



TRAILHIKER MORE POPULAR THAN EVER BEFORE

The October 29 event includes two races: a 30km "Corporate Challenge" and a 10km "Family & Fun Event"

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STREET DANCERS COMING TO TOWN NEXT MONTH

Performers from the mainland, HK, Japan and Korea are coming to the city in July to celebrate the 3rd edition of the Macau Street Dance Festival

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NEW MACAU: CHIANG TO BE 'INTERVIEWED' BY THE POLICE

P6 JINAN UNIVERSITY DONATION



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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS



OBAMA-LAMA President Barack Obama will meet at the White House with the Dalai Lama in a get-together that the Chinese government assailed.

SOUTH CHINA SEA Even before a ruling, China may have lost by refusing to cooperate with a U.N. arbitration tribunal over its South China Sea claims. Yet Beijing seems prepared to absorb the cost to its reputation, confident that in terms of territory and resources, it won't lose a thing. *More on p10*

CHINA-N. KOREA China bans exports to North Korea of technology and materials that might be used in weapons production in a new response to the North's development of nuclear weapons and missiles. *More on p11*



FRANCE 2016 Police and anti-terrorism investigators have been alerted to the possibility that small groups of extremists have left Syria for France and Belgium with plans to stage attacks. France is already under high alert because IS extremists have threatened violence during the Euros. *More on p15,18,19*

JAPAN The governor of Tokyo submits his resignation, ending a weeks-long bid to stay in power despite a mounting scandal over his alleged use of political funds for personal purposes. *More on p13*

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Packer to spin off Macau assets on gaming decline

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PAULO BARBOSA

'Anim'Arte Nam Van' lacks activities, visitors claim

P2 MDT REPORT



'Anim'Arte Nam Van' lacks activities, visitors claim



THE new "Anim'Arte Nam Van" is described as "a new landmark for leisure, culture and creativity." However, several locals and tourists interviewed this week claimed that the space could be used for further diverse activities to attract more visitors.

According to Fion Lei, a local craftswoman who sells her creations in one of the booths set up besides the lake under the "Anim'Arte" project, additional activities such as "small concerts or a bicycle exclusive lane" are needed to lure locals, especially tourists to visit the place.

Lei revealed that the open space attracted a vast number of visitors especially during the dragon boat festival but she claimed residents would only visit the venue during the weekends.

"There are more tourists during the weekdays but on the weekends, local people come to visit," she said.

Although Lei said the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) was effectively promoting the recreational area, a local resident, Vicky

The area for paddle boating needs to be a little bit larger because it's quite small. It was just going around.

HONG KONG TOURIST

Wei, argued that the recreational activity's advertisement was "insufficient," and that the area allowed for paddle boating is "too small."

Several visitors who rode the paddleboat also highlighted the small-scale water area. "The area for paddle boating needs to be a little bit larger because it's quite small. It [the route] was just going around," said a tourist from Hong Kong.

Conversely, Lei believes that the local government is "doing a good job" compared to the city's neighboring regions, considering that MSAR provides the art pavilion space for free.

"We tried to do this in mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan but we have to pay," she stressed. "It is very nice indeed when compared to other places in Asia."

However, Cristina Cheong,

a university student, said the handcraft fair at Tap Seac offers more in terms of crafts than Nam Van.

"There are not enough [handcrafts] here. I don't know if it's because it's still the beginning of the event or not," she commented.

Although Cheong agreed that there are "plenty" of events happening in the area, she believes it is the government's duty to arrange such leisure activities.

When the space known as "Anim'Arte Nam Van" officially opened to the public earlier this month, the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam said that the new leisure hub "breathes a new dynamic into the neighborhood but also enables residents and visitors to unwind, relax and experience the beauty of Macau."

Although several visitors said

the open space provides a "pretty good" activity area for friends and family, they argued that it still lacks several attractions especially during weekdays.

"Macau should always have had these kinds of activities," said a student. "I think the old and young would be really interested if Macau had more activities like this."

"Anim'Arte" is a project jointly organized by the IC, Sports Bureau (ID), Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) and the Institute for Tourism Studies. They have planned to organize special performances and activities aside from its cultural and creative shops; and its indoor handcraft market and workshops to draw in more visitors. The idea to revamp the area on the perimeter of the lake was offered last year by Tam during the Policy Address presentation.

The Times contacted the Office for the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, the ID and the IC. We asked those institutions to conduct an assessment of the "Anim'Arte Nam Van" project. However, only the ID replied by press time, stating that since the opening in early June, "the MGTO has been putting efforts to promote this project, residents and visitors are getting to know about this new landmark, while other departments will continue to improve and enhance the diversity of elements in the Anim'Arte."

"It is believed that through different promotion efforts and campaigns, this innovative project will continue to gain in popularity among residents and visitors," the bureau replied. **Staff reporter**

Guangdong confirms rigorous inspection of Taishan nuclear power plant

THE Guangdong Provincial Government has replied to the local government regarding the safety issues of Taishan's nuclear power plant. Guangdong said that mainland China has done thorough assessments of the project.

Safety concerns were raised last month after components of the nu-

clear plant - which is being constructed less than 80 kilometers west of Macau - were discovered to have been made in mainland China, not in France as previously thought.

The Government Information Bureau (GCS) published the response from the provincial authorities, claiming the construc-

tion procedures, as well as materials for Taishan's nuclear power plant, had been thoroughly examined by the National Nuclear Safety Administration. The safety assessment was in line with the standards required in France and Finland.

Since 2008, the site for the Taishan nuclear facilities has been che-

cked annually by more than 400 professionals. During those inspections, about 5,220 issues had been raised.

In response, the authorities said that the Taishan nuclear facilities had been closely monitored by the National Nuclear Safety Administration since construction of the project began

in 2009. The authority claimed that a total of 18 inspections, 58 specific check-ups and more than 700 examinations were performed on a daily basis.

The response addresses the fact that links with France and Finland had been strengthened in order to enhance the supervision of the nuclear

project in Taishan.

The Guangdong government added that the first reactor of the nuclear power plant is still in a preparatory stage and that its second reactor is being installed.

GCS stated yesterday that the local government has invited nuclear experts from the mainland to visit Macau "in order to share more knowledge on such a matter, and to suggest any update - if it is required - to the city's contingency plan for dealing with any nuclear incidents that might occur."

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SANDS CHINA MACAU ECO TRAILHIKER 2016

2016 proving more popular than ever, pre-opening registrations up

Daniel Beitler

A press conference for Sands China Macau Eco TrailHiker 2016 was held yesterday at the Venetian Macao, hosted by Macau TrailHiker Ltd.'s director Robert Kirby, where it was revealed that the seventh and latest iteration of the annual activity is proving more popular than ever before.

This year's edition will be held on Saturday, October 29 with the theme, "Exploring the Greener Side of Macau with You."

Two separate races will be held: a 30km "Corporate Challenge" at 8 a.m. and a 10km "Family & Fun Event" at 10 a.m. The courses will follow the same route as in the previous year.

The event accepts participants from Macau and, as of this year, from Hong Kong, mainland China, Malaysia, Taiwan and other territories.

Over 320 teams had already registered before the official opening yesterday afternoon after the press conference, representing a significant rise over the 200 or so teams that had registered this time last year.

The registered teams represent almost 65 percent of the 500-team quota for this year's event, which will be awarded to registrants on a first-come-first-served basis. Additionally, the organizers expect a total of 2,000 competitors for the event's 10km and 30km races.

"I think the reason for the event's growing popularity has something to do with the fact that it is different to what else is around at the moment. It's not just the race, there is also the jersey and the buffet event, so people really see it as more of a carnival," Kirby explained to the Times. "It's a community event and many people often stay right until the end."

The "Wellness Boulevard," which promotes healthy living, will also return after its debut last year. It will include a variety of health foods, sports equipment, organic products, and showcase assorted health and fitness equipments.

Organizers are also introducing an electronic tracking system for teams in the 30km race, which will feed real-time information back to audiences at the finish line. The system also improves safety measures



The reason for the event's growing popularity has something to do with the fact that it is different from what is around at the moment.

ROBERT KIRBY

on the course.

Future plans to develop the event includes a possible 20km category and a "Junior TrailHiker Event" for students and schoolchildren, said Kirby.

"There are age limits for the current events and that may be putting off some younger people, but with a dedicated course in future we will expect the number of young participants to increase," he said in response to a journalist's question.

The TrailHiker event is a community activity that seeks to support charity organizations in the territory and in-

ternationally, as well as promote eco-friendly policies and lifestyles. Each year, organizers hand-pick beneficiaries by evaluating the needs of the local community.

Over the years, the event has raised a cumulative MOP1.8 million. Organizers expect the latest contribution to break the MOP2 million ceiling.

The event also provides ample opportunity for other charitable contributions. According to the organizers, last year 171 pairs of used running shoes were collected and donated to the "Save Our Soles" charity in the Philippines.

During the press conference,

Kirby also announced that the two charity beneficiaries for this year's event would be the Rotary Club of Macau and Richmond Fellowship of Macau.

Richmond Fellowship of Macau promotes good community care and practice in the field of mental health, providing a range of accommodation options, training and work opportunities. The Rotary Club of Macau works with international counterparts as well as volunteers to provide help and services for the needy, the sick, the elderly and others.

Macau Daily Times is a media partner of Sands China Macau Eco TrailHiker 2016.

TDM TO PROVIDE OFFICIAL TRAILHIKER COVERAGE

STARTING THIS year, the TrailHiker event will partner public broadcaster TDM to bring coverage of the activity to Macau audiences. TDM will operate a mobile radio station on location to conduct interviews with organizers, and will also host a post-event program to be aired on the TDM Chinese TV station.

"TDM is willing to bring this event to the public of Macau through our TV and radio as well as multimedia platforms, as we know TrailHiker has become a popular event, especially in the community of runners," said Andy Ho, TDM's controller of communications division. "It's not only a race, but also a good chance for community contribution and team-building."

Kirby considering role as marathon ambassador

ROBERT Kirby, who ran the 89km-ultramarathon in South Africa last month, is considering a role as a marathon ambassador for the event, drawing participants from Asia.

Kirby told the Times that he plans to return next year after completing last month's race in nine hours and 57 minutes. He says he hopes "to take 12 Asian athletes with [him], maybe some from Macau, maybe some from Malaysia."

The director of Macau TrailHiker is partly based in Macau and partly in Penang, Malaysia. However, he spends considerable time elsewhere in Asia and further afield.

"It's an amazing event, up there with



[the] Boston, London and Berlin [marathons] – it's truly iconic," he said. "For my first attempt, I made a pretty good time considering it's a very hilly course."

The ultramarathon, known as the "Comrades Marathon," is held annually between Durban and Pietermaritzburg. It holds the honor of being the world's oldest ultramarathon competition, dating back to 1921, and is more than twice the running distance of a regular marathon (around 42km).

In order to complete the race, participants must reach the finish line within 12 hours. Over 14,000 of this year's 17,000 competitors managed to finish the race.

Foreign reserves slip 0.8 percent

The Monetary Authority of Macao announced yesterday that its preliminary estimate of the MSAR's foreign exchange reserves amounted to MOP150.5 billion at the end of May 2016. The reserves had decreased by 0.8 percent from the revised value of MOP151.7 billion for the previous month. Macau's foreign exchange reserves at the end of May 2016 represented a total of 12 times the currency in circulation. The trade-weighted effective exchange rate index for the MOP rose by 0.47 points month-to-month and 1.59 points year-on-year to MOP105.36 billion in May. Broadly speaking, this implies that the MOP appreciated against the currencies of Macau's major trading partners.

UM student wins national competition



Yang Shanshan

A linguistics PhD student from University of Macau's (UM) Department of English, recently won the fifth "All China Interpreting Contest" championship,

receiving an "Excellence Award" and being voted as "Favorite Interpreter." Yang Shanshan competed alongside a total of 1,814 contestants from 439 universities across China in the contest, which is considered the most prestigious and well-known interpreting competition, according to UM. She also received the highest score in the "sudoku" interpreting round.

ARTS

Street dancers coming to town next month

STREET dancers from the mainland, Hong Kong, Japan and Korea are coming to the city in July to celebrate the third edition of the Macau Street Dance Festival.

The festival is organized by the Macau Street Dance Culture and Art Promotion Association of Macao and also by the Dance Studio Macao. The festival is additionally supported by the Macau Foundation and by the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ). The organizers are offering workshops that will be given by both local and overseas experienced dancers.

"Six dancers are from outside of Macau, and 11 are from the city," Popeye Hong, artistic director of the TDSM Dance Studio and one of the two workshop contributors said.

Aside from workshops in which students can learn



The president of the Macau Street Dance Culture and Art Promotion Association, Si Tou

street dance from people with multiple years of street dancing experience, an exhibition will also be prepared for July. The exhibition, focusing on street dance, will present videos and images on the history of street dance in Macau in July. A final performance will be brought to the public by the outstanding students, as well as by

invited dancers.

According to Hong, most local dance lecturers of the festival have four to five years of experience in street dancing. Some work in local studios teaching dance, while others work as clerks who have an interest in street dance performances.

These teaching staff are "aged between 24 and 32

years old." Moreover, Hong noted that, this year, the festival accepted its youngest participant, an 11-year-old child. "They participate in the festival for the entertainment and for the mastering of their dancing skills. Someone might even want follow this [street dance] direction in the future," Hong said.

Regarding the development of the dancing field in Macau, Hong admitted that it is still lagging behind Hong Kong. Hong said "it is gradually developing, and the government is also supporting us."

Si Tou Tat Hin, president of the Macau Street Dance Culture and Art Promotion Association told the Times that last year there were 150 and 200 participations of non-locals and of Macau dancers respectively, in workshops during the festival period. According to Si Tu, middle school and college students accounted for 60 percent of last year's attendance, followed by university students (30 percent of the total). The festival attracted 700 to 800 people in total last year, including the audience and the students, according to Si Tu.

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08:00 for 30 km Corporate Challenge (Registration time: 06:45am) 30公里挑戰線 於早上八時正開始 (登記時間: 早上六時四十五分) 10:00 for 10 km Family & Fun Course (Registration time: 09:00am) 10公里樂遊線 於早上十時正開始 (登記時間: 早上九時正)

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Entry fee also includes commemorative TrailHiker T-shirt, other Macau TrailHiker gifts and post event buffet 報名費用包括紀念T恤一件、其他澳門遠足者禮品及活動後舉行的自助餐聚會

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Scott Chiang to be 'interviewed' by the police

THE organizers of the May 15 protest against the Macau Foundation's donation to Guangdong's Jinan University have been asked to cooperate with a police investigation.

"Just recently they invited us to talk. [...] They're trying to make a case against us and it is disheartening to see that the administrations did not respond to our demand to reform," said Scott Chiang, president of the New Ma-

They are trying to fabricate a case against those who actually go on the street and those who are against the funding.

JASON CHAO

cau Association (ANM).

Jason Chao, vice president of ANM, emphasized that the police interviews are an indication that they are trying to build a case against the organizers and the protesters.

"We speculate that from the point of arrival to the police station, Scott Chiang will be declared a suspect," said Chao.

He argued that such actions show signs of "political persecution," due to the government's refusal to respond to residents' demands and the victimization of individuals who raised the issues.

ANM expressed their disappointment yesterday at the press conference, arguing that the city "badly needs reform" in the use of public funds.

Chiang also revealed that a certain number of organizations close to the government have access to lucrative sums of money and are forming their own "economy circle" with private companies.

Following the May 15 protest, Chiang told the Times that he expected the government to file a case against them, as ANM was one of the principal organizers of the de-

monstration. "The police are trying to scare us by saying that it was an illegal assembly," he said then.

The RMB100 million donations to Jinan University led to hundreds of protesters chanting, "Chui Sai On, resign!" during the May 15 protest. Chui Sai On is deputy chairman of the Jinan University board of directors and the chairman of the Macau Foundation Council of Trustees.

Besides the association, other public figures including lawmaker Pereira Coutinho argued that the donations should be withdrawn, but said that Chui Sai On would be unlikely to resign from his post despite protesters' demands.

Although the police only estimated some 1,100 protesters, organizers say that as many as 3,300 took part in the demonstration. Authorities stopped the crowd from approaching the CE official residence at Santa Sancha Palace, claiming that the march was an illegal demonstration.

"They are trying to fabricate a case against those who actually go on the street and those who are against the funding," reacted Jason Chao. **Staff reporter**

New Macau raises transparency concerns

THE New Macau Association (ANM) held a press conference yesterday calling for transparency over public spending and attaining public access to the city's financial activity reports, following the aftermath of the Macau Foundation's controversial RMB100 million donation to Guangdong's Jinan University.

According to ANM president Scott Chiang, the MSAR's financial reports are just a "glimpse of the whole truth." He argued that the public should be consulted on financial proposals to decide whether the allocated funds are used "properly."

"All we see is a very slim slice of the whole process. Just a number and where it goes to. We don't know how it was used and how well it actually benefited the cause. We are not satisfied by that," Chiang argued.

The association filed a complaint to the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) in 2012 concerning the government's alleged omission regarding a law on "Regulation on the Right of Association," which mandates that "associations receiving public funds in an amount greater than the amount announced by the Chief Executive, shall publish their account books."

However, ANM complained that since the transfer of sovereignty in 1999, the Chief Executive has never announced such amounts, freeing the associations from the legal obligations to make their financial situations public.

Following New Macau's complaint, CCAC published an investigation report stating that "there is an urgent need to review the whole system," yet the "opaque practices" of the Macau Foundation remains unchanged and there is no sign of reform despite pledges by the CCAC, according to the association.

"People have to know they [beneficiaries] are doing justice to the funds," said Chiang. "We need to have access to proposal activity reports."

Chiang also stressed that a large-scale public protest to demonstrate their objection to the RMB100 million donation to Jinan University had gone ignored by the authorities, who "remained silent."

He also revealed that Wu Zhiliang, the president of Administrative Committee of the Macau Foundation, turned down ANM's request for a meeting.

Meanwhile, the association has launched a public consultation to reform the Macau Foundation, and aims to provide a platform for the collection and deliberation of different proposals from civil society.

ANM added that these proposals would be put to a vote at the end of the consultation.

"Contrary to the past model, we are not going to be an opinion leader. We want the citizens to propose questions," said the vice president of the association Jason Chao. **Staff reporter**

corporate bits

SANDS PRESENTS THE PARISIAN'S OPENING AT EXPOS



Sands Resorts Cotai Strip Macao is set to showcase The Parisian Macao and its world-class facilities and entertainment offerings at Asia's long established and Hong Kong's only travel fair respectively

— The 30th International Travel Expo and The 11th MICE Travel Expo, from today until Sunday.

According to a press release from the company, Sands Resorts Cotai Strip will intro-

duce the latest property in the integrated resorts' portfolio at the travel fairs. The Parisian Macao will be showcased for visitors to learn about the offerings of the Paris-inspired resort, as well as to enjoy some French-themed entertainment.

Visitors to the travel show will be updated about the available entertainment and hotel packages on offer at Sands China's resorts over the summer. Highlights of the "Summer of Entertainment" campaign include the upcoming theatrical shows, "Shrek The Musical," "Blue Man Group," "Po's Kung Fu Feast," "Character Breakfast with the DreamWorks All-Stars," and "Planet J," which will open in the coming months.

CAESARS WINS TEMPORARY HALT TO CREDITOR SUITS OVER DEBT PROMISE



Caesars Entertainment Corp. won a temporary halt to potentially crippling court rulings in bondholder lawsuits

that accuse the company of unfairly reneging on a promise to repay billions of dollars in debt.

U.S. Bankruptcy Judge A. Benjamin Goldgar granted a request by Caesars's bankrupt operating unit to suspend the lawsuits while the unit seeks to finish reorganizing. Although he granted a halt, the judge didn't give Caesars as much time as it requested.

Caesars Entertainment Operating Co. claims the halt is the best way coax its parent into contributing USD4 billion in cash, stock and debt toward the unit's reorganization.

The bankruptcy case is in U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Northern District of Illinois (Chicago). The main Caesars lawsuit is BOKF NA v. Caesars Entertainment Corp., 15-cv-01561, U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York (Manhattan).

Lulu Yilun Chen

Uber's Chinese rival said to close funding at USD28b value

DIDI Chuxing has raised USD4.5 billion in a round of funding that values it at close to \$28 billion, according to people familiar with the situation, giving China's leading ride-sharing company more firepower to battle Uber Technologies Inc.

Didi's newly earned valuation would make it the world's third-largest privately backed young company, surpassing Airbnb Inc. Didi was valued at \$16.5 billion last year. It closed its latest round of funding with the help of Apple Inc. and prominent Chinese investors, including the nation's top life insurer, according to the people, who didn't want to be identified because the deal is private.

The Beijing-based company also snagged a \$2.5 billion debt package from China Merchants Bank Co. on top of the fundraising, the Wall Street



BLOOMBERG

Journal reported earlier, citing a person familiar with the matter. Didi declined to comment via e-mail yesterday.

Didi, which has formed a global coalition with Lyft Inc. in the U.S., India's Ola and Southeast Asia's Grab, is trying to fend off an aggressive charge by Uber onto its home turf. Both companies are amassing cash and spending aggressively to expand in the world's second-largest economy, partly by subsidizing the costs of rides.

Backed by Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. and Tencent Holdings Ltd. - China's two most valuable technology companies - Didi is targeting

an initial public offering in New York next year, people familiar with the matter have said. The timing depends on how the tussle with Uber plays out, the people said.

Uber is spending at least \$1 billion a year in China and has raised capital there that, as of January, valued the Chinese operations at \$7 billion. It recently raised \$3.5 billion from Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund - the single biggest investment in the company to date. That capital infusion brought the total of Uber's latest financing round to \$5 billion. San Francisco-based Uber is valued at almost \$68 billion. **Bloomberg**

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

Packer to spin off assets including Melco stake

Angus Whitley

CROWN Resorts Ltd. will spin off its international investments, including a USD2 billion stake in Macau casino operator Melco Crown Entertainment Ltd., as controlling shareholder James Packer seeks to shield his Australian assets from a prolonged downturn in the Chinese gambling hub.

The newly listed entity is also set to house Crown's development site in Las Vegas, a 20 percent stake in Japanese restaurant Nobu and half of U.K. casino operator Aspers Group, the Melbourne-based company said in a statement yesterday. The gaming firm has a 27 percent stake in Nasdaq-listed Melco, where profit has plunged to a sixth of its 2013 peak amid Macau's two-year gambling slump.

"This new corporate structure, well positions Crown for the next decade as we continue to grow our business and meet the needs of the emerging Asian middle class," Packer said in a separate e-mail statement. The billionai-



Gardens and swimming pools are seen from one of the rooms in the Crown Towers at the City of Dreams Manila casino resort

re, who has a net worth of \$3.4 billion, will remain deputy chairman of Melco.

Crown Chairman Robert Rankin said the split was designed to isolate Crown's Australian casino business from the wider group, which he said investors undervalued because of a gambling downturn in Macau. Shares in Crown, which is controlled by Packer's closely-held investment company Consolidated Press Holdings Ltd., have tumbled

more than 30 percent since January 2014.

The newly separated international business "will be set up as a growth asset and probably be given a reasonable-sized war chest to expand in Asia and Las Vegas," Evan Lucas, a market strategist at IG Ltd. in Melbourne, said by phone. "The Australian assets are humming along nicely enough, but you would not describe them as a great growth story."

Shareholders led by Packer will own equity in the new international entity proportionate to their Crown stakes, the company said. After the spinoff, Crown would hold gambling resorts in Melbourne, Perth and a planned luxury hotel-casino in Sydney. London casino Aspinalls and online gaming operations such as CrownBet would also be part of Crown.

"The proposed demerger reflects the different nature of Crown Resorts' controlled Australian operating assets from its international investments," Rankin said in the statement. "The Crown Resorts share price has been highly correlated to the performance of its investment in Macau."

Gambling revenue in Macau has been hurt by government curbs on illicit money flows and a campaign against corruption that deterred VIP players. In May, Crown sold an \$800 million stake in Melco.

Melco said it is strongly supported by its largest shareholder Melco International Development Ltd. and other investors and does not anticipate any im-

pact "in any respect, including management, strategy and operations," according to a statement in response to queries about Crown's spin off.

That sale revived speculation that Packer was preparing to buy back some gaming assets in Australia. Last year he held talks with private-equity firms and pension funds about a possible buyout of Crown assets, people with knowledge of the matter said in December.

Rankin said yesterday that Crown has "great faith in the long-term development of the Macau market."

Crown, which has a market value of AUS\$8.2 billion (\$6 billion), said as well that it will explore a potential initial public offering of 49 percent of a property trust that would hold its Australian hotels, apart from Crown Towers Melbourne.

Crown Resorts is working with Deutsche Bank AG, Morgan Stanley and UBS Group AG on the proposed property trust IPO, according to people with knowledge of the matter, who asked not to be identified as the information is private. A representative for Crown Resorts said she couldn't immediately comment.

At the same time, Crown plans to implement immediately a policy to return all of its net income to shareholders through dividend payments, the company said. **Bloomberg**

Bruce Einhorn

FOR Beijing resident Alex He, the cost of a trip to the mall can easily top USD3,000. He, 29, works in the finance industry and while he doesn't regularly go shopping for clothes, "when I do shop," he said in an interview, "I buy a lot." Recent purchases include several pairs of Adidas shoes that he found at an outlet mall. He also fancies Under Armour shorts and shirts. "I used to buy a lot of luxury brands but in the last year or so I've been purchasing more of the sports brands because they are more comfortable and more fashionable," said He.

Chinese consumers like He, who want to make statements when they go shopping, are turning more to Western sports brands. President Xi Jinping's multi-year campaign to reduce conspicuous consumption of luxury goods by public officials has hurt sales of Pernod Ricard, Hugo Boss and BMW. Even as sales of luxury fashion, cars and other prestige products suffer, sportswear brands are robust. Nike's Greater China sales are strong,

China's wealthy switch to Nike and Adidas for inconspicuous consumption



with orders from September to April up between 27 and 35 percent. On June 6, the company announced it will work with the Chinese Ministry of Education to train up to 7,000 physical education teachers. "Today's generation is the least physically active in history and we can help change that," Nike President and CEO Mark Parker said in a statement.

Sales in Greater China for Adidas grew 38 percent to USD2.79 billion last year and now account for about 15 percent of global revenue. Last year, the world's second-lar-

gest athletic brand opened more than 500 Chinese stores, taking its total to about 9,000, and wants to add another 500 this year. "We are doing very well in China," Adidas Group CEO Herbert Hainer told Bloomberg Television on May 4. Sales in the country increased 22 percent in the first quarter. "The Chinese consumer really appreciates what he gets from us," he said.

The big foreign sportswear brands are safer bets for many consumers wondering about the political implications of their purchases. Chinese con-

cerned about flaunting their big spending want to buy products that are obviously expensive but not excessively glitzy. There's still demand for "anything that gives the perception that there's a functional element to it," says Catherine Lim, an analyst in Singapore with Bloomberg Intelligence.

More Chinese are also interested in getting healthier. The fitness industry had sales of 127.2 billion yuan in 2014, an 84 percent increase over 2009, according to a March 15 report in the official China Daily newspaper. There were 3,650 fitness clubs in 2014, up from 2,930 in 2009. The Chinese government is encouraging this trend, hoping to drum up more interest in sports before Beijing hosts the Winter Olympics in 2022. "We have seen a great surge of consumers who have started to participate in running and other sports," said Colin Currie, mana-

ging director for Greater China of Adidas.

The sports boom has yet to pay off for some of China's home-grown brands. Competition from Adidas, Nike and other foreign brands is hurting many of them, with order growth falling from high double-digits last year to low-to-mid double digits in early 2016, according to a Fitch Ratings report.

To stop foreigners from dominating their home market, some Chinese sportswear brands are looking for foreign assistance. Anta Sports Products is the leading local name,

with over 9,000 retail outlets in the mainland, Hong Kong and Macau, and in February announced plans to form a joint venture with Japanese skiing brand Descente and Itochu, another sportswear maker from Japan. Anta already sells Fila clothes in China, having purchased in 2009 the brand made famous by Bjorn Borg back in the 1970s, but only 15 percent of sales are of Fila products. Investors aren't so sure about Anta's strategy, with the company's Hong Kong-listed shares down 27 percent so far this year. **Bloomberg**

CHINESE SPORTS INDUSTRY IS STILL UNDERDEVELOPED

THE CHINESE sports industry is still underdeveloped. Sports accounts for 3 percent of GDP in the U.S. but accounted for just 0.7 percent of China's GDP last

year, or 474 billion yuan (USD72 billion), according to a January report by ICBC analyst Jianpeng Yu. The government has a target of over 3 trillion yuan by 2020.

China pardons part of Mozambique's debt

CHINA will pardon 30 million yuan (about USD5 million) in bilateral debt owed by Mozambique, said the Chinese Deputy Trade Minister Zhang Xiangchen this week in Maputo.

The announcement was made after Zhang signed a document to that effect which was signed by Deputy Minister of Economy and Finance, Maria Isaltina Lucas, on behalf of Mozambique.

The deputy minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Nyeleti Mondlane, present at the signing ceremony, said China's decision will help reduce pressure on servicing public debt in Mozambique.

"The decision to partially pardon interest-free debt will minimize the pressure on servicing public debt in Mozambique and contribute to the materialisation of the objectives in the government's five-year plan," Mondlane said, quoted by Mozambican news agency AIM.

In addition to this agreement, the two countries also signed another, under which China will finance the construction of 200 water wells in Mozambique and a third agreement in the agricultural sector. **MDT/Macauhub**

Brazil, Angola in top five countries for Chinese investment in South Atlantic

THE South Atlantic, where five Portuguese-speaking countries are located, has been a privileged area for key companies China in their efforts at globalization and Angola and Brazil are among the top five destinations for Chinese investment in the last decade, according to a recent study.

In "China's Risk Map in the South Atlantic," from the United States' German Marshall Fund, researcher Jonas Parello-Plesner estimates, based on data from the American Enterprise Institute (aei.org) that Chinese investment in Brazil totaled around USD34 billion between 2005 and 2014, by far the highest level of all countries in the region.

With \$13.75 billion, Angola is in 5th place, behind Nigeria (\$28.75 billion), Venezuela (\$22.11 billion) and Argentina (\$14.31 billion) and just ahead of South Africa (\$9.55 billion).

The list includes another member of the Communi-



ty of Portuguese-speaking Countries, Equatorial Guinea, with \$2.3 billion, according to the document to which Macauhub had access.

Angola, where the number of Chinese residents was recently estimated at 200,000, is one of the prominent countries in the study, which analyses the political situation of the Countries selected by China for investment and the implications for Chinese security.

Parello-Plesner said the

slowdown in the Angolan economy due to the fall in oil prices made "political relations with China and its vital financial support [...] even more important" to the African country.

The researcher of Sino-Angolan relations Lucy Corkin estimated the loans granted by China to Angola at \$14.5 billion, but other estimates point to values closer to \$20 billion, largely backed by oil.

Following recent drops in exports from Sudan, Angola has solidified itself as the largest supplier of oil to China, says the researcher.

At a time when Angola is struggling to finance itself, the credit line from China, used to pay 155 public projects with a total of \$5.2 billion, has been a major source for boosting the economy, focusing on the energy and water sector with \$2.17 billion for 34 projects.

\$1.64 billion will be spent on 33 construction sector projects and \$373,300 on 55 education sector projects, according

to data recently released by the LCC.

The contracts for many of these works have been published in the Official Gazette in recent weeks, including for water supply networks and road repairs in the provinces of Bengo, Bié, Huambo, Namibe, Kwanza Norte, Kwanza Sul, Malanje and Uíge, with an overall cost of \$550 million.

For example, the China Railway 20 Bureau Group Corporation was contracted to repair the Catchiungo/Chinhama road in Huambo, for \$58.4 million and to build a water supply system for the city of Cuito for \$39.2 million.

In the last week of May, the Angolan government has awarded 30 public works contracts worth over \$1.6 billion to Chinese companies, including the construction of new water supply system in Mucari in the province of Malanje, awarded to China Petroleum Pipeline Bureau for \$18 million. **MDT/Macauhub**



Sessões de Recolha de Opiniões da População sobre o Projecto do Plano Quinquenal de Desenvolvimento da RAEM (2016-2020)

Para melhor ouvir as opiniões e sugestões da população sobre o Projecto do Plano Quinquenal de Desenvolvimento da Região Administrativa Especial de Macau (2016-2020), o Gabinete de Estudos das Políticas vai realizar, nos dias 24 e 25 de Junho de 2016, sessões de recolha de opiniões da população, e todos os residentes são bem-vindos para apresentar as suas opiniões.

Data	Horário	Local	Línguas
24 de Junho de 2016 (Sexta-feira)	Das 20H00 às 22H00	Centro de Actividades Turísticas, sito na Rua de Luís Gonzaga Gomes n.º 431, 2.º andar	Cantonense (com serviço de interpretação simultânea para português)
25 de Junho de 2016 (Sábado)	Das 15H00 às 17H00		

Os residentes interessados podem inscrever-se, a partir de 13 a 17 de Junho, através das seguintes formas:

Página electrónica: <http://www.cccmtl.gov.mo>

Fax: 89871371, 89870898

Inscrição presencial ou por telefone: das 9:00 às 18:00 nos dias úteis, sem intervalo na hora de almoço

- Endereço: Gabinete de Estudos das Políticas (sito na Rua do Desporto n.ºs 185-195, 5.º andar, Taipa)
- Telefone: 89871365, 89871367



Para a consulta detalhada e o descarregamento do documento do projecto: www.cccmtl.gov.mo



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SOUTH CHINA SEA

ASEAN issues, retracts, tough statement on troubled waters

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

THE Association of Southeast Asian Nations issued, then swiftly retracted a tough statement on tensions in the South China Sea that may have offended meeting host China, underscoring sensitivity over the increasingly heated territorial disputes in the region.

The statement from the 10-nation regional bloc was issued this week after a China-ASEAN meeting in the southern Chinese city of Yuxi called in part to discuss tensions in the crucial waterway.

The group "cannot ignore what is happening in the South China Sea as it is an important issue in the relations and cooperation between ASEAN and China," the statement said.

"We expressed our serious concerns over recent and ongoing developments, which have eroded trust and confidence, increased tensions and which may have the potential to undermine peace, security and stability in the South China Sea," it said.

The ASEAN statement was issued by Malaysia's Foreign Ministry to an online chat group, which also sent out the retraction. It was not clear whether an amended statement would be issued, although individual members such as Singapore had issued their own mentioning concerns about the South China Sea.

Asked whether China had objected to the statement, Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang did not answer directly, but said Beijing had been assured that it was not an official ASEAN document and had been retracted.

"If ASEAN wants to officially issue something that represents its stance, it should be agreed upon by all ASEAN members," Lu told reporters, implying a lack of consensus within the grouping.

While the original statement made no direct accusations against China, it referred to sensitivity over land reclamation in a nod to China's creation of man-made islands and the building of airstrips and other infrastructure. The moves are widely seen as an effort to strengthen China's claims to virtually the entire South China Sea by changing its actual geography and boosting



Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lu Kang

forward troop deployments.

"We emphasized the importance of non-militarization and self-restraint in the conduct of all activities, including land reclamation, which may raise tensions in the South China Sea," the statement said.

It is unusual for ASEAN to employ such strong language over any regional issue given divisions within the 10-member grouping that includes four countries — Malaysia, Vietnam, Brunei and the Philippines — that directly claim

South China Sea islands and waters that China considers its sovereign territory. China's claim also overlaps with the exclusive economic zone of a fifth member, Indonesia.

The bloc also includes Cambodia and Laos, smaller states over which China exercises considerable influence. They are seen as speaking for China over its insistence that territorial disputes be dealt with through bilateral talks between the nations involved rather than between China and ASEAN as a whole.

China has rejected outside mediation on the sovereignty dispute, denouncing and refusing to take part in a case brought before an international arbitration panel by the Philippines challenging the applicability of Beijing's territorial claim under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. **AP**

China willing to pay the price of defiance

EVEN before a ruling, China may have lost by refusing to cooperate with a U.N. arbitration tribunal over its claim to virtually the entire strategic South China Sea. Yet Beijing seems prepared to absorb the cost to its reputation, confident that in terms of territory and resources, it won't lose a thing.

Here is a look at some of the key points of the case before the tribunal and its potential effects for China, the region and the world.

THE ARBITRATION CASE

The case before The Hague tribunal, filed by the Philippines, centers on the applicability of China's vaguely drawn "nine-dash line" boundary claim in the South China Sea under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. A decision is expected sometime within the next several weeks, but since there is no enforcement mechanism, its potential impact is unclear.

Along with China and the Philippines, four other governments — Brunei, Malaysia, Taiwan and Vietnam — also claim islands and reefs falling within the nine-dash line, while Indonesia has expressed concern about the Chinese boundary also overlapping its exclusive economic zone. Each year an estimated USD5 trillion in global trade passes through the South China Sea, also home to rich fishing stocks and a potential wealth of oil, gas and other resources.

CHINA'S IRRITATED RESPONSE

Despite pressure from Washington and elsewhere, China appears determined to avoid granting any hint of legitimacy to a process that might challenge its sovereignty claim and control over resources. For months, Chinese officials, state media outlets and high-ranking military officers have maintained a relentless stream of invective against the Philippines' pursuit of arbitration, calling it unlawful, illegitimate and a "political farce."

DAMAGE CONTROL AND IMPACT ON THE REGION

Seeking to win over global opinion,

both China and chief Philippine ally the United States have been lining up friendly nations to back their positions. Yet, with the exception of Russia, the countries whose support Beijing's claims are mostly small states from outside the region with little influence over the dispute.

China has also shown some signs of restraint in not expanding its claims or vigorously seeking to eject other countries' militaries from islands it claims. It also seems to be winding up its island building projects in the southeastern portion of the sea, in which it has added more than 1,295 hectares of land topped with runways and military installations.

That may be an attempt to retain some credibility over its repeated evocations of the 2002 Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea signed by China and the 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

WHAT'S BEHIND CHINA'S STANCE

China insists the South China Sea disputes should be hammered out in bilateral talks between it and other claimants. It has steadfastly rejected third-party arbitration or negotiations on key issues such as sovereignty in multilateral bodies such as ASEAN.

Resurgent nationalism, control of resources and a desire for operational strategic depth for the rapidly modernizing People's Liberation Army are emboldening President Xi Jinping in taking a hard line.

That the Hague panel is headed by a former diplomat from China's old nemesis, Japan, makes it even more worthy of derision, Chinese critics say. In addition, within the context of what China perceives as a relentless U.S. campaign to contain its rise to prominence, Beijing officials see an American plot behind the case. "We don't understand why the U.S. has been so active in backing the arbitration behind the scene," said Liu, the vice foreign minister. "As time goes by, I believe the plot will eventually come to light."



Chinese President Xi Jinping

BROADER LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Whatever the outcome, China's refusal to cooperate with the tribunal could harm efforts to promote international arbitration that have already been hamstrung by the occasional refusal of the United States and others to recognize the International Court of Justice and other institutions.

China's noncompliance is also damaging to the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea itself, since it could discourage compliance with other key features, particularly its establishment of 200-nautical mile exclusive economic zones.

Whether other regional claimants will also bring legal challenges against China remains to be seen. They could be deterred by the apparently futility of doing so, as well as an aversion to angering a crucial economic partner. **AP**

Chinese naval ship enters Japanese territorial waters

A Chinese intelligence ship entered Japan's territorial waters early yesterday morning, the first report of a Chinese navy vessel doing so in more than a decade.

A Japanese surveillance plane spotted the ship in waters west of Kuchinoerabu island before dawn, Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroshige Seko told reporters. It sailed out of Japan's waters about 90 minutes later, he said.

A U.N. agreement allows what is known as "innocent passage" by foreign ships through another country's waters, but Japan nonetheless expressed concern to China that this incident and other recent Chinese military activity is escalating tensions between the two countries.

China's Defense Ministry said in a brief statement that the ship sailed through "a territorial strait open to international navigation" in accordance with freedom of navigation under the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Japan reacted more harshly last week after a Chinese navy ship sailed near a group of remote islands that are administered by Japan but also claimed by China. Though the ship didn't enter territorial waters around the islands, known as the Senkaku in Japanese and the Diaoyu in Chinese, the dispute makes the situation there much more charged.

The Chinese Defense Ministry responded that the islands are China's inherent territory,

AP PHOTO



Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force P-3C Orion surveillance plane flies over the disputed islands, called the Senkaku in Japan and Diaoyu in China, in the East China Sea

and "it is rational and legal for Chinese warships to sail in waters under [Chinese] juris-

diction."

The latest incident took place much closer to Japan's

main islands, in waters south of Kyushu. The only previous time Japan had reported a

Chinese naval vessel in its territorial waters was a submarine detected in 2004. AP

Beijing bans exports to North Korea with possible military use

CHINA yesterday banned exports to North Korea of technology and materials that might be used in weapons production in a new response to the North's development of nuclear weapons and missiles.

The list of banned "dual use" items with possible civilian and military use includes metal alloys, cutting and laser-welding equipment and materials that could be used in production of chemical weapons, the Commerce Ministry said.

Beijing has long supported the North Korean government but in a sign of growing frustration signed on in March to United Nations sanctions enacted in response to the North's fourth nuclear test. Those penalties include a ban on sales of "dual use" items.

North Korean leader Kim

Jong Un's government has intensified nuclear activities in defiance of U.N. sanctions.

China is the impoverished North's main trading partner and aid donor, making its cooperation essential for the success of trade penalties.

In April, China banned imports of North Korean coal and iron ore, an important revenue source for the impoverished country. Beijing also banned sales of jet fuel to the North, though it said civilian aircraft would be allowed to refuel on flights to China.

Beijing balked at previous demands by Washington and other governments to use trade as leverage against North Korea. Chinese diplomats said the potential humanitarian impact of sanctions had to be considered. AP

ZHOU YONGKANG

Wife, son of former senior leader jailed for graft

A Chinese court yesterday jailed the wife and a son of a former senior politician sentenced to life in prison a year ago for corruption amid an ongoing anti-graft campaign.

The fall of Zhou Yongkang and his family is one of most powerful examples in recent years of how families of Chinese politicians who used their positions to enrich themselves can fall spectacularly once their power has dissipated.

A former security chief and member of the ruling Communist Party's all-powerful Politburo Standing Committee, Zhou was the highest-level ex-official to fall in Chinese President Xi Jinping's anti-corruption

AP PHOTO



Zhou Yongkang

campaign launched in 2012. State broadcaster CCTV said a court

in the central city of Yichang sentenced Zhou's son, Zhou Bin, to 18 years in prison

for taking 222 million yuan (USD34 million) in bribes and running an illegal business trading in restricted commodities.

The court confiscated Zhou Bin's illicit gains and levied fines against him totaling of 350 million (\$53 million), CCTV said.

The same court announced on Wednesday on its official microblogging site that Zhou Yongkang's wife, Jia Xiaoye, will serve nine years for taking bribes. She was fined 1 million yuan (\$150,000).

Both Jia and Zhou told the court they would not appeal the verdicts, according to the reports.

Zhou Yongkang retired in 2012 but came under investigation the following year and was convicted in a closed-door trial last year on charges of taking bribes, abusing power and intentionally leaking state secrets. AP

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AUSTRALIA

Canberra releases prisoner convicted in China of fraud

AUSTRALIA has granted early release to an Australian businessman who was convicted in China of financial crimes and transferred home under a prisoner exchange agreement, an official said yesterday.

Matthew Ng was the first of only two Australian citizens who have been able to come home to Australia under a 5-year-old prisoner swap deal with China.

Ng had applied for early release "based on his exceptional family circumstances," Justice Minister Michael Keenan said.

"I am satisfied exceptional circumstances exist to justify Mr. Ng's early release from prison," Keenan said in a statement, without giving details.

Ng was arrested in Guangzhou in 2010 and sentenced the next year to 11 1/2 years in prison for fraud and bribery convictions related to a corporate takeover of a state-owned enterprise.

He was transferred to an Australian prison in November 2014 to serve out his sentence.

His lawyer Tom Lennox said he has filed applications for early release since early 2015 on various grounds, including a diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder and the disproportionate nature of the sentence for behavior that would not be criminal in Australia.

Lennox said he thinks the decline in the health of Ng's Sydney-based wife Niki Chow in the last two months prompted the decision.

"His wife has been very unwell and he has a family in need of care," Lennox said. "Matthew's emotional, I'm emotional. We're delighted with the minister's decision."

Ng was released from Sydney's Silverwater Correctional Complex within hours of the minister's announcement.

Soon after his release, Ng warned Australians against doing business in China.

"Don't do it. Don't do it. Because not only will you lose your money, you'll lose your life and your family. And that is what happened to me," he told Australian Broadcasting Corp.

"What they've done to me, they can do to anybody," he added.

A Chinese Embassy spokeswoman did not immediately respond to a request for comment yesterday.

Lennox described Ng as a political prisoner who had done nothing that would be considered illegal in Australia.

"It was a state enterprise in China that used the criminal justice system in China to both expropriate all of Matthew's property and put him in jail," Lennox said. "I think that meets the test of political prisoner."

Lennox said the case was brought by a Guangzhou Communist Party official who objected to Ng's travel company, GZL, taking over a state-owned enterprise.

With Ng in prison, the enterprise was returned to state control.

JAPAN

Tokyo governor to resign, another setback in Olympic preps

Jim Armstrong, Tokyo

GOVERNOR of Tokyo Yoichi Masuzoe was set to accept the Olympic flag in a handover during the closing ceremony at the Rio de Janeiro Games in just over two months.

Instead, Masuzoe submitted his resignation yesterday, ending a weeks-long bid to stay in power in Tokyo and saddling the 2020 Olympic hosts with yet another scandal.

Masuzoe had come under intense questioning in the Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly for allegedly using political funds for personal purposes. Japanese media reported that the resignation would take effect June 21.

Masuzoe, a former health minister backed by Japan's ruling party, easily won an election in February 2014, and promised a successful 2020 Olympics.

He initially balked at the high cost of the games, and successfully lobbied to have some events moved to existing facilities instead of bui-



Tokyo Gov. Yoichi Masuzoe

lding costly new venues in Tokyo.

And the fact he could communicate in English and French was considered by many as an asset for the preparations.

"He had a strong emotional attachment to the games and spoke passionately about making them a success," Yuko Arakida, a member of the organizing committee's executive board, was quoted as saying by the Kyodo news agency. "Be-

cause of his foreign language proficiency, he brought social skills. It is extremely regrettable."

Masuzoe's troubles began earlier this year with revelations that he had stayed in expensive hotel suites at taxpayer expense on work trips to Europe and the United States, and used his official vehicle to travel regularly to a weekend retreat.

Preparations for the 2020 Games have been plagued by a series of scandals involving the new national stadium, the official logo and

allegations of bribery in the bidding process.

Tokyo won its bid to host the 2020 Games under former governor Naoki Inose, who also resigned following a political funds scandal.

The first design of the new national stadium was scrapped over ballooning costs, putting construction of the new facility behind schedule. The original official logo of the games was also ditched over allegations of plagiarism in the design.

Leaders of Tokyo's winning bid have admitted making payments of USD2 million to a Singaporean firm headed by Ian Tan Tong Han, a close associate of Papa Masuzoe's son of former IAAF President Lamine Diack, who is facing corruption charges in France.

Japan's Olympic committee president Tsunekazu Takeda, who headed Tokyo's 2020 bid team, insists the payment was for legitimate consultancy work and not made with the anticipation that the money would lead to Diack. **AP**

NEW ZEALAND

Government to pay record amount to wrongfully convicted man

NEW Zealand's government yesterday agreed to pay a record amount to a 41-year-old man who spent more than 20 years in prison for a rape and murder he did not commit.

The government said it would pay Teina Pora 2.5 million New Zealand dollars (USD1.8 million) and also issued him a formal apology. The compensation would be the highest ever paid by the South Pacific nation for a wrongful conviction.

Pora was convicted in 1994 of raping and murdering Susan Burdett, an Auckland woman. After agreeing to hear an appeal from Pora, Britain's Privy Council in 2015 quashed all of his convictions.

The case hinged on a confession that Pora made to police that placed him at the crime scene. He was 16 years old at the time of the murder.

But in a government-commissioned report, former Judge Rodney Hansen said Pora was lured into the confession by the prospect of a reward and



Teina Pora

because his judgment and thinking were "befuddled" from the fetal alcohol syndrome he suffers from.

"I find Mr. Pora's version of events simply cannot withstand critical scrutiny," Hansen wrote. "All the indications are that he made it up as he went along."

Hansen concluded that another man, convicted serial rapist Malcolm Rewa,

was solely responsible for the crimes.

Rewa was convicted of raping Burdett in 1999 after DNA evidence linked his semen to the crime. But two juries couldn't decide whether Rewa was guilty of the woman's murder.

Justice Minister Amy Adams said the government accepted that Pora was innocent of the crimes.

"I acknowledge that over the past two decades you have suffered considerably, including the many years you spent away from your young daughter," Adams wrote in her formal apology, adding that she hoped the compensation would help him and his family build a better future.

Pora's lawyers told media that they'd hoped for a larger compensation offer but their client was grateful to receive the formal apology.

The British Privy Council was historically New Zealand's final court of appeal, although it has been superseded by a domestic Supreme Court for cases after 2003. **AP**

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French police patrol in downtown Lille

FRANCE

Police alerted to possible arrival of Islamic fighters

Angela Charlton & Lorne Cook

FRENCH police and anti-terrorism investigators have been alerted to the possibility that small groups of extremists have left Syria for France and Belgium with plans to stage attacks.

Belgian intelligence services sent a note to French counterparts about the possible groups, and it was sent to police across France on Tuesday, a French security official said yesterday.

French authorities remain "very cautious" about the information because they receive such notes routinely, the official said.

The official said the information does not change the French government's overall understanding of the threat. France is already under high alert because Islamic State extremists targeted Paris last year and have threatened violence during the European Championship soccer tournament taking place at the moment.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to be able to discuss sensitive security information, had no information about specific targets or how many extremists could be en route.

Belgium's *Derniere Heure* tabloid reported Wednesday that Belgium's anti-terror office has warned police that fighters with access to weapons could have left Syria

about 10 days ago bound for Belgium and France. It was the latest of several recent reports that fighters from Syria could pose an imminent threat.

The paper, which said it had obtained an alert message, said fighters traveling without passports were believed to be trying to reach Europe by boat via Turkey and Greece. A Brussels shopping mall, an American fast-food chain and police could be among their targets.

French authorities remain "very cautious" about the information because they receive such notes routinely

Belgium's security threat analysis center said Wednesday it is keeping the country's security alert status at its current level.

"We are still on level three, quite a high level of threat," said Benoit Ramacker, spokesman for the Crisis Center. Level three out of a possible four means the threat is considered serious, possible and probable.

Ramacker said, "these kinds of potential targets are under protection anyway" and that "nothing has changed in terms of security."

He declined to comment specifically on the reports, saying only that "there is a lot of information coming in."

Belgium has been on level three or above since November, in the wake of the massacres in Paris that killed 130 people, with extra police and military mobilized.

It's not the first report that fighters might have been dispatched to Europe since the March 22 suicide attacks on the Brussels airport and subway that killed 32. On April 19, Crisis Center chief Paul Van Tigchelt said there were signals from Islamic State that fighters were sent to Europe, including Belgium.

The French official said it is unclear whether the Belgian note could have any link to an attack Monday night by an Islamic State extremist who killed two French police officials.

The stabbing in a Paris suburb revived French concerns about the IS threat. France's president and prime minister warned yesterday that the world faces a long war to defeat terrorism.

"I said we were at war, that this war will take a generation, that it will be long," Prime Minister Manuel Valls said on France Inter radio. **AP**

HEALTH

UN agency says coffee no longer deemed possible carcinogen

THE World Health Organization's research arm has downgraded its classification of coffee as a possible carcinogen, declaring there isn't enough proof to show a link to cancer.

But the International Agency for Research on Cancer, or IARC, also announced in a report published yesterday that drinking "very hot" beverages of any kind could potentially raise the cancer risk, and it classified them as "probably carcinogenic" to humans.

In particular, it cited countries including China, Iran and those in South America, where teas such as the bitter herbal infusion mate are traditionally drunk at extremely high temperatures — above 65 or 70 degrees Celsius (150 or 160 Fahrenheit) — considerably hotter than drinks would normally be served in cafes across North America and Europe.

Experts convened by the Lyon-based IARC concluded that there was inadequate evidence to suggest coffee might cause cancer, according to a letter published in the *Lancet Oncology*.

"I'm not really sure why coffee was in a higher category in the first place," said Owen Yang, an epidemiologist at Oxford University who has previously studied the possible link between coffee and cancer. He was not part of the IARC expert group.

IARC also announced drinking 'very hot' beverages [...] could potentially raise the cancer risk

"The best evidence available suggests that coffee does not raise the cancer risk," he said.

Drinking very hot beverages, however, just might.

Dana Loomis, deputy head of the IARC program that classifies carcinogens, said they began to look into a possible link after seeing unusually high rates of esophageal cancer in countries where drinking very hot beverages is common. He said that even at temperatures below 60 degrees Celsius (140 Fahrenheit), hot beverages can scald the skin, and that consuming drinks at even higher temperatures could be harmful.

Loomis said very hot beverages might cause a "thermal injury" in the throat that could eventually promote the growth of tumors, but that evidence was limited. He said there wasn't enough evidence to suggest if eating very hot food might also be risky.

Other experts said that people should remain focused on the leading causes of cancers including of the esophagus and that there were more important changes they could make other than waiting for their drinks to cool.

"Quitting smoking and reducing alcohol consumption are much more significant for reducing cancer risk than the temperature of what you're drinking," said Dr. Otis Brawley, chief medical officer of the American Cancer Society. Brawley said the cancer risk posed by drinking hot beverages was similar to that posed by eating pickled vegetables.

Still, he welcomed the news that coffee would no longer be deemed a possible carcinogen.

"As a heavy coffee drinker, I have always enjoyed my coffee guilt-free," he said. "But now there is scientific evidence to justify that." **AP**



what's ON



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

MACAU GIANT PANDA PAVILION
TIME: 10am-1pm and 2pm-5pm daily (Except Mondays, closed on the following day instead if a public holiday falls on Monday and no admission after 4:45 pm; six viewings per day)
VENUE: Seac Pai Van Park, Coloane
ADMISSION: MOP10
ENQUIRIES: Civil and Municipal Affairs Bureau (853) 2833 7676

THE COLLECTION EXHIBITION OF TAI FUNG TONG ART HOUSE
TIME: 2pm-6pm daily (Except Mondays)
VENUE: Tai Fung Tong Art House, Calçada da Igreja de S. Lázaro 7
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 3537 / 2834 6626

UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH ARCHITECTURE STUDENT GRADUATION PROJECT EXHIBITION 2016 - OTHER PLANS
TIME: 2pm-7pm (closed on public holidays)
UNTIL: June 18, 2016
VENUE: G/F Macau Cultural Centre Building, Xian Xing Hai Avenue
ADMISSION: free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2875 3282

TIBET REVEALED
TIME: 11am-7pm (open on public holidays)
UNTIL: June 20, 2016
VENUE: Iaohin Gallery, No. 39ª Rua Da Tercena, Macau
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2892 1908

CAFE SOCIETY
TIME: 12pm-8pm (closed on public holidays)
UNTIL: June 30, 2016
VENUE: Rua de Abreu Nunes 14B Edf. San Pou R/C - A
ENQUIRIES: (853) 6307 3797

Offbeat

HOLY PUNCH! CYPRUS PRIEST BIFFS GROOM'S BACKSLAPPING BROTHER

The best man slapped the groom on the back, which is an old Cypriot wedding custom. The priest punching the best man would be an innovation.

But Cyprus police said this week that they are investigating a report that this allegedly happened at a recent wedding.

Police say the victim – the groom's 22-year-old brother – wasn't seriously hurt, but his family filed a complaint.

A family member – speaking on condition of anonymity because the investigation is continuing – said the priest had gestured for the slapping to cease, then punched the brother in the chest and face when the warning went unheeded.

Bishop of Paphos Georgios backed the priest, telling the Cyprus News Agency that the backslapping custom, dating from Ottoman times, doesn't befit the island's Orthodox Christian traditions.

TV canal macau

13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:40	UEFA EURO 2016 - Group Stage (Group A): Romania - Switzerland (Repeated)
16:30	UEFA EURO 2016 - Group Stage (Group A): France - Albania (Repeated)
18:20	Montra do Lilau (Repeated)
19:00	Soap Opera
19:30	TDM Talk Show
20:10	Sports
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
20:50	UEFA EURO 2016 - Group Stage (Group B): England - Wales (Live)
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Fillers
23:50	UEFA EURO 2016 - Group Stage (Group C): Ukraine - N. Ireland (Live)
02:00	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
02:30	Sports (Repeated)
02:50	UEFA EURO 2016 - Group Stage (Group C): Germany - Poland (Live)

cinema

CINETEATRO

16 JUN - 22 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



ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS

ROOM 2

(2D) 2.30, 4.40, 9.30 pm

(3D) 7.30 pm

Director: James Bobin

Starring: Mia Wasikowska, Johnny Depp,

Helena Bonham Carter

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 113min



WARCRAFT: THE BEGINNING

ROOM 3

(2D) 2.30, 4.45, 9.30 pm

(3D) 7.15 pm

Director: Duncan Jones

Starring: Travis Fimmel, Paula Patton, Ben Foster

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 123min

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



1982 WELSH MINERS BACK HEALTH WORKERS

The South Wales coalfield has come to a standstill after about 24,000 miners went on strike in support of health service workers, who are demanding a 12% pay rise.

The miners downed tools because they regard the health workers as allies in their battle against Conservative policies which they believe are hostile to both their interests.

Meanwhile, organisers said more than 15,000 people marched through the streets of Cardiff, in the biggest demonstration of support for the workers seen so far.

Some of the striking miners joined health workers on picket lines outside Welsh hospitals, which were reduced to emergency cover only.

In Cardiff hospital pickets were backed up by members of the National Union of Seamen.

Other unions also declared their support for the health service workers' pay claim. Demonstrators were joined by building workers, local authority workers, civil servants and delegates from the gas, electricity and water industries.

The leader of the NUM in south Wales, Emlyn Williams, addressed the main rally in Cardiff, expressing miners' solidarity with health workers.

Mr Williams urged them to take lessons from the miners' victory against the government's attempted pit closure programme last year.

And he condemned health service executives who were "prepared to be emissaries of a government that is dedicated to destroying the service".

Suggestions that the campaign has been politically motivated and aimed at bringing down the government were denied, although some said defeating the government would be no bad thing.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

According to some reports the miners' action cost the industry £750,000 in lost revenue.

On 22 June, on the eve of a fourth national health service strike, the nurses' union, the Royal College of Nursing, accepted a 7.5% pay offer.

Other health workers were offered 6% increases.

Health service unions criticised the settlement and accused Secretary of State for Social Services Norman Fowler of attempting to divide one group of health workers from another by negotiating with them separately.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Dwelling on your own problems won't help you get over them.

Taurus April 20-May 20 You might think it's a good time for navel-gazing or being otherwise self-indulgent, but the opposite is true.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You have enough energy to carry your partner. A cold and clinical intellectual might convince you not to, but you know the value of things like loyalty.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 As much as you mean to focus on money, your thoughts keep returning to home. Home is where the heart is, after all, and your wallet doesn't warm it nearly as much.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Don't waste your time thinking about a big date. The best romance on the planet won't leave you feeling good with the financial woes you're stewing over.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 The only way to be sure you won't spend wildly is to ask someone else to control your purse strings for the day.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 It's not what you spend, it's how you spend it. Do you spend money to get attention from others or to satisfy an emptiness inside you?

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Cutting out the fat is starting to feel like losing your right arm. The decisions get harder and harder the closer they are to the bone.

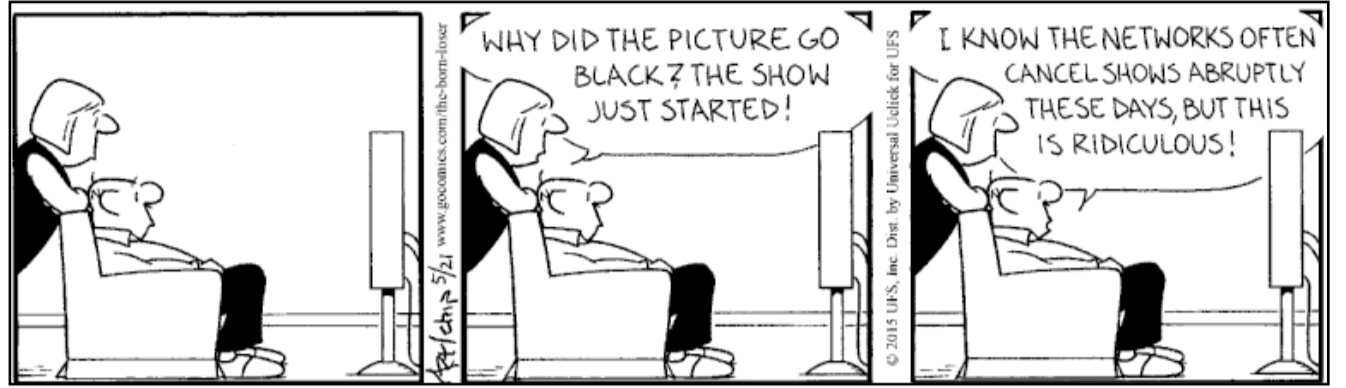
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You want fun, but thoughts of your finances keeps popping up to distract you. It's a safety mechanism.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Your work is lacking challenges. It's a good sign that you live for more than just making money.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Don't let your personal issues cloud your judgment. Be intellectual instead of emotional.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 If you're not up to your neck in debt, then consider yourself not only lucky but salvageable.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

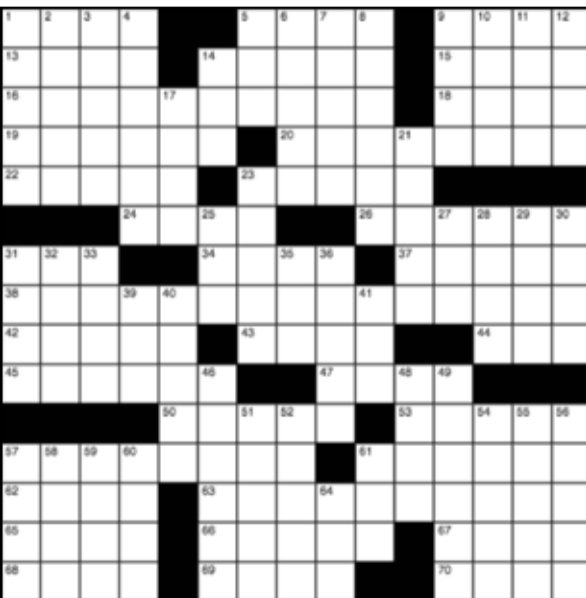
WEATHER

Weather forecast table with columns for MIN, MAX, and CONDITION for various cities in CHINA and WORLD.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Wagers; 5- Mogul capital until 1658; 9- Swiss peaks; 13- I cannot tell...; 14- Less common; 15- Champagne name; 16- Subterranean room; 18- Ripe for drafting; 19- Foolish persons; 20- Contemptible; 22- Fewest; 23- Make ___ at; 24- James ___ Jones; 26- Beer and lemonade; 31- Delivery room docs; 34- In order (to); 37- Refrain in a children's song; 38- In spite of; 42- Confusion; 43- ...baked in ___; 44- Kauai keepsake; 45- "Misty" composer Garner; 47- Invitation letters; 50- Relaxes; 53- Chair designer Charles; 57- Handrail; 61- Fervent; 62- Teen follower; 63- A reactionary; 65- Switch ending; 66- Relaxed; 67- Internet writing system that popularized "pwn3d" and "n00b"; 68- Bluish white metallic element; 69- Cambodian currency; 70- Stumbles;

DOWN: 1- Pesto ingredient; 2- Evade; 3- Big bone; 4- Bristly; 5- Swiss river; 6- Seize; 7- Queen of Spain; 8- "Gunsmoke" star; 9- In a frenzy; 10- Burt's ex; 11- Hammer end; 12- Adult male deer; 14- Monopoly quartet; Abbr.; 17- Bluesy James; 21- White as a ghost; 23- HI hi; 25- They appear before U; 27- Help, resource; 28- Singer Sedaka; 29- Take a meal; 30- Hanna-Barbera bear; 31- On a single occasion; 32- 1922 Physics Nobelist; 33- The closest one to us is the sun; 35- Nile biter; 36- Agitates; 39- Court; 40- Capri and Man; 41- DDE opponent; 46- Second of two; 48- ___ Beach, Florida; 49- Flat-bladed oar; 51- Caravansary; 52- Uneven, as if gnawed away; 54- Gangster Lansky; 55- Computer key; 56- Cancels a dele; 57- Woodstock singer Joan; 58- Farming prefix; 59- Noble gas; 60- Camaro model; 61- City official; Abbr.; 64- Hair goop



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EURO 2016 | ROUNDUP

Iceland keeps Ronaldo at bay, Hungary beats Austria

Trevor Huggins, Paris

CRISTIANO Ronaldo's Portugal was upstaged by a team of Icelanders and Hungary beat Austria on a day of surprises at the European Championship yesterday.

The smallest country ever to play at a European Championship, with its population of 330,000, Iceland made its major tournament debut in style with a 1-1 draw.

Having recently helped Real Madrid win the Champions League in Milan, Ronaldo lacked his usual accuracy in front of goal, miskicking a great chance in the first half with only Hannes Halldorsson to beat and then sending a powerful header straight at the Iceland goalkeeper from close range in the second.

Even his trademark free kicks came to nothing on a



Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo (left) jumps for a ball with Iceland goalkeeper Hannes Halldorsson during the Euro 2016 Group F soccer match between Portugal and Iceland at the Geoffroy Guichard stadium in Saint-Etienne

night he'd rather forget in Saint-Etienne.

"Iceland [...] just defend, defend, defend and play the counterattack," Ronaldo

said. "They had two chances and they scored one goal. It was a lucky night for them."

It fell to Nani to put Portugal ahead with a neat finish in the 31st minute, only for Birkir Bjarnason to level in the 50th on one of Iceland's few attacks.

"So many things are happening for the first time to Iceland," the team's co-coach Heimir Hallgrimsson said. "This is another first-time achievement. It was fantastic to play here."

Portugal coach Fernando Santos was left to rue the missed chances in a game that followed Hungary's 2-0 victory over 10-man Austria in the other Group F match.

"We should have scored more goals, there is no se-

■ ■
We should have scored more goals, there is no secret about that. We are to blame for that.

FERNANDO SANTOS
PORTUGAL COACH

cret about that," Santos said. "We are to blame for that."

Aleksandar Dragovic was partly to blame for Austria's defeat in Bordeaux after being shown a red card in the 66th minute.

At the time, his team was only trailing to Adam Szalai's opening strike. But Hungary substitute Zoltan Stieber added the second after a rapid counterattack in the 87th to put the result beyond doubt.

Victory over a team ranked 10 places higher by FIFA made it an even more special match for Hungary goalkeeper Gabor Kiraly, who set an age record by becoming the first 40-year-old player to feature at a European Championship.

"He contributed to this victory," Hungary coach Bernd Storck said. "He was rewarded for all of his hard work over the years." AP

MEANWHILE IN AMERICA...

Chile defeats Panama 4-2, advances to Copa quarterfinals

EDUARDO Vargas and Alexis Sanchez each scored twice and Chile advanced to the Copa America Centenario quarterfinals with a 4-2 win over Panama yesterday (Macau time).

Chile (2-0-1) clinched second place in Group D and will face Mexico in the next round on Saturday (Sunday) in Santa Clara, California. Panama (1-0-2) was eliminated.

Miguel Camargo scored for Panama in the fifth minute with a shot that deflected off Chile goalkeeper Claudio Bravo. Vargas equalized 10 minutes later on a rebound off an Alexis Sanchez shot.

The Hoffenheim striker added his second goal with a header just before halftime, and Sanchez scored in the 50th and 90th minute. Abdiel Arroyo scored for Panama in the 75th.

Defending Copa America champion Chile had several other scoring chances, including an Arturo Vidal header saved by Panama goalkeeper Jaime Penedo in the first half. AP



Chile's Eduardo Vargas (right) falls after battling with Panama's Roderick Miller for the ball during the first half of a Copa America Group D soccer match

LATEST RESULTS

France	2	1	Romania
Albania	0	1	Switzerland
Wales	2	1	Slovakia
England	1	1	Russia
Turkey	0	1	Croatia
Poland	1	0	N. Ireland
Germany	2	0	Ukraine
Spain	1	0	Czech Rep.
Rep. Ireland	1	1	Sweden
Belgium	0	2	Italy
Austria	0	2	Hungary
Portugal	1	1	Iceland
Russia	1	2	Slovakia

Trevor Huggins, Paris

TEAR gas, great goals and acrobatic saves have shared the headlines in the first round of group matches at the 2016 European Championship.

From the glass-strewn streets of Marseille to Luka Modric's wonder strike for Croatia, there have been plenty of eye-catching moments, both good and bad.

Here are five things to know about the first round of matches in the group stage at Euro2016:

RETURN OF THE HOOLIGAN

After six years of relative peace at tournaments with European teams, hooliganism is back with

a bang and a beer bottle. Three days of clashes involving fans from England and Russia, local youths and riot police brought water cannon and tear gas to the cobbled streets of Marseille's Old Port. A prosecutor blamed "highly trained" Russian thugs for the worst of the violence, which continued inside the Stade Velodrome after England and Russia drew 1-1. While UEFA has told Russia it will be kicked out of Euro 2016 if there is more trouble at a stadium, there are still fears for the matches ahead. As if it needed making clear, Russia forward Artem Dzyuba reminded fans: "We are not in a street fighting championship here."

EURO 2016 | 5 THINGS TO KNOW

The action is on and off the pitch

STAR WARS

There is no denying that Cristiano Ronaldo, Gareth Bale and Zlatan Ibrahimovic all bring something to their sides at the European Championship. Ronaldo has been the least fortunate of the trio so far, missing two clear chances against Iceland. But Ronaldo's Real Madrid teammate Bale opened the scoring for Wales in its 2-1 victory over Slovakia, and Ibrahimovic conjured up the own-goal by Ciaran Clark that earned Sweden a 1-1 draw with Ireland. Thou-

gh all three stand above their teammates in terms of talent and profile, Bale's comment was a familiar one. "As I've said many a time, it's about the team, not about individuals."

HEAVYWEIGHTS HIT BACK

A highly-rated Belgium squad with the likes of Eden Hazard and Kevin De Bruyne, and a promising young England team led by Harry Kane and Jamie Vardy, were tipped to shake up the order at Euro 2016. It hasn't happened

Group A	PL	W	DRAW	L	GF-GA	PNT
France	1	1	0	0	2 - 1	3
Switzerland	1	1	0	0	1 - 0	3
Romania	1	0	0	1	1 - 2	0
Albania	1	0	0	1	0 - 1	0
Group B	PL	W	DRAW	L	GF-GA	PNT
Wales	1	1	0	0	2 - 1	3
Slovakia	2	1	0	1	3 - 3	3
England	1	0	1	0	1 - 1	1
Russia	2	0	1	1	2 - 3	1
Group C	PL	W	DRAW	L	GF-GA	PNT
Germany	1	1	0	0	2 - 0	3
Poland	1	1	0	0	1 - 0	3
N. Ireland	1	0	0	1	0 - 1	0
Ukraine	1	0	0	1	0 - 2	0

Steve Douglas, Chaintilly

EURO 2016 | PREVIEW

Player comments raise tension ahead of 'Battle of Britain'

THERE'S tension in the air ahead of what national media have called the "Battle of Britain" between England and Wales at the European Championship.

And it's not just on the streets of Lens or nearby Lille.

Security concerns and fears of fresh fan violence have dominated the build-up to one of the most anticipated matches of the group stage, but some antagonistic comments from the players are also fanning the flames.

Wales forward Gareth Bale started it all off last week, calling England the "enemy" and saying his team has "got a lot more passion and pride about us than them."

"They big themselves up before they've done anything," Bale said.

England coach Roy Hodgson described Bale's comments as "disrespectful," while England midfielder Jack Wilshere returned the barbs.

"We know that Wales don't like us," Wilshere said. "Do we like



Wales's Gareth Bale celebrates at the end of the Euro 2016 Group B soccer match between Wales and Slovakia, at the Nouveau stadium in Bordeaux

them? Not really!"

Bale spoke out again, saying of England that "it's good that they

bit" at his remarks.

"There are no mind games," said the Real Madrid star. "No-

thing's fazing us, we don't feel any pressure."

England considers Germany and Argentina as its biggest rivals on the international soccer stage because of high-profile matches between those teams at major tournaments. For Wales, though, there's only one real foe — the English.

"Everyone says they want England's scalp, it's not just Wales — it's the same for every country," England midfielder Adam Lallana said. "They want to play England, up their game and we thrive off that. It makes us more hungry."

"It's a big game. We don't need anyone else to tell us that."

Lallana disagreed that the match means more to Wales than to England.

"We know we have to be up for it," the Liverpool midfielder said. "We don't need any motivation. We motivate ourselves."

"We've got big players in our team who are used to dealing with pressure, week in week out. We've learnt to thrive off that."

Wales has spent so long in the doldrums that England hasn't treated its neighbor as a true soccer rival. Rugby is different — the countries have played each other three times in the past nine months and often vie for the title as the best team in Europe. But it is another story altogether with the round ball.

That's not to say the England and Wales players won't know each other inside out. The top players from each team come across other regularly in the English Premier League or, in the case of Real Madrid forward Bale, the Champions League.

Wilshere said it will almost be like a Premier League game.

"It can perhaps add a different dimension to the game," England defender Ryan Bertrand said. "Perhaps a slightly more competitive nature. No doubt the players will have a few friends in the opposing team."

Clearly, the stakes are high for both sides. Wales opened with a 2-1 win over Slovakia in Group B, while England drew 1-1 with Russia after conceding a stoppage-time equalizer.

The English Football Association has serious concerns about security for the game at the Stade Bollaert-Delelis in Lens. Many England fans will be staying in Lille yesterday ahead of the England-Wales game.

UEFA has threatened to disqualify England from the Euros if there is further trouble, following violence by its fans in Marseille.

"It would be devastating," Lallana said. "Our message is for everyone to be safe and sensible, enjoy the day, enjoy the match, and be respectful when we're playing." AP

Security intensified across France to thwart fan violence

POLICE reinforcements are being deployed across northern France and alcohol bans expanded after European Championship security operations were intensified in a bid to prevent further violent rampages by soccer fans.

Authorities are anxious about England and Russia supporters converging on Lille so soon after weekend clashes in the southern city of Marseille in the opening days of Euro 2016.

Authorities, who are urging England and Wales fans to steer clear of Lille before today, are implementing preventative measures. But some minor scuffles already broke out yesterday and at least one fan was detained.

In Lille, supermarkets were forced to stop selling alcohol for 60 hours — from 6 p.m. on Tuesday until 6 a.m. on Friday [Paris time, GMT+2] — while bars and restaurants must close by midnight over that period.

More than 2,500 security personnel, including

police officers and soldiers, will fan out across Lille yesterday as part of a 4,000-strong emergency services deployment, state prefect Michel Lalande said.

"Before last weekend, nothing would have justified these measures," Lalande said.

In Lens, more than 2,400 security officials will be deployed as the town prepares for an anticipated influx of 40,000 to 50,000 England and Wales fans for today's game.

Meanwhile, Russia will be disqualified from the European Championship if there is more violence by the team's fans inside stadiums in France.

A UEFA disciplinary panel made the ruling after Russians charged at a section of England supporters after the team's opening match in Marseille.

Russia will be expelled from the tournament if its fans attack rival fans or stadium security staff at its remaining Group B match, or later at Euro 2016 if the team advances. MDT/AP

yet, and the old order is doing just fine. Belgium was outsmarted in a 2-0 defeat by Italy, while slack defending at the end

left England with a 1-1 draw against Russia. By contrast, past tournament winners Spain, Germany and France — like Italy —

have three points on the board. Hype is part of the modern game. But, as Italy coach Antonio Conte said after his team's victory: "It proves that nothing is already written in football, and it is on the field where you have to make your point."

GREAT GOALS, GREAT SAVES

Euro 2016 already has a few of these to savor. Luka Modric's 25-meter volley is the pick so far, with his instinctive shot from a long clearance securing Croatia's 1-0 victory over Turkey. Dimitri Payet's late winner for France against Romania was not far behind, while Ireland's Wes Hoolahan scored with



Stewards try to restrain a Croatian fan who entered the field to celebrate as Croatia's Luka Modric scored his side's first goal during the Euro 2016 Group D soccer match against Turkey

a sweetly-struck half volley in the draw with Sweden. There have been some great saves too, with Thibaut Courtois keeping Belgium in its game against Italy and Petr Cech doing a similar job for Czech Re-

public against Spain. Yet the best save wasn't from a goalkeeper, but Germany defender Jerome Boateng with his acrobatic goal-line clearance as he fell backward into the net against Ukraine.

TIGHT MATCHES, NO CONTROVERSIES

No team has yet scored more than two goals in a game, a fair indicator of how tightly-contested the matches have been in France. Teams are particularly well-drilled in defense, with the Czechs being able to soak up 87 minutes of constant pressure from European champion Spain before conceding, and Iceland keeping Ronaldo's Portugal at bay. Not surprisingly, breakaway goals have been a feature of the tournament — with Italy, Germany and Hungary all being beneficiaries. Mercifully for UEFA's match officials, though, there have been no refereeing controversies so far.

Group D	PL	W	DRAW	L	GF-GA	PNT
Spain	1	1	0	0	1-0	3
Croatia	1	0	0	0	1-0	3
Czech Rep.	1	0	0	1	0-1	0
Turkey	1	0	0	1	0-1	0

Group E	PL	W	DRAW	L	GF-GA	PNT
Italy	1	1	0	0	2-0	3
Sweden	1	0	1	0	1-1	1
Rep. Ireland	1	0	1	0	1-1	1
Belgium	1	0	0	1	0-2	0

Group F	PL	W	DRAW	L	GF-GA	PNT
Hungary	1	1	0	0	2-0	3
Portugal	1	0	1	0	1-1	1
Iceland	1	0	1	0	1-1	1
Austria	1	0	0	1	0-2	0

TODAY'S MATCHES Oddschecker.com

Thu	21:00	England	Wales	H 1.6, D 4.2, A 7
Fri	0:00	Ukraine	N. Ireland	H 1.6, D 4, A 7.5
Fri	3:00	Germany	Poland	H 1.62, D 4.4, A 6.65

opinion

World Views

Noah Smith, Bloomberg

CHINA SENDS BUBBLES TO NORTH AMERICA

In the past year, a huge amount of money has been flowing out of China. In the past, when this happened, it was because the Chinese central bank was buying foreign assets. But this time the People's Bank of China has been selling foreign assets - it's China's citizens and companies that are sending their money overseas.

This probably indicates that rocky times are ahead for the Chinese economy. People have some reason for wanting to get their money out - either they're worried about losing their investments in a China crash, or they're betting on the depreciation of the yuan. Either way, we can probably expect more sluggishness or outright recession in China during the next year or two. That will inevitably have some sort of negative effect on the U.S., Europe and other rich economies, through decreased imports from developed countries and losses on the balance sheets of banks in rich nations.

But at the same time, what will be the result of all that Chinese money flowing out? If there's one thing we've learned since 2008, it's that financial flows can have effects on the real economy, so it stands to reason that the money leaving China might have a major impact of its own. The opportunity is that it will spur a much-needed capital investment boom in the U.S. and other slow-growing economies; the danger is that it will pump up asset bubbles that eventually burst.

It's possible to think of the world as containing a large pool of mobile speculative capital that sloshes around from country to country, chasing the next big thing. It's also possible to imagine that when those capital inflows raise asset prices enough in a certain market, extrapolative expectations take over - domestic and foreign investors alike conclude that the new rising price trend is a stable feature of the world, and they keep betting it will continue, pushing prices up until they inevitably get divorced from fundamentals and crash.

Economists David Laibson and Johanna Mollerstrom wrote a 2010 working paper showing that countries that import capital tend to have rising housing price rises and consumption booms. The correlation between capital inflows and housing values is confirmed in a 2013 paper by Andrea Ferrero, and a 2009 paper by Joshua Aizenman and Yothin Jinjarkak. Basically, when capital flows in, house prices get pushed up. And as we know from recent experience, house prices that go up can also come down, causing great damage to economies.

Should we be concerned about this happening with China's capital outflows? Well, Canada might have reason to worry. Chinese money is the biggest force behind the surge in house prices in cities like Vancouver and Toronto. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development has flagged Canada's China-driven housing market as an economic risk, and Canadian bankers are begging the government to step in and cool off the property market.

But the U.S. is experiencing a bit of a property boom too. House prices in U.S. cities are almost back to where they were at the peak of the bubble a decade ago. Rent has risen too, meaning that prices are probably a lot less out of line with fundamentals this time. But if price appreciation continues, it's not inconceivable that a second bubble could result.

However, the fact that money is flowing into housing, rather than into bonds, might be a reason not to worry.

In any case, though, it pays to be vigilant. Canada is already in bubbly territory. If the U.S. or other rich countries start to see steep rises in house prices or stocks connected to Chinese capital flows, it would be wise to restrain the impulse to join the party. Another bubble in the developed world might make the U.S. look good for a little while, but ultimately it wouldn't end any better than the last two.

THE CHINESE ONLINE LOAN SHARKS DEMAND NUDE PHOTOS AS GUARANTEES

Web-based loan sharks in China have found an unconventional way of guaranteeing loans: demanding naked photos from female borrowers.

The state-run Southern Metropolis Daily reported this week that private lenders are asking female borrowers to send nude photos of themselves along with their ID cards, warning that the photos will be made public if

payments are not made on time.

One of the borrowers told the newspaper that she first borrowed 500 yuan from an on-line loan provider with a weekly interest rate of 30 percent. She kept taking out new loans to pay off old ones, and her debt snowballed to 55,000 yuan when the lender demanded a nude photo of her as a guarantee for new loans.



Minnie Mouse takes part in a parade on the eve of the opening of the Disney Resorts in Shanghai

Disney CEO Iger says China has 'incredible potential'

Paul Traynor, Shanghai

THE debut of Shanghai Disneyland offers Walt Disney Co. "incredible potential" to boost its brand in the world's most populous market, the company's chief executive said yesterday.

Disney's first theme park in mainland China is designed to be "distinctly Chinese," Bob Iger said ahead of today's grand opening for the USD5.5 billion park.

Shanghai Disneyland will face competition from China's own young but ambitious entertainment industry and likely hurdles from official controls and censorship.

Disney movies including "Frozen" are popular in China and Mickey Mouse is beloved as "Mi Laoshu." But Iger said he hopes the park will create stronger bonds with Chinese consumers.

"China obviously represents incredible potential for the Walt Disney Co.," he said.

"We've considered many ways to approach growth in China," he said. "Nothing is as impactful, nothing creates a connection to our stories, to our brands, to our characters, as a theme park experience."

Analysts expect Shanghai Disneyland to become the world's most-visited theme park, attracting up to 50 million guests a year,

compared with 19.3 million people for Disney's flagship Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida, in 2014.

The park boasts the biggest Storybook Castle in the world and the latest technology. Hundreds of residents and small businesses were forced to move away from the site on marshy farmland east of the city.

Analysts expect Shanghai Disneyland to become the world's most-visited theme park, attracting up to 50m guests a year

The venture follows lengthy negotiation between Disney and Chinese authorities who wanted to control prices, advertising, the opening date and other details, according to Chinese media.

The park's majority owner is a state-owned investment fund, which means Disney will need to get its partner's approval for changes in res-

taurant prices and other management details.

"They had to negotiate hard with the government," said Shaun Rein, managing director of China Market Research, a consumer market research firm in Shanghai. "They are hamstringing in a lot of areas."

Despite a sharp slowdown in growth, China's economy still is one of the world's best-performing and tourism spending is rising.

Total visitor numbers to theme parks are forecast to more than double to 282 million in 2019 from 2014's 133 million, according to Euromonitor International, a research company.

The company behind Mickey Mouse is part of a rush of global brands in industries from autos to mobile phones that are rolling out products designed for increasingly prosperous Chinese consumers at a time of weak sales growth in other markets.

To appeal to Chinese visitors, Disney added a teahouse and other China-themed elements to its latest park.

In a garden leading to its iconic castle, Disney created a "Garden of the Twelve Friends" using characters such as Remy from "Ratatouille" and Tigger from "Winnie the Pooh" to represent animals of the Chinese Zodiac. **AP**

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	20-40 Good	
High Density Residential Area	30-50 Good	
Ambient	30-50 Good	

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS



PUERTO RICANS held somber vigils and prepared to bury many of their own after authorities said nearly half of those killed at a gay nightclub in Florida had ties to the U.S. territory.

AUSTRALIA grants early release to an Australian businessman who was convicted in China of financial crimes and transferred home under a prisoner exchange agreement. **More on p13**



JAPAN A top engineer at Toyota says the automaker plans to get as bullish as its rivals in pushing plug-in hybrids with the introduction of its new Prius Prime. Toyota leads the industry in hybrids. It has sold 9 million hybrid vehicles around the world.

VIETNAM rescues one of the two pilots who went missing on a training flight on a Russian-made jet fighter.

INDIA's government approves a new civil aviation policy aimed at increasing regional connectivity, boosting cargo operations and making it easier - and possibly cheaper - for passengers to fly.



INDIA A city of nearly 7 million people in southern India has declared a "high alert" for polio after an active strain of the virus was found in samples of sewage water.

COFFEE The World Health Organization's research arm has downgraded its classification of coffee as a possible carcinogen, declaring there isn't enough proof to show a link to cancer. **More on p15**