**HE Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) called off all classes yesterday morning due to a rainstorm warning while classes in kindergartens and primary schools were cancelled for the day.

Despite some heavy showers during the morning, weather conditions had improved during the day. Some caregivers opted to take the classless students to play outside in public parks.

According to TDM reports, a warning was raised by the Macau Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) at 06:39 a.m., advising that a rainstorm alarm would be issued later at 8 a.m. In SMG's audio announcement, unstable weather with showers was announced. SMG cancelled the first alarm at 9:05 a.m., only to announce another at 9:20 a.m., which in turn was cancelled at 14:35.

DSEJ then instructed all grades of preschool, primary school and special education institutions to call off classes for the

PAULO BARBOSA



Children play close to the Nam Van lake yesterday afternoon. The weather was cloudy but mild

whole day, and middle schools to call off classes only in the morning.

However, some parents, who had already sent their children to school, considered this to have been unnecessary. "After 8 a.m., students are already in school. What effect could the rainstorm make?" questioned a father when interviewed by TDM. He noted that he managed to arrange to have his daughter super-

vised at a tutoring center, adding that the school where his son is studying even forbade students from entering the campus. He thought that the school would take care of the children, as the DSEJ instructions apparently indicate. According to the bureau's instructions, as posted on its website and broadcast on TV during bad weather days, "schools should keep the campus open and arrange

staff to take care of those kindergarten, primary school and special education students who have arrived at the school until the situation is safe for students to go home."

The Times also knows

of cases of kindergarten students who arrived with their caregivers to the schools in the morning unaware of the rainstorm warning (as it was not even raining) and were not even invited to enter the school. A security officer at the entrance of a local kindergarten was left to inform parents that the school day had been cancelled and that the infants should return home.

TDM reported on the case of an older student who had already arrived to school and was

surprised, saying: "Is it raining?" He explained that he had indeed heard rainstorm news on TV, but that he thought it concerned Hong Kong and hence he still went to school because he saw no rain in Macau.

DSEJ told the Times that it received no complaints regarding what many regard as a wrong call to cancel the school day.

According to the SMG website, the weather today is expected to be "fine apart from cloudy periods."

## 'DSEJ and SMG's credibility in handling weather events has decreased'

**L**AST month, the Times published a letter to the editor by reader Luke Lienau, that addressed the issue of DSEJ's wrong calls when cancelling school due to bad weather.

Our reader alleged that "SMG doesn't understand their own classification systems" and that DSEJ lacks using "reasonable caution when it comes to student safety in these situations."

"There is an imperative need [for] accurate and confident predictions by the

SMG and considered delays and suspensions by the DSEJ to ensure the safety of Macau students and families transporting their children to school," Lienau said.

"Following the incident back in March in which a delay and suspension were issued inaccurately, despite the fact that it was likely necessary given the potentially dangerous conditions, DSEJ and SMG's credibility in handling weather events has decreased," he added.

AD

## STATISTICS

## Population sees slight growth



**T**HE total current population of Macau is 649,100 as at the end of the first quarter of this year, marking an increase of 2,300 people from the previous quarter, according to the new data released by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC). The female population of Macau accounted for 51 percent of the total.

A total of 1,664 live births were repor-

ted in the first quarter of 2016, a decrease of 198 (10.6 percent) quarter-to-quarter. Male births have risen to 870 and the sex ratio at birth stood at 109.6, corresponding to 109.6 male births per 100 female babies.

The number of mortalities has increased in the first quarter by 165 to a total of 650. DSEC attributes the increase to the cold weather earlier this year, though added that the top three underlying causes of death were neoplasms (230), diseases of the circulatory system (186) and diseases of the respiratory system (90). These three underlying causes were also the leading instigators of death throughout last year.

The number of non-resident workers have dropped by 210 quarter-to-quarter to 181,436 as at the end of March. Individuals granted the right of abode amounted to 339, a decrease of 55. New Chinese immigrants reached 2,695 in the first quarter, up by 514 quarter-to-quarter.

A total of 975 cases of marriage registration were recorded in the first quarter, up by nine quarter-to-quarter.

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## New Era provides bus driving licenses



New Era is organizing training courses to train more bus drivers, according to a report by Jornal Cheng Pou. The course is provided with hopes of alleviating the shortage of bus drivers. People who hold Macau resident identities and have either 'C licenses' or have three years of experience driving a private car with a 'B license' can apply. New era will initially pay for the students' tuition fees, then, once the student obtains their D1/D2 license and completes one year of full-time work at the company, the tuition fee will be fully waived.

## Man arrested for sexual abuse of four-year-old daughter

A retired 63-year-old civil servant was arrested earlier this week for allegedly having sexually assaulted his four-year-old daughter according to a report by Jornal Cheng Pou. The incident was first noticed and reported to social workers by the child's mother, who had married the suspect in 2001. On Thursday, the mother had found her daughter behaving abnormally after arriving home from school accompanied by her father. The police reported that the man had allegedly committed the crime at the back stairs of his house, having touched the girl's genitalia before taking her home. Prior similar situations are reported to have occurred five to six times, but the suspect has denied this accusation.

## CASBAA's convention to be held in Macau

Cable and Satellite Broadcasters Association of Asia (CASBAA), a non-profit media association serving the multi-channel audio-visual content creation and distribution industry, announced yesterday that its annual convention will be held in Macau for the first time. "We are delighted to announce that the 22nd CASBAA Convention will be held in Macau at Studio City, from November 7 to 10, 2016," said the organization's CEO Christopher Slaughter. "It will be the first time ever for CASBAA to hold an event in Macau. We are thrilled to be bringing the region's pay-TV industry together to experience all that this exciting city has to offer."



Ben Lee

### GAMING

# Analysts united over negligible effect of proxy betting ban

Daniel Beitler

**G**AMING analysts are united over their prediction that the ban on proxy betting put into practice earlier this week by the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ) will have a minimal effect on casino operators.

As of Monday, new regulation, which was enacted by the MSAR, banned the practice of proxy betting on Macau's VIP tables. VIP operations in the city will now only accept bets from patrons who are physically present on the premises.

Ben Lee, an analyst from Macau-based gaming consultancy, iGamix, told the Times that he concurs that the impact to casino operators will be negligible.

"I believe that the impact is likely to be minimal," he told the Times. "Proxy betting only accounts for around five percent of VIP GGR [Gross Gaming Revenue]. Given the thin margins [of casino operators] of around 12 to 13 percent on this revenue, the loss will probably be minimal," Lee added.

On the weekend, Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, cast doubts over the prevalence of the activity, saying that the purpose of DICJ's policy was "to be clear about the SAR Government's stance on this issue."

"It's hard to verify whether they're really betting by phone," the Secretary stated, but added that it was equally difficult to verify the identity of the bidder when proxy betting occurs, or the source of the funding. It had previously been permitted for the sake of "convenience."

Proxy betting is also far less prevalent in Macau today than

it used to be, Lee told the Times. It has now moved to other areas in Southeast Asia where it seeks to serve the mainland

**Most of this activity has already been moved offshore to other areas such as the Philippines and Cambodia.**

BEN LEE  
GAMING ANALYST

Chinese market.

"The reason for the ban [on proxy betting] has been to tighten something that has been a bit of a grey area in the past," he said. "Again, the impact will be minimal since most of this activity has already been moved offshore to other areas such as

the Philippines and Cambodia."

VIP GGR in Macau amounted to MOP127.82 billion in 2015. If the estimated 5 percent loss was equally applied to all the gaming operators this would amount to a total loss of around MOP6.4 billion to the industry.

Even with "thin margins of around 12 to 13 percent," the estimated profit loss to the industry using the figures provided could constitute as much as MOP800 million.

Secretary Leong also told reporters on the weekend that the new regulation conforms with existing legislation in other cities where the gaming industry is well-entrenched.

What the new regulation does represent, however, is another distress signal for a flagging industry that had hopes earlier this year of a rebound or at least a bottoming-out.

While the casino operators may survive relatively unscathed by the new regulation as they increasingly eye the mass and mass-mass market, less can be said for the junket operators who have long been reported to be teetering on the edge.

"Whatever happens to the notional proxy [betting], it will probably be yet another continuation of pressure for the junkets themselves, but it probably is not going to be that significant for any of the [casino] operators," MGM China's Chief Executive Grant Bowie said last week.

Catering exclusively to the VIP segment, the junkets have been hit hard by President Xi Jinping's anti-corruption campaign, which has been effective at frightening away gamblers from the MSAR.

Mainland China does not recognize gambling debts, holding gambling as one of the party's six vices and officially outlawing it in areas other than Macau. With mounting debts and no legal avenues for recuperating the debt on the mainland, junkets are facing burdening financial pressure, leading some analysts to speculate that they are considering relocating to friendlier territories.

However, Ben Lee emphasizes that proxy betting also remains "but a small component of their [junket's] business in Macau."

## 'Nothing dramatic' expected in mid-term review

**T**HE mid-term gaming review will be made public today at a press conference scheduled for the afternoon. The report in its Chinese version is over 200 pages in length and will outline the achievements of the city's six gaming concessionaires, their involvement in the community and the extent of their non-gaming offerings. It will also examine the welfare of employees and the promotion opportuni-

ties that have been offered to them.

Gaming analyst Ben Lee told the Times that he is not expecting any drastic measures to be announced in the review.

"I am expecting nothing dramatic in terms of a report on the performance of the concessions. I do however, expect that there will be a significant focus on local employment in the report," he said.

**J**APANESE Internet company SoftBank Group Corp., which is struggling to turn around Sprint in the U.S., reported yesterday a 27 percent drop in profit for the fiscal year ended March 31, compared to the previous year.

Tokyo-based SoftBank had a net profit of 558.2 billion yen (USD5.1 billion) for the fiscal year through March 2016. It reported a 763.7 billion yen profit for the previous fiscal year. It didn't give a forecast, citing many uncertain factors. It also did not break down quarterly results.

Sales for the fiscal year that ended in March totaled 9.15 trillion yen (\$84 billion), up nearly 8 percent on year.

Although SoftBank's mobile and broadband business in Japan is not lagging, it is not expected to grow in coming years, so the company is eyeing overseas growth.

Overland Park, Kansas-based Sprint, which SoftBank acquired in 2013, has promised to create a superior network, offer competitive prices and provide better services, but its revival will likely take some time.

SoftBank owns a stake in Chinese e-commerce company Alibaba Group Holding

INTERNET

# Softbank's annual profit drops 27 percent on Sprint woes



SoftBank founder and Chief Executive Officer Masayoshi Son speaks during a news conference in Tokyo

as well as Yahoo Japan.

The first to offer the iPhone in Japan, it sells the Pe-

pper companion robot and has recently entered the solar power business.

SoftBank said Sprint recently has shown signs of a turnaround. Chief Executive Masayoshi Son reiterated at a news conference at a Tokyo hotel his promise that the bad news at Sprint was about to end and a revival would soon begin.

He pointed to the success he has had with the mobile business in Japan, which was dismal in the beginning but now boasts an excellent reputation for cell-phone connectivity. He said he would do the same at Sprint.

"On my pride, I promise a V-shaped recovery," he said.

Son also stressed he was bullish about investing in India and other emerging markets, where he said entrepreneurship was thriving like the Silicon Valley of the past.

Indian companies in which SoftBank has invested are growing, including games,

online messenger and retail businesses, he said.

Son, who has opposed atomic power since the March 2011 nuclear disaster in Fukushima, northeastern Japan, is promising to package various services for Japanese consumers, such as mobile and Internet access and electricity.

He acknowledged the electricity business was barely getting started, saying it was his "life work" to promote renewable energy.

Son also said SoftBank mobile connections came back up right after the recent quake in Kumamoto, southwestern Japan, because of the lessons the company had learned in the 2011 disaster, and the investments the company has made in infrastructure.

"The reliability of mobile communication can help save lives," he said. "And we are No. 1 in the world." AP

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Wednesday, 25/05/2016

## China's Global Energy Strategy

Speaker: **David Zweig**, Chair Professor, Division of Social Science, and Director, Center on China's Transnational Relations, HKUST

FMBA Breakfast Meeting

**Introduction:** China's six strategies to increase its supply of oil and decrease its dependency on the global energy system. How?

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**Date:** Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> May 2016  
**Time:** 9:00-10:30 am (Reception: 8:45am)  
**Venue:** Sofitel Macau at Ponte 16 Promenade Meeting Room (6<sup>th</sup> floor)

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Elaine Kurtenbach, Tokyo

## PANAMA PAPERS

## Offshore companies data spurs anti-graft moves

THE latest release of the names of thousands of offshore companies and other financial data of the rich and powerful is spurring renewed calls to counter corruption and tax evasion.

Japan's government spokesman said yesterday that Tokyo plans to propose an action plan for combating graft at the summit of the Group of Seven rich industrial economies that will be held later this month in Ise, Japan.

That follows various moves by other countries to investigate or tighten oversight of such financial dealings following the first release last month of information from what has been dubbed the "Panama Papers."

D.S. Malik, a spokesman for India's finance ministry, said yesterday that India's income tax authorities have sent notices to all the Indians listed in the database and would investigate each case based on their replies.

The International Consortium of Investigative Journalists made the fresh data on 200,000 entities available on its website at 1800 GMT (2am, yesterday)

The database contains basic corporate information about companies, trusts and foundations set up in 21 jurisdictions, including Hong Kong and the U.S. state of Nevada. The data was obtained from Panamanian law firm Mossack Fonseca, which said it was hacked.

Users can search the data and see the networks involving the offshore companies, including, where available, Mossack Fonseca's internal records of the true owners.

The ICIJ said it put the information online "in the public interest," noting that a mention on the list does not imply wrongdoing. The database omits information and documents on bank accounts, phone numbers and emails.

Mossack Fonseca said last week it had sent a cease-and-desist let-



An activist displays a newspaper headlining on the 'Panama Papers' revelations during a banking managers meeting, in Paris, France

ter to the ICIJ urging the organization not to publish the database, on the grounds it was "based on the theft of confidential information."

Shell companies are often used for legitimate purposes. But they also can be employed to evade taxes or to launder earnings from bribery, embezzlement and other illicit activity. The Group of 20 most powerful economies has agreed that individual governments should make sure authorities can tell who really owns legally registered companies, but implementation in national law has lagged.

The database has revealed how some tiny countries in the South Pacific have been favored as places to set up offshore trusts.

More than 13,000 offshore companies and trusts were set up in Samoa, population 200,000, and nearly 10,000 in Niue, which has a population of just 1,200, it says. Some of the trusts listed are no longer operational.

There are also more than 500 entities listed under the jurisdiction of the Cook Islands, population 10,000, and more than 600 in Singapore, population 5.7 million.

The list for Hong Kong includes 51,295 offshore entities.

The initial release of the data cache, first leaked to Germany's Sueddeutsche Zeitung daily, showed offshore holdings of 12 current and former world leaders. Sueddeutsche Zeitung says it was given the information by

an anonymous source.

Yoshihide Suga, Japan's chief Cabinet secretary, said Tuesday that as host of the May 26-27 G7 summit, Japan hopes to include proposals for combating tax evasion, such as increasing disclosure requirements, in an attachment to the leaders' joint declaration at the event's close.

Ecuador's attorney general, Galo Chiriboga, said Monday he planned to propose a joint investigation into possible wrongdoing when he meets with his Panamanian counterpart later this month.

Ecuadorians named in the leak include the attorney general, a former president of the central bank and a former member of the national intelligence service.

Panamanian President Juan Carlos Varela said his country would share information and cooperate with other jurisdictions.

In reaction to the Panama Papers, New Zealand's government last month appointed a tax expert to review its disclosure rules for foreign trusts and says it's open to considering changes.

Reports based on the documents released in April quickly led

to the resignation of Iceland's Prime Minister David Gunnlaugsson after it was revealed he and his wife had set up a company in the British Virgin Islands that had holdings in Iceland's failed banks. British Prime Minister David Cameron, who had campaigned for financial transparency, faced questions about shares he once held in an offshore trust set up by his father. The ICIJ reported that associates of Russian President Vladimir Putin moved some USD2 billion through such companies. Putin's spokesman dismissed the report.

Citing reporting credited to consortium partners McClatchy Newspapers, the Portland Business Journal and Fusion Investigates, the ICIJ said Monday that Mossack Fonseca had files on dozens of Americans who have faced accusations of civil or criminal financial misconduct.

The high volume of dealings — the firm set up more than 100,000 offshore entities, such as trusts and shell companies, between 2005 and 2015 — may have made it difficult for Mossack Fonseca to keep track of all its clients' backgrounds and activities, the ICIJ's report said.

According to public records, among those who set up offshore companies was a financier sentenced in 2002 to prison for fraud. The firm also set up a company for six Americans who later were sued for running a Ponzi scheme, a type of financial fraud in which new money is used to pay off earlier investors until the scheme collapses. AP

## 350 MACAU NAMES UNVEILED

A NEW list was released yesterday by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, revealing almost 350 Macau names unveiled as shareholders or directors of offshore companies linked to Mossack Fonseca. Twenty-five Macau-owned offshore companies were also named in the latest part of the Panama Papers

leak disclosed to the public yesterday. Among these are companies related casino operators, real estate developers, law firm executives, and food and beverage organizations. Many of the entities are alleged to have established companies in the British Virgin Islands or the Bahamas, while others are based in Jersey Island.

## corporate bits

## EMIRATES: PROFITS UP AMID LOWER OIL PRICES



The Middle East's biggest airline, Emirates, said yesterday that its profits were up by about

56 percent to USD1.9 billion in the last fiscal year largely due to lower oil prices that drove

down fuel operating costs.

The Dubai government-owned airline said revenue, however, fell in 2015-2016 by four percent to \$23.2 billion from \$24.2 billion in 2014, mostly because of a stronger U.S. dollar that impacted currencies in many markets where Emirates operates.

Emirates President Tim Clark said that despite the drop in revenue, the airline's fuel bill decreased to \$5.4 billion over the last year, comprising around 26 percent of operating costs, compared to 35 percent the year before. Still, fuel remains the airline's biggest cost.

"The revenue fall has been well managed, let me say that. It could have been a lot worse," said Clark, who added that the company was also able to save on its supply costs.

## NOKIA SEES FALL IN Q1 PROFITS



Nokia reported yesterday a first-quarter net loss of 513 million euros (USD584 million) due to lower demand in mobile networks as well as the impact of its acquisition of Alcatel-Lucent, and warned of a further

decline in earnings.

In the company's first earnings report since the 15.6-billion-euro acquisition, Nokia said the loss compared with a profit of 177 million euros a year earlier.

Net sales were 5.5 billion euros, compared with the 2.9 billion euros it reported a year earlier. Combined net sales in the period in 2015 would have come in at 6.1 billion euros, Nokia said.

CEO Rajeev Suri described the revenue decline as disappointing and said the climate remained "challenging" in mobile networks. He warned of further cuts and layoffs as the company searched for savings with the merger. He did not give figures but said that layoffs had begun globally, including in the United States.

Nokia's share price fell 3 percent to 4.87 euros in afternoon trading in Helsinki.

Hannu Rauhalu, senior analyst at Pohjola Bank, said the result was much as expected.



**B**RAZILIAN oil company Petrobras has taken on a loan of USD1 billion earlier than planned from the Export-Import Bank of China, the company said in a statement issued yesterday.

In the statement, the oil company said "negotiation of the definitive financing contract has begun, which brings forward the fund raising plans for 2017."

The agreement is related to contracts to supply equipment and services, already signed by Petrobras with Chinese suppliers, to meet the company's projects included in the 2015-2019 Business and Management Plan.

Last February, the company took on a loan of USD10 billion from the China Development Bank under a deal that includes the paying the debt off using oil deliveries.

This new loan is part of Petrobras' strategy to diversify its funding sources, according to a statement on the company's website. **MDT/Macauhub**

BRAZIL

# Petrobras takes on loan from the Exim Bank of China



## Delegation with officials from nine Chinese provinces, Hong Kong and Macau visits Portugal

A delegation with representatives of the governments of the Great Pearl River Delta will travel to Portugal next June to explore business opportunities, said Gloria Batalha Ung, director of the Macau Institute for Trade and Investment Promotion (IPIM), according to Portuguese-language newspaper

Tribuna de Macau.

The executive member of the Board of IPIM said the mission, which will include three or four representatives of the provinces of Guangdong, Fujian, Jiangxi, Hunan, Guangxi, Hainan, Sichuan, Guizhou and Yunnan and the special administrative regions of Macau and Hong Kong, shows that the

Macau services platform is not only intended for companies but also for governments.

The delegation of the Great Pearl River Delta, known as 9+2, plans to analyse investment opportunities in trade and deepen knowledge of the Portuguese experience in the area of environmental protection, including the wind energy sector.

Gloria Ung also said that Portugal is the first stage, and that at a later stage such visits may be arranged every year to the Portuguese-speaking countries.

Ung said that during the recent visit by a Macau mission to Sao Paulo and Porto Alegre, in Brazil, there were proposals for cooperation and business

for entrepreneurs who joined the delegation.

She noted that the cooperation protocols proposed by Investe São Paulo and the Commercial Association of Porto Alegre, were due to be signed in Macau when both institutions travel to the territory during the Macau International Fair. **MDT/Macauhub**

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## opinion

## Views on China

Christopher Balding, Bloomberg

## WHY CHINA IS PRONE TO BUBBLES

Chinese markets have rarely looked more like Vegas casinos. In recent weeks, investors have driven up trading volumes in China to astronomical levels, betting on everything from rebar to eggs. China traded enough steel in one day last month to build 178,082 Eiffel Towers and enough cotton to make at least one pair of jeans for every person on the planet.

These commodity markets aren't gyrating purely because Chinese are inveterate gamblers. Government policies have made China especially prone to asset bubbles. Even as some of those bubbles are carefully deflated, new ones are sure to emerge unless the policies themselves change.

The issue is surplus liquidity - what's been described as China's "great ball of money," which bounces from asset class to asset class as if in a pinball machine. Even Chinese leaders acknowledge it was their effort to fend off the 2009 global financial crisis that allowed that pile of money to grow to epic proportions. By now, credit and money growth has far outstripped any good opportunities for investment in China's real economy, which is hobbled by excess capacity. And the mismatch is getting worse: Total social financing, China's broadest measure of lending, grew nearly four times as fast as nominal GDP last year.

Money doesn't sit still; all this increased liquidity is flooding into real estate and financial assets. Last summer, that led to the boom-and-bust of the Shanghai stock market. Now it's driving up property prices in top cities - Shenzhen real estate is up more than 50 percent in the past year - to levels higher than in any U.S. metropolis other than New York.

Yet rather than retreating, the government is doubling down on its strategy. In January, soon after drafting a new five-year plan that focused in part on the need to shrink industries such as steel and coal, the government eased credit yet again, boosting loan growth by 67 percent in January and 43 percent through the first quarter. The money was meant to - and did - buy an uptick in GDP growth. But it's also gone into new loans to zombie companies as well as speculation in the commodity and bond markets.

Officials have also maintained their firm grip on the economy, thus encouraging investors to focus on government statements, rather than economic fundamentals, when deciding where to put their money. Prior to the stock market peak in July 2015, top leaders were actively talking up the virtues of equities and boasting of how high the Shanghai index could go. More recently, they've extolled the virtues of home ownership and lowered down-payment requirements for some homebuyers. Ever since the government announced a raft of new infrastructure investments in December, prices of construction-related materials such as rebar and cement have shot up.

The government has tried to dampen speculation in commodities recently, by raising the fees and shortening hours for trading, and the measures appear to be having some effect. But the only sure way for China to prevent new bubbles is to tighten credit, slow money growth and allow risk to price assets properly. If the government keeps stepping in to prevent falling prices and to bail out banks or other investors, the possibility of loss is discounted.

The probability of an asset crunch like the ones Japan experienced in the 1990s and the U.S. in 2009 remains low for now, in part because of all that liquidity. But the risks are rising every day. Meanwhile, the money sloshing around the Chinese economy, trapped by increasingly tight capital controls, is putting inexorable pressure on the currency. Smart investors are looking to get out: The returns on offer inside China aren't enough to compensate for the risks of buying into what look like controlled markets and artificial prices.

Sooner or later, if risks continue to build, there will come a moment where the government will lose the ability to prop up the yuan and to roll over loans indefinitely. In real life, the house doesn't always win.



## ECONOMY

## China announces measures to boost sagging exports

Joe McDonald, Beijing

**C**HINA'S Cabinet has approved measures to boost exports in a move that might inflame tensions with Western trading partners that accuse Beijing of flooding their markets with steel and other goods at improperly low prices.

The announcement comes as Beijing struggles to reduce a glut of goods in an array of industries and reverse an export decline that threatens to cause politically dangerous job losses. Its efforts so far have prompted complaints by European and U.S. steelmakers and others that it is violating free-trading pledges.

In its latest measures, the

Cabinet promised more bank lending, an increase in tax rebates and support for export credit.

Chinese exports contracted by 1.8 percent last month compared with the same period last year and are down 7.6 percent so far this year.

"The foreign trade situation is complicated and grim," said the Cabinet statement. "Promoting foreign trade to return to stability is important for economic stability and upgrading."

Beijing is trying to shrink bloated companies, many of them state-owned, in industries including steel, coal, glass, cement and aluminum in which supply exceeds demand. That has led to price-cutting wars and

heavy losses.

The announcement follows a Cabinet announcement last month promising to boost steel exports with bank loans and other support.

In March, Washington responded to a flood of low-cost steel from China by announced anti-dumping tariffs of up to 266 percent on some Chinese steelmakers.

Britain's government faces pressure to act after Tata Steel cited low-cost Chinese competition when it announced plans last month to sell money-losing operations there that employ 20,000 people.

Elsewhere in Europe, steelworkers have protested in Brussels outside the European Union headquarters.

Also last month, China pushed back against its trading partners, announcing anti-dumping duties on steel from the European Union, Japan and South Korea.

Beijing will support companies in setting up foreign distribution centers and other sales infrastructure and shifting some operations abroad.

As part of the campaign to reduce overcapacity, China's minister of human resources announced plans in February to eliminate 1.8 million jobs in coal and steel. Beijing announced a 100 billion yuan (USD15 billion) fund to help laid-off workers find jobs.

Plans for other industries have yet to be announced. **AP**

## MINING

## Freeport-McMoRan sells mining stake for USD2.65 billion to Chinese company

**F**REEPORT-MCMORAN Inc. will sell its stake in TF Holdings Limited to a Chinese mining company for USD2.65 billion as it continues to cut costs and sell assets in order to reduce its debt.

The sale to China Molybdenum Co. unloads its interest in one of the world's largest copper and cobalt mines, located in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Freeport-McMoRan is also in negotiations with China Molybdenum to sell its interest in Freeport Cobalt, including the Kokkola Cobalt Refinery in Finland, for \$100 million and the Kisanfu Exploration project in the Democratic Repu-



blic of Congo for \$50 million.

Phoenix-based Freeport-McMoRan is in the process of cutting about 25 percent of its oil and gas workforce as part of a move that also involves selling assets. In a statement, the company said it has moved to sell \$4 billion in assets since the start of 2016.

The sale of its stake in TF Holdings is expected to close in the fourth quarter. It will use the proceeds to repay debt.

Shares of Freeport-McMoRan fell \$1.11, or 9.4 percent, to \$10.68 in afternoon trading. Its shares have fallen 54 percent over the past year. **AP**



The USS William P. Lawrence destroyer

David Tweed

SOUTH CHINA SEA

**T**HE U.S. Navy sent its third warship in less than seven months into China-claimed waters of the South China Sea as tensions rise ahead of an international court's ruling on the territorial dispute.

The USS William P. Lawrence, a guided-missile destroyer, yesterday sailed within the 12-nautical-mile territorial zone around Fiery Cross Reef, a feature in the Spratly Islands where China has dumped hundreds of thousands of tons of sand and coral to create an island on which it has built an airstrip. The transit was a "freedom-of-navigation" operation by the U.S. military to demonstrate the right to fly and sail through what it considers international waters and airspace.

The reef is also claimed by the Philippines, which is contesting China's claim to more than 80 percent of the South

## US warship challenges island claims

■ The US warship "threatened" China's sovereignty and put staff and facilities on the island at risk, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said.

China Sea based on a 1947 Chinese map known as the nine-dash line, along with reefs and atolls in the waters. An arbitration tribunal hearing the case under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea is expected to make a ruling by mid-2016. China has refused to participate in the arbitration, arguing that the tribunal lacks jurisdiction and that such disputes should be settled bilaterally.

The U.S. operation was first reported by the Wall Street Journal and later confirmed by the Pentagon.

The warship "threatened"

China's sovereignty and put staff and facilities on the island at risk, Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said at a briefing in Beijing yesterday. The U.S.'s regular freedom-of-navigation operations since 1979 were "a naked challenge" to the maritime order, he said.

Lu said Chinese naval vessels followed, monitored and warned the U.S. warship. "The Chinese side resolutely opposed it, and will continue to carry out necessary measures to safeguard sovereignty and security," he said.

Military posturing in the waters has escalated in recent

weeks. U.S. Defense Secretary Ashton Carter visited an American aircraft carrier in the South China Sea on April 15, just after General Fan Changlong - China's most senior military official after President Xi Jinping - toured Fiery Cross. China later refused the carrier that hosted Carter, the USS John C. Stennis entry to Hong Kong for a port call.

The Chinese navy over the past week carried out combat drills in the South China Sea, led by the Hefei, one of the country's most advanced missile destroyers, according to official Xinhua News Agency. Five other vessels participated, along with three helicopters and dozens of "special warfare" soldiers.

U.S. freedom-of-navigation operations challenged excessive maritime claims of 13 countries, including China, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam, in the year that ended Sept. 30, according to a Department of Defense report. **Bloomberg**

## Beijing hopes for progress with new Philippine government

**C**HINA said yesterday that it hopes to work with the Philippines' new government to resolve territorial disputes in the South China Sea, but insisted the onus is on Manila to lower tensions.

Beijing hopes the Philippines will "meet China halfway, taking concrete measures to properly deal with the disputes so as to put the ties of the two countries back on the track of sou-

nd development," Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said at a daily news briefing.

Lu said that while the two countries have a traditional friendship, bilateral relations have been "hit by major setbacks in recent years, due to reasons known to all" — a reference to moves by the Philippines to assert its claims and activities by the U.S. challenging China's actions.

Beijing and Manila

have for years accused one another of infringing on each other's territory in the South China Sea, which China claims virtually in its entirety.

Philippine President-elect Rodrigo Duterte has said he would negotiate directly with China on the dispute. However, he's also said that if negotiations fail, he would sail to one of China's newly built artificial islands and plant the Philippine flag on it.

Duterte's election should be good news for Beijing, which is known to disdain outgoing President Benigno Aquino III over his legal challenges to China's sovereignty claims and moves to strengthen security cooperation with the U.S., a key treaty ally of the Philippines.

Although he has not articulated an overall foreign policy, Duterte has described himself



as a socialist wary of the U.S.-Philippine security alliance. He also has worried members of the

armed forces by saying that communist rebels could play a role in his government. **AP**

## Xi Jinping congratulates Kim on new title



Chinese President Xi Jinping extended his congratulations to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on his new title of chairman of the ruling Workers' Party of Korea, underscoring traditional ties between the communist neighbors despite recent strains. Writing in his personal capacity and as head of China's ruling Communist Party, Xi expressed hope

that Kim's leadership would bring "new accomplishments in the cause of building socialism," China's official Xinhua News Agency reported. Ties between China and North Korea were "personally forged and carefully fostered by the two countries' leaderships of the older generation and is a treasure for both sides," Xi wrote, according to Xinhua. China stands ready to work for further improvements in bilateral relations and to make "positive contributions to safeguarding peace, stability and development in the region," Xi wrote. China fought for North Korea in the 1950-53 Korean War and ties were close for decades afterward. However, North Korea has rejected China's calls for economic reforms and Kim has yet to visit China, despite its status as the North's key source of financial and diplomatic support.

## Ex-army chief, who Seoul said was executed, is alive



A former North Korean military chief who Seoul had said was executed is actually alive and in possession of several new senior-level posts, the North's state media said yesterday. The news on Ri Yong Gil marks yet another blunder

for South Korean intelligence officials, who have often gotten information wrong in tracking developments with their rival. It also points to the difficulties that even professional spies have in figuring out what's going on in one of the world's most closed governments. Ri, who was considered one of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's most trusted aides, missed two key national meetings in February. Seoul intelligence officials later said that Kim had him executed for corruption and other charges. Kim has reportedly overseen a series of killings, purges and dismissals since he took power in late 2011, part of what foreign experts call an attempt to tighten his grip on power. The South's report on Ri's execution seemed to be bolstered later in February when Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency confirmed Ri had lost his job by describing someone else as chief of the North Korean military's general staff.

## Chairman's younger sister gets new post during congress



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's younger sister is among the officials who won new

posts at the country's ruling-party congress. The state-run Korean Central News Agency reported yesterday that Kim Yo Jong was named a member of the Workers' Party of Korea's Central Committee during the congress that ended Monday. Kim Yo Jong has served as a vice department director with the Central Committee, which is among the party's leading bodies. Believed to be in her late 20s, she frequently appears at her brother's public events, standing out amid elderly male officials.

## NORTH KOREA

# Mass rally after congress bolsters leader

Eric Talmadge, Pyongyang

**A**FTER a ruling-party congress in which leader Kim Jong Un enshrined his hold on power and his commitment to developing nuclear weapons, hundreds of thousands of North Koreans celebrated with a massive civilian parade yesterday featuring floats bearing patriotic slogans and marchers with flags and pompoms.

Kim presided over the parade and waved down to the crowd from his "tribune of honor" on a balcony of the Grand People's Study House, which overlooks the square. North Koreans had been practicing roles in the parade and other events for weeks, and participation is considered mandatory.

"We had been practicing every other day for this event," said Yun Song Hua, a 25-year-old medical student at Kim Il Sung University. "I'm proud to be able to participate in an event like this with our leader here with us."

The two-hour parade started off with a 30-minute speech by Kim Jong Nam, the head of North Korea's parliament and nominal head of state. Foreign journalists in Pyongyang for the congress had to gather hours earlier, at 5:30 a.m., to go through strict security screening. They had to surrender all telephones and communication devices, which is typical whenever foreign media cover an event where Kim Jong Un is present.

The four-day congress completed Monday was the authoritarian country's first since 1980, before Kim was even born. The body of more than 3,400 delegates endorsed his nuclear and economic policies, promoted his favored officials and gave him a new title of party chairman.

Kim told delegates the North would not use its nuclear weapons first unless its sovereignty is threatened and hinted he was willing to work with countries that had previously been hostile



North Korean parade participants wave decorative bouquets of flowers and carry their country's national flag as they march with different types of models of missiles at the Kim Il Sung Square

toward the North if they are willing to work with him.

Though big on pomp and visuals intended to inspire awe, the congress was first and foremost a means for Kim to solidify his standing as the sole leader of the party and formalize the positions of those he trusts. Those include Ri Yong Gil, a senior official South Korea's intelligence agency had previously said had been executed.

But by calling a congress — something his father, Kim Jong Il, never did — Kim demonstrated what may also be a leadership style more like that of his charismatic grandfather, national founder Kim Il Sung. Kim Il Sung worked through party organs more than Kim Jong Il, who preferred using his own network of trusted individuals to get things done.

Kim Jong Un spoke several times during the congress — including one speech that lasted three hours and has aired repeatedly on the North's state-run television. He announced a new five-year plan for the economy, the first made public since the 1980s, to show that improving the nation's standard of living, which has fallen far behind its neighboring China and rival South Korea, is one of his top priorities.

To do that, he stressed that North Korea must strive to build better tra-

de relations with other countries, though he also remained firm on what the North claims is its right to develop and possess a nuclear arsenal for self-defense.

How North Korea can do both is a question mark.

Its nuclear program has brought a heavy price in sanctions that stifle growth. After its most recent test, which Pyongyang claims was of its first hydrogen bomb, sanctions are at their toughest level in 20 years and the nation is facing increasing isolation from even China, its Korean War ally, with whom trade is essential.

The mixture of what seemed to be overtures for better relations with a hard line on Pyongyang's right to keep a nuclear deterrent did not resonate much in Washington or Seoul.

South Korean officials quickly wrote it off as nothing new and nothing they could accept.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest said at a press briefing Monday that Washington is more focused on North Korea's actions than its words.

"Once North Korea demonstrates a commitment to coming back into compliance with those international obligations, the United States and the rest of the international community would be prepared to enter into negotiations with them and begin to give

them access to the international community that they've been denied for some time now," Earnest said.

Evans Revere, an expert on Northeast Asia and a former senior State Department official, said the message out of Pyongyang was that nuclear weapons are a permanent fixture in North Korea's security posture and the announcement it would not use nuclear weapons unless its sovereignty was threatened was an attempt to seek legitimacy as a nuclear-armed state.

"It's hard to take anything positive from this. The overwhelming message is that they have doubled down on the nuclear issue," he said. "I don't think the international community is going to accept that or work with that."

"The difficult thing for [U.S.] policymakers is, where do you go from here?" said Victor Cha, an expert on North Korea at the Center for Strategic and International Studies who served as a top White House official on Asia policy under President George W. Bush.

"If it was ever unclear that they were not going to give up their nuclear weapons, they have made it crystal-clear that they're not going to," he said. "Can we still talk about denuclearization, or do we aim for a freeze and a cap? It's a tough situation." **AP**

Bullit Marquez & Jim Gomez,  
Davao City

## PHILIPPINES

# At parents' tomb, next President shows softer side

SOON after it became apparent from election results that Rodrigo Duterte would be the next president of the Philippines, he drove at 3 a.m. yesterday to a cemetery to visit his parents' tomb. And there he wept.

Gone was the rough, tough-talking, vulgar personality that voters had seen in stump speeches and campaign rallies over the last three months. At that moment it was an emotional son seeking blessings from his parents for a monumental task ahead. He had come a long way from being the problem child who often got into trouble and even was kicked out of school.

"Help me Mom," he said in the local Bisaya dialect as he sobbed quietly in front of his parent's tomb. "I'm just a nobody."

The display of emotion, caught on video and photos and posted on Facebook, showed a starkly different man from the Duterte that critics have dubbed a "butcher" for advocating the murder of drug traffickers and other criminals.

A former lawyer and prosecutor, Duterte has been the mayor of Davao city for 22 years. Monday's presidential election was his first foray into national politics.

His campaign manager says the brash image, the obscene jokes, the outlandish promises that became the Duterte persona were a



Leading presidential candidate Mayor Rodrigo Duterte visits the tomb of his late father Gov. Vicente Duterte at San Pedro Memorial Park

strategy to attract voters.

"That's part of the game. You know in Philippine elections you have to act like a comic, you have to find ways for you be in the headlines," Peter Lavina, Duterte's

spokesman, speech writer and campaign manager told The Associated Press. "The jester, the jokes. That's part of the game."

If it was a game, the crowds certainly played along, despite the risque jokes. One of his most controversial statements was about an Australian missionary who was gang-raped and killed by inmates in a 1989 jail riot.

"I was angry because she was raped, that's one thing. But she was so beautiful, the mayor should have been first, what a waste," he said. When Australian diplomats protested, he told them to "shut up."

He has told people that at age 71 he needs Viagra to perform with his mistresses because he is separated from his wife. And on occasion, he has referred to both outgoing President Benigno Aquino III and Pope Francis as a "son of whore," a popular Philippine insult.

"Well that is his style in Davao, in every election. That's why he can capture the crowd for two to three hours, because he has this penchant for storytelling, cracking jokes and even laughing at his own self," Lavina said.

But one thing he was not joking about, Lavina said, was his promise to eliminate crime, one of the three "evils," along with corruption and poverty, that the Southeast Asian nation is battling.

Duterte has promised to butcher all criminal suspects including drug lords and dump their bodies into Manila Bay to fatten the fish. He does not deny that he ordered extrajudicial killings of suspected criminals as mayor.

When accused of killing 700 people, he countered that the figure was closer to 1,700.

Perhaps it is his brashness and politically incorrect behavior that appealed to voters fed up with years of forked-tongued politicians.

"People in Davao love him because he has one word, principles," Lavina said.

Duterte is a devout Christian, although he says he's no longer a Catholic. During the campaign, he alarmed the country's Catholic bishops by cursing Pope Francis for causing a monstrous traffic jam during a Manila visit last

year that trapped him for hours. He later apologized.

That did not diminish his popularity in a country where about 80 percent of the 100 million people are Catholic.

His father was the governor of Davao province and his mother a schoolteacher. In one of his campaign speeches, he said his best friend was Jesus because whenever he did mischief his strict mother would make him kneel with arms outstretched in front of a statue of the crucified Christ.

Yesterday, in the middle of the night, he went back to his mother. This time as the president-elect. AP

## Marcos Jr. asks that unofficial VP vote count be halted

THE late Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos' son, who is running for vice president, called yesterday for a stop to an unofficial vote count that shows his rival has overtaken him.

Sen. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr.'s campaign said it sent an urgent request to the Commission on Elections to halt a tally released by an accredited citizen's group, saying the results showed "an alarming and suspicious trend" contrary to independent exit polls and the campaign's estimates, according to his adviser, Rep. Jonathan dela Cruz.

If Marcos wins, that would put him a step away from the presidency 30 years after his father was ousted by a public uprising amid plunder allegations and widespread human rights abuses.

His rival, Congresswoman Leni Robredo, was ahead by 200,000 votes, putting her half a percentage point ahead of Marcos as of yesterday, according to the unofficial count. Earlier counts had Marcos in the lead.



Vice presidential candidate Sen. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr

Official results won't be released for at least another two weeks. The Philippines elects the president and vice president separately.

Robredo, a lawyer for the poor and the widow of a well-loved politician, has denied cheating.

She thanked her supporters at a news conference yesterday but said the count was not yet over. She asked all to remain calm and respect whatever results come out of what she said were clean and orderly elections.

She promised full support for Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, who has cemented his lead in the Philippine presidential election, in case she wins.

## Boxing great Pacquiao close to Senate win



Congressman Manny Pacquiao

BOXING great Manny Pacquiao appears to have won a seat in the Philippine Senate, according to unofficial results.

Pacquiao has garnered more than 15 million votes, with about 93 percent of precincts reporting yesterday. That places him eighth among candidates for 12 Senate seats,

and nearly 3 million votes ahead of the candidate in 13th place. Official results are days away.

He cast his vote Monday in his home turf of southern Sarangani province. He had bounced back in polls after losing support in February over remarks he made about same-sex marriage.

Pacquiao had said people in same-sex relations are "worse than animals." He apologized to people hurt by his comments but made it clear he opposed gay marriage.



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Bassem Mroue, Beirut

SYRIA

**T**WO airstrikes struck a northwestern Syrian town yesterday, killing at least 10 people, wounding many others and knocking out the dome of a mosque, opposition activists said.

The air raids on the town of Binnish in the northwestern province of Idlib came hours after a fragile and limited cease-fire in the nearby city of Aleppo and its surrounding countryside was extended for the third time, for another 48 hours starting at 1 a.m. yesterday morning.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the death toll is expected to rise as some of the wounded are in critical condition. The Local Coordination Committees said some of the wounded have not been identified.

A Facebook page known as the Coordinators of the Revolution in the city of Binnish posted the photo of a wounded child with blood stains on his face, saying he was referred to the intensive care unit in the town of Bab al-Hawa near the border with Turkey. The posting said the child will be referred to a hospital in Turkey and added that he has no adult to accompany him — asking any relatives who identify the boy to come forward.

Another photo posted on the Facebook page showed at least three dead bodies in dark blue bags placed on a pavement.

"Most of the 10 people killed were passersby," said Muayad



Zurayk, an opposition activist based in the nearby Jabal al-Zawiya region. "The situation is appalling in this region because of daily massacres."

The LCC said the warplanes were Syrian while the Observatory said it wasn't clear if they were Syrian or Russian.

The Observatory said tho-

se killed included a local rebel commander of a faction linked to the ultraconservative Ahrar al-Sham militia. The militia is part of the Jaish al-Fatah coalition, made up of several groups including al-Qaida's branch in Syria known as the Nusra Front, and other jihadi militias. Binnish, a Jaish al-Fatah

stronghold, is in Idlib province, which borders Turkey.

Jaish al-Fatah, or Army of Conquest, last week launched a wide offensive near Aleppo, capturing the village of Khan Touman and killing dozens of fighters including 13 members of Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards.

The extremist Nusra Front and its more powerful rival the Islamic State group, are not included in the cease-fire agreement that was brokered by Russia and the U.S.

Just hours before the government announced the cease-fire, the United States said that a new agreement with Russia would replace localized, piecemeal cease-fires in Syria with a revived, nationwide truce. It was not clear if other announcements regarding cease-fires in the rest of the country would follow.

The Observatory also reported that IS launched an offensive in the northeastern province of Hassakeh where the extremists have lost large swaths of territory in the past few months in battles with predominantly Kurdish fighters.

It said the attack near the former-IS stronghold of Shaddadeh began with two suicide attacks that targeted the U.S.-backed Syria Democratic Forces.

The Observatory and the LCC also reported intense clashes between IS and government forces near the T4 air base in the central province of Homs. AP

TURKEY

## Ankara accused of violating rights of Kurds, Syrians

**T**URKEY came under scrutiny yesterday for alleged human rights violations committed by security forces against Kurds in the southeast and Syrian refugees trying to enter the country, with two organizations calling for investigations.

Human Rights Watch claimed that Turkish border guards have in the past two months killed five Syrians who were trying to cross into Turkey, and called on the country to investigate the reported use of excessive force by soldiers.

Separately, the U.N. human rights chief urged Turkey to allow investigators to probe allegations of violations committed by Turkish security forces in their campaign against Kurdish rebels.

New York-based Human Rights Watch ac-



Nils Muiznieks, the Council of Europe's human rights commissioner

cused border guards of shooting and beating asylum-seekers and at least one smuggler. It said that five refugees — including a child — were killed and 14 others were wounded in March and April.

A Turkish Interior Ministry official denied that the incidents cited by Human Rights Watch had occurred and insisted that the country, which is home to 2.7 million

Syrian refugees, does not shoot at asylum-seekers. The official cannot be named because of regulations that bar civil servants from speaking to journalists without authorization.

Human Rights Watch also urged Turkey to reopen its border to all Syrian asylum-seekers, claiming that Turkish border guards blocked thousands of fleeing dis-

placed Syrians after their camps near the Turkish border had been attacked on April 13 and 15.

The report could not independently be verified by The Associated Press.

Turkey maintains that it has an open-door policy toward migrants, although new arrivals are rare.

"Firing at traumatized men, women, and children fleeing fighting and indiscriminate warfare is truly appalling," said Gerry Simpson, senior refugee researcher at Human Rights Watch.

The U.N. human rights chief, Zeid Raad al-Husseini, said he has received reports of unarmed civilians, including women and children, being deliberately shot by snipers or from military vehicles in the course of security operations in southeastern Turkey. Those operations focused on mainly

Kurdish towns where militants and youths linked to the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party are active.

"While Turkey has a duty to protect its population from acts of violence, it is essential that the authorities respect human rights at all times while undertaking security or counter-terrorism operations," Zeid said.

The Turkish government had not responded positively to U.N. requests to visit the region and collect information, he added.

The U.N. wants to investigate reports that more than 100 people were burned to death in the town of Cizre while sheltering in basements surrounded by security forces, who are also accused of carrying out arbitrary arrests, torture and other types of violence.

The U.N. also wants to

investigate allegations that security forces used massive and disproportionate forces contributing to the destruction of communal infrastructure and private property, as well as mass displacement of locals.

Zeid noted that many other districts in the southeast remain largely sealed off due to the high security presence.

"In 2016, to have such a lack of information about what is happening in such a large and geographically accessible area is both extraordinary and deeply worrying," he said. "This black-out simply fuels suspicions about what has been going on. I therefore renew my call for access for UN staff and other impartial observers and investigators, including civil society organizations and journalists." AP

## what's ON



**BLUE ROOM IN THE SKY**  
- EXHIBITION BY BLUE CHAN  
TIME: 10:30am-6:30pm  
(Closed on Mondays and public holidays)  
UNTIL: June 26, 2016  
ADMISSION: Free  
Venue: 10, Calçada da Igreja de S.Lazaro, Macao  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 4582

**MACAU ARTS WINDOW 2016 ENCOUNTER**  
- PRINTMAKING BY CATHERINE,  
CHEONG CHENG WA  
TIME: 10am-7pm  
(No admittance after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)  
UNTIL: June 5, 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

**'WONDERFUL TIME'**  
- CHEONG SOU MAN ART EXHIBITION  
TIME: 10:30am-6:30pm  
(Closed on Mondays and public holidays)  
UNTIL: May 29, 2015  
ADMISSION: Free  
VENUE: 10, Calçada da Igreja de S.Lázaro, Macao  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 4582

**10TH MACAU DESIGN BIENNIAL**  
TIME: 10am to 7pm  
(Closed on Mondays, no admission after 6:30 pm)  
UNTIL: June 26, 2016  
VENUE: Macau Museum of Art  
ADMISSION: Adult MOP5, free for Children under 12  
years old, elderly over 65 years old  
(Admission is free on Sundays and public holidays)  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 7588

**ABSTRACT PAINTINGS**  
FROM THE MAM COLLECTION  
TIME: 10am-7pm  
(no admittance after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)  
UNTIL: December 31, 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

**"POST MODERN STILL LIFE"**  
DRAWING & PAINTING BY MARCO SZETO  
OPENING HOURS: 10am-6:30pm  
UNTIL: May 15, 2016  
VENUE: CalçadaDaBarra, No. 16 R/C LJ A,  
Edif. San Chak, Macau  
ADMISSION with free ticket  
ORGANIZER: Dare to Dream Gallery  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2896 2820

## Offbeat

## US: LEAPING STURGEON KNOCKS BOATER UNCONSCIOUS ON FLORIDA RIVER

Wildlife officials say a Florida man was knocked unconscious by a sturgeon that leapt into his boat on the Suwannee River during a fishing tournament.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission said in a news release that 62-year-old Ronald Dick and his son were traveling about 30 mph when the 4- to 5-foot fish jumped into the boat Saturday afternoon. The release says Dick's injuries were not considered life-threatening and that he was taken to a hospital for treatment.

Wildlife spokesman Andy Krause says boaters need to be aware that large fish are found in the Suwannee and Santa Fe rivers and they sometimes leap into boats.

He says it's the first sturgeon incident in 2016. Last year, sturgeon strikes killed one person and injured eight in Florida.

## TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	RTPi Live
18:15	Helena's Shadow (Repeated)
19:05	TDM Entrevista (Repeated)
19:35	Non-Daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
19:50	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Montra do Lilau
21:30	Criminal Minds Sr.9
22:10	Helena's Shadow
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Drama
00:25	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:55	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



Daily Sketch, London, May 1971, staff being told the paper is closing

## 1971 BRITAIN'S OLDEST TABLOID CLOSES

The Daily Sketch newspaper which was founded in 1909 has been published for the last time.

Enclosed in today's souvenir issue was a copy of its sister paper the Daily Mail to which owners Harmsworth Publications hope former Sketch readers will now switch.

However, production of the last copies of the Sketch was held up by an industrial dispute over manning of the printing presses.

At its peak the Daily Sketch achieved a circulation of 1.3 million copies a day but in recent years readership of the paper has been in decline.

The Sketch's fate was sealed two months ago when Harmsworth Publications announced plans to shut down the paper, although the exact date was a closely-guarded secret until recently.

The closure has resulted in more than 800 people being made redundant - they are among 1,700 being laid off by Associated Newspapers, Harmsworth's parent company.

But the former editor of the Sketch, David English, remains with the company. He was appointed editor of the Daily Mail after the Sketch's closure was announced.

Associated Newspapers is now pinning its hopes on the revamped Daily Mail capturing the Sketch's market.

Earlier this month the Mail was transformed from a broadsheet into a tabloid and has taken on many of the Sketch's features such as the Peanuts cartoon strip.

The new Mail's success is even more crucial for Harmsworth's survival given that it also publishes the loss-making Evening News.

The Mail's main competitor for the Sketch's readers is widely regarded to be the Daily Express.

The Express' new editor, Ian McColl, is expected to take the paper further to the right and thus encroach on ground traditionally occupied by the Mail.

The latest developments are another twist in the on-going battle of the tabloids which began when Rupert Murdoch took over the Sun two years ago.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

**Under** David English the new Daily Mail soared in popularity especially among the middle classes.

In 1992 after 20 years at the Mail, David English became editor-in-chief and chairman of Associated Newspapers. He died in 1998.

Rivalry in the tabloid market intensified in 1984 when Robert Maxwell took over the Mirror Group.

In February 1987 he launched the London Daily News - in direct competition with Associated Newspaper's Evening Standard.

However, after fierce resistance from Associated Newspapers the London Daily News closed in July 1987 with losses in the region of £50m.

In 1986 a new tabloid entered the market when Eddy Shah launched Today - the first national newspaper to be printed in colour.

But in 1995 Today became the first national paper to close since the Daily Sketch.



YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19
If you spend your day trying to do as little as possible, then you may be caught off guard by some work you just can't get out of.

Taurus April 20-May 20
You're feeling slow and mornings are the worst. But you have things to do and that means you have to hurry up.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21
Friends and associates are giving you advice - even mere acquaintances are chiming in. It must be you.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22
If you're in a hurry, you'll only make mistakes, including 'purposefully accidentally' forgetting something you should keep in mind.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22
You can make paper airplanes out of memos, paperclip necklaces - heck, you can have a good time out of just about anything.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22
When you're feeling combative, it means your energy is misdirected. You should re-focus on what gives you your true sense of purpose.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22
Your job is either great or awful. You may love what you do, but it's not just romance. It's hard work.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
Don't let others treat you like their own personal volunteer. You don't mind helping others selflessly, most of the time.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21
A deadly serious attitude won't help you get any more work done. A little bit of creativity can turn a long, hard day into a breeze.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Just when you are more interested than ever in stability and security, the threat of termination rears its head.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18
You yearn for autonomy one day, and love the dependability and structure your job offers, the next.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20
It's hard to get any work done when you're lost in the haze of your own mind. Dreams and enigmas keep sucking you in.

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

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION

CHINA

Table listing weather for various Chinese cities like Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, etc.

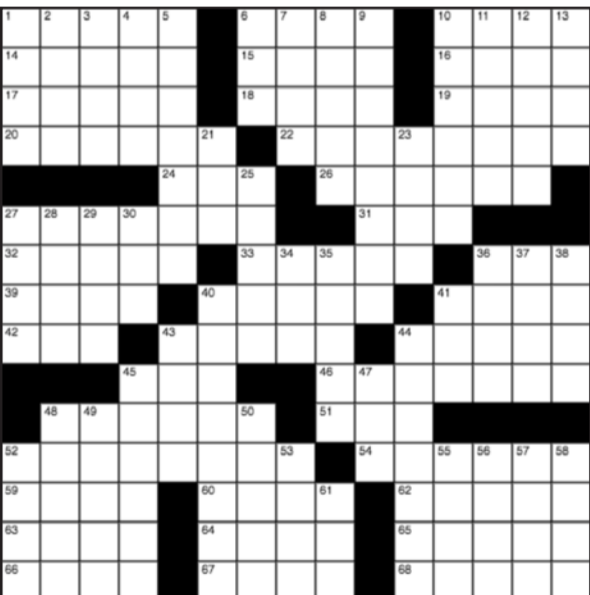
WORLD

Table listing weather for various world cities like Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, etc.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Cavalry sword; 6- Met solo; 10- Deep affection; 14- Money bag; 15- Tear; 16- Supermodel Sastre; 17- Let's Make ...; 18- Govern; 19- Mai ...; 20- Environment; 22- Having royal privileges; 24- The lot; 26- Diluted; 27- Supervise; 31- Like some discounted mdse.; 32- Bridget Fonda, to Jane; 33- ... lift?; 36- PBS supporter; 39- First name in jazz; 40- Dishwasher cycle; 41- ... carotene; 42- Small batteries; 43- Queues; 44- Value; 45- Loud noise; 46- To-do lists; 48- Optical phenomenon; 51- Affirmative reply; 52- Canal; 54- Online brokerage; 59- Change for a five; 60- Anthem starter; 62- Red fluorescent dye; 63- Lens holders; 64- Actress Sofer; 65- Thick-skinned charger; 66- Not difficult; 67- High-ranking NCO; 68- Bird homes;

DOWN: 1- Unwanted e-mail; 2- BMW rival; 3- Belgian songwriter Jacques; 4- Morales of "NYPD Blue"; 5- Free from confinement; 6- Part of ETA; 7- Enlist again; 8- Acquired relative; 9- Capital of South Australia; 10- Scattered rubbish; 11- TV studio sign; 12- Having some prominent blood vessels; 13- Latin being; 21- Suffix with glob; 23- Razor brand; 25- Bolshevik leader; 27- Draft rating; 28- TV handyman Bob; 29- Electric fish; 30- Color TV pioneer; 34- Compass dir.; 35- Sontag composition; 36- Social misfit; 37- Jazzy James; 38- Sounds of relief; 40- Skin disease; 41- ... vivand; 43- One telling tales; 44- Shoot-'em-up; 45- Stylish; 47- "Fancy that!"; 48- Craze; 49- Units; 50- Alleviates; 52- Had on; 53- Positive principle; 55- Architect Mies van der ...; 56- Garage sale sign; 57- Force; 58- Slaughter of baseball; 61- China's Sun ...-sen



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 1990 992
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944
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## RUGBY

## No new caps or Halfpenny in Wales tour squad to New Zealand

**L**EAVING out Leigh Halfpenny was the hardest decision, Wales coach Warren Gatland said yesterday in naming his squad for the rugby tour of New Zealand next month.

It was easier not to pick any new caps.

"It's not the place to blood youngsters," Gatland said. "You want to go there with as much experience as you need."

There's experience in spades, with the 35 players averaging more than 30 caps each. They have three shots at becoming the first Wales side to beat the All Blacks in New Zealand.

They also have a pre-tour match against England at Twickenham on May 29 so they don't go on tour undercooked. Wales, second to England in the Six Nations, leaves for New Zealand the next day.

Halfpenny has not played since September, when the star fullback ruptured the anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee in the last warmup for the Rugby World Cup. He had more surgery on the knee last month, setting back his recovery at his Toulon club.

This week, Toulon owner Mourad Boudjellal suggested Halfpenny might be fit for the French Top 14 playoffs, which don't finish until June 24, the day before Wales' third and last test against the All Blacks. Boudjellal reportedly said if Halfpenny was picked by Wales and missed the playoffs, then he wouldn't pay him.

Gatland said Halfpenny was on their standby list but wouldn't be considered for a callup without matches under his belt. He was running, added Gatland, who was conscious of not putting Halfpenny in the middle of a dispute between club and country. Wales was keen to keep its relationship with clubs "as positive as possible."

In that regard, he expected the other two France-based players, lock Luke Charteris and midfielder Jonathan Davies, to join the squad after the England game.

Others were picked carrying injuries, including captain Sam Warburton, lock Alun Wyn Jones, and prop Samson Lee. **AP**

## FOOTBALL | TRANSFERS

# Bayern starts rebuilding squad with Sanchez, Hummels

Nesha Starcevic, Frankfurt

**B**AYERN Munich has started to rebuild its squad as coach Pep Guardiola prepares to leave after three seasons.

Bayern brought in Borussia Dortmund captain Mats Hummels yesterday and signed an 18-year-old rising Portuguese star to one of the richest contracts in Bundesliga history.

The moves come one week after Bayern was eliminated in the semifinals of the Champions League by Atletico Madrid, the third consecutive season Bayern has gone out at the penultimate stage against Spanish opposition.

But Bayern then went on to capture an unprecedented fourth straight Bundesliga title and can complete a domestic double in the German Cup final against Dortmund on May 21, Guardiola's final match in charge.

Guardiola is leaving to join Manchester City and will be replaced by Carlo Ancelotti.

Hummels, who grew up in Munich and was groomed in Bayern's junior sides, will sign a five-year deal once the customary medical is completed. The two sides gave no financial details of the transfer, but German media estimated it to be worth 38 million euros (USD43.3 million).

Calling the move a "not an easy decision," Hummels said he would like nothing better but for Dortmund to lift the German Cup.

"Before I return to my hometown in the summer, we have a big common goal: to again take



Bayern's head coach Pep Guardiola

the cup to Dortmund and celebrate with Dortmund fans in a huge party," said Hummels, who spent more than eight years in Dortmund. "I will give my best for it, like my teammates."

Hummels was on the Germany squad that won the 2014 World Cup in Brazil — scoring the winner against France in the quarterfinals — and has been a key player for Dortmund, which will finish runner-up to Bayern in the Bundesliga when the season concludes on Saturday.

Bayern ran out of trained defenders in the second half of the season through injuries and Hummels will be a welcome addition to the squad.

He will be the third Dortmund player to leave for Bayern in recent seasons, after striker Robert Lewandowski and attacking midfielder Mario Goetze

— scorer of Germany's winning goal against Argentina in the World Cup final two years ago.

Like Lewandowski in 2014, Hummels will play his final match for Dortmund against his new club. Two years ago, Bayern beat Dortmund 2-0 in the German Cup final.

The second arrival, Renato Sanches, is costing Bayern Munich at least 35 million euros (\$40 million), with the Bundesliga champion possibly spending an additional 45 million euros depending on performances, such as becoming FIFA player of the year or getting a slot on his national team.

His contract runs through June 2021.

Sanches came through Benfica's junior ranks, and made his first-team debut in the Portuguese league last October. He has 59 appearances, two goals, and earned broad acclaim.

Renato Sanchez is dynamic, a good tackler, and a technically skilled midfielder who'll add even more strength to our team.

KH RUMMENIGGE

He made his Portugal debut in March, and has two caps. He has a chance to be in the Portugal squad for the European Championship next month.

"He rates as one of the most talented young players in European football," and there was "big-name international competition" to sign him, Bayern said in a statement on its website.

It said he passed a medical in Munich on Monday.

Bayern chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge said the club had been following Sanches for a long time. Bayern edged out Benfica in the quarterfinals of the Champions League.

"Renato is dynamic, a good tackler, and a technically skilled midfielder who'll add even more strength to our team," Rummenigge said. **AP**

## Berlusconi dealing with Chinese investors for AC Milan sale



Bologna FC's Amadou Diawara of Guinea (left), and AC Milan's Keisuke Honda of Japan

**S**ILVIO Berlusconi's holding company Fininvest has agreed to negotiate exclusively with a group of Chinese investors for the possible sale of a stake in AC Milan.

Without naming the Chinese investors, a statement on Milan's website yesterday said that a "memorandum of understanding" had been signed between the parties to open the negotiations.

The exclusive negotiating deal will last for 45 days, and a 500 million euro (USD570 million) offer for 70 percent of Milan is being discussed, the Gazzetta dello Sport reported.

The 79-year-old Berlusconi has discussed selling Milan with several parties recently. Last year, he came close to selling a 48 percent stake in the club to a Thai investor, Bee Taechaubol.

With the Serie A season ending this weekend, Milan is languishing in seventh

place.

Berlusconi took over Milan in February 1986 and presided over its most successful era as the team won 28 trophies, including eight Serie A titles and five European Cups.

However, Milan's form has dipped in recent years and the Rossoneri have not won Serie A since 2011.

Unless Milan passes sixth-place Sassuolo this weekend, the squad will fail to qualify for Europe for a third consecutive year.

When Sinisa Mihajlovic was fired last month, replacement Cristian Brocchi became Milan's fifth coach in little more than two years.

Still, Milan can capture a trophy when it faces Juventus in the Italian Cup final later this month.

Milan has discussed plans to build a new stadium but nothing definitive has been presented. **AP**

opinion

**Made In Macau**

Jenny Lao-Phillips



**THE AGE OF IMPATIENCE**

Everywhere we go these days we seem to hear two words: 快啲...快啲...快啲 “Fai Di... Fai Di... Fai Di” (meaning faster, faster, faster). From lining up at the supermarket cashier, to entering buses, to eating in a restaurant, everyone seems to be in an extreme hurry. We all know that patience is a virtue, but like any other kinds of virtues, it is easier said than put into practice. This trend of inability to wait has been spread even into this once serene little town of Macao.

It is normal for human beings to seek instant gratification, but the definition of ‘instant’ is getting shorter.

Express delivery for online orders takes around 3 days for products to be delivered to Macao from the other side of the world, but 3 days is becoming too long. There are those who are willing to pay hundreds of dollars for the delivery of a book that cost about the same just because they cannot wait to read it.

With the increasing speed of Internet connection, and the shorter time for downloading materials, a website that responds in 3 seconds is considered too slow. We have almost forgotten the time when it took 5 minutes to connect to the Internet, not to mention the time when there were no emails, and it took weeks to send a letter to a friend abroad. And soon, we may forget that food takes time to cook. Perhaps that is why more Japanese restaurants have opened in my neighbourhood: salmon sashimi is way faster to make than baked salmon, profit margin may even be higher, and most importantly, it meets customer demands – fast.

Being fast, quick and efficient is the third biggest challenge faced by SME owners, after the usual rent and staffing issues. Customers are demanding not only faster service but quicker results as well. According to some beauty center owners, they survived only because of a group of old customers. They failed to attract new customers from the younger generation because they could not provide customers with tighter, smoother and three shades fairer skin tone in an hour.

The same problem is faced by owners of small F&B outlets who claimed that customers are demanding not only their coffee be delivered as soon as they place their order, they don't even seem to give the chef time to cook their food. Customers are demanding so much in efficiency that quality has become a victim in this age of impatience. Chefs cannot prepare their food to their best because of the shorter time customers are giving them to cook. Waiters and waitresses are not given enough time to recommend special items or offer friendlier and more courteous service to their customers. Even businesses with minimum customer interaction, such as the small old-style convenience stores, are complaining that customers demand cashier service in seconds. An old lady who has been running a small local shop for years claimed that running the shop is getting stressful because young people wouldn't let her take time to calculate the price for their purchase, and kept rushing her. “Fai Di! Fai Di! That's what I hear every day now” said the shop owner grumpily.

As entrepreneurs are busy spending all their efforts in enhancing efficiency, service processes become more robotic. It is not surprising that there is not much space for differentiation. While local entrepreneurs stressed the importance for innovation and service differentiation for their businesses to survive, they simply have no time to innovate or differentiate. Even if they do, customers have no time to try new things, for quality service is now a luxury we cannot afford (time) to enjoy.

**THE CLIMBERS NEARING EVEREST SUMMIT AFTER 2 YEARS OF DISASTERS**

Climbers are making good progress on Mount Everest and the first group could reach the summit as early as tomorrow, following two years of disasters on the world's highest mountain, a mountaineering official said.

Nearly 300 foreign climbers and their guides are attempting to reach the 8,850-meter summit.

Nepal Mountaineering Department official

Gyanendra Shrestha, who is stationed at the base camp, said the last camp at South Col has been set up and the route to the summit was being fixed yesterday.

The South Col, or Camp 4, is located at about 8,000 meters altitude and is the last place for climbers to pause before they try to reach the summit. Tents there have basic gear, supplies and oxygen cylinders.

**Royal Botanical Gardens: Mixed report on the world's plants**



Carlos Magdalena, botanical horticulturist looks towards the flower of Paphiopedilum Rothschildianum, an endangered plant

Gregory Katz, London

A report billed as the first comprehensive look at world's plants finds a planet slowly being ravaged by changing land use, mostly conversion of forests to agriculture to feed a growing population, and climate change.

The “State of the World's Plants” study is designed to provide a baseline for annual reports that will measure how many plant species are being discovered, and how many are being lost forever.

“The positive is we're still discovering lots of new plants, about 2,000 each year, new plants for food, for fuel, for drugs,” said Kathy Willis, science director at the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew. “On the negative, we've seen a huge change in land cover, mainly driven by cultural activity, with a little bit of climate change in there as well.”

The goal, she said, is to better understand the factors driving these negative changes – and to change them to protect more plants from extinction.

The report by one of the world's leading research institutions involved more

than 80 scientists. Here are some of its findings:

The report estimates there are 391,000 vascular plant species known to science, with an average of 2,000 new ones being discovered and named each year.

Brazil, with its vast rainforests, has led the way in the last decade with the highest number of newly discovered species.

That sounds encouraging, but a daunting 21 percent of global plant species are currently threatened with extinction, the report finds, as habitat is gobbled up for human use.

The new study documents 31,128 plant types put to a specific use, mostly for medicine (17,810 plant species used in the pursuit of good health), but also for human food, animal food, fuel, materials and other things.

Plants provide many of the building blocks used for textiles and construction materials.

The study found “significant gaps” in the collection of DNA data and specimens from many parts of the world that would hinder efforts to preserve plant diversity in the face of changing climate

and land-use patterns. It also seeks to pinpoint locations where botanists should focus collection efforts to boost food security and find plants that can adapt.

It is too early to accurately judge the impact of climate change, Willis says, but the report finds most of the world's ecosystems have experienced a greater than 10 percent change in land cover in the last 10 years, due to changes in land use and climate change.

Studies by a research institute in Colombia included in the report establish timelines for the loss of certain foods in Africa, finding that up to 30 percent of land used for growing maize and bananas won't be viable by the end of the century. The figures for beans are even higher, with 60 percent of the land likely to be unfit for that purpose.

But some crops – particularly yams and cassava – are found to be much more resilient, making them important candidates for more research and investment as the world copes with mounting food insecurity as population rises and productive land dwindles. AP

Station	Air quality
Roadside	30-50 Good
High Density Residential Area	35-55 Moderate
Ambient	30-50 Good

SOURCE: DSMG

**WORLD BRIEFS**

**PANAMA PAPERS** The investigative journalists who first reported the contents of the Panama Papers made yesterday the names of 200,000 offshore companies available in a searchable database, which includes HK, Macau entities and people. More on p8

**BRAZIL** The acting speaker of the lower house has annulled last month's vote on presidential impeachment, pushing back the process against embattled President Dilma Rousseff. The reversal by Waldir Maranhao puts the impeachment process back on track.

**MEXICO** A federal judge has ruled that the extradition of drug lord Joaquin “El Chapo” Guzman can move ahead. But the country's Foreign Relations Department must still approve it and the defense can appeal.

**USA** With auto buyers in the U.S. and across the world switching like mad from cars to SUVs, we may be in a car recession. Sales of cars of any size are down from last year, and the only small car with growing sales is the all-new Honda Civic. Older models will have to rely on discounts and adding features for the same price to survive.

**GERMANY** Authorities say they are doubtful as to whether the suspect in the stabbing of four people at a station near Munich can be held criminally responsible. Police said yesterday that the man said in questioning that he had taken his shoes off because “he felt bugs on his feet that had caused blisters and were generating intense heat.” He says there are indications that the man may have taken drugs, and that may have contributed to the suspect's confused state.



**CANNES** The 69th Cannes Film Festival gets under way today; six months after the November terror attacks in central Paris that killed 130. This year, films by Pedro Almodovar, Sean Penn, Kean Loach and Asghar Farhadi are among those competing for the coveted Palme d'Or. Stars including George Clooney, Kristen Stewart, Charlize Theron, Julia Roberts and Gerard Depardieu are due to climb the famous red-carpeted steps outside the Palais, Cannes' main movie venue.