



HACKERS ARE TOP THREAT

Cyber attacks were the number one threat to businesses across the globe, experts said yesterday in Macau

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AIRPORT REACHES NEW HEIGHTS



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QUEEN SAYS CHINESE OFFICIALS WERE 'RUDE'
Queen Elizabeth II has been overheard on video describing Chinese officials as "very rude to the ambassador"


P11

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WORLD BRIEFS

AP PHOTO



IRAQ A car bomb ripped through a commercial area in a predominantly Shiite neighborhood of Baghdad yesterday, killing at least 63 people and wounding dozens in an attack that was swiftly claimed by the extremist Islamic State group. The bomb struck a crowded outdoor market.

More on p14

AP PHOTO



SOUTH CHINA SEA Upping the ante in the feud over who is responsible for rising tensions in the South China Sea, China said repeated U.S. Navy patrols in the area are forcing it to boost the defense capabilities of the islands it controls and may require it to launch more air and sea patrols. More on p11

PHILIPPINES President Benigno Aquino III had called this week's election a referendum on his presidency, but his preferred candidate lost by millions of votes to a shoot-from-the-lip mayor. And if the vice presidency goes to a son of the dictator ousted 30 years ago by a movement led by Aquino's mother, an entire family political legacy may fall into doubt. More on p13

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BLOOMBERG

GAMING INDUSTRY MID-TERM REVIEW

Focus on diversification, tightened regulations for junkets

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Japanese happy Obama to visit Hiroshima, apology or not

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Paulo Barbosa

GAMING

Mid-term report focused on need

THE closely watched report on the mid-term review of the city's gaming industry was released yesterday, with a focus on the efforts made by gaming operators to add non-gaming elements to their offerings. Employment of local residents and the need to regulate the junket sector are other topics which the study addresses.

During a press conference held yesterday, the Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, mentioned that the report "has nothing to do with the gaming concession renewal." However, he disclosed some of the guidelines that the gaming operators are expected to follow. "We very much hope to have more tourist products suitable for the family," Leong said, adding that "in the past we only looked at gaming revenue," an approach that is now being challenged. "We cannot only depend on a small number of customers [VIP players] to generate most of the revenue. We need to have new clients," he urged.

The Institute for the Study of Commercial Gaming of the University of Macau (UM) was commissioned to undertake the interim review. It covers nine research topics over four categories, including the contractual and



This photograph taken with a tilt-shift lens depicts casino resorts in Cotai

operating conditions of concessionaires and sub-concessionaires; economic, social and livelihood impacts of the gaming industry's development; and the current situation of junket promoters. The research team concluded that the development of the gaming industry has created a positive impact on the local economy and society, but it has also brought negative impacts, such as pushing up the inflation rate, housing prices and business operating costs, in addition to creating crowding out effects on SMEs and affecting social values.

The study also shows that the proportion of local employees in gaming operators is much higher than that of overseas employees. Additionally, all of the six gaming operators reportedly provide their employees with opportunities for upward and lateral mobility. As a result, the proportion of local employees of managerial grade or above increased from around 60 percent in 2008 to 80 percent in 2014.

The UM-commissioned report also identifies "problematic areas" regarding the junkets business that brings in high-stakes players to the

local casinos. It states that there is a need for a "stronger regulatory effort in order to enable a healthy and orderly development of the in-

How can we interpret the report? I think the whole community can discuss this.

DAVIS FONG

SANDS 'PLEASED' WITH REPORT

SANDS CHINA issued a statement yesterday reacting to the mid-term review announcement. It mentioned that the gaming operator "was pleased to hear today's gaming interim review announcement, and to gain a deeper understanding of the directives, guidelines and policies moving forward for the development of the gaming industry in Macau."

JUNKET ASSESSMENT COMPLETED ON Q4

PAULO MARTINS Chan revealed that the operation of junkets has been undergoing assessment throughout the year to see if they comply with the guidelines launched last year. The assessment will be completed in the fourth quarter of the year. The DICJ head also admitted that the regulator is "seriously understaffed" due to the growth within the gaming industry and plans to recruit more inspectors and improve its IT system. "We probably need some new methods to collect the evidence and to fight gaming under the table," Martins Chan added.

dustry." Lionel Leong admitted that the government is "paying more attention to the junket sector and intends to improve regulations." In this regard, he intends "to make sure that the sector abides by the law," something that he considered positive for the sector "in the long term."

We cannot only depend on a small number of customers [VIP players] to generate most of the revenue.

LIONEL LEONG

Construction area designated for gaming/non-gaming

Operator	Gaming (%)	Non-Gaming (%)
SJM	72	28
Wynn	9	91
Galaxy	14	86
Venetian	8	92
MGM	29	71
Melco Crown	7	93

SOURCE: GAMING OPERATORS

Number of transactions suspect of money laundering

Complainant	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Complaints made by financial institutions	448	343	386	382	338	477	510	457	441
Complaints made by gaming operators	84	374	443	767	814	1,082	1,328	1,138	1,370
Complaints made by other institutions	9	8	9	7	68	4	2	0	1
Total	541	725	838	1,156	1,220	1,563	1,840	1,595	1,812

SOURCE: FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE OFFICE

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to diversify, regulate junkets

ment of a credit database to weed out risky gamblers. "For the time being, the biggest problem faced by junkets is debt [...] The database would give adequate information," he remarked.

A credit database is very important to the survival of the industry.

PAULO MARTINS CHAN

Martins Chan said that "a credit database is very important to the survival of the industry" and that DICJ is studying whether it will be made available on open source, due to privacy concerns. However, the gaming regulator head said that the viability of the database is still under analysis.

The 280 pages (Portuguese language version) report also shows that gaming operators have invested MOP262 billion (about USD33 billion) in the 13 years preceding 2014. It was presented by Davis Fong, the director of the Institute for the Study of Commercial Gaming, who explained that most of the data used in the study was compiled up until September 2015.



Davis Fong (left), Lionel Leong (center) and Paulo Martins Chan pictured yesterday during the press conference

SETTING POLICY DIRECTION

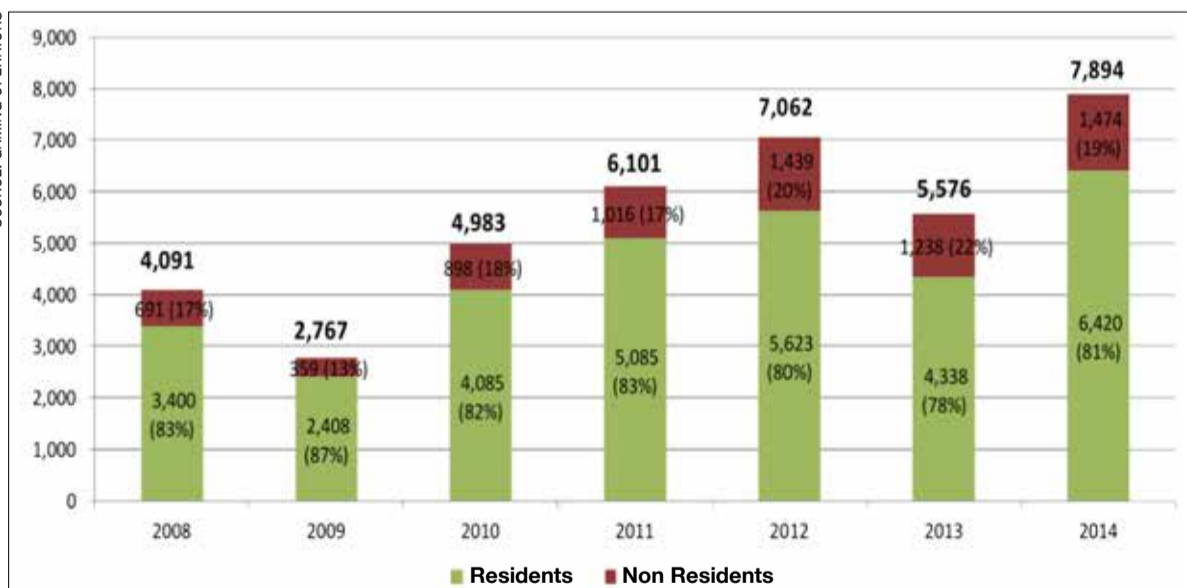
UNION GAMING Group analyst Grant Govertsen has said that the report is intended to help set policy direction. "This document could be used as some sort of general framework upon which license renewals will be

discussed over the coming years, although there's nothing in the report that explicitly says this," he told Bloomberg. "We haven't seen anything that suggests this will result in any changes to the status quo."

The director of the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ), Paulo Martins Chan commented on the ban on the use of phones on VIP rooms, which came into effect on Monday. He admitted that "in the past, to give them [high punters] some convenience, some clients were

allowed to use phones in VIP rooms." The new regulations, he said, "are in line with the best international practices." Among those measures are increasing capital requirements for gaming promoters and the possible establish-

Promoted staff



Gaming Operators	Investment Value	
	Million Patacas	%
Venetian	86,969	33
Melco Crown	52,680	20
Galaxy	50,910	19
Wynn	31,834	12
SJM	21,893	8
MGM	18,020	7
Total Investment	262,305	100

LIONEL LEONG

'This is like a body check up report'

DURING the Q&A session, speakers were asked to name the gaming operator who best complied with the guidelines. Davis Fong noted that the report includes "a lot of information." "How can we interpret it? I think the whole com-

munity can discuss this," he said. The Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, complemented: "In different sectors, different companies have different indicators. This is like a body check up report. [...] It is a review report in

order to know where we are." The gaming concessions and sub-concessions began in 2002 and are set to expire in March 2020 for SJM Holdings Ltd and MGM China Holdings Ltd, and in June 2022 for the remaining four: Sands China

Ltd., Wynn Macau Ltd., Galaxy Entertainment Group Ltd. and Melco Crown.

Asked about the timetable for the preparatory work of concession renewal, Lionel Leong stressed that the government intends to "keep an eye on the global development of the gaming industry" in order to "guarantee the healthy development of the local gaming industry," an idea that he repeated several times throughout the press conference. **PB**

AEE to possibly leave Macau this year

The Asia Entertainment Expo (AEE) might not be held this year, according to Kenny Lo, CEO of Vertical Expo Services Company Limited (VES), during the Asia Emergency Management Conference, the Macao Daily News reported. Lo advised a possible cancellation may be the consequence of the government's adjustments to the subsidies program beginning this year, whereby a reduction of funds is anticipated. "AEE is a professional exhibition, independent of government funds, but the costs still must be taken into consideration," explained Lo, further adding that the high costs are because Macau needs to offer more incentives than Hong Kong, where AEE has also been held, in order to attract buyers. The CEO noted that overseas buyers dislike coming to Macau, because they must first go through Hong Kong. Additionally, he said that organizers must carefully consider the logistical costs. Lo said that in previous years Macau-based venues for AEE were attractive to non-local exhibitors because the government provided funds that helped reduce the cost to participants. AEE has been held in Macau for eight years, while in Hong Kong the first expo took place in 2013. AEE is one of the two exhibitions VES has organized in Macau, the other being the Asia Funeral and Cemetery Expo & Conference.

CRISIS MANAGEMENT

Cyber attack a top threat to businesses, study shows

THE Business Continuity Institute's (BCI) Horizon Scan report was presented yesterday at the Asia Emergency Management Conference 2016 (AEMC), revealing that cyber attacks were the number one threat to businesses across the globe.

Horizon Scan, an annual research report, is a tool used by those working in the fields of business continuity and risk or resilience, according to BCI's community engagement manager David West.

The report showed that cyber attacks remain the top threat practitioners are concerned about, while concerns over physical incidents rose significantly this year.

"Obviously worldwide, there has been a lot of cyber incidents, and that is the number one threat people are thinking about at the moment," said West.

West suggested that cyber attacks are increasing worldwide, some of which hack informa-



David West



Freddie Lee

tion with the goal of stealing money.

The report showed that data breach is ranked as the second highest threat, followed by unplanned IT and telecom outages; terrorism and security threats.

"The other threat was terrorism and obviously this is huge in a global context at the moment," he explained. "It affects everybody globally."

The manager said that cyber security could certainly be a threat to Macau, adding that casinos should be extremely concerned about cyber security.

management disciplines that build overall resilience," West stated.

Meanwhile, on the second day of AEMC 2016 chairman of the Institute of Crisis and Risk Management in Hong Kong, Freddie Lee discussed the importance of strategic crisis leadership in the 21st century.

"Normally organizations will develop their soft skills [...] but the major one [that needs development] is to [learn] how to execute management crisis decisions," Lee told the Times.

The chairman implied that businesses have been underestimating the importance of such management skills, adding that organizations only access such plans after a crisis occurs.

Moreover he believes that Macau has yet to understand the resilience of casino businesses in the event of an Asian economic recession.

"Macau is a small region in Asia. When economic recession affects trade businesses in Macau, how will they react? Are they ready?" he asked.

Lee stressed that the region needs to have such an awareness in case an economic downturn affects it, emphasizing the importance of implementing a mechanism and framework to enable a crisis management prevention capability. **Staff reporter**

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IN 2015, its 20th year, the Macau International Airport (MIA) received a record of 5.8 million passengers and 30,000 tons of cargo. It currently has 30 airlines serving a total of 44 destinations.

It has been a long journey since its opening on December 8, 1995. Six years earlier the Portuguese government had given a 25-year franchise contract to Macau International Airport Co. Ltd (CAM) to own and manage the airport.

Many were skeptical as to whether it would survive at all – it was the smallest of five airports in the Pearl River Delta within a 200-km radius. It was competing for passengers with international airports in Hong Kong, Shenzhen and Guangzhou, as well as the one in neighboring Zhuhai. What was the need for another one?

The data from last year has proved the skeptics wrong. Passenger traffic saw an increase of 6.4 percent over 2014, while cargo volume rose 4.5 percent to 30,000 tons. In 2015, the-



We plan to expand the passenger terminal to raise the capacity to nine or ten million passengers.

MA IAO HANG

re were approximately 2,986 takeoffs and landings of business aviation, an increase of 7.3 percent, and more than 55,000 aircraft movements, a 6 percent increase compared to 2014.

Ma Iao Hang, chairman of the Board of Directors of CAM, said that with the increase in passengers, freight and flights, the airport would very soon reach its original design capacity of six million people. “So we plan to expand the passenger terminal to raise the capacity to nine-ten million passengers,” he said.

“It was an excellent performance in 2015, in a less than ideal environment,” Ma said during a recent company meeting. For 2016, CAM’s target is to reach 5.95 million passengers, 30,659 tones of cargo and 57,500 flight movements.

In 2015, passengers from Southeast and North Asia accoun-

Macau airport reaches new heights

ted for 40 per cent, followed by those from the Mainland (33 percent) and Taiwan (27 percent).

In 2015, MIA attracted nine new airlines to the region – China Southern, Hainan Airlines, Beijing Capital Airlines, Jeju Air, MEGA Maldives Airlines, Bassaka Air, Asia Atlantic Airlines, Siam Air Transport and T’Way Air, resulting in the operation of eight new routes from MIA. The new routes include Haikou and Wenzhou in China; Ho Chi Minh City and Haiphong in Vietnam; Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia

CHARTER FLIGHTS TO MOSCOW ANNOUNCED

THE MACAU International Airport Company (CAM) has announced the commencement of charter flights between the MSAR and the capital city of Russia. The company issued a statement explaining that the Moscow route

is currently slated for a launch on Tuesday, May 17. They added that the new charter flight will help to improve the airport’s connectivity in terms of long-haul routes. The single-way flight time will amount to around 10 hours.

as well as Palau and Pattaya in Thailand.

In the first quarter of last year, the Administration of Airports Limited (ADA) had conducted a

survey asking passengers their opinions of the airport, which found the passengers were satisfied with the equipment and level of service. MIA will improve its services, with a revamp of the duty-free shop and sales counters and recharge facilities for smart phones.

The company is also overlaying the surface of the runway, as part of its regular repair and maintenance after 20 years of usage. The resurfacing work will take place at night so as not to impact the operations of the airport. Currently, the single runway is sufficient to accommodate more planes.

Last September, Macau Civil Aviation Authority president Simon Chan said that his office had completed an update of the “Macau International Airport Master Plan,” which was initially released in 2011, covering the airport’s development needs for 20 years.

“The airport will complete the construction of its hangars soon. The construction of an extension of the airport’s north side passenger terminal building started this month and is expected to be completed by the end of 2016. We will discuss with the airport company and airline companies how to improve the situation of delays due to adverse weather,” he said. **MDT/Macauhub**

Catering to PRD passengers

CAM was set up in 1989 and given a 25-year franchise contract to own and manage the airport. In 2001, the local government extended the contract to 2039. The company is responsible for managing the airport, promoting it overseas and licensing firms to offer services within its premises; it must ensure the airport meets international standards.

What has created the success and prosperity of MIA has been the growth of the mainland economy, especially that of South China, and the dramatic increase of visitors into the region.

The number of passengers grew from 1.3 million in 1998 to 2.9 million in 2003 and 5.1 million in 2008. In 1996, the airport had served 18 cities; increasing to the current 43.

Simon Chan noted that, while Macau’s population was 600,000, its hinterland included the west side of the Pearl River Delta, including Zhuhai, Zhongshan, Foshan and Jiangmen, with a population of about 10 million. “The income of people in the Pearl River Delta [PRD] is higher and higher and the number of foreign trips they make is rising every year. This has provided an abundant source of customers for the airport.”

The facility is expected to benefit from

the development of the PRD, the light-rail system from Guangzhou to Zhuhai, the development of Hengqin, the bridge to Hong Kong and the 24-hour border access to Zhuhai. All these will help to provide more visitors to the airport.

Ma said that, to improve the co-operation between the five airports, a regular meeting of their chairman was established in 2001. “Its objective is to work together, provide mutual support and innovative and common development, promote regional airports in the PRD. This is win-win co-operation to achieve a new competing relationship and the development of regional pioneers.”

But it was not always plain sailing. The two most difficult periods were the Asian financial crisis in 1997 and the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreak in 2003.

“During the SARS [crisis], there was one day during which there was only one plane with 25 passengers. Our operations faced a serious challenge,” according to Ma Iao Hang, the chairman of the Board of Directors of CAM. “The development of the airport relied on the support of the motherland and the SAR government, the sympathy of Macau citizens and international recognition.”



The airport lounge

In the earlier years, much of its business was transit passengers going between the mainland and Taiwan. In 2008, direct flights between mainland China and Taipei began, causing a serious blow to the airport.

“Before the start of cross-strait flights in 2008, we started the low-cost carrier strategy by introducing Air Asia into Macau in 2004,” said Ma. “So we have smoothly transferred to a more diversified passenger market.”

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Chui Sai On, pictured yesterday

CE: Jinan University donation abides by rules

THE Chief Executive (CE) Chui Sai On claimed yesterday that the RMB100 million (MOP123 million) donation made to Jinan University was approved after the usual approval procedures.

The CE informed that any donation above MOP500,000 has to be approved by the trustee committee of Macau Foundation, which previously estab-

lished regulations of its own. "Decisions are not made by a single chairman," said Chui, adding that Jinan University has done a lot of work to help local high-school education. "According to our references, the university trained over 20,000 graduates from Macau," noted Chui.

Chui also noted that his appointment as chairman of the Macau Foundation and as vice-

chairman of two mainland universities, namely Jinan University and Huaqiao University, is the result of the system. The convention dictates that he would sit in these positions when he "was elected and selected as the CE." He further clarified that he does not receive any benefits whatsoever for being in those positions.

According to a report by Jornal Cheng Pou, 11 local groups an-

nounced a demonstration will take place on Sunday, appealing to the government to withdraw the donation that is intended to sponsor the construction of two dormitories and an academic building

Chui commented on the upcoming demonstration: "The government truly respects people's freedom of speech, of demonstration, of gathering, etc., as long as it obeys the law."

Earlier this week, the Macau Foundation president said the approval of the subsidy to Jinan University was the outcome of a collective decision.

Wu Zhiliang emphasized that the whole process was legal and in line with the Foundation's strict approval requirements.

"The whole process is legal. The decision was a collective deliberation. We analyzed the budget and deemed that the subsidy is a reasonable one," Wu said, as cited by TDM.

Wu Zhiliang explained that the subsidy request was submitted by the university itself and that this is the first time in recent years that the Macau Foundation is supporting the construction of buildings outside the MSAR. The foundation stresses that the rationale behind the subsidy is related to the number of local students enrolled in Jinan University's programs. **Staff reporter**

Election Committee voices opinions over the five-year plan

A special session with the Chief Executive Election Committee for the collection of opinions over the draft of the first five-year plan of MSAR was held yesterday at the Macau East Asian Games Dome. Approximately 160 people from different fields attended the event.

Lao Pun Lap, coordinator of the Policy Research Office, introduced the draft, which is divided into four sections: "strategy," "people's life," "develop-

ment," and "administration." The four sections ultimately aim to transform Macau into a "World Centre for Tourism and Leisure" (WCTL).

The draft projects an annual increase in the number of vehicles of between 3.5 to 3.8 percent by 2020. Regarding the city's development, there have been consistent discussions concerning the diversification of Macau's economy, and it is planned that the region will rely

more on non-gaming activities by 2020.

Developing Macau as a smart city was another topic of discussion among audience members. Several speakers observed that internet in the city should be improved. Suggestions to achieve this included "installing underwater cables, increasing the overall speed of the networks, and adjusting the prices of telecommunication services."

A member of the audience, who identified himself as being from the labor sector, expressed his disappointment with the draft, whereas most speakers praised it. Twenty-five people in total gave their opinions during the two-hour session.

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TELECOM

Hong Kong's 'Superman' Li mulls plan B after O2 deal rejected

HONG Kong's "Superman" is facing more kryptonite as he tries to expand his European mobile-phone carrier holdings.

European Union regulators yesterday said they vetoed billionaire Li Ka-shing's proposal to buy U.K. carrier O2 for as much as 10.25 billion pounds (USD15 billion) because of concerns it would hinder competition and create higher prices. Li's CK Hutchison Holdings Ltd. wanted to merge its own three unit with Telefonica SA's business in the country.

It was the second setback in the past six months for the 87-year-old Li, whose history of investment acumen prompted the Hong Kong media to give him the superhero nickname. Now that the bid for O2 has been rejected, investor attention will probably shift to another of Li's proposed deals - a merger of its telecom business in Italy with that of VimpelCom Ltd.'s Wind Telecomunicazioni that would create the country's largest carrier.

"With Asia saturated, investors were looking forward to the European telecom deals," said Ronald Wan, chief executive at Partners Capital International in Hong Kong.

Here are some of the possible next steps for Li, who's worth about \$28 billion, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index:

Li's Hutchison wants to combine its 3 Italia's assets with those of Wind Telecomunicazioni in a deal valued at 21.8 billion euros (\$25 billion). The proposal would reduce the number of competitors in the country and pose some of the same issues for the European Commission as the O2 plan.



That doesn't bode well for the Italian deal, said Erhan Gurses, a London-based analyst for Bloomberg Intelligence.

"The combined unit's spectrum position, as well as the potential impact on mobile pricing, may call for structural remedies," Gurses said.

The companies could agree to divest part of the merged network and sell some spectrum to appease antitrust authorities, Gurses said. Still, the Italian government has said it won't oppose the merger, unlike in the U.K.

Hutchison could consider exiting the mobile-phone business in the U.K. and Italy because boosting market share there without significant capital investment will be difficult, said Francis Lun, chief executive officer at Geo Securities Ltd. in Hong Kong.

"Hutchison overpaid to enter the mobile-phone business, and now the only way they can make money is by achieving economies of scale," Lun said. "It would be devastating to Li Ka-shing as they'll either have to get out or try for organic growth."

With rising competition in the U.K., Hutchison may find it more difficult to compete with bundled offerings and mobile virtual operators such as Virgin and Tesco Mobile, Gurses said.

"It may be harder and harder for Hutchison to turn a profit," Gurses said. "In such a situation, a potential exit can't be ruled out."

Li could also just leave the businesses as they are, said Dickie Wong, executive director of research at Kingston Securities in Hong Kong.

It's not like the European phone business is losing money. In the U.K., subscriber numbers are rising and profits - measured in terms of earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization - rose 25 percent to 686 million pounds last year. In Italy, Ebitda climbed 15 percent to 276 million euros.

"Telecom is one of their key focus areas, and they did the best they could," Wong said. "I don't think they'll sell their telecom business if the deals don't go through. They're likely to take the wait-and-watch approach."

Bloomberg

Yuan rises from two-month low on bets PBOC backing exchange rate

CHINA'S yuan advanced from a two-month low amid speculation the central bank is trying to ease depreciation concerns.

The People's Bank of China wants to keep the currency stable after declines earlier this week, Bank of East Asia Ltd. foreign-exchange analyst Kenix Lai said after the monetary authority strengthened the onshore yuan's daily fixing. A rebound in the dollar is complicating matters for the authorities after a period which saw the yuan moving in lockstep with the weakening greenback versus major currencies, helping the nation's exporters.

The Chinese currency rose 0.14 percent to 6.5097 a dollar as of 5:22 p.m. in Shanghai, according to China Foreign Exchange Trade System prices. It fell to 6.5240 on Tuesday, the weakest since March 10. The offshore yuan traded in Hong Kong was little changed at 6.5374. A gauge of dollar strength is up 1.9 percent so far this month, after posting its worst quarter since 2010.

"The yuan has dropped a lot in the previous few days and now the PBOC probably wants to keep the yuan stable without sharp declines against the dollar, as that would spur capital outflows," said Hong Kong-based Lai. "China's economy has shown signs of stabilization but it's not quickly recovering, so the authorities may not want to see sharp gains either."

I expect the onshore yuan to weaken to 6.65 by year-end."

The dollar's slump is over, according to Goldman Sachs Group Inc., which said that the currency is positioning for a rebound. It estimates that the greenback will advance 15 percent during the next two years as U.S. monetary policy normalizes.

A Bloomberg replica of the CFETS RMB Index rose for the sixth straight day, the longest run of gains since the 13-currency gauge was introduced in December. The measure is down 3.8 percent for the year.

"As the dollar has resumed its strength, the central bank is shifting from keeping the yuan steady against the greenback to maintaining stability or strengthening versus its peers," said Tommy Xie, a Singapore-based economist at Oversea-Chinese Banking Corp.

The offshore yuan's discount to the rate in Shanghai increased to 0.43 percent, close to the widest since February, spurring concern that the PBOC may intervene to close the gap. The monetary authority probably stepped into the onshore market to support its exchange rate, according to Commonwealth Bank of Australia, while Mizuho Bank Ltd. foreign-exchange strategist Ken Cheung said intervention was unlikely because the "market mood remains largely stable." **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

MELCO CROWN DONATES TO HOLY HOUSE OF MERCY



Melco Crown Entertainment Limited (MCE) made a donation to the Macau Holy House of Mercy's Welfare Shop project, funding the distribution of food hampers to 340 low income families.

Akiko Takahashi, Melco Crown Entertainment's executive vice president and Chief Officer of HR/CSR, presented a check for MOP300,000 to Antonio Jose de Freitas, president of the Macau Holy House

of Mercy, at a ceremony last Saturday.

According the gaming operator's statement, 40 members from the MCE Volunteer Team assisted the distribution of the hampers, along with a MOP100 supermarket voucher as a special gift to each family. Melco Crown Entertainment has supported the Welfare Shop project since its launch and has donated a total of MOP1.1 million.

The Holy House of Mercy established the Welfare Shop project in 2013, aiming to provide assistance to low income families affected by the rising cost of living and unchecked inflation in Macau. Every month, at least 340 households are aided by the project.

TOYOTA EXPECTS 35 PERCENT REVENUE PLUNGE



Toyota Motor Corp is projecting a 35 percent plunge in profit for the fiscal year through March 2017, as the perks of a favorable exchange rate

fade. It additionally reported a 4 percent drop in profit for January-March year-on-year at USD3.9 billion.

The Japanese automaker is

expecting USD13.8 billion in annual profit, marking a decline after three straight years of record profits. That number could be far worse, as it does not account for recent production stops over supply shortages caused by a major earthquake in southwestern Japan.

Meanwhile January to March sales fell two percent to USD63 billion. However, sales for the fiscal year gained four percent to USD261 billion.

Toyota, the No. 1 automaker in global vehicle sales, sold 8.7 million vehicles for the fiscal year through March, down from nearly 9 million vehicles the previous fiscal year. Sales fell in Japan, the rest of Asia and Europe, with North America the only major market to see rising vehicle sales.

FUNDS

Hong Kong ETF shows global traders just don't like city's stocks

Kana Nishizawa

WHETHER Hong Kong stocks rally or slump, investors in the biggest U.S. exchange-traded fund tracking the equities just want out. Traders have pulled a net USD142 million from the iShares MSCI Hong Kong ETF in May, poised for an 11th straight month of net outflows and the longest string of declines on record. While the underlying stock index has fallen 2.6 percent this month, investors were net sellers even in March, when the gauge staged its biggest rally in four years.

For Standard Life Investments Ltd., Hong Kong is suffering from a surfeit of bad news. China's slowdown is affecting everything from trade to retail sales, a dysfunctional political system is delaying bills and spurring calls for independence, while Goldman Sachs Group Inc. is predicting house prices will tumble 20 percent in a city where business is dominated by



a handful of property tycoons. "In the course of last year or so, there's been little good news and a whole series of worrying," said Andrew Milligan, the Edinburgh-based head of global strategy at Standard Life, which manages about \$365 billion. "It's no surprise that some people have said, I think this story has reached the end and I need to invest elsewhere." The U.S.-listed ETF tracks the MSCI Hong Kong Index, which represents largely local companies including Hong Kong Exchanges & Clearing Ltd., developer Sun Hung Kai Properties Ltd. and utility CLP Holdings Ltd. The gauge tumbled 3.4 percent last week, spurring investors to pull a net \$125

million from the ETF – the second-largest net sales in a year. Net outflows since the end of June last year now total \$1.5 billion. A 9 percent surge by the gauge in March failed to entice investors, who yanked \$31 million that month. The index fell 1.1 percent to a two-month low yesterday, taking losses for 2016 to 3.9 percent. Investors are turning to other country ETFs, with developing-nation funds in particular luring capital, says Joshua Crabb, Hong Kong-based head of Asian equities at a unit of Old Mutual Plc. The iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF drew net inflows of \$2.6 billion this year, while Vanguard FTSE Emerging Markets ETF is on

course for a third straight month of inflows, data compiled by Bloomberg show. In recent years, buying and holding Hong Kong shares has been a poor investment compared with major peers. The MSCI Hong Kong index has risen 4.3 percent in total over the past five years, compared with average annual inflation of 4.2 percent during the period. The MSCI All-Country World Index advanced 14 percent, with Japan's Topix index and the S&P 500 climbing more than 50 percent. Valuations make the case for buying Hong Kong stocks. Their lagging performance has left the MSCI measure of the city's shares trading at a 38 percent

discount to MSCI Inc.'s global gauge on a price-earnings basis. The city also comes out well on Transparency International's corruption perceptions index and its foreign currency debt is rated AAA by S&P Global Ratings, while many of its largest companies have overseas earnings that shield them from a stuttering local economy. Still, challenges are piling up for Hong Kong's economy, which is projected to grow at its slowest pace in four years this year. Retail sales plunged 12.5 percent in the first quarter amid falling numbers of mainland visitors. China's suspected abduction of booksellers from the city has raised international concern about the strength of Hong Kong's rule of law, while filibustering by opposition lawmakers is holding up bills. For Fountainhead Partners, it's uncertainty over the property market that makes Hong Kong stocks most unappealing to foreign investors. Home prices have fallen 13 percent from last year's peak and analysts warn the worst is still to come. Higher U.S. interest rates would boost borrowing costs, thanks to the Hong Kong dollar's peg to the greenback. Real estate developers and owners have a 27 percent weighting in the MSCI Hong Kong index. "Global investors don't look at Hong Kong as an ideal market because Hong Kong is mostly driven by real estate and trade," said Pu Yonghao, chief investment officer of Fountainhead Partners, which oversees about \$600 million. "The property index is already coming down, so why should people buy Hong Kong?" **Bloomberg**

Global investors don't look at HK as an ideal market because [it] is mostly driven by real estate and trade.

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XINHUA



Shallow quake hits Tibet, causing landslides, 60 hurt

A shallow magnitude-5.5 earthquake struck the mountainous region of Tibet yesterday, injuring 60 people, collapsing houses and damaging bridges and roads, authorities said.

The quake struck yesterday at 9:15 a.m. (0115 GMT), 70 kilometers northwest of Gya-

motang village at a depth of just 10 kilometers, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The quake region is near Tibet's border with Qinghai province to the north.

Serious injuries were sustained by six of the casualties, according to a statement on the website of the Dingqing county

government. It gave no estimates for numbers of collapsed houses or damaged roads and bridges.

The China News Service reported that the earthquake had set off landslides.

China's official Xinhua News Agency quoted the regional seismological bureau as saying that

the epicenter was in Kata Town, about 2,200 kilometers from the capital Beijing and the site of two major Buddhist temples.

The town's chief administrator, identified by the single name of Samba, told Xinhua he had seen two injured people on his way to help with rescue efforts in a village 10 kilometers

away. Roads leading to Guodong village crumbled, Xinhua said, hampering rescuers.

Calls to the town, county and city authorities rang unanswered, although the Tibetan regional fire service had said in an online statement that rescuers were on their way to Kata.

The region of western China in the foothills of the Himalayas is an active earthquake zone, and a 2010 quake in nearby Yushu killed almost 3,000 people.

Nearly 90,000 people were killed in China's worst quake in recent years, a 7.9 magnitude temblor that struck Sichuan province in May 2008. **AP**

SHANDONG

Longkou city halts petrochemical plant study after protests

An eastern Chinese city called off preliminary studies for a petrochemical plant on man-made islands off its coast after residents protested this week over the feared environmental impact, the latest apparent victory in a growing wave of popular opposition to such projects.

The decision by the government of Longkou in Shandong province highlights the challenges facing local governments as they seek sources of growth amid a sharp slowdown in the world's second-largest economy, while dealing with residents who are increasingly aware of environmental risks and deeply untrusting of officialdom.

The governments are increasingly opting to halt major industrial projects such as incinerators and chemical plants to appease the public, while also using the security forces to keep protests from expanding. Last month, at least two Chinese cities



scrapped plans for garbage incinerators following protests.

A statement on the Longkou government's website said it had been carrying out an environmental impact study on the planned project but the

work would now cease.

No details of the protests were given, but police yesterday said gatherings that had occurred the previous day were illegal and disruptive of public order.

Police warned that no one should use text mes-

sages, mobile messaging services or the Internet to incite or organize any public assemblies, parades or demonstration. Local authorities encouraged the public to report on anyone who may be planning future gatherings. **AP**

Taiwan executes man for 2014 subway stabbing spree

TAIWAN has executed a man convicted of killing four people in a subway stabbing spree two years ago, an attack that strengthened support for the death penalty on the island, where violent crime is rare.

Cheng Chieh, 23, was executed Tuesday night, the Ministry of Justice said in a statement on its website. It did not mention what method was used, but said he was sedated before the execution.

Taiwan's official Central News Agency said that Cheng was shot to death and that three gunshots were heard at the detention center, located outside the capital, Taipei.

Cheng's two-minute stabbing spree on a subway train during rush hour in Taipei on May 21, 2014, left four people dead and 22 injured. The attack shocked the high-tech island, where private gun ownership is largely banned and crime levels are relatively low.

Although he later apologized to the victims and showed remorse for his crime, Cheng, who was a university student at the time of the attack, gave no explanation for the stabbing spree other than a Facebook posting in which he said he "wanted to do something big."

Amid criticism from death penalty opponents, the Ministry of Justice said the death sentence was necessary because of the severity of the crime and public demands to uphold social justice.

Despite a past moratorium on executions, the subway killings, along with an attack this past March in which a 3-year-old girl was decapitated in front of her mother in Taipei, have helped harden public opinion in favor of the death penalty, which surveys show nine out of 10 Taiwanese now support. **AP**

Danica Kirka, London

OOPS!

Queen Elizabeth II says Chinese officials were 'rude'

QUEEN Elizabeth II has been overheard on video describing Chinese officials as "very rude to the ambassador" in a conversation with a senior police officer at a Buckingham Palace event.

The comments, made yesterday [Macau time], were unusual because the 90-year-old monarch never comments publicly on political matters and media accompanying her are asked not to eavesdrop on private conversations.

The incident, recorded by the palace's official cameraman at a palace garden party, captured police Commander Lucy D'Orsi telling the queen that arranging the state visit by Chinese President Xi in October had been a "testing time."

Elizabeth responded: "They were very rude to the ambassador."

It was the second embarrassment in one day for the palace, where Prime Minister David Cameron was overheard at a separate event describing Nigeria and Afghanistan as "possibly the two most corrupt countries in the world."



Chinese President Xi Jinping (left) toasts with Britain's Queen Elizabeth II during a state banquet at Buckingham Palace in London on the first day of the state visit to Britain

They [Chinese officials] were very rude to the ambassador.

ELIZABETH II
QUEEN OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

In the video, an official introduced the queen to D'Orsi and explains that the officer was in charge of policing for the visit. The queen responded: "Oh! Bad luck."

The official tells the queen

that D'Orsi had been "seriously undermined by the Chinese" in the handling of the visit.

When D'Orsi asked if the queen knew it had been a "testing time," the monarch interjected: "I did."

The officer recalled a moment when Chinese officials walked out of a meeting with Barbara Woodward, British ambassador to China, in which the Chinese told the Brits the trip was off.

"They walked out on both of

us," D'Orsi said.

"Extraordinary," the queen said.

"It was very rude and undiplomatic I thought," D'Orsi said.

Both the Metropolitan police and the palace refused to comment on what they described as private conversations.

It is not the first time British royals have been caught making undiplomatic remarks about the Chinese. Prince Charles branded Chinese diplomats "appalling old waxworks" in a private journal entry that had described the 1997 ceremony to hand Hong Kong back to Chinese rule.

At another palace, cameras recorded Cameron talking about an anti-corruption summit in London, which he will chair.

"We've got some leaders of some fantastically corrupt countries coming to Britain," Cameron told the monarch during a reception for the queen marking her 90th birthday. "Nigeria and Afghanistan — possibly the two most corrupt countries in the world."

Afghanistan's Ashraf Ghani and Nigeria's Muhammadu Buhari are due to attend the London summit and each has contributed an essay on his efforts to tackle graft. **AP**

SOUTH CHINA SEA

Beijing says US patrols justify defensive deployments

UPPING the ante in the feud over who is responsible for rising tensions in the South China Sea, China yesterday said repeated U.S. Navy patrols in the area are forcing it to boost the defense capabilities of the islands it controls and may require it to launch more air and sea patrols.

In a strongly worded statement, the Defense Ministry said it deployed two navy fighter jets, one early warning aircraft and three ships to track and warn-off the destroyer USS William P. Lawrence as it passed nearby Fiery Cross Reef on Tuesday.

"The provocative actions by American military ships and planes lay bare the U.S. designs to seek gain by creating chaos in the region and again testify to the total correctness and utter necessity of China's construc-

tion of defensive facilities on relevant islands," the ministry said.

"China will increase the scope of sea and air patrols based on need, boost all categories of military capacity building, resolutely defend national sovereignty and security, and resolutely safeguard peace and stability in the South China Sea," the statement said.

The U.S. destroyer's sail-by was the latest action by the U.S. Navy to reinforce its position that China's new man-made features in the strategically vital water body do not enjoy the legal rights of natural islands. Washington has said the Navy will sail and fly wherever permitted by international law and maintains there can be no limits on freedom of navigation as according to established practice.

The William P. Lawrence's sail-by took it within 12 nautical miles of Fiery Cross Reef, the limit of what international law regards as an island's territorial sea. The reef is now an island with an airstrip, harbor and burgeoning above-ground infrastructure.

China has added more than 1,200 hectares of land to its South China Sea island holdings by expanding existing islands or creating new ones by piling sand atop coral reefs.

The addition of airstrips and military infrastructure has Washington and others worried that China is attempting to assert total dominance over the region's waters and airspace that are claimed in whole or in part by five other governments.

China rejects accusations that it is responsible for

raising tensions, saying actions by the U.S. Navy and the encouragement Washington offers to other claimants such as Vietnam

and the Philippines are increasing the chances of conflict.

An estimated USD5 trillion in global trade passes an-

nually through the South China Sea, which is home to rich fishing grounds and a potential wealth of under-sea oil and gas deposits. **AP**



Miki Toda & Mari Yamaguchi, Tokyo

JAPANESE are welcoming President Barack Obama's decision to visit the atomic-bombed city of Hiroshima, and those interviewed yesterday said they aren't seeking an apology.

Even those who want one realize that such a demand would have ruled out a U.S. presidential visit.

"Of course everyone wants to hear an apology. Our families were killed," said Hiroshi Shimizu, general secretary of the Hiroshima Confederation of A-Bomb Sufferers Organizations.

"However, by setting conditions we limit world leaders from visiting, so we decided to eliminate that," he said in Tokyo. "We would first like for them to come and stand on the grounds of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and take a good look at what is in front of them and give it good thought."

The American and Japanese governments announced this week that Obama would become the first sitting American president to visit Hiroshima, a city almost entirely destroyed by a U.S. atomic bomb on Aug. 6, 1945. Some 140,000 people were killed, and others have endured after-effects to this day.

The U.S. dropped a second devastating atomic bomb on the city of Nagasaki three days later. Japan announced it would surrender on Aug. 15, 1945, ending World War II.

Obama will visit Hiroshima with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on May 27, after attending the annual Group of Seven summit in Japan.

"I don't live in Hiroshima or Nagasaki, but I am overcome with emotion when I think that someone who wants to offer understanding is finally about to arrive," said Mieko Mori, a 74-year-old woman who stopped at a memorial in Tokyo to pray for the victims.

AP PHOTO



Mieko Mori prays in front of the Flame of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, a memorial monument for A-bomb victims where the flames collected from the ruins in the two cities since dropping of atomic bombs in 1945 have been kept burning at Ueno Park

WWII

Japanese happy Obama to visit Hiroshima, apology or not

A poll released this week by national broadcaster NHK found that 70 percent of Japanese want Obama to visit Hiroshima, and only 2 percent were opposed.

The visit is contentious in the U.S., where many believe the

Of course everyone wants to hear an apology. Our families were killed.

HIROSHI SHIMIZU
A-BOMB SUFFERERS

atomic bombs hastened the end of the war, saving countless other lives. The White House went out its way to stress Obama will not apologize.

Deputy National Security Adviser Ben Rhodes said Obama would "not revisit the decision to use the atomic bomb," and instead spotlight the toll of war and offer a forward-looking vision of a non-nuclear world.

"I hear America is still divided over atomic bombings, but it's been almost 71 years since the war ended, and I think it's about time Obama should be able to visit Hiroshima," said Kohachiro Hayashi, who was reading a newspaper at a Tokyo park.

"He wouldn't have been able to come in the middle of his

term, but now it's almost the end, so it's like now or never," the retired teacher said.

Hayashi, 59, said asking for an apology would only cause an endless and fruitless debate over who should take blame for various wartime acts.

"We should just accept his visit as a gesture of sincerity," he said. "It's OK as long as he makes clear his commitment never to use atomic weapons. [...] I hope he will learn what happened and feel a little bit of it himself while being there."

Another retired teacher said it would be rude to demand an apology.

"Japan was also trying to develop nuclear weapons," Takatsugu Sakamoto, 80, said by telephone from Nishinomiya in

Osaka prefecture. "Americans were just faster. If Japan hadn't been trying, then it might make sense. And so to those who are demanding an apology, my response is: What in the world are you saying? Mr. Obama doesn't need to apologize."

Terumi Tanaka, the general secretary of the Japanese Confederation of A- and H-Bombs Sufferers Organizations, said his members want Obama to state clearly his intention to eliminate nuclear weapons.

"To me, that would be a true form of an apology," he said. "For 70 years we have said this and felt this all along, that no one should have to suffer the same thing. Answering to that wish is a true sign of an apology to us." AP

VIETNAM

Ahead of Obama visit, wife of prisoner seeks US help

THE wife of a prominent Vietnamese human rights lawyer who was badly beaten by thugs and then detained by authorities appealed yesterday for President Barack Obama to seek her husband's freedom when he visits Vietnam this month.

Vu Minh Khanh testified before a House panel. Hours earlier, the White House formally announced Obama's trip to Vietnam in late May, a sign of deepening relations four decades after the end of the Vietnam War.

But human rights remain a sore point. The authoritarian state is estimated to have about 100 political prisoners although it denies holding any.

Two Republican lawmakers called for Obama to demand the release of the detained lawyer, Nguyen Van Dai, and other prisoners of conscience.

"The administration seems eager to proceed with lucrative trade deals and to lift the ban on lethal arms sales to Vietnam, without imposing

any real conditions," Rep. Chris Smith of New Jersey told the hearing.

"The situation is not improving. Human rights have got to be at the top of the president's agenda," said Rep. Ed Royce of California.

Speaking through an interpreter, Khanh said that her husband faces between three and 20 years imprisonment under a legal provision against "conducting propaganda against the state."

She said that Dai has been detained for nearly five months and has

not been allowed access to family or defense lawyers. She said she's allowed to take him food twice a month at a detention center in the capital Hanoi, but she has no idea if he gets it.

"In Vietnam, the public security force can do whatever they want," Khanh said.

She said that 10 days prior to Dai's Dec. 16 arrest, he was attacked and severely injured by "thugs with batons" after he conducted a human rights training session. She said her husband filed a

complaint and the government said it didn't know who the assailants were.

She said that his release during Obama's visit would symbolize the president's support for human rights and democracy in Vietnam.

Dai has been detained before. He served four years in prison and four years of house arrest between 2007 and 2015.

The Vietnamese Embassy in Washington did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The White House said that Obama will discuss

with Vietnam's leadership how to advance cooperation on the economy, security and human rights. He will also meet with members of civil society.

Senior State Department officials were in Vietnam this week, including top human rights envoy, Tom Malinowski, who last month said he raised Dai's case with Vietnamese officials amid concern over a recent spate of detentions of government critics.

Hanoi is eager for Obama to announce an end to a long-standing embargo on sales of lethal weapons to Vietnam as the two nations find common cause in countering a rising China. AP

PHILIPPINES

Aquinos' legacy clouded by Duterte win, support for a Marcos

Jim Gomez, Manila

PHILIPPINE leader Benigno Aquino III had called this week's election a referendum on his "straight path" style of reformist governance, but his candidate lost by millions of votes to a shoot-from-the-lip mayor.

And if the vice presidency goes to a son of dictator Ferdinand Marcos, who was ousted 30 years ago by a revolt led by Aquino's mother, that will cloud the political legacy of a family that has been regarded as a bulwark against authoritarianism.

An unofficial tally of Monday's votes shows Sen. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. closely trailing Aquino-backed Rep. Leni Robredo in a cliffhanger vice presidential race.

Aquino campaigned against tough-talking Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, who has won the presidency by a wide margin based on the unofficial count, and Bongbong Marcos, warning both could be looming dictators. He said they could set back the country's democracy and economic momentum achieved in his six-year term, which ends in June.

Aquino, who was constitutionally barred from seeking a second term, remains popular — indeed, his approval ratings are among the highest for a departing Philippine president in the post-Marcos dictatorship era. But the rise of Duterte, whose tough talk has reinforced perceptions that he could become a strongman, is a reality check on the extent of public dissatisfaction and perceived failures during the reformist Aquino's watch.

The disaffection may have been felt mostly by the growing middle class, said Julio Teehanke, dean of a college dealing with



Philippine President Benigno Aquino III delivers a speech south of Manila

political science and international relations at Manila's De La Salle University.

Under Aquino, the government expanded a program that provides cash to the poorest of the poor in exchange for commitments by parents to ensure their children would attend classes and receive government health care. Big business, meanwhile, benefited from government partnership deals that allowed them to finance major infrastructure projects such as highways and airports for long-term gain.

"The middle-class," Teehanke said, "felt shortchanged."

He said they must endure maddening traffic by land and air, infrastructure problems, taxes that are high relative to the Philippines' neighbors and even what's known as the "bullet drop racket." Many travelers have accused Manila airport personnel of slipping bullets into their

luggage, then extorting money from them in exchange for not being criminally prosecuted.

Aquino won a landslide victory in 2010 on a promise to fight corruption and poverty, which afflicts more than a fourth of the more than 100 million Filipinos. But his victory was also seen as a protest vote due to widespread exasperation with the scandals that rocked the presidency of his predecessor, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, who is currently detained on corruption charges.

The expectations were high and while Aquino moved against corruption — detaining Arroyo and three powerful senators over corruption allegations — and initiated anti-poverty programs, the problems remain daunting.

Critics have also pounded on what they say were his administration's bungling of a number of crises, including a Manila bus

Duterte has declared he would allow Ferdinand Marcos' remains to be buried in the national heroes' cemetery

hostage crisis that ended with the shooting deaths of eight Chinese tourists from Hong Kong by a disgruntled police officer, and delays in recovery efforts in the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan in 2013.

Aquino backed Mar Roxas in the presidential election. Roxas served as the president's transport secretary and later interior secretary, leading departments that were regularly criticized.

On the campaign trail, Aquino and Roxas highlighted how the government's anti-corruption drive and other reforms allowed the Philippines to register one of the highest growth rates in Asia from 2010 to last year. Once regarded as the sick man of Asia, they said the country is now considered "Asia's bright star."

Duterte won voters with promises to wipe out crime and corruption within six months, although police officials say that would be almost impossible to accomplish.

If Bongbong Marcos becomes vice president, that might be a more bitter pill for Aquino to swallow.

Last February, Aquino evoked horrific memories of Ferdinand Marcos' dictatorship in a speech marking the anniversary of the 1986 "people power" revolt led

by his mother, Corazon Aquino. His father, anti-Marcos politician Benigno Aquino Jr., was assassinated in 1983 while under military custody at the Manila airport, which now bears his name.

The younger Aquino railed against Marcos Jr.'s refusal to clearly apologize for the brutal rights violations and plunder that happened during his father's strongman rule.

"This is not about the Aquinos versus the Marcoses," Aquino said at the anniversary. "It is clear to me that this is about right versus wrong."

Frustrated by descriptions of the Marcos era as a golden age, Aquino countered that it was "one of the most painful chapters of our history."

Bonifacio Ilagan, an activist who was detained and tortured during the dictatorship, said Filipinos still cherish the power they demonstrated to remove Marcos in 1986, but were disappointed that expectations of a better life and an easing of the deep inequality that has long plagued Philippine society hasn't been realized three decades after the revolt.

If Marcos Jr. wins, "It will really be a slap, a complete repudiation of the 1986 revolution," Ilagan said.

Duterte has declared he would allow Ferdinand Marcos' remains — now displayed in a glass coffin in his northern hometown of Batac — to be buried in the national heroes' cemetery. That is vehemently opposed by nationalists and activists like Ilagan, whose activist sister remains missing since she disappeared in the early 1970s while helping in the anti-Marcos movement.

If the hero's burial for Marcos proceeds, Ilagan said, "that will be a very, very sad day." **AP**

AUSTRALIA

Police allege five radicals planned to leave Melbourne by boat

FIVE men have been arrested on suspicion that they planned to leave Australia in a seven-meter boat to fight in Syria, police said yesterday.

The men, aged 21 to 33, had towed the half-cabin power boat with a car 2,800 kilometers from their homes in the southern city of Melbourne to Cairns in Australia's

tropical north before they were arrested Tuesday, police said.

All had their passports canceled to prevent them leaving the country to fight for extremist groups such as the Islamic State movement.

The men were being held on suspicion of breaking a federal law banning foreign incursions, Australian Federal Police De-

puty Commissioner Neil Gaughan said. Entering or preparing to enter a foreign country to engage in a hostile activity is a crime punishable by life imprisonment.

Victoria Police Deputy Commissioner Shane Patton said the men planned to travel by boat through Indonesia to the Philippines. He did not specify how they planned to get

from the Philippines to Syria.

"This is a serious attempt by five men who are of security interest to us who have had their passports canceled in attempting to exit Australia [...] and then ultimately we're investigating the intention to possibly end up in Syria to fight," Patton told reporters.

"We can't allow Australians to leave Australia

and support terrorism anywhere," he said.

The men had been under police investigation for weeks. Police would not say when they left Melbourne or where they intended to leave Australia.

Gaughan said the men were known to have "extremist views." Police declined to identify them.

Attorney-General George Brandis later said the

men were arrested in Queensland state north of Cairns but would not say where.

It was the first suspected attempt by would-be foreign fighters to leave Australia by boat, he said.

Security officials estimate 110 Australians are fighting for the Islamic State group in the Middle East. **AP**

Sinan Salaheddin, Baghdad

IRAQ

Islamic State bombing of Shiite area in Baghdad kills 63

A car bomb ripped through a commercial area in a predominantly Shiite neighborhood of Baghdad yesterday, killing at least 63 people and wounding dozens in an attack that was swiftly claimed by the extremist Islamic State group.

The bomb struck a crowded outdoor market in Baghdad's eastern district of Sadr City, and left up to 85 people wounded, several seriously, prompting fears the death toll could rise further, officials said.

It was the latest deadly attack to hit the Iraqi capital — a massive bombing that underscored how despite the territorial defeats the Islamic State suffered over the past year, the Sunni extremist group is still capable of launching significant attacks across the country. It has also recently stepped up assaults inside Baghdad, something officials say is an attempt to distract from their battlefield losses.

The bombing also comes at a time of a political deadlock that has paralyzed the work of the Iraqi government and parliament, adding to the country's complex set of military, security, humanitarian, economic and human rights challenges.

Yesterday's bomb struck a crowded outdoor market in the eastern Sadr City district, two police officials said. Four medical officials confirmed the casualty figures. All officials spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to talk to reporters.

The market is one of the main four outdoor shopping venues in Sadr City, a sprawling slum that is home to about 2.5 million residents — almost half of Baghdad's population of around 6

million. The open-air markets sell a range of goods, from food to household items, to clothes and other merchandise.

Ambulances rushed to the scene as dozens of residents walked through twisted and mangled wreckage of cars and other debris that littered the pavement, trying to help the victims. The street was stained red with blood in many places and front-side facades of several buildings were heavily damaged. Smoke billowed from ground-level stores gutted out by the explosion.

Karim Salih, a 45-year old grocer, said the bomb was a pickup truck loaded with fruits and vegetables that was parked by a man who quickly disappeared among the crowds of people.

"It was such a thunderous explosion that jolted the ground," Salih told The Associated Press.

"The force of the explosion threw me for meters away and I lost conscious for a few minutes," the merchant added. He suffered no injuries, but two of his workers were wounded.

Shortly after the blast, the Sunni extremist group — which sees Shiite Muslims as apostates — said it was behind the assault. IS said the attack was carried out by a suicide bomber, but Iraqi officials denied that. In its online statement, IS said it targeted a gathering of Shiite militiamen. The AP could not immediately verify the authenticity of the claim but it appeared on a website



Security forces and citizens inspect the scene after a car bomb explosion at a crowded outdoor market in the Iraqi capital's eastern district of Sadr City

commonly used by the Sunni militants.

"Politicians are fighting each other in parliament and government while the people are being killed every day," said Hussein Abdullah, a 28-year old owner of an electrical appliances store who suffered shrapnel wounds.

"If they can't protect us, then they have to let us do the job," the father of two added.

Baghdad's Sadr City is a stronghold of supporters of influential Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr who have been holding protests and sit-ins for months to demand an overhaul of the political system put in place by the United States following the overthrow of Saddam Hussein in 2003.

Last month, hundreds of al-Sadr's supporters stormed the heavily fortified Green Zone in the heart of Baghdad and broke into the parliament building.

Delivering a speech before the U.N. Security Council on Friday, the world body's envoy to Iraq, Jan Kubis, warned that the ongoing political crisis and chaos are only serving the interests of IS, urging the political leaders and civil society to work together to resolve the political turmoil.

IS also controls significant areas in northern and western Iraq, including Iraq's second-largest city of Mosul. Commercial and public places in Shiite-dominated neighborhoods are among the most frequent

targets for the Sunni militants seeking to undermine Iraqi government efforts to maintain security inside the capital.

In February, IS carried out devastating back-to-back market bombings in Sadr City, an attack claimed the lives of at least 73 people.

According to the United Nations, at least 741 Iraqis were killed in April due to ongoing violence. The U.N. mission to Iraq put the number of civilians killed at 410, while the rest it said were members of the security forces. A total of 1,374 Iraqis were wounded that month, UNAMI said.

In March, at least 1,119 people were killed and 1,561 wounded in the ongoing violence. AP

NIGERIA

Amnesty: Babies dying in military detention

BABIES and children are among scores of people dying in military detention at a notorious Nigerian barracks where soldiers illegally hold suspected Islamic extremists, Amnesty International reported yesterday.

Many detainees at the Giwa barracks may have died from disease, hunger, dehydration and gunshot wounds, the London-based human rights organization said, quoting witnesses, including former detainees, supported by video and photographic evidence. The barracks is in the northeastern city of Maiduguri, the birthplace of Nigeria's home-grown



A woman and children, who have no links to Boko Haram, sit detained by Nigeria's army under a canopy before their release at the Giwa military barracks in Maiduguri

Boko Haram Islamic extremists. The city is now the headquarters for the Nigerian military's campaign against Boko Haram.

"The discovery that babies and young children have died in appalling conditions in military detention is both harrowing and horrifying," and comes despite repeated alarms over the high death rate of detainees in Giwa, said Netsanet Belay, Amnesty's advocacy director for Africa.

Amnesty has previously said that President Muhammadu Buhari has not kept promises he made days after his inauguration in May 2015 to investigate the alleged abuses at Giwa.

Military spokesman Brig Gen. Rabe Abubakar called Amnesty's report

"a distraction."

"Our duty is to protect lives and that is what we have been doing," he told The Associated Press.

The Associated Press reported in 2013 that some 3,000 detainees had died at Giwa in two months, according to mortuary records.

Today, detainee bodies are being buried in unmarked mass graves, Amnesty reported.

It called for Nigeria's government to shut the facility.

The report said 149 people, including 11 children under the age of 6, have died at

Giwa this year. Among them were four babies who apparently died of untreated measles. Detaining children, with or without their parents, is common in Nigeria.

The number of people detained is unknown. Amnesty has reported that troops had arbitrarily arrested 20,000 people between 2013 and 2014.

A U.S. State Department report last month said Nigerian "security services perpetrated extrajudicial killings, and engaged in torture, rape, arbitrary detention ..." in 2015.

Such reports hamper aid to fight Boko Haram. The United States blocked sales of helicopter gunships to Nigeria in 2014 partly because of human rights concerns. AP





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what's ON



THE EXHIBITION "TRAVELOGUE
- WORKS BY PARK, SEUNG HOON"
TIME: 10am-6pm (Closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: June 26, 2016
VENUE: Gallery of Taipa Houses-Museum
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

"WEINGART TYPOGRAPHY" - EXHIBITION
BY THE MUSEUM FÜR GESTALTUNG ZÜRICH
TIME: 10am-9pm
UNTIL: June 12, 2016
VENUE: Tap Seac Gallery, located at Avenida do
Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida, No. 95
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

THE CHARMS OF FLOWERS - EXHIBITION OF
TRADITIONAL CHINESE FLOWER ARRANGEMENT
TIME: 10am-6pm (no admission after 5:30 pm,
closed on Mondays, open on public holidays)
UNTIL: July 31, 2016
VENUE: Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de
Almeida, No. 95 C-D, Macau
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2523

INK WASH OF THE FORBIDDEN CITY
- PAINTINGS BY CHARLES CHAUERLOT
TIME: 10am-7pm
(No admittance after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: June 19, 2016
VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,
Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE
ADMISSION: MOP5
(Free on Sundays and public holidays)
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

Offbeat

50 YEARS AFTER RIOT, PUBLISHER ASKS
ROLLING STONES TO RETURN TO LYNN

A newspaper publisher is asking the Rolling Stones to return to town 50 years after they cut short a show during a thunderstorm, leading fans to rampage.

Ted Grant, publisher of the Daily Item in Lynn, said in an open letter published this week that "a lot has changed" since the band was last in town, on June 24, 1966, and he wants the British rockers to finish the set that ended when they left the stage during a storm at the Manning Bowl stadium. Angry fans broke through barriers, prompting police to use tear gas, and the Stones pledged never to return to the city, 10 miles north of Boston.

"We ain't too proud to beg," the Item's chief executive, Beth Bresnahan, said.

The newspaper has reached out to Stones management trying to secure an interview with one or more members of the band for a story it plans to mark the 50th anniversary of the show but hasn't heard back and will continue to try, said Bresnahan, a Lynn native.

Item reporters have tracked down several people who were at the show that night for the story.

Grant, who wrote that he wasn't at the show because his mother wouldn't let him out after dark, points out that the working-class city now is very different. It has a sparkling new concert venue, replacing the now demolished Manning Bowl, and plenty of new restaurants.

Grant even offered to pick up the band's members from the airport and treat them to coffee, dinner and a round of golf. He even said he would let them crash at his house. He had just one request - play "Monkey Man."

Bresnahan said it's no secret that Lynn has a reputation, referring to a famous poem that starts out "Lynn, Lynn, city of sin ..."

"But it really is a city seeing a rebirth," she said. "We've got a lot of new restaurants, businesses, housing, and people are looking to make Lynn their home. We're at a great spot in time."

Rolling Stones frontman Mick Jagger sang "You Can't Always Get What You Want," but the people of Lynn hope that's not true.

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	RTPi Live
18:30	Helena's Shadow (Repeated)
19:20	Montra do Lilau (Repeated)
19:50	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Talk Show
21:40	Comedy
22:10	Helena's Shadow
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Variety
23:55	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:25	RTPi Live

cinema

CINETEATRO

12 MAY - 18 MAY

CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR

ROOM 1
(12 MAY) 2.30, 6.30, 9.15 pmROOM 1
(13 - 18 MAY) 2.30, 9.15 pmDirector: Anthony and Joe Russo
Starring: Chris Evans, Robert Downey Jr.,
Scarlett Johansson, Sebastian Stan
Language: English (Cantonese)
Duration: 147min

BOOK OF LOVE

ROOM 2
(12 MAY) 2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30pmROOM 1
(13 - 18 MAY) 6.45 pmDirector: Xue Xiaolu
Starring: Tang Wei, Wu Xiubo
Language: Mandarin (Cantonese/English)
Duration: 130min

MONEY MONSTER

ROOM 2
(13 - 18 MAY) 2.30, 4.40, 7.30, 9.30 pmDirector: Jodie Foster
Starring: George Clooney, Julia Roberts, Jack
O'Connell
Language: English (Cantonese)
Duration: 98min

THE INERASABLE

ROOM 3
2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30pmDirector: Yoshihiro Nakamura
Starring: Yuko Takeuchi, Ai Hashimoto, Kentaro
Sakaguchi
Language: Japanese (Cantonese/English)
Duration: 107min

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

1971 Row rocks ROLLING
STONE WEDDING

The Rolling Stones singer, Mick Jagger, has married his fiancée Bianca Pérez-Mora Macias at the town hall in the French Mediterranean town of St Tropez.

The civil ceremony was held up for almost an hour-and-a-half, after bitter arguments between Mr Jagger's spokesman and the police over the number of reporters and photographers in the wedding chamber.

A pool of four photographers had been invited to the town hall, but as the time of the ceremony approached about 100 cameramen and other journalists packed the chamber.

At first, Mr Jagger refused to come to the town hall - the message which was delivered by his spokesman said he did not wish to get married in a "goldfish bowl".

But the police insisted the media had the right to stay - and they, in turn, threatened to cancel the wedding unless the couple put in an appearance.

Mick Jagger and his Nicaraguan-born wife-to-be eventually arrived at 1700. Police and journalists exchanged blows in the frenzy.

Hippies turned up on foot and bicycles, mingling with members of the international jet set, who arrived in Rolls Royces for the wedding.

After the brief civil service, the couple left for the St Anne chapel for a religious ceremony.

Students gave the wedding party a noisy reception at the chapel. During the simple service, Father Lucien Baud recalled the groom had been born on St Anne's day, which is why he had chosen to be married in her chapel.

Bach's wedding march was played as the couple exchanged rings. A medley of themes from the film Love Story was also played at the request of the bride.

The couple left by a side door in an attempt to dodge the journalists who had followed them to the chapel.

The reception in the Café des Arts was attended by 200 guests - 70 of whom had been flown from London on a chartered Comet paid for by the groom.

The party went on into the early hours of the morning when the newly-weds left on the yacht Romeang, with a six-man crew for a 10-day honeymoon around Corsica and Sardinia.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Mick Jagger met Bianca Pérez-Mora Macias at a party after a Rolling Stones' concert where she apparently impressed him with her French. She had left Nicaragua to study political science in Paris.

When they married, she was already pregnant with their daughter, Jade. Eight years later they divorced. The ageing rocker is now grandfather to Jade's children, Assisi and Amba.

He married the Texan model Jerry Hall in November 1990 in Bali after a 20-year courtship. They had four children - but after nine years of marriage, the relationship was annulled at the High Court in London on the grounds it was not valid under either English or Indonesian law.

Since her marriage ended, Bianca has become a campaigner for human rights, as well as on environmental issues. She moved to London when George Bush was elected president of the United States and has become an outspoken critic of the war in Iraq.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Any problems you may have today can be attributed to listening - yours and others'.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Something small pops up as a distraction early today that makes the day seem to brighten considerably.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Your intellectual powers are peaking - though that happens kind of a lot with you! In any case, you should look around for any lingering problems that you can clear up with a few bright ideas.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 A fight is brewing on the home front, so prepare for something that could be pretty big. It's one of those days when you're sure to find people willing to listen to reason - eventually.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 It's easier than ever to get buy-in from all the key players in your life - so it may be time for a change. Seize the initiative and move forward in some striking new direction.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Defy expectations today - it's easy! All you have to do is take one step away from your routines and people are sure to pay attention.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 It's a good day for trips to the museum, speed dating, nature hikes or any other experience that surrounds you with beauty.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 You're feeling unconscious stirrings toward something bigger and better - but you can't tell what it is. Let your deepest mind work it out while you prepare for the surge of great energy coming soon.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Today is all about groups and socializing. Try to collaborate if you're working or doing chores, and make sure that you're not spending too much time on your own.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Your link to someone or something is making you a little crazy - but if you keep it foremost in your mind at all times, you should actually hit on a way to integrate it into the rest of your life in a positive way.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You have to connect with someone new today - so make sure that you're looking for opportunities to reach out. Try checking in with a work contact or look for new friends on social networks.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 It's time to clean house - metaphorically, anyway. Get rid of any negative emotional baggage however you can, and try to make room for more positive energy.

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

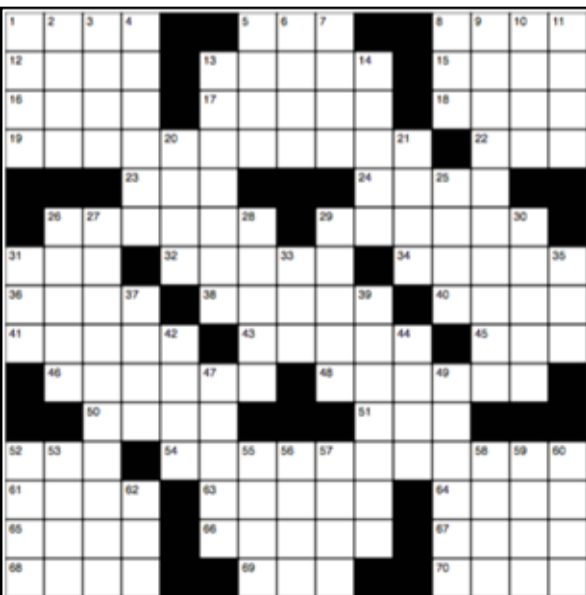
WORLD

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Rat-...; 5- Blubber; 8- Poor actors; 12- Prom wheels; 13- Violinist Mischa; 15- Prepare a book or film for release; 16- Constantly; 17- ... say more?; 18- Markka replacement; 19- Thoughtful; 22- Cut (off); 23- Form of poem, often used to praise something; 24- Coup d'...; 26- Magnetic induction units; 29- Fix beforehand; 31- Atlanta-based cable channel; 32- Eliminate; 34- Begat; 36- Ex-frosh; 38- Snob; 40- Yemen's capital; 41- ... a time (singly); 43- Boredom; 45- NFL scores; 46- Cream cake; 48- Slithery beasts; 50- ... never work!; 51- Gone by; 52- Lilt syllable; 54- Cooperate; 61- Suffers; 63- Birth-related; 64- Russian range; 65- WWII battle site; 66- Previn or Watts; 67- Guitarist Lofgren; 68- Puts into words; 69- End for Siam; 70- I cannot tell ...;

DOWN: 1- Actor Baldwin; 2- VCR alternative; 3- Prayer ender; 4- Some sculptures; 5- Make an escape; 6- From the U.S.; 7- I did it!; 8- ... Haw; 9- Make impure; 10- Picasso contemporary; 11- Word on a red sign; 13- Makes beloved; 14- Gunpowder ingredient; 20- Just lying around; 21- French summers; 25- Sale sign; 26- Steakhouse order; 27- Particularly; 28- More rational; 29- Lowly workers; 30- Looks after; 31- General on Chinese menus; 33- Part of the Holy Trinity; 35- ... Kapital; 37- Sentry's shout; 39- Capable of being tuned; 42- After-bath powder; 44- "Othello" villain; 47- Actress Massey; 49- Currency unit in Czech Republic; 52- Soviet news agency; 53- Hayworth or Moreno; 55- Narrow path for walkers, cars or ships; 56- Old Fords; 57- Bern's river; 58- Seed cover; 59- Anklebones; 60- Otherwise; 62- Mayday!;



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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PARALYMPICS

Amputee from 9/11 attacks wins 7 medals at Invictus Games

Terrance Harris, Orlando (Fla.)

SARAH Rudder was on the verge of a key promotion in the U.S. Marines on Sept. 11, 2001, when the terrorist attacks struck and eventually left her without a leg.

But she has come back from that setback to thrive on another stage, winning seven medals through yesterday [Macau time] in two days of Paralympic events ranging from rowing to shot-put at the international Invictus Games founded by Britain's Prince Harry for wounded members of armed services.

"It was amazing," Rudder said in an interview. "It shows that just because I'm an amputee doesn't mean I can't go out and put my heart and soul on the track or any event that I do."

Rudder, awaiting her promotion ceremony, was unscathed in the Sept. 11 attack on the Pentagon and able to help others to safety, but two days later she was not so lucky. When she returned to the defense complex to help remove remains of victims, her left ankle got stuck in a concrete barrier and was crushed. The in-



Sarah Rudder

jury, which required five reconstructive surgeries, eventually led to her left leg being amputated two years ago.

"The pain was debilitating," Rudder said. "I couldn't take it anymore."

After struggling to deal with the loss of a limb, Rudder found a way to turn despair into triumph through sports. She became a part of the military's

Wounded Warrior program, which paved the way for Rudder to compete in the Invictus Games, held this year at Disney's ESPN Wide World of Sports complex in Orlando following an opening ceremony Sunday evening.

Rudder already had won seven medals for Team USA, taking home the first gold medal of the games on Monday when she fi-

nished first in the lightweight powerlifting competition. She also won gold in the one-minute indoor rowing competition.

Yesterday, Rudder won gold in the discus and 100 meters and also took home silver medals in four-minute indoor rowing, shot-put and 200 meters dash for a two-day total of seven medals.

Excelling at the Invictus Games, which includes nearly 400

wounded and sick servicemen and women from 14 countries around the world, allows Rudder to prove that her injury won't limit what she can accomplish.

That was the precisely Prince Harry's goal when he started the Invictus Games a year ago.

"I served along with soldiers from all over the world," Prince Harry said at the opening ceremony. "I saw the sacrifices they and their families made to serve their nations. I learned about the importance of teamwork and camaraderie in the way that only military service can teach you."

Rudder, who won nine medals in last year's Warrior Games, said it was amazing to see competitors with so many different kinds of injuries.

"I might be missing a leg but there are people out there missing two and three limbs or are paralyzed from the waist down or chest down. They are my inspiration.

"Me just having one leg missing, I'm able to look at them and say, 'If they can do it, I can do it.'" AP

FOOTBALL

West Ham to ban fans responsible for attack on United bus

MANCHESTER United's players took refuge in the aisle of the team bus, lying down almost on top of each other as thuds and banging were heard outside and objects hit the windows.

Some shouted, cursed, even laughed. Jesse Lingard, who had his phone in his hand to film the mayhem, turned the screen toward himself and put his hand to his mouth in apparent mock fear.

"Mummy, mummy," Lingard can be heard saying.

It wasn't the average build-up to a Premier League game for United yesterday [Macau time].

In scenes of violence that revived memories of English soccer in the 1970s and '80s, United's bus — surrounded by riot police — was pelted with objects as it crawled through hundreds of fans toward Upton Park for the team's match against West Ham. Video footage showed



A drink can hits the screen of the Manchester United team bus as it arrives for the English Premier League soccer match against West Ham United

damage to sections of the tinted windows of the bus.

Lingard, the United winger, managed to capture some of the violence on his phone from inside the bus and the images spread across social media. British newspapers carried a photo of a seemingly distressed mother and child being ushered away as flames went off on the litter-filled streets behind them.

The bus carrying United's players eventually entered the stadium but kickoff was delayed by 45 minutes. Uni-

ted lost the match 3-2, damaging its ambitions of qualifying for next season's Champions League, and coach Louis van Gaal said the team's performance was influenced by what happened before the game, although he said he didn't want to make excuses.

Yesterday, West Ham apologized for the pre-game incidents, saying some supporters "didn't act in an appropriate way when the Manchester United team bus was damaged."

"That was not acceptable,"

West Ham said in a statement, "and we will work with the police to identify those responsible and ban them for life."

The English Football Association said later that it is investigating the incidents.

London police said yesterday that four officers sustained minor injuries during the incidents. No arrests have been made over criminal damage to the bus but three men were arrested during the game, including one for fighting and two for entering the field.

Police are looking at camera footage and appealed for witnesses.

Emotions were high among West Ham's fans, with Upton Park hosting its last game before the club moves to the nearby Olympic Stadium next season.

Upton Park has been West Ham's home stadium for 112 years. AP

MEDIA

Three sports journalists in Abu Dhabi convicted of slander

PROSECUTORS in the United Arab Emirates say three sports journalists have been convicted of slander over comments they made on a television program.

The state-run WAM news agency cited the office of Abu Dhabi's public prosecutor in a report yesterday about the convictions. It didn't name those charged.

A statement from prosecutors says the journalists received suspended sentences and that a lawsuit against them seeking 201,000 dirhams (USD55,000) in damages would go on. The case involved the three making comments about a contract involving an unnamed company.

WAM reported that the journalists maintain their innocence, saying their comments touched on public opinion and did not include swear words.

While liberal compared to other Mideast countries, the UAE has harsh laws governing expression and conduct on social media. AP

opinion

World Views
 The Editors, Bloomberg

SAVE THE PLANET. TAKE PUBLIC TRANSIT NOW AND THEN

Success in the fight against climate change doesn't demand dramatic innovations. Houses that heat themselves and jet planes fueled by sunshine and pond goo are good ideas, but there's no need to wait for them. Power plants that emit only a steady drip of macchiato would be great, too, but they aren't strictly essential.

Adequate if mundane solutions are already at hand. Many of them even make sense regardless of global warming. It's just a matter of exploiting them. High on the list: public transit.

President Barack Obama's strategy for fighting climate change centers on limiting carbon emission from power plants. Yet in the U.S., transportation accounts for almost as much greenhouse gas emissions as electricity generation - and despite the federal government's efforts to make cars more fuel-efficient, those emissions are increasing.

Electric cars may take care of that one day, but not soon: They make up less than 3 percent of all vehicles sold in the U.S., and their share of the market has been falling. Buses, subways and streetcars emit far less carbon. On a passenger-mile basis, driving a car with one occupant emits between two and four times as much as traveling by subway. A bus that's three-quarters empty produces about 30 percent less emissions than the equivalent number of single-occupant cars, and half the emissions of the corresponding fleet of SUVs.

That matters because three in four U.S. commuters get to work by driving alone - compared with 64 percent in 1980, when climate change wasn't yet a concern. The share of commuters using transit hovers around 5 percent, less than half the share in 1960. Leaving cars at home is one of the simplest ways to reduce emissions, yet few of us do it.

The remedy isn't just a matter of spending more on public transportation. The idea that transit has been starved of cash is wrong: Money for operations and maintenance has increased almost without interruption for decades. Capital spending spiked and then fell in the early 2000s, but its upward trend has since resumed. In real terms, total funding for public transportation has never been higher.

What's needed isn't more spending, but smarter spending. In some cities, once-great public transportation systems have been allowed to deteriorate; in others, new subway or bus lines are opened to fanfare, then remain largely unused. The trick is to choose new investments on economic merit, and to design new investments intelligently.

There's no lack of examples to follow. In Salt Lake City, a light-rail transit line opened in 2001 reduced traffic on nearby roads by as much as one-third. In Denver, the opening of a light-rail line along a heavily trafficked corridor in 2000 allowed the city to avoid adding as many as six new highway lanes. Washington's much-maligned metro system cuts the average transit user's carbon emissions in half compared with driving, preventing almost 400,000 tons of emissions each year. (If the system were adequately maintained, it would be popular as well.)

Fairer pricing can also play a part. On average, transit users pay about 40 percent of the cost of their ride; taxpayers cover the rest. Drivers typically get an even larger subsidy, once you take into account all the direct and indirect costs.

The case for better public transit goes beyond fighting climate change. It helps the unemployed find jobs; it saves commuters valuable time; it makes cities cleaner, quieter and less congested. But its value as an effective and available way to fight climate change gets too little attention. Pending zero-emission cars and espresso-vending power plants, getting more Americans on to public transportation makes sense.

THE BUZZ ERDOGAN SAYS TURKEY KILLED 3,000 ISLAMIC STATE EXTREMISTS

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan says Turkish forces have killed some 3,000 Islamic State militants in Syria and Iraq, insisting that no other country has matched Turkey's efforts against the extremist group.

In an address to the military chiefs of Balkan nations yesterday, Erdogan also denounced na-

tions who have accused Turkey of supporting IS as "vile."

At the same meeting earlier, the Turkish military chief, put the number of IS militants killed in Syria and Iraq at 1,300. Erdogan's aides could not immediately be reached to explain the differing figures.

High-tech devices take cheating to new level in Thai schools



A smartwatch used by students caught cheating in exams for admission to medical and dental faculties in Bangkok

Natnicha Chuwiruch, Bangkok

GLASSES with embedded cameras and smartwatches with stored information seem like regular spy equipment for the likes of James Bond, but for three students applying to medical school in Thailand, they were high-technology cheating devices.

Bangkok's Rangsit University canceled its examinations on Saturday and Sunday for admission to its medical and dental faculties following the discovery of the unusual modus operandi by three female students.

While cheating has long been a problem in Thai schools and colleges, the use of high-tech gear — the cameras were used to take pictures of the test sheet and the smartwatches to receive answers from someone outside — has taken the practice to a whole new plane.

"We've never found cheating of this level — involving high-technology," university official Kittisak Tripipatpornchai

told The Associated Press yesterday. "We've had some cases of students copying from one another, which is quite normal. But now we're going to be paying much closer attention," said Kittisak, the director of academic standards office at the private university.

Cheating is a marked aberration in the list of good behavior expected of Thais. From a young age, Thais are taught to be polite, tolerant, respectful and to avoid confrontation. But educators say cheating has flourished because of an education system that makes exam scores the only criterion for assessing a student's ability and granting admission into places of higher learning.

The three students caught red-handed have been blacklisted by the university and will not be allowed to take the replacement exams on May 31 and June 1.

It was an elaborate scheme. Three agents posing as students photographed the question sheets with tiny cameras embedded

in their eye-glasses. They left the room after the mandatory 45 minute lock-in period and transferred the pictures to a laptop manned by another person. That person transmitted the images to one or more private tutorial institutes where the three students were enrolled. Exam answers were then electronically transmitted to the smartwatches worn by the women, still in the examination room.

Test supervisors were alerted after the first watch was seized during the Saturday morning session, the second was found on the same day in the afternoon session. The third watch and two glasses were seized Sunday.

Kittisak said the three students purchased 100 percent-guaranteed admittance packages from the private tutorial institutes for 800,000 baht (USD23,000).

Cheating is so rampant that schools have tried to find creative ways to combat it. Chulalongkorn University installed overhead cameras in some of its examination rooms, while in 2013 Kasetsart University created anti-cheating hats made from stapling two A4 paper sheets to a headband to resemble blinders worn by horses.

Rangsit's president, Dr. Arthit Ourairat, posted pictures of the electronic devices on his Facebook page, getting nationwide attention from the media and the public.

"If you can't take responsibility for your own life, you don't deserve to become a doctor, which is a career that has to take responsibility for others' lives," wrote Namstok Punika, a Facebook user in response to Ourairat's pictures.

One student's parents met with university officials.

The father said he didn't know anything about the cheating, said Kittisak. "But then how would a high school student be able to pay 800,000 baht on their own?" AP

Station	Air quality
Roadside	55-75 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	80-110 Moderate
Ambient	65-95 Moderate

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

AUSTRALIA Five men have been arrested on suspicion that they planned to leave Australia in a seven-meter boat to fight in Syria. The men, aged 21 to 33, had towed the half-cabin power boat with a car from their homes in Melbourne to Cairns in Australia's tropical north before they were arrested. *More on p13*

MIGRANT CRISIS A Hungarian man has been sentenced to 10 years in prison for robbing four migrants from Afghanistan last year. An appeals court in the western city of Győr yesterday confirmed a lower court ruling which declared the man was guilty of taking cash, mobile phones and clothes with a total value of USD1,400 from the migrants.



MEDIA Facing declining revenues and changing reader habits, New Zealand's two main newspaper groups are discussing a merger that could end decades of competition and result in hundreds of job losses. If approved by regulators, the merger would combine the New Zealand newspapers, radio stations and websites owned by Fairfax Media and APN News & Media.



USA The Material Girl will pay tribute to The Purple One with a live performance at the Billboard Music Awards this month. Madonna will honor Prince at the May 22 show. Specific details about the performance weren't revealed. Prince was found dead on April 21 in his suburban Minneapolis home at age 57.