



### CONSUMERS DISAPPOINTED

A Consumer Satisfaction Index presented yesterday indicates a decline in satisfaction with both shopping and restaurants

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### FILIPINOS CELEBRATE INDEPENDENCE DAY

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### CLINTON HAS SUFFICIENT BACKING

Hillary Clinton secured the commitment of enough delegates to become the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee

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## BREXIT OR BREMAIN?

# Brits in Macau want to stay in European Union

P5 MDT REPORT



RENATO MARQUES

## WORLD BRIEFS



**CHINA-US** China promises to rein in steel production that is flooding global markets and to work with Washington to enforce anti-nuclear sanctions against North Korea, but the two sides end high-level talks with no announcements of progress on simmering disputes in the South China Sea. [More on p11](#)

**HONG KONG** French cosmetics company Lancome sparks a backlash after it cancels a promotional concert featuring a singer known for pro-democracy views, with many accusing it of caving to political pressure from Beijing. [More on p10](#)

**JAPAN** She's 21, has thyroid cancer, and wants people in her prefecture in northeastern Japan to get screened for it. That statement might not seem provocative, but her prefecture is Fukushima, and of the 173 young people with confirmed or suspected cases since the 2011 nuclear meltdowns there, she is the first to speak out. [More on p12](#)

More on backpage

# Fouled Zhuhai property buyers hand petition to the Chief Executive

P4



## CE meets with Liu Jiayi to improve audit work



The Chief Executive, Chui Sai On, met yesterday with the Auditor General of the National

Audit Office of the People's Republic of China, Liu Jiayi. According to a government statement, both parties debated ways to achieve a continuous improvement of their regions' audit procedures. During the meeting, the CE emphasized the guidelines given by Mr Liu to the territory in the context of the participation in the conference, "Enhancing the Chinese government: How to fully play a role in the national audit." Chui Sai On highlighted the important role of the audit and the fact that society itself is paying increasingly close attention to the work done in this field. Both parties discussed issues surrounding the use of technology as a means to increase efficiency. Liu Jiayi made a brief presentation on the results achieved by China's National Audit Office.

## Nomura expects June GGR decline

Nomura Research believes that Macau's gross gaming revenue (GGR) in June is unlikely to see growth and will instead mark the 25th consecutive month of year-on-year decline. GGR for the first five days of June amounted to HKD2.5 billion, implying an average daily GGR (excluding slot machines) of HKD468 million. If the averages are to keep consistent for the remainder of the month, then GGR for the month of June will be down between 2 and 7 percent compared with the same month in 2015, and between 8 and 12 percent less than that in May. Nomura said that its previous expectation of growth in June seems increasingly unlikely, though the shortfall recorded in the first five days of June may reflect the recent termination of phone-betting and the implementation of new UnionPay terminals. Alternatively it may be simply driven by volatility in GGR.

## Gongbei customs intercept one million patacas in cash

On Monday, Gongbei customs inspected a local woman and discovered her to be carrying one million patacas in cash, according to a report by Jornal Va Kio. The woman, surnamed Choi, was in possession of two paper bags when she was checked. The money was divided into ten bundles in one of the bags, each consisting of one thousand pataca bills. This marks the 27th currency smuggling case in June to be recorded by Gongbei customs. The department has dealt with approximately 400 currency smuggling cases so far this year, involving a total of RMB50 million. It reminds the public to be aware that currencies are restricted items when passing through Chinese border control.

## INDEX

# Domestic consumption satisfaction declines

**T**HE Institute for Sustainable Development (ISD) of the Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) yesterday published their Consumer Satisfaction Index of 2016. Between May 4 and May 16, 876 local residents aged over 16 were interviewed over the phone for the annual report.

The survey consisted of four sections regarding customer satisfaction: Macau shopping (in particular, clothing) and restaurants, and Zhuhai shopping and restaurants. Within each category the results have been compiled into indexes of product and service quality, as well as comparisons between prices and goods.

The report indicates a slight decline in satisfaction



Chan Lai Kow (center)

when shopping, recording a 2.2 percent drop in 2016. In turn, the levels of satisfaction toward local restaurants decreased 1.3 percent.

Macau residents' satisfaction with both shopping and restaurants in Zhuhai has worsened in comparison to last year's results. Regarding the former, a 3.2 percent

drop was recorded (68.7 last year, 66.5 this year), while restaurant satisfaction only dropped 1.3 percent, now standing at 67.1.

Chan Lai Kow, director of the ISD at MUST, considers that the declines in both the shopping and restaurant sections are "due to the slowdown in the economy." Kow said that

on the one hand, "customers have high standards when it comes to commodities," and on the other hand, service providers "are not that positive as to the stability of their jobs under the influence of a slowing economy."

Since the indexes represent the consumption preferences of local residents, Chan expects that the aforementioned service and goods providers will now improve their overall quality. Chan used Hong Kong as an example, saying "in the past, Hong Kong people would spend large amounts in Shenzhen, but not anymore because the service in Hong Kong has improved."

In the end, the report suggests that the local government should encourage domestic consumption, which is believed by the ISD to play a key role in Macau's sustainable development.

This marks the tenth year the index has been published, and also the tenth consecutive year that Macau has beaten Zhuhai in terms of satisfaction figures **Staff reporter**

## HEALTH

# Taiwan and Guangdong detect imported cases of Zika

**T**AIWAN and Guangdong have reportedly detected two instances of people infected by the Zika virus, the Health Bureau (SSM) announced in statement.

In Taiwan, a 22 year-old man from Indonesia arrived in the territory on June 1 showing signs of fever and red eyes, which are symptoms of the disease. After examination, it was confirmed on June 5, that he was infected with the Zika virus, is currently being treated, and is presenting a stable clinical status.

As for the case registered in the Guangdong province, it was identified in a 32 year-old woman from Venezuela. The woman traveled from Venezuela to Enping City, Jiangmen through Guangzhou on May 31.

On June 3 due to symptoms of fever, back pain and skin rashes, she sear-

ched for medical support. The woman was isolated on suspicions of a Zika virus infection, and the diagnosis was confirmed on June 5 after examinations performed by the Guangdong Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

The SSM announcement also mentioned that the mosquito *Aedes albopictus*, which is responsible for the transmission of the Zika virus, exists in Macau. Although there are not yet any registered cases in the territory, the bureau warned that people should be aware and take preventive measures to prevent the disease spreading, such as avoiding travel to areas affected by the virus spread as well as adopting anti-mosquito measures. People should also be alert to any potential symptoms until 28 days after travelling in affected areas.

## ILLEGAL GAMBLING

# Beijing's underground casinos exposed

**S**EVERAL illegal underground casinos located in Beijing have been exposed to the mainland public after Chinese journalists visited unannounced and produced reports on the gambling hubs.

The revealed casinos were mostly hidden in high-end apartments, and were generally protected by several layers of security.

Each casino has its own actors pretending to be gamblers in order to encourage other players to continuously bet money on the games. Future visitors were required to be introduced by frequent gamblers. High-interest loans (loans came in chip form, carrying a 0.5 percent daily interest rate) were provided once the gamblers had lost everything they came with. Gamblers could even mortgage their properties to continue gambling.

The report said that recently there have been three to five underground casinos operating in Beijing, with some of them located in the suburbs. It said that usually these casinos have approximately five shareholders, who likely hold shares in a few active illegal gambling places in Beijing.

Staff working at these places could earn RMB300 to RMB500 per day. Dealers could enjoy one percent of the company's profits in addition to their daily payment. Each gambler would also be granted RMB500 to RMB1,000 for introducing another customer. In order to retain the gamblers' interest, the underground casinos would only operate two runs per day.

The shareholders reportedly have a monthly income in the order of several millions, and they were known to change the location of their operations every once in a while.

Both mainland and Hong Kong media have nicknamed these casinos "little Macau."

The Beijing Police Authority has already commenced investigations.

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# Public utility tender halted at court's order

**T**HE Environmental Protection Bureau's (DSPA) public tender for a wastewater treatment plant located at Areia Preta, which was supposed to be announced yesterday morning, has been suspended.

The suspension comes as one of the parties involved in the bidding process applied to the judiciary to pass the postponement.

Radio Macau has alleged that the party in question is CESL Asia, adding that the company has been warring with others interested in the tender for some time.

**Procedural impediments to the tender have led the government to decide not to hold it**

Yesterday morning, interested parties arrived at the site of tender to find a board stating that a suspension had resulted from a judiciary decision. The reason for the suspension

has not been disclosed.

According to an official statement, procedural impediments to the tender have led the government to decide not to hold it. The statement adds that, when appropriate, the date and details relating to the new tender will be released to interested contenders.

The chief executive is able to cancel the suspension if he invokes public interest.

DSPA decided last year to open up the contract for maintenance and operation of the wastewater treatment plant to public tender, in order to select "a qualified operator."

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ERIC JACKSON • Thursday, May 26, 2016 - 1 Week Ago

I am pleased to hear that the government of Macau is listening to the world in regards to the Canidrome. The people of Macau should not be judged by what goes on at the Canidrome, but as long as they are racing and killing dogs, the world will look [without] favor upon Macau. Please, stop the racing, close the Canidrome, and work with international groups to place all of the greyhounds in homes.

REPLY



JANICE PIRELLI • Thursday, May 26, 2016 - 3 Days Ago

The Canidrome shows a shame and a lack of respect for the rights of sentient beings. What a waste of money! Macau's reputation will suffer if we allow this to continue.

Support Macau and please stop this. It's a shame that we have to see this. It's a shame that we have to see this. It's a shame that we have to see this.

EVERY ONE OF US SHOULD STOP THIS. IT'S A SHAME THAT WE HAVE TO SEE THIS. IT'S A SHAME THAT WE HAVE TO SEE THIS. IT'S A SHAME THAT WE HAVE TO SEE THIS.

REPLY



GNF • Thursday, May 26, 2016 - 3 Days Ago

This really has to stop. The world is waiting and waiting for the Chinese people to do the right thing and close the hell hole down.

REPLY



GNF • Thursday, May 26, 2016 - 3 Days Ago

This really has to stop. The world is waiting and waiting for the Chinese people to do the right thing and close the hell hole down.

REPLY



MARY ANNE CHRISTIAN • Thursday, May 26, 2016 - 3 Days Ago

This really has to stop. The world is waiting and waiting for the Chinese people to do the right thing and close the hell hole down.

REPLY

"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'!"



Renato Marques

**T**HE Macau Civil Servants Association (ATFPM) yesterday led a group of local residents who bought properties in Zhuhai to deliver a letter to the Chief Executive (CE), Chui Sai On, urging him to make "use of his political influence and formal means" to solve the problems surrounding property purchases in the neighboring city.

The letter, delivered to the

**■ The promoter advertised the condominium as a luxury venue with several facilities, such as a private club and a private forest park**

RESIDENTS ALLEGEDLY TRICKED

## Fouled Zhuhai property buyers petition CE



MSAR government headquarters, has been written in the name of over 200 pre-sales buyers of properties in the "Hill Beyond the Sea Condominium," located in Zhuhai.

In the letter, the buyers claim that back in 2012-2013, the

development promoter advertised the condominium as a luxury venue with several facilities, such as a private club and a private forest park with a total area of 150,000 square meters.

In 2014, when the residen-

tial units were completed, the property owners discovered that the advertised facilities did not exist and that the promoter had sold the land at the entrance of the condominium to another developer to build a private kindergarten that will

block the entrance and access to the condominium.

As the president of ATFPM, José Pereira Coutinho said "with the construction of the kindergarten facility the access to the condominium will be blocked and people will have to find a different way to access their residences," adding, "there have been a lot of changes to the original project, which means that buyers' investments are being affected."

The lawmaker hopes that the MSAR government can take the topic to the "biannual and annual meetings between Macau, Zhuhai and Guangzhou areas, which sees the meeting of dozens of representatives across several public services in those areas."

The ATFPM president stressed that the government must be aware of "the investments that Macau people make, namely in the real estate sector, due to their lack of financial capacity to buy a house in Macau" urging the government to find "some kind of protection mechanism of the rights of these consumers."

RETAIL

## L'Occitane to expand to China's lower-tier cities

**F**RENCH skincare brand L'Occitane has revealed its plans to expand into China's lower-tier cities through e-commerce, in particular Tmall, an online platform for branded goods operated by Alibaba Group Holding.

The company revealed that it has a marketing partnership with the online platform to meet China's emerging middle class, who are creating growing demand for imported premium products.

According to Andre Hoffmann, L'Occitane's vice chairman and managing director of Asia-Pacific, opening new physical stores in China's second and third-tier cities would help create brand awareness.



**■ The company recently closed one of its shops in Macau**

The group reported that mainland China was its largest source of growth last year, with sales in the country growing 16.8

percent, contributing nearly 30 percent to the company's overall growth. The company saw an 8.9 percent rise in sales to USD1.45 billion over the 12 months ending in March.

Meanwhile, L'Occitane held off on plans to expand in Hong Kong and Macau due to the declining numbers of Chinese tourists visiting the two regions. The company revealed that it will be shutting down

a store in Hong Kong in September, following a recent closure of one of its shops in Macau.

"Now [that] mainland tourist numbers are shrinking, maybe we don't need so many stores to do the same level of business," said Hoffman in a Nikkei report.

L'Occitane is planning to continue adding to its 187 stores in 65 cities across mainland China. Some 50 stores, which are set to open globally later this year, will be in mainland China, Japan and South Korea.

While Hoffmann noted that all stores in Hong Kong have been "profitable," he admitted that the retail market has been "very challenging in the past 18 months."

The vice-chairman revealed that its current strategy is to focus more on local costumers, adding, "The mainland tourists are just like the cherry on top of the ice-cream sundae."

## 'White Butterflies in Macau' rescheduled

**A**RCHITECTURE Sans Frontières Macau (ASF-M) and Albergue SCM have rescheduled their event, "White Butterflies in Macau – in solidarity with Nepal," for this Saturday, after it was postponed due to strong weather conditions on May 28.

The event aims to raise awareness of the reconstruction efforts in Nepal in the aftermath of last year's destructive earthquake. It invokes the concept of the "White Butterfly Project," a creation of Nepalese artist Milan Rai, which symbolizes "transformation through harmony and freedom," according to organizers.

On Saturday, organizers will reveal a new project to build sustainable, cost-effective and earthquake-resistant buildings for disadvantaged communities who are currently unreached by the Nepalese government and international NGOs.

A local Nepalese Association will also be present to show images of the 2015 earthquake followed by a cultural performance.

Additionally, ASF-M will present its current projects and its ongoing humanitarian endeavor, Project Yolanda, which involves the rebuilding of five high schools in the Philippines that were destroyed in the wake of super typhoon Yolanda.

The event will be held at Albergue SCM on June 11 from 6 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. and will be supported by the Department of Communication and Media of the Faculty of Creative Industries at the University of Joseph together with the Non-Resident Nepalese Association.

## HK man runs for lawmaker with gambling winnings

**H**ONG Kong ex-lawmaker Chim Pui-chung has claimed that he is financing his campaign for the Hong Kong Legislative Council elections with HKD9.77 million that he won at a casino in Macau, according to Hong Kong media.

He announced his comeback to the political spotlight on Monday on the back of the controversy over Leung Chun-ying (the Chief Executive of Hong Kong) for

his acceptance of HKD50 million in 2011 following a business deal with the Australian engineering firm UGL.

Chim also claimed that he would not support Leung in pursuing a second term as the city's leader. "I think the whole government is suffering from a great illness, [...] it is detached from the citizen's benefits," Chim expressed.

Chim served as a lawmaker in Hong Kong for an eight-year period, and reti-

red from public life in 2012. He became famous for his flamboyant style in Hong Kong, and is turning 70 years old next year. In the neighboring city, he was given the nickname "Chiu Chow Angry Man" for his provocative rhetoric.

In recent years, Chim has made headlines for his big wins from casino bets in Macau and elsewhere in the world, according to a report by South China Morning Post. **Staff reporter**



Chim Pui-chung



## BREXIT OR BREMAIN?

# Brits in Macau want to stay in EU, though many cannot vote

Daniel Beittler

**T**HE lingering question of whether the United Kingdom will remain in the European Union will be at least partially decided by the referendum to be conducted on June 23, although the immediate outcome of the vote – however it unfolds – is likely to cause a ripple effect across much of Europe in the near future.

The issues at stake in the campaign are much the same as those that have troubled Britain for decades, as the island-nation has reluctantly edged toward the “ever closer union,” all the while negotiating extraordinary exemptions and special treatment from Brussels.

Among the burning issues are the questions of economy, immigration, security, and national sovereignty or lawmaking ability; the latter of which is, according to former London mayor Boris Johnson, “being very greatly eroded” by the EU.

The pre-referendum polls show that public opinion in Britain is on a knife-edge, with the electorate split equally between the “Brexit” campaign and the “Bremain” campaign. According to Telegraph polls held weekly between March 15 and June 6, only between 3 and 5 percent of voters remain undecided.

However, the opinion of British residents living overseas appears to be entirely unreflective of that in the home islands, even though the arguments raised are almost identical.

In Macau, all of the respondents contacted by the Times and willing to speak on-the-record indicated a strong preference for staying within the union. None of the respondents said that they would advocate a Brexit, although many stated that they did not wish to comment on the matter.

Eileen Stow, a founding member of the British Business Association of Macao (BBAM), is not able to vote in



this month's referendum due to a ruling that excludes British citizens who have lived abroad for 15 years or more from participating in the vote.

“I voted for entry into the EU [back in the 1975 referendum] in what was the first election in which I was eligible to participate. And I would vote to stay in today if I was allowed to vote,” Stow told the Times, adding that she would appreciate the opportunity to vote in general elections and referendums while living in Macau.

“My feeling is that if the British in Macau care about the EU [referendum] then they

**When you're an expat you have a stronger sense of internationalism and sticking together.**

EILEEN STOW

will probably be voting to stay. When you're an expat you have a stronger sense of internationalism and sticking together,” she explained.

Professor Glenn Timmermans of the University of Macau, who identifies as half-British, half-Dutch, says that he is also unequivocally voting to remain.

“I am definitely voting to remain. The EU is hardly a perfect system but I generally think that the UK is in every sense – economically, socially, culturally – better off as part of Europe,” said Timmermans, who, having lived outside the UK for just 14 years, will be able to vote on June 23.

The sentiments are echoed, though less strongly, by Suzanne Watkinson, who says she wants Britain to remain, though she too cannot vote in the referendum.

“I wish to vote [in the referendum] but I cannot since I have been out of the country for 15 years,” she said. “I have discussed the issue with my parents, who are both UK residents, and we all agree on the side of ‘Bremain,’ though some of us reluctantly.”

“We also think that the others

[British] in Macau will vote to stay because we're expats and we want to retain the benefits of being within the union,” added Watkinson.

Asked whether British residents in Macau might feel any effects of a withdrawal, Eileen Stow reckoned that, from a business perspective, “there will not be much of an effect.”

“Our chambers are interlinked, but we would still be considered a part of them [if Britain exited], I think,” she added.

Timmermans largely agrees that the referendum wouldn't directly affect Macau. He says however, that he is invited to French, German and Italian events in the MSAR by virtue of being considered a European, and that he certainly considers himself as one.

“I think that there is a sense of togetherness among Europeans in Macau, slightly against the Americans and the Australians and the other ‘gwai lo’,” he jokes.

The outcome on June 23 could present wide-reaching ramifications for the rest of the union, as well as elsewhere. According to a BBC report late last month, the net con-

tribution of the UK to the EU amounts to about £161 million (MOP1.88 billion) per week, although other estimates (publicized by the leave campaign) put this figure as high as £361 million (MOP4.21 billion) per week. The loss of this contribution could put added stress on an already fragile economic bloc.

Germany's DZ Bank predicted last month that a British exit might cost the German economy alone £34.8 billion (MOP405 billion) by 2017, and the country might fall into recession. According to conservative media outlet Breitbart, the head of the Berlin Stock Exchange said last week that if Britain votes to leave, Germany may not be far behind, contrary to what Denmark's Prime Minister expressed at around the same time; that Denmark would never follow Britain in an EU exit.

Leaders from other countries have also weighed in on the issue, such as Japan's Shinzo Abe and outgoing U.S. president Barack Obama, who both urged Britain to stick with Europe. Even presidential hopeful Donald Trump threw his lot in, backing Brexit and arguing the case that the UK is “better off” outside the EU.

The vote this month will be the third referendum to be held in the UK within the last five years, following a Scottish independence referendum in 2014 and a campaign to alter the voting system in Britain in 2011.

“I find it quite amazing that we have had two referendums in such a short period of time,” said Stow, referring to the Scottish referendum. “I would hope that, whatever the outcome of the referendum, this reflects a wake-up call for the government as in the case of Scotland [in the aftermath of 2014].”

Indeed there are some similarities between the two plebiscites in the use of political scaremongering and the question of a contingency plan in the event of an exit.

“There isn't a real contingency plan. I don't think the ‘Leaves’ have expressed an idea of what will happen [if they get their way],” said Timmermans.

BBAM will hold a breakfast meeting today at 7.45 a.m. at the St. Regis Macao, Cotai, titled: “Bremain or Brexit: The debate over the UK in/out referendum.”

## UM prof: ‘expats tend to be more patriotic’

**T**HE opinions of British residents living in Macau appear to be largely in favor of staying within the European Union. However, that is not the case in all places outside the British Isles.

A SKY news report last month, interviewing some of the 800,000 British

residents who live in Spain, found that a significant number indicated that they were in favor of a Brexit. This is despite the fact that uncertainties exist over what might happen to European residents in Britain and British residents in Europe, should the U.K. withdraw from the union.

“It is a slightly odd thing among expats,” University of Macau (UM) Professor Timmermans told the Times. “They [British expats] tend to be more patriotic or nationalist than those in the UK. So maybe there is a tendency to be slightly more anti-EU.”



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WYNN'S GOLDEN FLOWER NAMED 'BEST F&B IN MACAU'



Golden Flower

Wynn Macau's signature Tan cuisine restaurant Golden Flower has been awarded the "Best F&B in Macau" accolade at the recent 2016 Hurun Presidential Awards Ceremony, which was recently held in Shanghai.

The restaurant has reached new heights under the helm of master chef Liu Guo Zhu, who was discovered during Wynn Macau's two-year search for China's best mainland Chinese chefs and previously worked for more than a decade in the same kitchen as a chef from the original Tan household.

PH consulate celebrates independence day

PAGKAKAISA, Pag-aambagan, Pag-sulong" (Unity, Participation and Progress) is the theme of the 118th anniversary of the declaration of Philippine Independence, which was celebrated in the city yesterday.

The celebration is momentous as the Filipino people are set to enter a new chapter in the country's history under the leadership of the incoming administration of president-elect Rodrigo Duterte.

As this year's National Elections recorded one of the largest turnouts in recent history, with 81 percent of registered voters casting their ballot, Philippine Consul General Lilybeth Deapera confidently said: "The people's voice has been heard and together the Filipino people will move toward just and participatory governance."

"I hope he will be a president for all," said Deapera when commenting on the vast majority of votes Duterte received. Moreover, she expressed her hope that the new president will be able to fulfill his duties in terms of promoting inclusive growth in the economy to the benefit of all sectors of society, including marginalized sectors.

Deapera recalled in her speech that the 2016 first quarter figures show that



Sonia Chan (left), Lilybeth Deapera and Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam

the country continues to be one of the fastest growing economies in Asia as the World Bank and International Monetary Fund project 6 percent growth in the economy.

The Consul General acknowledged that economic relations with MSAR have played a vital role in the economic development of the Philippines. According to Deapera, the two region's bilateral merchandise trade in 2015 increased 28.4 percent over 2014, emphasizing that several business ventures not only cater to Filipino nationals but to expatriates and locals as well.

"It is my hope that the cooperation between our respective private sectors remains strong and that the trade between

our two countries continues to expand and grow," she added.

The Secretary for Administration and Justice, Sonia Chan, attended the event and acknowledged Filipino workers as a "valuable" addition to the manpower resources of the city. As such, she expressed her hope that the community would continue to make "significant contributions to the sustainable development of the local economy."

The Consul General also thanked local NGO's including Macau's Architecture Sans Frontiers (ASF) as it has been extending aid to a province in the country affected by typhoon Haiyan in 2013.

"Through exchanges like these, the peoples of the Philippines and Macau learn from each other and enrich each other's culture and experiences," she said. Staff reporter

TOURIST ARRIVALS GROW

AS THE city continues to be a favored destination for the Filipino citizens, tourist arrivals from the Philippines grew by 5.3 percent in 2015, according to the Consul General of the Philippines in Macau. The trend continued for the first quarter of 2016 as 91,314 Filipinos visited the city, representing an 8.1 percent increase year-to-year for tourist arrival figures. Moreover, Deapera revealed that as of April 2016 some 24,963 Filipinos were working in the city, stressing that the Filipinos are indeed given the opportunity to contribute the territory's development and economy.

AD

Advertisement for BBAM 10th Anniversary Gala Ball in Macau. Features a central image of a man in a pink outfit with a microphone, surrounded by stars and confetti. Text includes 'Best of British BBAM 10th Anniversary GALA BALL in MACAU', 'WE WILL ROCK YOU! KILLER QUEEN EXPERIENCE June 24th', and contact information: E-mail: bbam@britchammacao.org, Contact Number: +853-8798 9697. Principal Media Sponsor: Times.



# Chow Tai Fook profit drops 46 percent as China slowdown hits sales

Daniela Wei

**C**HOW Tai Fook Jewellery Group Ltd., the world's largest publicly traded jewelry chain, reported full-year profit declined 46 percent amid weak demand in Hong Kong and Macau as China's economic slowdown hurt sales of luxury retailers and said outlook for the region remains challenging.

Net income fell to HKD2.94 billion (USD379 million) for the year ended March 31, the jeweler said in a statement yesterday. That compared with the HKD3.19 billion average of 11 analyst estimates compiled by Bloomberg. The Hong Kong-based retailer warned May 12 full-year profit fell as much as 50 percent.

China's slowdown has damped the buying habits of its consumers. Hong Kong retailers are also hurt as mainland Chinese tourists, who account for almost



a third of luxury spending globally, skip the shopping mecca for other destinations. The government's crackdown on corruption has also caused big-spending Chinese to avoid neighboring Macau, causing a two-year gambling decline in the world's largest casino center.

Chow Tai Fook was affected by persistently weak retail sentiment in Hong Kong and Macau, and decline in tourism, especially from mainland China due to the stronger U.S. dollar

and changing travel preferences, the jeweler said in the statement. "We expect the market environment for the region to remain challenging in the year ahead," it said.

Chow Tai Fook shares rose 4.8 percent to HKD5.88 by the close of trading in Hong Kong, the highest level since Dec. 4, helped by rising gold prices that are seen to help reduce its hedging losses. The benchmark Hang Seng Index rose 1.4 percent.

Hong Kong retail sales fell 12 percent in the first quar-

ter, with jewelry and watch sales plummeting nearly double that, contributing to Chow Tai Fook's lowest profit since 2010.

Chow Tai Fook is planning to shut outlets that do not perform well, and reduce its number of employees, Managing Director Kent Wong had said in January. The retailer last November posted its steepest decline of 42 percent in half-year profit since it went public.

Mainland Chinese tourists to Hong Kong, who accounted for more than 70 percent of the total in the first four months this year, have dropped 13 percent in the period compared to a year ago, according to the city's tourism board.

The luxury chain's retail network expanded to 2,319 sales locations as of end-March, including a net opening of 62 in the fiscal year, according to the company's statement in April.

**Bloomberg**

# Partnership announced for high-speed ferry construction

**A**USTRALIAN-BASED Austal has formed a joint venture with a Chinese ship building company to build and market commercial aluminum vessels, designed by the Australian company, in Guangdong province.

According to a Business News report, Austal will own 40 percent of the joint venture, to be named Aulong Shipbuilding Company. Guangdong Jianglong Shipbuilding will own the majority of the shares.

Austal will design high-speed ferries, which will be manufactured in Jianglong's facilities in Guangdong. The ferries will replace existing ones operating in China. Austal chief executive David Singleton is aiming to "combine the strength of a current high quality shipyard in China with Austal's market leading designs."

Austal has already delivered 52 high-speed aluminum ferries to 20 costumers in China, Hong Kong and Macau as the Chinese passenger ferry market was the company's first major export market.

The Australian company is expecting to replace current vessels and high-speed ferries built by other manufacturers in the next few years as the Chinese government only allows a maximum operating life of 25 years for commercial high-speed ferries.

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BANKING

# Japanese banks tighten up after USD16 million taken from ATMs

**J**APANESE banks that lost some 1.8 billion yen (USD16.5 million) when fake overseas cards were used at convenience store ATMs are scrambling to combat such fraud.

Seven Bank, which operates ATMs in the 7-Eleven convenience store chain, halved its withdrawal limit to 50,000 yen from 100,000 yen for customers using non-Japanese cards. E-net, a joint-banking service whose members include national and regional banks, reduced its withdrawal limit to 40,000 yen from the previous 200,000 yen for non-Japanese cards.

The illegal withdrawals were made in just a few hours on May 15 at more than 1,000 ATMs in 17 prefectures (states), according to Japanese media reports.

The reports say fake cards of a South African bank were used, and police have arrested three suspects so far. In the latest development, police found a manual with detailed instructions on how to use fake cards to withdraw money from ATMs, national broadcaster NHK reported yesterday.

Masatoshi Ogihara, a Seven Bank spokesman, said the bank is strengthening monitoring and cooperation with police but declined to provide specifics for security reasons.

China Union Pay cardholders used to be able to withdraw up to 200,000 yen at Seven Bank, Ogihara said, but are also now limited to 50,000 yen. AP

LABOR

# US worker productivity slumped again in Q1

**A**MERICAN workers were less productive again in the January-March quarter, although the decline wasn't as severe as first thought. Meanwhile, labor costs climbed at a faster pace than initially estimated.

The Labor Department said yesterday that productivity declined at an annual rate of 0.6 percent in the first quarter after a 1.7 percent drop in the fourth quarter. The government first estimated that productivity fell at a 1 percent rate. Labor costs for employers rose at a 4.5 percent rate in the first quarter, even faster than the 4.1 percent gain first reported.

Productivity has been weak for the past five years, a troubling development since productivity growth is the key factor that pushes up living standards. The rise in



Construction workers unload supplies off a hoisted pallet on a rooftop in Atlanta

labor costs indicates that worker pay is finally climbing after an extended period of weak wage growth.

Blerina Uruci, an economist with Barclays Research, said she forecasts only modest productivity growth in the coming years, with "limited scope for an imminent return" to the stronger productivity gains that were occurring before the 2007-2009 recession.

Fed Reserve Chair Janet Yellen said that lackluster productivity gains represented a key uncertainty facing the economy. Productivity growth has been unusually weak over the past five years, averaging just 0.5 percent per year, just one-third of the annual gains seen from 1970 to 1990, she said.

While some economists are pessimistic about the prospects for producti-

vity in the coming years, Yellen remains "cautiously optimistic" as the adverse effects of the Great Recession on investment spending and research begin to fade.

But she also urged pursuit of policies that would boost productivity saying "strengthening education and promoting innovation and investment" would support longer-term growth in productivity and greater gains in living standards.

The upgraded estimate for productivity in the first quarter reflected the fact that the government revised its estimate for total output, as measured by the gross domestic product, showing GDP grew at a 0.8 percent rate in the January-March quarter. That was slightly stronger than the 0.5 percent gain first reported.

Productivity is the amount of output per hour of work. While output was revised higher, it wasn't enough to compensate for the fact that employment — and thus the number of hours worked — rose at a faster pace in the first quarter. AP

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## Macao Tourism Industry Development Master Plan Public Consultation

To complement Macao SAR Government's goal to achieve the position of "World Centre of Tourism and Leisure", Macao Government Tourism Office has advocated the "Macao Tourism Industry Development Master Plan". In order to collect opinions and comments, Macao Government Tourism Office will be hosting the "Macao Tourism Industry Development Master Plan" Public Consultation from 23 May to 22 July, 2016.

MGTO will be hosting a public consultation session during the following schedule and welcome the public and representatives of different industries to participate.

Date	Time	Venue	Language
11 June, 2016 (Saturday)	3:00 p.m.	Rua Luis Gonzaga Gomes, No. 431, Tourism Activities Centre 2/F, Macau	Cantonese (with Portuguese and English simultaneous translation)

**Please call tel: 2831 5566 for enquiries and registration.**

Opinions and suggestions could be expressed through the following channels:

🏠: Macao Government Tourism Office, Alameda Dr. Carlos d'Assumpção, n.ºs 335-341, Edifício "Hot Line", 12º andar, Macau

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Macao Government Tourism Office





A woman walks past an advertising light box showing products of French cosmetics company Lancome at a subway station in Hong Kong

## Hong Kongers accuse France's Lancome of kowtowing to Beijing

Kelvin Chan

**FRENCH** cosmetics company Lancome has sparked a backlash in Hong Kong after it canceled a promotional concert featuring a singer known for pro-democracy views, with many accusing it of caving to political pressure from Beijing.

Cantopop singer and outspoken celebrity activist Denise Ho was scheduled to perform on June 19. But after word of the event got out, China's nationalist Global Times newspaper criticized Lancome over the weekend through its microblogging Weibo account.

Lancome then said Sunday on its Hong Kong Facebook page that the event had been canceled because of unspecified "safety reasons." It also sought to distance itself

from Ho in a separate post, saying that she's not its spokeswoman.

The statements earned Lancome thousands of angry Facebook comments, with many calling for a boycott of the company.

Ho fired back with her own Facebook statement, saying that the company "unilaterally" canceled a "pure artistic collaboration."

"When a global brand like Lancome has to kneel down to a bullying hegemony, we must face the problem seriously as the world's values have been seriously twisted," said Ho, who backed pro-democracy protesters who took to the streets in 2014 over Beijing's decision to restrict elections in Hong Kong, a semiautonomous Chinese city.

Ho is also a supporter of the Dalai Lama, Ti-

bet's exiled spiritual leader, and posted a picture on Facebook last month of their meeting on her birthday. Beijing accuses the Dalai Lama of seeking to separate Tibet from China. Tibetans and the Dalai Lama say they simply want a higher degree of autonomy under Chinese rule.

The Global Times fueled the controversy yesterday when it said in an op-ed piece that Lancome scrapped the event because it could not risk alienating mainland China, whose market dwarfs Hong Kong's.

"Apparently Lancome has given more consideration to the sentiment of the mainland public, because the mainland boasts a much larger market than Hong Kong," the article said.

There were also calls on Chinese social media

to boycott Lancome products, underscoring the dilemma for the company in balancing profit and principle.

Lancome's parent company, French cosmetics giant L'Oreal, said in its most recent annual report that the brand "performed strongly" in China last year, but also noted that Hong Kong was a "difficult market."

Ho is not the first artist to pay a price for displeasing China's communist leaders. Bon Jovi and Maroon 5 have also had concerts in China canceled over images or tweets about the Dalai Lama. Earlier this year, Taiwanese teen pop star Chou Tzu-yu was forced to apologize by her management firm for waving Taiwan's flag on South Korean TV because of worries about offending China. **AP**

HONG KONG

## Teen activist acquitted over 2014 protest

**A** Hong Kong court yesterday acquitted teen pro-democracy leader Joshua Wong of obstructing police at a protest two years ago against China's tightening hold on the city.

Wong tweeted that he and three others were found not guilty. It's the first verdict in a number of court trials Wong is facing.

The 19-year-old activist captured world headlines when he led pro-democracy street protests in late 2014 against Beijing's decision to restrict elections in Hong Kong, a semiautonomous Chinese region.

The obstruction charges, which carried a maximum two-year sentence, stemmed from a separate protest months earlier in which Wong and the others set fire to an oversized cardboard prop representing a "white paper" policy document issued by China's communist leaders.

"The result of this trial is already proof that it's just a political prosecution," Wong tweeted after the verdict.

The document angered many in Hong Kong because it asserted Beijing has "comprehensive" authority over Hong Kong. It also said that many Hong Kongers had a "lopsided" view of the "one country, two systems" principle that outlines the former British colony's relationship with Beijing.

Prosecutors said police officers moved in to try to douse the flames with bottles of water but were blocked by Wong and another student protest leader, Nathan Law, according to local media reports. However, the defense team argued that they were pushed from behind by the crowd and couldn't hear police, the reports said.

Two other activists who appeared alongside Law and Wong were also cleared.

Wong is also accused in a separate trial of inciting student demonstrators to storm a courtyard at Hong Kong government headquarters in September 2014, leading to a standoff between thousands of supporters and police, who responded with tear gas. The verdict in that case is expected at the end of the month.

He also faces trial on contempt charges for allegedly blocking police trying to clear a protest zone in Hong Kong's Mong Kok district in November 2014. **AP**



Pro-democracy leader Joshua Wong (center) speaks to media outside a district court in Hong Kong



Joe McDonald & Bradley Klapper,  
Beijing

**C**HINA promised yesterday to rein in steel production that is flooding global markets and to work with Washington to enforce anti-nuclear sanctions against North Korea, but the two sides ended high-level talks with no announcements of progress on simmering disputes in the South China Sea.

Envoys from the two sides also failed to agree on what to do about China's aluminum producers, one of a series of bloated industries Washington and other trading partners complain are selling exports too cheaply, hurting foreign competitors and threatening jobs.

The two-day annual Strategic & Economic Dialogue ended with both sides acknowledging they still disagreed on significant issues including human rights. But they repeatedly stressed their desire for friendly, productive relations between the world's two biggest economies.

"While efforts over the past several days cannot resolve our concerns, they do represent real progress," U.S. Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew said at a joint announcement ceremony with Chinese officials.

For its part, Washington promised to boost its savings rate and investment, especially in infrastructure. The American side promised to pursue "fiscal sustainability," a reference to narrowing its yawning budget deficits.

China's commitment to persist with reforms to make its economy more balanced included shrinking its vast steel industry and opening its financial sector wider to U.S. companies, Lew told reporters.

China's steel industry and complaints that Beijing has responded to a glut of unneeded supply by encouraging low-priced exports is a source of growing tension with Washington and other trading partners.

The government announced plans this year to shrink state-owned steel and coal producers at a cost of millions of jobs. But that is expected to take time, and the flood of low-cost steel has prompted protests by European steelworkers and was cited by Tata in its decision to sell money-losing British operations that employ 20,000 people.

Washington has responded by



Chinese President Xi Jinping (right) talks to U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry (left) during a meeting at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing

## China pledges to cut steel glut, avoid race to devalue yuan

imposing anti-dumping tariffs and launching an investigation into whether Chinese mills are using stolen U.S. technology. The European Union has launched its own probe into possible dumping.

Beijing promised to avoid policies that might encourage growth of steel production and to wind down financially moribund "zombie companies," according to Lew. He said Chinese officials also agreed to cooperate with Washington in a possible global steel forum to discuss industry issues.

There was no indication, however, that Beijing would change the pace of its overhaul, highlighting the limited impact of U.S. pressure on basic Chinese policies.

On Monday, the Chinese finance minister, Lou Jiwei, said expectations that Beijing could abruptly transform the vast industry were unrealistic.

"To some extent, the worst is

**To some extent, the worst is over.**

TIAN YUAN  
CHINA INSTITUTE FOR STRATEGY

over," said Tian Yuan, an economist for the China Institute for Strategy, a Beijing research center. "With the central government's efforts to further adjust the economic structure, leaning toward technological innovation, the progress in reducing excessive capacity will certainly continue."

Beijing also agreed for the first time to allow U.S. banks to join the growing number of institutions outside China that are allowed to clear transactions denominated in the country's tightly controlled currency, the yuan.

Beijing also affirmed that it saw no reason for a sustained weakening of the yuan against the dollar, Lew said. He said Chinese authorities promised not to engage in "competitive devaluations" or use the exchange rate to help China's exporters.

On the strategic side, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry pointed to scant concrete progress on sensitive issues ranging from maritime security to North Korea.

A joint statement issued by the two sides made no mention of the South China Sea.

"We didn't agree on everything," said Kerry.

Still, the top American diplomat stressed the importance of cooperative relations.

"The U.S.-China relationship is

absolutely vital," he said. "It may well be the most consequential bilateral relationship of nations in the world."

Chinese President Xi Jinping echoed that theme in a meeting later with Kerry and Lew.

"The key is always to bear in mind that our common interests outnumber our differences," said Xi. "We need to respect each other's core interest and major concerns, and on that basis try to work together to seek solutions."

On North Korea, Kerry said U.S. and Chinese experts would study how to enforce U.N. anti-nuclear sanctions approved in response to North Korea's development of nuclear weapons and missile technology.

In the South China Sea, where China and its neighbors have conflicting claims to territory and possible oil and gas resources, Kerry appealed for negotiations and "a peaceful resolution based on the rule of law."

The two governments affirmed their commitment to freedom of navigation and overflight, Kerry said.

Kerry stressed that Washington takes no position on any government's claim and appealed to them to "exercise restraint."

State Councilor Yang Jiechi said Beijing wants to solve disagreements through negotiation. But he said such talks should

take place among "the countries involved," which would exclude the United States.

"China has every right to uphold its territorial sovereignty," Yang said.

Beijing said over the weekend it would ignore an upcoming international arbitration decision in a dispute with the Philippines.

China also has conflicting claims with Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan. Further complicating matters are suggestions China could establish an air defense zone over part of the sea, which the U.S. opposes.

Kerry also cited human rights and China's crackdown on lawyers and freedom of religion.

He expressed concern about a new law on nongovernmental organizations, urging China to let NGOs function across the country.

The law puts foreign advocacy groups under direct police supervision and requires them to state where their money comes from and how it is spent. It bans groups that are deemed to be subverting the state.

Yang defended the law as necessary to protect the "legal rights and interests" of nongovernment groups.

"As long as they abide by Chinese laws, the activity of foreign NGOs in China will not be affected," he said. **AP**

### INNER MONGOLIA

## 74 on trial over murder for compensation plots

**P**ROSECUTORS in northern China have indicted 74 people for murder and other charges related to scams in which the deaths were staged to look like mining accidents in order to win compensation from mine owners.

The Inner Mongolia regional prosecu-

tor's office said on its microblog yesterday that the defendants were charged in the city of Bayannur over the murder of 17 people in six provinces and regions.

Along with the homicide, the suspects were charged with fraud, extortion, embezzlement and attempting to con-

ceal a crime, the office said.

Further details were not given, although similar cases have been reported within China's coal industry that has long operated under lax enforcement. Mine owners anxious to avoid government scrutiny were often quick

to pay off the families of dead workers, along with regulators and the media.

China has since sought to impose better safety standards on the industry, closing many smaller operations and seeking to raise prices by reducing oversupply. **AP**



## JAPAN

# Woman breaks silence among Fukushima thyroid cancer patients

Yuri Kageyama, Koriyama

**S**HE'S 21, has thyroid cancer, and wants people in her prefecture in northeastern Japan to get screened for it. That statement might not seem provocative, but her prefecture is Fukushima, and of the 173 young people with confirmed or suspected cases since the 2011 nuclear meltdowns there, she is the first to speak out.

That near-silence highlights the fear Fukushima thyroid-cancer patients have about being the "nail that sticks out," and thus gets hammered.

The thyroid-cancer rate in the northern Japanese prefecture is many times higher than what is generally found, particularly among children, but the Japanese government says more cases are popping up because of rigorous screening, not the radiation that spewed from Fukushima Dai-ichi power plant.

To be seen as challenging that view carries consequences in this rigidly harmony-oriented society. Even just having cancer that might be related to radiation carries a stigma in the only country to be hit with atomic bombs.

"There aren't many people like me who will openly speak out," said the young woman, who requested anonymity because of fears about harassment. "That's why I'm speaking out so others can feel the same. I can speak out because I'm the kind of person who believes things will be OK."

She has a quick disarming smile and silky black hair. She wears flip-flops. She speaks passionately about her new job as a nursery school teacher. But she also has deep fears: Will she be able to get married? Will her children be healthy?

She suffers from the only disease that the medical community, including the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, has acknowledged is clearly related to the radioactive iodine that spewed into the surrounding areas after the only nuclear disaster worse than Fukushima's, the 1986 explosion and fire at Chernobyl, Ukraine.

Though international reviews of Fukushima have predicted that cancer rates will not rise as a result of the meltdowns there, some researchers believe the prefecture's



In this March 24, 2011 file photo, a young evacuee is screened at a shelter for leaked radiation from the tsunami-ravaged Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant

high thyroid-cancer rate is related to the accident.

The government has ordered medical testing of the 380,000 people who were 18 years or under and in Fukushima prefecture at the time of the March 2011 tsunami and quake that sank three reactors into meltdowns. About 38 percent have yet to be screened, and the number is a whopping 75 percent for those who are now between the ages of 18 and 21.

## ■ Researchers believe the prefecture's high thyroid-cancer rate is related to the accident

The young woman said she came forward because she wants to help other patients, especially children, who may be afraid and confused. She doesn't know whether her sickness was caused by the nuclear accident, but plans to get checked for other possible sicknesses, such as uterine cancer, just to be safe.

"I want everyone, all the children, to go to the hospital and get screened. They think it's too much trouble, and there are no risks, and they don't go," the woman said in a recent interview in Fukushima. "My cancer was detected early, and I learned that was important."

Thyroid cancer is among the most curable cancers, though some patients need medication for the rest of their lives, and all need regular checkups.

The young woman had one cancerous thyroid removed, and does not need medication except for painkillers. But she has become prone to hormonal imbalance and gets tired more easily. She used to be a star athlete, and snowboarding remains a hobby.

A barely discernible tiny scar is on her neck, like a pale kiss mark or scratch. She was hospitalized for nearly two weeks, but she was itching to get out. It really hurt then, but there is no pain now, she said with a smile.

"My ability to bounce right back is my trademark," she said. "I'm always able to keep going."

She was mainly worried about her parents, especially her mother, who cried when she found out her daughter

had cancer. Her two older siblings also were screened but were fine.

Many Japanese have deep fears about genetic abnormalities caused by radiation. Many, especially older people, assume all cancers are fatal, and even the young woman did herself until her doctors explained her sickness to her.

The young woman said her former boyfriend's family had expressed reservations about their relationship because of her sickness. She has a new boyfriend now, a member of Japan's military, and he understands about her sickness, she said happily.

A support group for thyroid cancer patients was set up earlier this year. The group, which includes lawyers and medical doctors, has refused all media requests for interviews with the handful of families that have joined, saying that kind of attention may be dangerous.

When the group held a news conference in Tokyo in March, it connected by live video feed with two fathers with children with thyroid cancer, but their faces were not shown, to disguise their identities. They criticized the treatment their children received and said they're not certain the govern-

ment is right in saying the cancer and the nuclear meltdowns are unrelated.

Hiroyuki Kawai, a lawyer who also advises the group, believes patients should file Japan's equivalent of a class-action lawsuit, demanding compensation, but he acknowledged more time will be needed for any legal action.

"The patients are divided. They need to unite, and they need to talk with each other," he told AP in a recent interview.

The committee of doctors and other experts carrying out the screening of youngsters in Fukushima for thyroid cancer periodically update the numbers of cases found, and they have been steadily climbing.

In a news conference this week, they stuck to the view the cases weren't related to radiation. Most disturbing was a cancer found in a child who was just 5 years old in 2011, the youngest case found so far. But the experts brushed it off, saying one wasn't a significant number.

"It is hard to think there is any relationship," with radiation, said Hokuto Hoshi, a medical doctor who heads the committee.

Shinsyuu Hida, a photographer from Fukushima and an adviser to the patients' group, said fears are great not only about speaking out but also about cancer and radiation.

He said that when a little girl who lives in Fukushima once asked him if she would ever be able to get married, because of the stigma attached to radiation, he was lost for an answer and wept afterward.

"They feel alone. They can't even tell their relatives," Hida said of the patients. "They feel they can't tell anyone. They felt they were not allowed to ask questions."

The woman who spoke to AP also expressed her views on video for a film in the works by independent American filmmaker Ian Thomas Ash.

She counts herself lucky. About 18,000 people were killed in the tsunami, and many more lost their homes to the natural disaster and the subsequent nuclear accident, but her family's home was unscathed.

When asked how she feels about nuclear power, she replied quietly that Japan doesn't need nuclear plants. Without them, she added, maybe she would not have gotten sick. **AP**



## DIPLOMACY

# Is the Obama-Modi friendship real? In India, many doubt it

Tim Sullivan, New Delhi

**I**T'S a friendship between two powerful men that transcends politics, transcends diplomacy.

It certainly looked like genuine affection when Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi pulled President Barack Obama into a bear hug as he stepped off Air Force One last year. An intimacy seemed to envelope the two as they sat in the garden of an old royal palace, smiling and chatting.

There are the gushing comments: Modi "transcends the ancient and the modern," Obama wrote in Time magazine. "Barack and I have formed a bond, a friendship," Modi said.

It's a friendship that will almost certainly be on display when Modi arrives today at the White House for his seventh meeting with the U.S. president.

Except, well, maybe they aren't actually friends.

"It's politics. It's pure politics," said Mihir Sharma, a writer and editor with the Business Standard newspaper and a longtime follower of Modi's career.

It's a refrain heard repeatedly among India's political analysts, who see calculation instead of genuine affection, with an Indian leader carefully shaping the country's political narrative by putting himself at the center of any diplomatic achievement.

Foreign leaders have willingly played along, appearing with



President Barack Obama (left) and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi have coffee and tea in the gardens of the Hyderabad House, New Delhi

the prime minister in choreographed private moments, whether it's Modi taking a selfie in Shanghai with Chinese Premier Le Keqiang or pouring tea for Obama in New Delhi.

"The Americans have realized that one of the ways that you can get something out of Mr. Modi is to emphasize his personal charm," said Sharma. "It's in the interests of pretty much every country he visits to stress the warmth of the personal relationship between their leader and the Indian prime minister."

There is always theater in politics, of course, and all politicians understand the need to sometimes say one thing while believing something else. But Modi has carefully woven his personality into India's international

standing, creating what former Indian national security adviser M.K. Narayanan has called a "personalized diplomacy."

In many ways it's about respect.

India has long felt slighted by the global powers, seeing itself as a powerful, highly educated country that is all-too-often dismissed for its poverty, dirty streets and the lingering power of its caste system.

Friendships with world leaders, particularly one as powerful as Obama, prove to India — and its voters — that Modi can change that.

"He comes back from his visits [abroad] to say: 'I've been able to secure so much respect for India,'" said Nilanjan Mukhopadhyay, a Modi biographer.

When Modi publicly refers to Obama by his first name "he's claiming the position that he's equal to the president of the United States."

"It's kind of a reverse colonialism that India suffers from," said Mukhopadhyay. "We don't feel we're important until we've gotten some kind of endorsement, especially from Western countries."

The respect is particularly sweet in Washington, where Modi wasn't even welcome until becoming prime minister in a landslide election victory in 2014.

Modi, who rose to prominence as a leader of the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party, was denied a visa to visit the U.S. in 2005, three years after religious riots killed more than 1,000 Muslims in the western state of Gujarat, where he was then the top official.

American officials largely avoided contact with him until the 2014 elections over suspicions that he was involved in the rioting or did not do enough to stop them.

Modi arrived in Washington on Monday during a five-nation tour that also takes him to Switzerland, Afghanistan, Mexico and Qatar. He meets with Obama today, and addresses a joint meeting of Congress tomorrow. He'll also meet Congressional leaders and top business officials.

Obama has much to gain from good relations with Modi, from

increased U.S.-India trade to closer ties to another country worried about the rise of China.

In many ways, the Washington-New Delhi relationship has not lived up to its potential since a landmark 2008 nuclear energy agreement, signed during the administration of President George W. Bush. That agreement had seemed to signal the end of three decades of Cold War suspicions, when the U.S. was more focused on ties with India's archrival, Pakistan, and many in Washington believed India was far too friendly with the Soviet Union.

But things haven't always gone as planned: There was the 2013 arrest in New York of an Indian diplomat, which infuriated India, and displeasure in Washington over a 2010 Indian liability law on accidents at nuclear power plants. U.S. lawmakers say it's still too hard for Americans to invest in India, even with some easing of restrictions under Modi.

Still, U.S.-India trade has grown dramatically since the 2008 accord, expanding from USD60 billion in 2009 to \$107 billion in 2015. The U.S. has also become a major supplier of military hardware to India. A defense logistics agreement is likely to be finalized during Modi's Washington visit. A solution is also expected to be reached on the nuclear liability law.

But the question remains: Are they really friends? **AP**

## THAILAND

## Police find tiger slaughterhouse in temple probe

Tassanee Vejpongsa, Bangkok

**P**OLICE investigating Thailand's now infamous Tiger Temple found what they believe was a slaughterhouse and tiger holding facility used in a suspected animal trafficking network.

The discovery yesterday is the latest in a growing scandal surrounding the Buddhist temple, which was a popular tourist attraction that charged admission for visitors to take photos with the tigers and walk with them on leashes. Last week, authorities removed more than 137 tigers from the



Wildlife officials sedate a tiger at the "Tiger Temple" in Saiyok district in Kanchanaburi province

temple grounds and also found 40 dead tiger cubs in a freezer and 20 more preserved in jars.

Acting on a tip, police raided a home about 50

kilometers from the temple in Kanchanaburi province and found four live tigers and a dozen empty cages, said police Col. Mon-

tri Pancharoen, deputy commander of the Crime Suppression Division, which oversaw the raid.

Investigators believe the house, in an isolated area and surrounded by tall fences, served as "a holding facility and slaughterhouse," he said.

"We believe it was used by the Tiger Temple to hold live tigers before slaughtering them for their skins, meat and bones to be exported outside the country, or sent to restaurants in Thailand that serve tiger meat to tour groups," he said.

The house had a work area with a large chopping board and a variety

of knives which authorities believe served as the slaughter area, he said.

Police detained two caretakers at the facility who claimed the tigers were the private property of the home's owner, said Montri. Police were searching for the owner who was not there during the raid.

"The Tiger Temple is just a starting point, or a supplier," he said. "We have information that the Tiger Temple is not the only place that supplies tigers to illegal smugglers."

Animal rights activists have long accused the temple of mistreating its

tigers. The government suspects the monks have been involved in illegal breeding and trafficking of the animals.

The monks resisted previous efforts to take away the tigers, but relented last week after police obtained a court order.

The seizure of tigers started on May 30. Two days later authorities discovered the 40 dead tiger cubs in a temple freezer. A day later, police stopped a monk and two other men in a truck leaving the temple with two tiger skins, more than 700 vials containing tiger skin and a suitcase with tiger teeth, officials said. **AP**



USA ELECTIONS

# Sanders focus on California; Clinton has sufficient backing

Ken Thomas, San Francisco

**F**ACING elimination, Bernie Sanders vowed yesterday [Macau time] to win primaries in California and beyond even as Hillary Clinton secured the commitments of enough delegates to become the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee.

Campaigning in San Francisco, Sanders declined to speculate to reporters about what a poor showing in today's primaries might mean to his presidential campaign. "Let me just talk to you after the primary here in California where we hope to win. Let's assess where we are after tomorrow," he said.

Hours later, at an evening rally at Crissy Field in the Presidio, Sanders steered clear of reports from The Associated Press and multiple television networks that Clinton had reached the 2,383 delegates needed to become the presumpti-



Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt. speaks during a campaign rally at Qualcomm Stadium on Sunday in San Diego

ve Democratic nominee. She has 1,812 pledged delegates won in primaries and caucuses, and the support of 571 superdelegates.

Sanders' supporters expressed disappointment that the calls were made before California's primary and urged the senator to continue on despite the pro-

nouncements.

"We're going to keep fighting until the last vote is counted," said Kristen Elliott, a Sanders' supporter from San Francisco who attended the rally.

Said another attendee, Patrick Bryant of San Francisco: "It's what bookies do. They call fights before they're over."

He said the campaign's job is to convince the superdelegates that the Vermont senator is "by far the strongest candidate against Donald Trump." He said calling the Democratic contest before superdelegates formally vote at the convention was a "rush to judgment."

Sanders spokesman Michael

Briggs said Clinton's support was dependent upon superdelegates who could still change their minds between now and the July convention.

Sanders' tone was more subdued before reporters after saying over the weekend that the Democratic convention would be contested if no one wins the nomination based solely on delegates awarded in the primaries and caucuses. Sanders also faced new questions about the future of his campaign amid reports that President Barack Obama was readying an endorsement of Clinton.

Sanders and Clinton are competing in contests in six states today (Macau time), headlined by California, the nation's largest state, offering 475 pledged delegates. Clinton, a former New York senator, is heavily favored in today's New Jersey primary and winning a share of the state's 142 pledged delegates would likely put her over the top.

Obama, who bested Clinton in 2008 during her first bid for the Democratic nomination, is preparing to formally endorse her and start aggressively making the case against Trump. White House officials said the announcement could come within days, although not before the elections. **AP**

AD

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Aya Batrawy, Dubai

MIDDLE EAST

# Saudis to create more jobs, cut subsidies in reform plan

**S**AUDI Arabia unveiled the details of the first phase of an economic overhaul aimed at reducing reliance on oil exports and preparing for the millions of young people who will be seeking jobs and affordable housing in the coming years.

The National Transformation Plan (NTP) was approved by the Saudi Cabinet late Monday. Hundreds of the NTP's targets were detailed in a 114-page document distributed to journalists yesterday.

Key targets include creating 450,000 new jobs outside the public sector by 2020 and cutting expenditure on public wages from 45 to 40 percent of the state budget.

Currently, 70 percent of Saudis work in the public sector. Nearly half of last year's spending, or around USD120 billion (450 billion riyals), went to wages, salaries and allowances.

More than half of Saudis are under the age of 25. Unemployment is currently at 11.7 percent, though the government wants to reduce that to 7 percent by 2030. The NTP outlined plans to provide thousands more low-income families with housing.



Saudi Arabian Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman

Young people's frustration at their lack of prospects was a key driver of the Arab Spring uprisings that rocked the Mid-

dle East in 2011. Though Saudi Arabia did not experience any major upheaval at that time, the plunge in oil prices

over the past two years has exposed it to urgent domestic challenges. Lower oil prices pushed Saudi Arabia into a nearly \$100 billion budget deficit last year.

King Salman's 30-year-old son, Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, has been spearheading the effort to diversify the economy since he was appointed as second-in-line to the throne and chair of a committee that oversees economic policymaking last year. That committee, the Council on Economic and Development Affairs, has been focused on reorienting the OPEC kingdom away from its decades-long reliance on oil, creating jobs and boosting foreign investment.

The NTP is part of a wider Vision 2030 plan that includes a proposal to float a stake in the world's largest oil company, Saudi Arabian Oil Co., and set up one of the world's

biggest government investment funds.

The NTP has also set a target of raising non-oil state revenue from around 164 billion riyals (\$43.7 billion) to 530 billion riyals (\$141 billion) by 2020. To achieve that, the NTP aims to increase non-oil exports by 145 billion riyals (\$38.7 billion), more than double direct foreign investment to reach 70 billion riyals (\$18.7 billion), and slash energy and water subsidies by 200 billion riyals (\$53 billion).

The kingdom has had to dig into its foreign reserves to spend on its many infrastructure projects, generous subsidies, millions of public sector jobs, and free healthcare and education for citizens. To cover the difference between spending and revenue, Saudi Arabia has drawn down its foreign reserves from \$728 billion at the end of 2014 to around \$572 billion in April. **AP**

AD

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## what's ON

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TIME: 10am-6pm daily (No admission after 5:30;  
Closed on Mondays; Free admission on Sundays)  
VENUE: Rua Correia da Silva, Taipa  
ADMISSION: MOP5  
ORGANIZER: Cultural Affairs Bureau  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

**THE ENCHANTING RED BOAT**  
TIME: 10am-6pm  
(no admission after 5:30 pm; closed on Mondays;  
open on public holidays; free to public on 15th of  
every month)  
UNTIL: October 9, 2016  
ADMISSION: MOP15  
VENUE: Praceta do Museu de Macau 112  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911

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

**FAM: MACAU ANNUAL VISUAL ARTS EXHIBITION  
2016 – WESTERN MEDIA CATEGORY**  
TIME: 10am-8pm (Closed on Mondays)  
UNTIL: August 7, 2016  
VENUE: Old Court Building  
ADMISSION: Free  
ORGANIZER: Macau Cultural Affairs Bureau  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8399 6699

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

**ABSTRACT PAINTINGS  
FROM THE MAM COLLECTION**  
TIME: 10am-7pm  
(no admittance after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)  
UNTIL: December 31, 2016  
VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,  
Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE  
ADMISSION: MOP5  
(Free on Sundays and public holidays)  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

## Offbeat

**UKRAINE BORDER GUARDS DISCOVER  
BOOTLEG ALCOHOL PIPELINE**

Authorities in Ukraine say they have foiled plans to ship bootleg alcohol from Moldova to Ukraine via a pipeline. The SBU security service said yesterday that border guards in the country's west stopped works to lay pipes on the bed of the Dniester river at a point where it crosses the border.

The would-be bootleggers rented a house on the riverbank on the Ukrainian side and started to lay the pipe across the river, authorities said. The SBU released footage of the pipeline being dug up.

Smuggling has flourished between Ukraine and its western neighbors for years, and Moldova has been a major source of bootleg alcohol for other former Soviet republics.

## TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
18:00	Helena's Shadow (Repeated)
18:50	TDM Entrevista (Repeated)
19:20	Non-Daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
19:30	Soap Opera
20:10	Sports
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Montra do Lilau
21:30	Criminal Minds Sr.9
22:10	Helena's Shadow
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Drama
01:00	Sports (Repeated)

## cinema

## CINETEATRO

08 JUN



**NOW YOU SEE ME 2**  
ROOM 1  
2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm  
Director: Jon M. Chu  
Starring: Jesse Eisenberg, Mark Ruffalo,  
Woody Harrelson  
Language: English (Cantonese)  
Duration: 129min



**THE JUNGLE BOOK**  
ROOM 2  
(2D) 2.30, 4.30, 9.30 pm  
(3D) 7.30 pm  
Director: Jon Favreau  
Starring: Neel Sethi, Bill Murray, Ben Kingsley  
Language: English (Cantonese)  
Duration: 106min



**ANGRY BIRDS**  
ROOM 3  
(2D) 2.30, 4.30, 7.30 pm  
(3D) 9.30 pm  
Director: Clay Kaytis, Fergal Reilly  
Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)  
Duration: 97min

## MACAU TOWER

02 JUN - 22 JUN

**TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES:  
OUT OF THE SHADOWS**  
2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm  
Director: Dave Green  
Starring: Megan Fox, Will Arnett, Tyler Perry  
Language: English (Cantonese)  
Duration: 112min

## this day in history

**1968 JAMES EARL RAY QUIZZED  
OVER KING DEATH**

A 40-year-old man has been arrested in London in connection with the murder of American civil rights leader Martin Luther King.

James Earl Ray is being questioned by police after he was arrested by Scotland Yard officers at Heathrow Airport as he tried to board a flight to Brussels.

He was charged at Cannon Row police station with possessing a forged passport and having a firearm without a certificate.

The Justice Department in Washington announced it would be seeking Ray's extradition on a murder indictment brought against him on 7 May in Memphis, Tennessee.

The British Home Secretary, James Callaghan, is expected to authorise the institution of extradition proceedings against Ray.

Tight security precautions are in place at Bow Street Magistrates' Court, where Ray is due to face the charges today.

Members of the public and press will be searched for firearms and other weapons before they are allowed to enter the court.

The FBI said Ray was an escapee from Missouri State Penitentiary, who had been on the run since 23 April 1967. He had been serving a 20-year sentence for armed robbery.

Dr King was shot on 4 April while standing on his hotel balcony in Memphis and died later in hospital.

Police quickly identified Ray as the chief suspect. He was renting a room in Memphis close to the Lorraine Motel where Martin Luther King was shot.

He had served a string of sentences for offences ranging from drunkenness in the US Army to burglary, armed robbery and forgery. He was discharged from the army in 1948.

He fled the city shortly after the shooting and was traced to Europe where he was eventually apprehended in London.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

**James** Earl Ray was jailed for 99 years in Memphis after admitting that he murdered Dr Luther King. He pleaded guilty to avoid the death penalty. FBI director Edgar Hoover said a systematic search of 53,000 fingerprints led to the determination that Eric Starvo Galt and James Earl Ray were the same man. He also used the name Ramon George Sneyd.

Ray later retracted his guilty plea and protested his innocence and by the 1990s his continued requests for a new trial gained momentum.

In 1997 Dr King's son Dexter met Ray and publicly supported him, and the next year Attorney General Janet Reno ordered a full review of the case.

That review ended in 2000 with a finding that "no credible evidence" existed to support various conspiracy theories. Ray died in prison in 1998, aged 70.



YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Bound into your workweek with enthusiasm...

Taurus April 20-May 20 You're easy today. Even browsing through the office supply catalog lifts your spirits...

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You'll run into an old acquaintance, and it makes work a bit uncomfortable...

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 When that wary feeling starts buzzing, listen. A new colleague, a traveling salesman...

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 'Just when you thought you'd seen it all' - what a wise phrase. You've gotten a bit too bored with your job lately...

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 If you have no idea why colleagues are treating you like a stranger, then perhaps you should take a look in the mirror...

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 You are as adamantly for as you are against today, and everything is either great or awful...

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 You don't have to be the office secretary to use the copier or answer the phone...

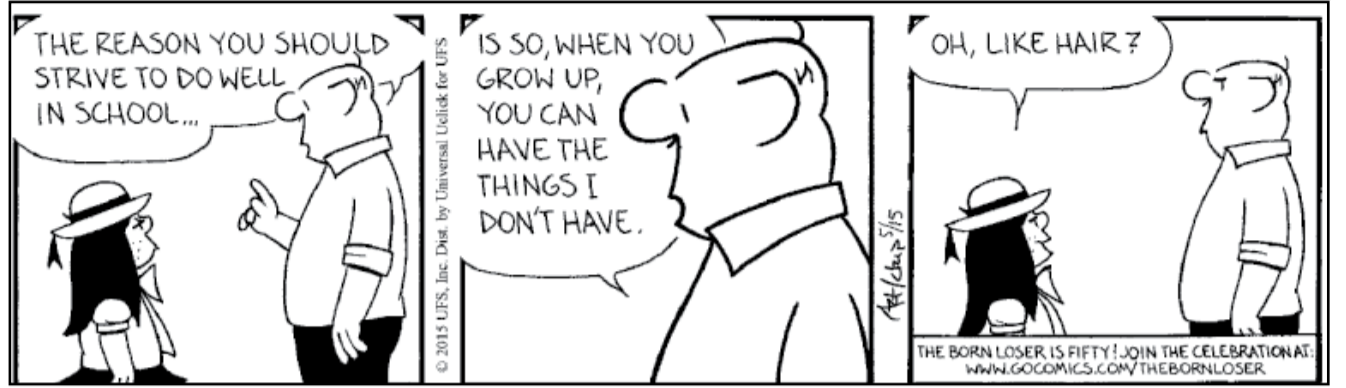
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Oh, grow up. Or should you be more childish? Whatever route you take, it's time to shake yourself out of the doldrums...

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You'll have to accept another postponement. Deadlines aren't pushed to the ridiculous yet, but they will be if you don't put your foot down soon...

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Money may be scarce, but giving is still par for the course. Rope your colleagues into a seasonal contribution...

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 A fog has surrounded your desk. Beacons won't help you find your way out, so you might as well enjoy being absorbed in your own thoughts...

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzles categorized as Easy, Easy+, Medium, and Hard. Each puzzle is a 9x9 grid with some numbers pre-filled.

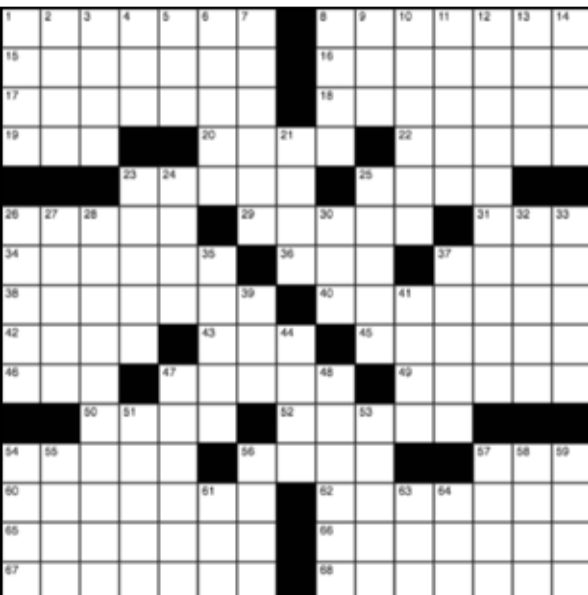
WEATHER

Weather forecast table with columns for MIN, MAX, and CONDITION. Rows include CHINA (Beijing, Harbin, etc.) and WORLD (Moscow, Frankfurt, etc.).

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- 4th president of the U.S.; 8- Carnal; 15- Sharon, e.g.; 16- Proclaim; 17- Created by humans; 18- Plant of the buttercup family; 19- Music producer Brian; 20- Linen hue; 22- Down-filled quilt; 23- 'The Maids' playwright; 25- Mont Blanc, par example; 26- Kama; 29- Psychics claim to have a sixth one; 31- Louis Quatorze, e.g.; 34- On the train; 36- Distress call; 37- Org.; 38- Unlawful liquor; 40- Subdivision; 42- Appraise, charge per unit; 43- Stimp's pal; 45- Tortoise; 46- Biblical verb ending; 47- Columbus's birthplace; 49- One forking over; 50- Sports' ground; 52- Long lock of hair; 54- Without \_\_\_ in the world; 56- Nervous twitches; 57- Minuscule; 60- Rubdown; 62- Deep down; 65- Karyokinesis; 66- Mark given for offense; 67- Unity; 68- Spirit;

DOWN: 1- Silent performer; 2- Slippery \_\_\_ eel; 3- Bond classic; 4- Descartes's conclusion; 5- Poseidon's realm; 6- Ancient; 7- Sisters' daughters; 8- Linebacker Junior; 9- SASE, e.g.; 10- Dried strip of egg dough; 11- Morning; 12- Institution of learning; 13- Entr\_\_\_; 14- Internet writing system that popularized 'pwn3d' and 'n00b'; 21- Hwys.; 23- Rasp; 24- Viscount's superior; 25- Personal quality of material belonging; 26- Buffalo hockey player; 27- Lusitania sinker; 28- Dentifrice; 30- Rejections; 32- \_\_\_ Mio; 33- Type of sanctum; 35- Jeter of the Yankees; 37- Gillette razors; 39- \_\_\_-X; 41- Drinking vessels; 44- Don't look at me!; 47- Lubricant; 48- Area with coin-operated games; 51- Favored crime of pyromaniacs; 53- \_\_\_ Park, Colorado; 54- Shot, briefly; 55- First son of Adam and Eve; 56- Mrs. Dick Tracy; 57- Tip off; 58- Rock star Clapton; 59- Kitchen addition?; 61- U.S. soldiers; 63- \_\_\_ Pinafore; 64- Wide shoe size



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Jamey Keaten, Naomi Koppel,  
Geneva

CHESS | OBITUARY

# Victor Korchnoi, Soviet-born chess grandmaster, dead at 85

**C**HESS grandmaster Victor Korchnoi, a former Soviet champion who defected to the West and was considered among the best players never to win a world championship, died yesterday [Macau time], his son said. He was 85.

Korchnoi died near his home in Wohlen, northern Switzerland, where he had lived for decades, said Igor Korchnoi. He said his father had been ailing after a stroke several years ago.

Angry at the Soviet leadership, Korchnoi defected in the Netherlands in 1976 and moved to Switzerland the following year. As retribution, Igor and his mother were sent to the Gulag for 2½ years, the son said. In 1982, they were allowed to join Korchnoi in Switzerland.

Korchnoi's matches against the official Soviet champion, Anatoly Karpov, became famous as duels on political, psychological and physical levels. Korchnoi tried and failed twice to defeat Karpov for the world championship in matches that mirrored the Cold War in international politics at the time.

Korchnoi claimed that the Soviets had hired a hypnotist to distract him in the first, three-month match in the Philippines in 1978, and demanded protection during competitions, insisting the USSR would do anything to prevent him beating the Soviet champion.

His story in part inspired the musical "Chess," by ABBA star Bjorn Ulvaeus and lyricist Tim Rice, which set international chess firmly in the midst of Cold War politicking.

With nicknames like "Victor the Terrible" and "the Lion of



In this Oct. 22, 2006 file photo, chess master Victor Korchnoi (center) plays against Gilberto Hernandez of Mexico as Alexandra Kosteniuk, of Russia during the Mexico City Chess Festival

Saint Petersburg," Korchnoi had a style that could be aggressive, attacking pawns and trying to keep a pawn advantage on the way to victory.

Korchnoi continued to play into old age, was still ranked in the top 100 in the world at the age of 75 and was Swiss chess champion as recently as

2011.

"His struggle both on & off the chess board is what chess history will hold in highest regard," tweeted former wor-

ld champion Viswanathan Anand.

"He always admonished me for playing too fast. He was a chess player in its truest sense."

Peter Wyss, the president of the Swiss Chess Federation, said that in his heyday, Korchnoi was known as "as the benchmark for 'fighting chess.'" He noted how Korchnoi once stormed away after losing to young chess star Sonia Polgar.

In a video posted on YouTube, Korchnoi growled at her, saying that it was "the very first and the very last [time]v in your life" that Polgar would win against him.

"He had to hate the person to play well: He couldn't be at his best otherwise," Igor Korchnoi said. "My father hated the Soviet Union so it wasn't difficult to hate Karpov, who represented it."

The son recalled visits of Karpov to the family's home, once bringing a Paul McCartney album for the boy to copy. The two men were not friends, though, he said.

In August 1990, in the waning days of the USSR, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev restored the citizenship of Korchnoi, who praised an "important step" on humanitarian grounds but said it wasn't enough to make him move back. He was one of 23 people, including novelist Alexander Solzhenitsyn, to be reinstated.

Korchnoi is survived by his son. **AP**

GOLF

# Tiger Woods to write book on '97 Masters

**T**IGER Woods is getting back to work — as an author.

Woods is writing his second book, which will look back on his historic victory in the 1997 Masters, when he broke 20 records and became the first player of black heritage to win a major championship.

The book, which does not yet have a title, will be co-written with Canadian golf writer Lorne Rubenstein and be released in hardcover, as an e-book and in audio editions in March, a month before the 20th



Tiger Woods

anniversary of his first Masters title.

"The 1997 Masters was one of the most important tournaments in my life for many reasons," Woods said in a news release issued by Grand Central Publishing, which acquired the rights to the book. "I think about the hug with my dad and all the events that went on that week. A lot of people know generally about that tournament, but this gives me a chance to tell in detail what happened on and off the golf course."

The book will describe

his history of the game and how golf has changed over the last 20 years. Woods also will open up about his relationship with his father, Earl Woods, dispel misconceptions and reveal stories that have never been told.

His first book came out in 2001 and was called "How I Play Golf," which was written with the editors of Golf Digest magazine.

The announcement of his second book promotes Woods as the first player of African and Asian heritage to win a

major. Woods' mother, Kultida, is from Thailand.

The 1997 Masters was the first of his 14 majors. Beyond his record score of 270 (which Jordan Spieth tied last year), it was significant because of Augusta National's history with blacks. The club did not have its first participant until Lee Elder in 1975, and its first member until Ron Townsend in 1990.

Woods has won the Masters three other times.

He has not played since August because of two surgeries on his back, and there has been no indication when Woods might return to competition. He is likely to announce this week his plans for the U.S. Open. **AP**



opinion

Made in Macao

Jenny Lao-Phillips



WHAT TO DO ON DRAGON BOAT DAY?

Tomorrow we enjoy another public holiday, the Tuen Ng Festival 端午節 or, as it is more widely known, the Dragon Boat Festival. Although it is one of the three most important festivals in the Chinese culture, together with the Spring Festival and the Mid-Autumn Festival, Tuen Ng has been less celebrated at the family level. The Chinese tradition is big on family gatherings during both the Spring and the Autumn Festivals, but why not this summer festival? Well, basically, Tuen Ng is not a time for celebration. It is actually a day of death and poisons.

For those who know the traditions of the Tuen Ng Festival, you would be aware of the stories of death related to this day. The most popular story is about the famous poet and patriarch, Qu Yuan 屈原, a government official who was sent into exile for opposing a bad decision made by the king. Years later, when that decision led to the destruction of the empire, Qu Yuan threw himself into the river as a final act of patriotism, to die with his country. From this story came the two most popular traditions of Tuen Ng, the dragon boat and the "zongzi 粽子" – sticky rice dumplings.

It has been popular belief that after Qu Yuan jumped into the river, many people who admired his loyalty rowed their boats down the river to find his corpse. One story I heard was that they put dragon-like decorations on their boats to scare away fish and prawns so they would not consume Qu Yuan's body. They also dumped sticky rice wrapped in bamboo leaves into the river to over-feed the fish and prawns. So, to commemorate the day of Qu Yuan's death, every year people row dragon boats and make zongzi. But one thing we have forgotten is that aside from his patriotic act of suicide by drowning, Qu Yuan is also remembered for the many poems he wrote during his exile expressing his love and concern for his country. As a result, the Dragon Boat Festival has also been known as the Poet Festival. Perhaps writing or reciting patriotic poems is not as interesting as racing dragon boats, so this part of the tradition did not get passed down to the modern days.

Another less known story of the root of the Tuen Ng Festival dates way before the time of Qu Yuan. It was believed that, as the fifth month of the lunar year is the transition from spring to summer, the five most poisonous creatures in the Chinese culture, "snake, scorpion, centipede, toad and spider," would come out and spread poisons causing illness. Therefore, ancient people called the fifth month, the "Bad Month" or "Poisonous Month", and the fifth day of the month was believed to be the worst, so the Dragon Boat Festival had once been called the "Five Poison Festival 五毒節". In some places, people still practice 驅五毒 (driving away the five poisons) on Tuen Ng by drinking realgar wine 雄黃酒.

So, although Tuen Ng is not a day for big family celebrations, there are still a lot of festive things we can do by ourselves. While not all of us can participate in rowing a dragon boat, any one of us can go about exploring the increasing variety of sticky rice dumplings. Lately, I've even seen a restaurant selling Spanish Zongzi, but the Spanish version of the Tuen Ng Festival is still to be explored. For those who are not into sticky rice, we can always drink realgar wine and read some patriotic poems, probably even on a boat, for a quieter passing of the holiday.

THE BUZZ EU PRESSURES THAILAND ON FISH, LABOR REFORM

The European Union says Thailand must take "swift and determined action" by next month to improve its fisheries and labor practices or the threat of a seafood ban will come closer.

In a letter to Thai Deputy Prime Minister Gen. Prawit Wongsuwan, the fisheries and social affairs chiefs of the 28-nation EU said talks in July in Bangkok "will be a crucial

opportunity for Thailand to present concrete and robust measures."

Despite months of talks, the EU is still unsatisfied with progress to end illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the world's third-largest seafood exporter.

The letter said that, barring a breakthrough next month and "tangible progress" by year's end, a ban might follow.

Abandoned Japanese boy leaves hospital; no charges planned



Yamato Tanooka

Satoshi Sugiyama, Tokyo

A Japanese boy who was found nearly a week after he was abandoned in a forest by his parents as punishment was released from a hospital yesterday and said he was feeling fine.

Seven-year-old Yamato Tanooka was met with camera flashes and cheers from dozens of people when he appeared outside the hospital in the city of Hakodate on the northern island of Hokkaido.

"I am fine," Yamato said when a reporter asked how he was feeling.

Police don't intend to press child neglect charges against his parents, police spokesman Shunsuke Kudo said.

Yamato was found in a military training ground hut last Friday, six days after he was reported missing.

His parents initially told police their son had disappeared while they were collecting plants in the forest, but his father, Takayuki Tanooka, later admitted he had made Yamato get out of the car and planned to leave him briefly in the forest as punishment for throwing rocks at people and cars earlier that day.

When Tanooka returned, his son was gone. Kyodo News service reported that the boy said he meant to follow the car but walked in the wrong direction, eventually reaching the training ground hut.

The punishment drew public scrutiny, generating debate in Japan over what is considered excessive in disciplining children.

Kudo said police are considering referring the case to a children's welfare center. Miki Kurotatsu with the Hakodate Children's Welfare Center declined to comment on whether the center had received a report from police, saying it was a private matter.

Though he had no food and just drank water during the ordeal, doctors said Yamato only had mild dehydration and minor bruises on an arm and his legs, Japanese media reported.

Wearing a baseball cap and a gray jacket over a T-shirt, Yamato waved at the hospital crowd while holding a greeting card in the shape of an oversized baseball.

Asked what he would like to do, he said he wants to play baseball. He added he would like to go back to school soon and is looking forward to participating in a school sports day.

Before leaving the hospital, his father bowed to the cameras and said, "Thank you." He had told reporters after his son was found that he regretted his action. AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Jason Ogulnik/Las Vegas Review-Journal via AP



Miss Army. Miss District of Columbia Deshauna Barber smiles after being crowned Miss USA in Las Vegas, yesterday [Macau time]. Barber is a 26-year-old Army officer. "As a woman in the United States Army, I think ... we are just as tough as men."

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	20-40 Good	😊
High Density Residential Area	40-60 Good	😊
Ambient	40-60 Good	😊

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS

**JAPANESE** banks that lost some 1.8 billion yen (USD16.5 million) when fake overseas cards were used at convenience store ATMs are scrambling to combat such fraud. More on p9

**BANGLADESH** Unidentified bike-riding assailants shoot and hack a Hindu priest to death in southwestern Bangladesh amid a spate of similar attacks allegedly by radical Islamist groups since last year.



**AUSTRALIA's** prime minister and opposition leader have agreed to hold the country's first-ever online election campaign leaders' debate. Malcolm Turnbull said yesterday that he had reached an agreement with Facebook and News Corp. Australia to stream the debate early next week in a bid to reach more voters. Opposition leader Bill Shorten later agreed to participate.

**ISRAEL** A court has set free from house arrest an Australian woman wanted by her country for multiple sexual abuses. Yesterday's ruling says former principal Malka Leifer is mentally unfit to stand trial. She'll get psychiatric care instead. Leifer, who ran a school for ultra-Orthodox Jewish girls in Melbourne, fled to Israel in 2008.

**MYANMAR** A BBC reporter was jailed for three months with hard labor after being convicted of assaulting a police officer while covering a student protest. The ruling marks the first time a journalist has been convicted under Myanmar's new government, run by former political prisoner Aung San Suu Kyi.

**THAILAND** Police investigating Thailand's now infamous Tiger Temple find what they believe is a slaughterhouse and tiger holding facility used in a suspected animal trafficking network.

**FRANCE** The Euro Disney group has been acquitted of discrimination charges in a trial over a job ad seeking applicants with European citizenship. The company, which had faced \$250,000 in fines, welcomed the decision yesterday by a court in Meaux east of Paris. The association that filed the original complaint, SOS-Racisme, is considering an appeal.