



INVESTOR-OWNED PROPERTIES REMAIN EMPTY

Property owners with a solid financial status prefer to keep properties empty than to rent them lower than the asking price

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DUMP TRUMP MOVEMENT GAINING FOLLOWERS

The "dump Trump" movement is gaining followers among delegates to next month's Republican National Convention

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS



CHINA-RUSSIA With President Vladimir Putin heading to China this weekend, officials in both countries extoll a blossoming "strategic partnership" between the two former communist rivals. *More on p10*

CAMBODIA plans to deport 21 Taiwanese arrested for suspected fraud to China instead of the self-ruled island. The Taiwanese citizens, along with 14 Chinese also arrested this month, will be sent tomorrow to China because Cambodia regards Taiwan as part of China. Those arrested allegedly defrauded victims in China using phone calls made over the internet.



JAPAN's election campaign kicked off yesterday in the first nationwide balloting after the voting age was lowered to 18 from 20. Up for grabs in the July 10 vote are 121 seats. The pro-business ruling party is hoping for a show of support for Shinzo Abe's "Abenomics" program to revive the economy, while the opposition is criticizing his efforts to have Japan play a bigger global security role.

KOREAS In a remarkable show of persistence, North Korea fires two suspected powerful new Musudan midrange ballistic missiles, its fifth and sixth such attempts since April. *More on p12*

GOV'T PLEDGES TO BUILD AFFORDABLE HOUSING

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HOUSING

Many investor-owned properties remain empty

Renato Marques

PROPERTY owners with a solid financial status prefer to keep properties empty than to rent them lower than the asking price, according to what several experts have told the Times. This explains why so many investor-owned properties, particularly the high-end ones, lie empty or have low occupancy.

Jeff Wong, head of residential at Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL) notes that high-end real estate investors usually have a stable financial situation and “feel no pressure to sell the properties they are holding.” “Real estate is still a profitable market,” he says, adding that it is “a very simple and a very secure way to invest.”

Contributing to the slowdown in the local property market is also the “increase of supply registered in the last few years, together with a decrease on the demand,” Wong told the Times. The JLL executive hopes to see improvements in business volume in the second quarter of 2017, with the developments of the new gaming resorts in Cotai area.

According to Wong, some of the factors that come into play in Macau are the stabilization of the number of overseas workers, as well as a change



“The Fountainside” is located close to the Lilau Square and Mandarin House

of the profile of these workers, and the registered reduction on the activity of some sectors that would normally support the occupation of high-end and luxury properties, such as junkets. “The structural change of the casino industry tends to affect the occupation on

some of these luxury market properties,” Wong explained, adding that in the near future, JLL expects an increase in demand on the market, driven “mostly by people working in the hotel industry, retail and food and beverage,” that generally opt for less expensive

solutions.

Nevertheless for the property expert, “to invest in that kind of real estate [high-end] is still a good business especially for people entering on first of two phases since is still possible to achieve earnings of about 40 percent,” Jeff Wong concluded.

Daniel Lam from Bela Vista Property Services Limited, a property service company promoting and managing several high-end market properties, told the Times about one of the company’s most recent developments – “The Fountainside” – saying “it’s mostly sold, I would say somewhere

Real Estate is still a very simple and secure way to invest.

JEFF WONG
HEAD OF RESIDENTIAL AT JONES
LANG LASALLE

in between 70 to 80 percent.”

The property owned by Headland Developments Limited is located in Macau peninsula at the side of Lilau Square and Mandarin House. It features 38 apartments and four villas. Despite the apparent lack of occupation of some units in the property, Lam claims that “29 or 30 of its units” are occupied either by their owners or by tenants.” Lam added that the company does not have any currently plans for “promotional activity to sell the remaining units,” preferring instead to wait for “a more favorable moment.”

Developments like “One Penha Hill” seem to be ready to lodge new owners, while others are still waiting for better days-like the case of the “Peak,” a large development built in Taipa island which remains with a uncertain destiny.

The residential development located in Ocean Gardens, is still surrounded with uncertainty, as it is a project that was originally started in the early 1990’s during the Portuguese administration with the intention of being a 10-storey hotel.

In fact, several changes to the project lead to an increase of the property area to three towers of 41-stories each under the mandate of the Secretary for Transport and Public Works Ao Man Long, who was later arrested on graft charges.

As the project is still involved in a corruption case, it remains unused although fully built.

In fact there are other buildings that seem to be vacant although developers state that they are occupied in full. Flats in “Oscar Crescent,” which is to be built at the edge of Taipa’s Jockey Club, have already been reserved with an initial deposit of HKD500,000. The project is expected to have 300 units and be completed by 2018.

“Oscar Crescent” is expected to generate “tremendous revenue” once several developments and facilities that are currently under construction are finished. This claim was supported by the fact that the upcoming Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge, Macau Light Rail Transit (LRT), and the development of new hotels in Cotai, according with the same promoter figures, will bring around 45,000 new people to live in that area.



Developments like “One Penha Hill” (pictured) seem to be ready to lodge new owners

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THE Court of Final Appeal (TUI) yesterday upheld the government's decision in 2010 to reclaim the lands housing the upmarket residential project La Scala, which has been linked to the corruption case of the disgraced Secretary for Lands and Public Works Ao Man Long.

The ruling is the final blow to the hopes of Hong Kong billionaire Joseph Lau. Lau owns the offshore company (Moon Ocean) that was developing the project before the nullification.

Chief Executive Chui Sai On, reacted to TUI's decision yesterday via a government spokesperson statement: "Given yesterday's TUI decision, the Chief Executive has instructed the Secretary for Transport and Public Works to begin the preliminary works of urbanization in order to utilize the land plots. The government will implement the commitment made during the Policy Address, namely to use the land plots to be-

TUI confirms decision to nullify La Scala land grants



nefit the public, giving priority to public housing."

The statement added that around 4,000 flats are expected to be built at the location.

The 106-page Portuguese version of the TUI ruling is available online. The ruling

notes that Moon Ocean doesn't have ownership over the five land plots, despite having paid MOP1.3 billion for them.

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A ruling signed by judges Song Man Lei (rapporteur), Sam Hou Fai and Viriato de Lima states that the land granting process was tainted by illegalities linked to the Ao Man Long corruption case. The former secretary had received a HKD20 million bribe to grant the plots to Moon Ocean.

According to the TUI, Joseph Lau and his partner Steven Lo took the decision to buy the land plots and negotiated directly with Ao Man Long.

"The nullification of the acts is based on the criminal conduct of the former secretary but also of the bidder," the ruling reads. **PB**

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

Public transport lane might be extended



Starting from next month, the public transport-only lane in the Inner Harbor area will become a permanent fixture, with considerations already in place over whether to extend it further toward the border checkpoint. Three sections of the lane will become permanent next month, permitting only public transport and emergency vehicles to drive in the lane between 7:30 a.m. and 9 a.m. and between 4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. every day. The policy becomes permanent after it has been trialed for about two months. Officials of the Transport Bureau have said that knowledge and awareness of the public transport-only lane is growing among drivers and other road users.

Shun Tak disposes of stake in company for HKD3.23b

Shun Tak Holdings Ltd. stated yesterday it will sell 50 percent of Nextor Holdings to HIP Co. for HKD3.23 billion (USD415.2 million). The company – which is owned by gaming tycoon Stanley Ho – said that after the sale, Nextor will be held in a 50-50 joint venture by both companies. The structure will ultimately benefit HIP, which is a unit of the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority and owns an entire commercial complex in Macau.

TDM broadcasts Cup final

TDM will broadcast tonight's 2016 Macau Football Association Cup final live at 7.25 p.m. across its television channels. Ka I will face off against C.P.K for the title. The game will be televised via TDM channels "TDM Sport" and "TDM HD," as well as the main TDM website and mobile application. The live online broadcast is only available in Macau.

AUSTRALIAN ELECTIONS

Overseas voting opens but inconvenience may keep some away

Daniel Beittler

OVERSEAS voting for the Australian Federal Election began on Monday, for the nationwide decision that will culminate in Election Day on July 2. Australians living in Macau who are intending to vote, will have to travel to Hong Kong to the Australian Consulate General or mail their vote home to vote. But the polling booths are only available to would-be-voters during the institution's opening hours, causing potential problems for full-time workers.

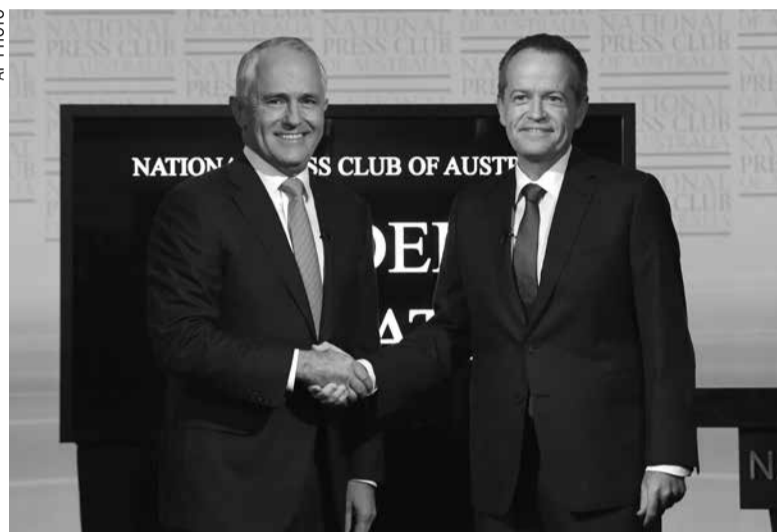
The Times contacted several Australian nationals living in Macau, who indicated that since they have lived overseas for more than six years, they were not registered to vote and had been "disenfranchised."

"Australian expats are not required to vote and if they intend to stay overseas for over six years then they become ineligible to vote," Rev. Stephen Durie told the Times. "I have been living overseas for 25 years so I am well disenfranchised."

Durie also indicated that he had no comments on the election or its key issues as he is "not sufficiently in touch" to provide an opinion.

Citizens of Australia are nor-

AP PHOTO



Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull (left) and opposition leader Bill Shorten shake hands as they arrive for the leaders' debate at the National Press Club in Canberra

mally required by law to vote in federal elections. However they can avoid this requirement if they are not registered to vote (around 10 percent of the population according to the BBC), have been out of the country for at least six years, or can produce "a valid and sufficient reason for not voting," according to the Australian Electoral Commission.

Voting inconvenience may also present a factor inhibiting the willingness and ability of Australians living overseas to vote, especially for those who may not be able to go to

the Consulate General during working hours.

"It's not just convenience but it's can you or can't you?" posited Julie Kirkman speaking to TDM. "You can't take a day off work to go and vote."

Others point out that there is little difference between the two major contenders in the Australian parliament, the Liberal-National Coalition and the Australian Labor Party.

"One issue that just to me exemplifies everything is that both sides of parliament in Australia treat refugees and immigration in a disgusting way, but

they're both the same [sic]," local scholar Richard Whitfield told TDM.

Immigration is likely to be the central issue in next month's election. Australia has been shamed in recent years for its treatment of immigrants and its controversial policy of relocating them to Pacific states and Indian Ocean islands such as Papa New Guinea, Nauru, Manus Island and Christmas Island.

Australian citizens are required by law to vote in federal elections. However they can avoid this requirement if they are not registered to vote

Some of these countries accept refugees and illegal immigrants from Australia in return for Australian aid to expedite their development. The system has become informally known as the "Pacific Solution," after the actual policy implemented during 2001 and 2007. It was partially revived in 2012 by a Labor government.

The number of refugees worldwide reached their highest level ever, the UN refugee agency said this week, surpassing that even of the Second World War.

GAMING

Ho says Studio City needs better marketing

Daniel Beittler

MELCO Crown Entertainment CEO Lawrence Ho said in an interview with Barron's Asia that the poor quarterly performance of the company's partly-owned property, Studio City, is due to a marketing failure.

"We have these great non-gaming attractions but we also have a casino and some great restaurants," Ho said.

"We just need to do a better job at marketing ourselves and bundling offers – it's not rocket science."

Studio City, which opened in October, has not fared as well as analysts had initially predicted. Optimism ran high for what was considered the first resort of its kind, which targeted the gaming mass market and promoted non-gaming activities.

However, in the first quarter of 2016, Studio City recorded revenues of just USD195 million, well below market expectations.

"We had a lot of brand awareness and buzz [at our launch], but somehow our marketing team hasn't really translated that," said Ho

BLOOMBERG



in an interview with Barron's Asia.

MGM Cotai, Wynn Palace and The Parisian will soon open three new resorts on the Cotai Strip, each eyeing the mass-gaming segment. These competitors threaten to crowd the mass market and attract customers who might otherwise visit Studio City.

Ho said that he expects the mass market in Macau to become "super competitive" between the six gaming operators in the future.

Nevertheless, he said, Melco should "keep delivering our products and services better" and strengthen the property's emphasis on

entertainment and other non-gaming elements.

Analysts have been less favorable toward Melco Crown Entertainment. According to Barron's Asia, only 30 percent of analysts who rate Melco are advising "Buy" compared to an average 51 percent for Melco's rivals, excluding SJM Holdings.

James Packer, the former chairman of Crown Resorts, recently relinquished his title and reduced his stake in Melco Crown Entertainment from 34 percent to 27 percent. Crown Resorts also intends to split its Melco stake from the rest of the company as part of a restructuring strategy.

In spite of the gaming downturn, Macau remains an important market for gaming operators, with nearby competitors in the Philippines, Vietnam and South Korea still far behind in terms of gaming development and relevant government legislation.

"For Melco, every time we build something, we want it to be at least a billion-dollar property," Ho told Barron's Asia.

"We don't see any [other] jurisdictions that would be able to sustain that."

MACAU MAY NOT BE FAR BEHIND

Hong Kong becomes the world's costliest city for expats

Daniel Beittler

HONG Kong has risen to become the world's most expensive city for expatriates, according to a survey by international human resources consulting firm Mercer.

Mercer, which operates internationally in more than 130 countries, compared the cost of over 200 items in 209 cities. The survey included the costs of housing, food, transport and entertainment, using New York as a basis of comparison.

According to Mercer's 2016 Cost of Living Rankings, Hong Kong has now overtaken Luanda, Angola to become the world's costliest city for expatriates, due to the strengthening of the U.S. dollar and subsequently, the Hong Kong dollar.

"Generally speaking, prices remained stable across the world," Bruno Rocquemont of Mercer France told the Agence France-Presse.

Rocquemont attributes the significant change in ranking to fluctuations in exchange rates this year. The U.S. dollar strengthened against a weakened Angolan Kwana, contributing to



AP PHOTO
People swim yesterday in a pool in Hong Kong

Luanda's slip to second.

Hong Kong (1), Luanda (2) and Zurich (3) take the top spots in this year's rankings; followed by Singapore (4), Tokyo (5), Shanghai (7) and Beijing (10).

Nearby cities of Shenzhen and Guangzhou were also marked as expensive, standing at 12 and 18 respectively. Shenzhen moved up two places compared with last year, while Guangzhou dropped three spots.

A number of other Chinese cities – namely Nanjing (29), Tianjin (30), Shenyang (31), Qingdao (33) and Chengdu (34) – were also listed as expensive cities.

The survey takes into account

factors including currency fluctuations, cost inflation for goods and services and stability of accommodation prices. These factors provide governments and businesses with up-to-date information on the cost of living, and helps companies to determine appropriate compensation for overseas workers.

Although Macau was not featured in the Mercer survey, the city is likely to be experiencing a similar phenomenon due to its ties with the Hong Kong dollar, as well as steady price inflation in recent years.

May's year-on-year consumer price index grew by 2.64 percent,

the lowest in nearly six years. In comparison, Hong Kong's measure of inflation shows the city tracking consistently behind Macau for the last 12 months, according to analyst website Trading Economics. This means that prices are growing faster in the MSAR.

In December 2015, ECA International released a survey in which it examined the most expensive cities in the world for expatriates. The findings indicated that Macau was on the rise, with the MSAR recording the largest annual increase in global rankings between 2014 and 2015.

Macau rose from 34th position in 2014 to 13th last year in the Asia-Pacific category. The MSAR jumped 70 places in the global rankings, edging into the world's top 30.

However, ECA's 2015 rankings do not entirely correlate with the more recent Mercer evaluation, perhaps because of their respective dates of publication.

In ECA's ranking, Chinese cities dominated in the Asia-Pacific region, populating 11 of the top 20 most expensive locations. Shanghai (1), Beijing (2), Hong Kong (3) and Macau (13) were among the notable cities.

GAMING

Football betting hurts Macau casinos



AP PHOTO
Fans celebrate during a Euro 2016 match

THE Euro 2016 football tournament is contributing to a further slowing of Macau's gross gaming revenue (GGR), according to Japanese brokerage Nomura.

Previous instances of major footballing tournaments such as the FIFA World Cup and the UEFA Euro Championships have shown

a negative correlation with Macau's GGR, as punters put their money on football betting rather than the MSAR's casino tables.

"With a lower-than-expected VIP win rate of 2.7 percent (versus theoretic average of 2.85 percent) and the impact from the commencement of the EuroCup (from 11 June

onwards), average daily gaming revenue, excluding slots, was down 22 percent week-on-week to HKD432 million," noted Nomura analysts Richard Huang and Stella Xing in a statement.

"June 2016 thus far has been much weaker than our original expectation, with gaming revenues tracking at a 7 – 11 percent year-on-year decline," the analysts added. Nomura had previously forecasted "flat year-on-year" change.

The impact of the sporting tournament could be significant enough to bring the month's GGR to a low not seen since September 2010, they warn, the last time it dipped below HKD16 billion.

"We continue to expect a slow-grind recovery in GGR, but the fact that June 2016 is heading to a five-year low [...] highlights the potential risk of demand disappointment," wrote Huang and Xing.

EDUCATION

UM students win award for barrier-free car seat design

THREE students from the University of Macau's (UM) Department of Electromechanical Engineering, Faculty of Science and Technology received the Best Paper Award at the annual symposium of the Control, Automation and Instrumentation Division of the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers for a paper titled 'Advanced Car Seat Design for Extendable Barrier Free Service'.

The award-winning paper was co-authored by PhD student Lin Bin and master's students Luo Zicong and Cong Yufang, and supervised by Dr Wong Seng Fat. It proposes a barrier-free car seat design for people with disabilities. The seat can be control-

led via mobile applications and can be optimized to enable people with disabilities to enter and exit the vehicle with ease.

The design's potential for industrialization was an important contributor to its win, according to a statement by UM.

Held at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, the symposium attracted more than 200 experts and scholars from around the world, including experts from the Royal Academy of Engineering and Leeds Beckett University in the United Kingdom, as well as engineers from Hong Kong. Participants discussed future trends in engineering control, automation and instrumentation.

Ink paintings exhibition opens at IACM



The "Roaming Vision + Digital: Exhibition of Ink Paintings by Leung Kui Ting" is now open at the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau's (IACM) Temporary Exhibitions Gallery. 28 art pieces by Hong Kong artist Leung Kui Ting are now on display in an exhibition organized by the Cultural Affairs Bureau. The artist focuses on the human heart's perception of the external world and the drive to achieve unity between the mind and physical objects, and to observe all things in the universe in the form of objects themselves. The exhibition will run until July 10 at the IACM Temporary Exhibitions Gallery from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., including public holidays.

Night market may reopen

Lo Kam Kuan, a member of the advisory committee of the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau, has suggested that the local government arrange a night market at Largo do Pagode do Bazar, according to a report by Macao Daily News. Lo suggested that the government set up a small-scale night market with food and light decorations, which he said would boost the attractiveness of Macau to prospective tourists.

Fashion illustration contest winners to be awarded tomorrow

The 7th Macao Fashion Illustration Contest awarding ceremony will be held tomorrow at the Macao Design Centre. The Macao Productivity and Technology Transfer Center, which organized the contest, said this edition of the competition encouraged participants to express their dreams through their designs. Participants are divided into two categories: 19-year-olds and teenagers aged between 14 and 18. The organizer said it had received a total of 205 submissions for the contest, which will be evaluated by a jury comprising seven members of art associations. The winning pieces will be displayed at the Macao Design Centre from tomorrow until July 10.

Final round of University IT competition to kick off in July

The final round of the 2017 Pan-Pearl River Delta Region Universities IT Project Competition will be held on July 4 and 5 at the Macao Polytechnic Institute (IPM). Fifty teams from 15 provinces, including Hong Kong and Macau, will showcase their work in an exhibition that will be open to the public. The 11th edition of the competition is co-organized by IPM and the Macao Computer Society, with the support of computer associations from other regions. According to an IPM statement, the district trials of the annual competition attracts tens of thousands of student participants from more than two hundred colleges and universities.

Macau-themed garden wins five prizes in Wuhan

A garden designed by the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) won five prizes at the 10th Wuhan International Garden Expo, said the IACM in a statement on Tuesday. The garden combines characteristics of the Ruins of Saint Paul and assorted Portuguese architecture, as well as lotus flower motifs, fountains, sculptures and murals. A total of 82 cities and Chinese regions, in addition to 10 foreign cities, participated in the exhibition. All designs will be preserved as new tourist attractions in the city of Wuhan.

Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau bridge expected to boost hotel industry

Lynzy Valles

THE future landscape of the hotel market in Hong Kong and Macau was discussed yesterday at the Business Luncheon of American Chamber of Commerce in Macau at the St. Regis hotel.

The speaker, Chun-Kong Lau, international director and head of Valuation Advisory Services of Jones Lang LaSalle Limited, emphasized the importance of tourism in the growth of Macau's economy.

Lau stressed that Macau has a lot to offer, especially now that the hotel rooms in the region have increased in number and improved in quality over the years.

He noted that the number of luxury hotel rooms in Macau has already overtaken that of Hong Kong.

"The room size itself and the facilities [that are] offered in the hotels have a lot of attractions and these appeal to the visitors, no matter [visitors from] Hong Kong, China or overseas," the real estate expert said.

Lau added that attracting high-rollers was the "right move" for the city, given the current trend of more wealthy tourists investing in "creating good experiences."

He said that the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HKZMB) will play a vital role in encouraging visitors from across



Chun-Kong Lau (center)

the Pearl River Delta to visit Macau, as the traveling time and costs will both be reduced.

The HKZMB is expected to help generate non-gaming revenues in the city, as incoming tourists will be attracted to larger retail spaces and the food and beverage offerings at the city's hotels.

Lau also commended the local government for driving innovation in its creative industries.

"These are all non-gaming [activities and] all of these would be able to help Macau to grow further. These will help diversify the economic base," Lau stressed.

Although Lau believes that the bridge will create several economic benefits, he is unsure whether it will generate a "significant or large amount" of income. The

three regions have invested a staggering sum of over HKD110 billion in the bridge to date.

The discussion also focused on the significance of the region's MICE industry. Events facilities and convention halls like the Cotai Arena are already a major attraction for several guests.

Lau also revealed that as the price level of properties are dictated by several factors – including the city's economic performance – the "good performance" of the tourism, hotel and gaming sector will be "critical" for the MSAR.

Lau said the region's hotel sector will continue to attract visitors with significant spending power, adding that the city's hotel offerings are a major factor in the creation of quality events.

"The tourism industry is a very important pillar of the Macau economy," Lau said. "Whether the tourists spend in casinos, shopping, the food and beverage sector [...], it will support the growth of the Macau economy."

Although Lau mentioned that the local government must "carefully consider" future land reclamations or the construction of more residential buildings, he is certain that the quality of accommodation in Macau has improved compared to past years.

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Hong Kong-Singapore stars fade with boom-to-gloom in finance

ASIA'S financial-hub twins, Hong Kong and Singapore, are facing increasing brakes on growth even before potential turmoil from a Brexit vote in their ex-colonial master, with China's slowdown and the continuing shrinkage of the financial industry striking both.

Hong Kong's economy unexpectedly contracted in the first quarter, weighed down by falling retail sales and the weakest property market in 25 years. Singapore eked out only a modest expansion in the same period, hurt by weak exports and a downturn in financial services.

Problems in the two cities are similar. Banks are finding it harder to grow profits, hiring has slowed and stock trading is in a slump. Capital inflows propelled by U.S. Federal Reserve quantitative easing and, later, by Chinese investors, are now in the rear-view mirror. While they have seen tougher times before and are building on strengths in other areas, such as tourism, the years of finance-charged growth looks to be over.

When Barclays Plc announced in January that it would close its Asian cash equities operations, it was just the start of what's been a laundry-list of job cuts that have affected Hong Kong and Singapore this year.

The numbers explain the story:

Hong Kong-listed shares saw daily average volume of HKD67 billion (USD8.6 billion) in turnover this year, down 46 percent from HKD123 billion the same period last year. First-time share sales have raised \$5.6 billion this year, less than half the \$14.4 billion of deals priced during the same period in 2015, according to data compiled by Bloomberg, the worst start to a year since 2013.

Singapore, as the center for Southeast Asian deal-making, has experienced a decline in activity. Acquisitions involving companies from the region have fallen 24 percent this year to \$64.9 billion, compared with \$85 billion the same period in 2015, the data show. About SGD1.57 billion (\$1.17 billion) worth of stocks changed hands on average daily this year, a 6 percent decline compared with the same period last year.

"As financial centers, both cities cannot escape the geopolitical and economic forces coming out from China," said Andrew Sheng, a distinguished fellow at the Asia Global Institute in Hong Kong,



who previously worked at the Hong Kong Monetary Authority and Malaysia's central bank. "So the slowdown will affect them both."

The China slowdown is part of a "powerful storm" Asia-Pacific banks will face, which will probably hurt profit growth in an industry that earned half a trillion dollars last year, according to a McKinsey & Co. report released this week. China, which had led regional banks' profit gains for most of the past decade, is going to drag on that growth as its economy weakens, the consultancy said.

It's all a far cry from the years when China's supercharged expansion spurred its industrial giants and

banks to tap Hong Kong and Singapore for financial know-how and billions worth of debt and share issues, fueling rapid growth in banking, tourism and luxury goods shopping.

Thanks to those years of growth, the financial industry came to make up a significant share of the twin cities' economies. Singapore is home to more than 1,200 financial institutions including banks, insurers

and finance companies, according to the Monetary Authority of Singapore. The financial sector employs about 5 percent of the total workforce, MAS data show. Finance and insurance make up the fourth largest component of Singapore's economy, accounting for almost 13 percent in 2015, according to the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

Hong Kong's financial-services industry was the second-biggest contributor to gross domestic product in 2014, with a 16.6 percent share, according to government data, only behind trading and logistics. The financial sector employed 6.3 percent of the workforce in 2014. Hong Kong is home to 156 licensed banks as at June 17, according to HKMA data.

"It is very challenging for banks now," said John Mullally, financial services director of Robert Walters Hong Kong. "There's a lack

of confidence and stability right there. When you have that, market participants such as banks are unlikely to want to hire."

It's not all doom-and-gloom. Singapore's tourism sector is enjoying a bump from wealthy Chinese visiting the country's flashy casino resorts. Credit Suisse Group AG has forecast that tourist arrivals this year will probably exceed forecasts from the Singapore Tourism Board, climbing as much as 8 percent to 16.5 million compared to 2015.

In Hong Kong, the city remains a key gateway for Chinese companies looking to raise capital and as a private banking center for the region's rich.

Still, the two finance hubs face major challenges. So long as Chinese growth struggles for traction, the world's no. 2 economy will cast a long shadow over Hong Kong and Singapore too.

"The headwinds for economic growth are nowhere near over for either of the two," said Klaus Baader, chief Asia-Pacific economist at Societe Generale SA. "The challenges are very significant." **Bloomberg**

INTERNET

China, US, EU pledge to tighten product safety in e-commerce

U.S., European and Chinese regulators said yesterday they will jointly enforce product safety in online commerce, and an American official said they are making progress on crafting standards for hoverboards.

The statement by American, European Union and Chinese officials reflects the rapid growth of international e-commerce, which the officials said "has created new challenges" in protecting consumers from dangerous products.

They pledged to watch online sales more closely, make it easier to track products to their manufacturer and to cooperate in product recalls. They said manufacturers will be encouraged to do more to design safety standards into products.

U.S., European and Chinese regulators have held five such meetings since 2008. They began amid scandals over fake or shoddy toothpaste, tires and other goods from China that revealed weaknesses in safety enforcement.

The latest pledge marked the first time such a meeting produced an agreement to "do something concrete," said the American envoy, Elliot F. Kaye, chairman of the

Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Kaye said the U.S.-Chinese relationship in product safety is close and cooperative, in contrast to disputes in other areas.

Kaye said regulators need to respond to the rise of online commerce that links consumers directly with foreign suppliers, eliminating traditional importers who would have been responsible for product safety. In the United States, online sales have grown to account for 8 percent of total consumer purchases, according to the U.S. Commerce Department.

Meanwhile, Kaye said, regulators are making progress on developing safety standards for hoverboards, the popular electric scooters that have suffered crashes and fires. Kaye's agency is investigating 13 manufacturers, including Chinese companies.

UL, formerly Underwriters Laboratories, a product-testing company, has developed fire-safety standards.

A second group, ASTM, is working on guidelines for stability and is expected to release them in six months, Kaye said. He said Washington would share those with Chinese authorities. **AP**



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MARKETS

Chinese stocks advance most in week as traders weigh Brexit odds

CHINA'S stocks rose the most in a week, while Hong Kong's equities extended gains to a fourth day as traders weighed the odds of Britain staying in the European Union.

The Shanghai Composite Index advanced 0.9 percent at the close, led by energy companies. Technology and small-company shares also rallied, sending the ChiNext index to its highest level in two weeks. The Hang Seng Index climbed 0.6 percent. HSBC Holdings Plc paced gains for lenders. Hong Kong Exchanges & Clearing Ltd., which received about a fifth of its revenue from the U.K. last year, jumped the most in almost a month.

Stocks added to gains in the afternoon even as opinion polls and financial markets grew divided about the likely Brexit outcome. While an index of betting flows compiled by Oddschecker shows the chance of leaving has fallen to 26 percent from 43 percent since June 14, polls say the race is too close to call. Asian nations such as China with slowing growth, high reliance on EU exports and exposure to capital flight look most at risk, according to Bloomberg Intelligence. Li Ka-shing, Hong Kong's richest man, stepped up his calls for Britons to vote in favor of staying as the world braces for the outcome of tomorrow's vote.

"Investors tend to be more positive regarding the U.K. referendum now, which is contributing to the advance in



A woman smiles as she chats at a brokerage house in Fuyang in central China's Anhui province

the stocks," said Ronald Wan, chief executive at Partners Capital International Ltd. in Hong Kong. The higher oil price is supporting some energy companies, he said.

In mainland trading, the ChiNext jumped 2.5 percent. The Shenzhen Composite Index advanced 1.7 percent. Hong Kong's Hang Seng closed at the highest level since June 10, while the Hang Seng China Enterprises Index increased 0.7 percent. Turnover picked up in Hong Kong, with trading volumes in the benchmark rising 13 percent from the 30-day average.

Shenzhen-based technolo-

gy companies and small caps rallied amid lingering speculation a stocks link between Hong Kong and Shenzhen will be announced soon, said Partners Capital's Wan. Hong Kong is "about to take the second step with the Shenzhen-Hong Kong stock connect later this year," HKEx Chief Executive Officer Charles Li said on the exchange's website yesterday.

"A lot of investors have been betting that the Shenzhen-Hong Kong link will be announced" as early as July, said Wan.

A gauge of energy producers in the CSI 300 Index advanced

1.6 percent for the steepest gain among 10 industry groups. Yanzhou Coal Mining Co. surged by the 10 percent daily limit, while China Coal Energy Co. added 3.2 percent. China Shenhua Energy Co. soared 6.2 percent to lead gains for stocks in the Hang Seng. Oil traded near USD50 a barrel as U.S. industry data showed crude stockpiles declined, trimming a glut.

China, with its slowing growth, significant capital outflows and substantial exports to the EU, scores as one of the most vulnerable, Bloomberg Intelligence analysts Fielding Chen and Tom Orlik wrote. The

small, open financial centers of Hong Kong and Singapore are at the highest risk, they said.

HSBC, which is also listed in London, advanced 1 percent in Hong Kong. The lender is among several Hong Kong-listed companies with the highest correlation between their share prices and pound moves. HKEx climbed 1.9 percent. The city's bourse operator generated 20 percent of its revenue from the U.K. in 2015, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

The prospect of Brexit may cause difficulties for Chinese policymakers, given the likely turmoil in financial markets that would follow a British vote to leave. Sharp declines in the yuan – already trading near a five-year low – would prompt intervention by the nation's central bank, according to Roy Teo, a senior currency strategist at ABN Amro Bank NV.

"The U.K. referendum is just around the corner and the result is still highly uncertain," said Liu Xuezhong, an analyst at Bank of Communications Co. in Shanghai.

China will continue its prudent monetary policy this year and continue two-way opening of capital markets, the People's Bank of China said in a report released Tuesday. The government is planning opening measures that may allow foreign firms to list shares in the nation, it said. The monetary authority didn't give a time frame for the move.

Bloomberg

corporate bits

MEMBERS OF SOCIETY OF OPERATIONS ENGINEERS VISIT CEM



In a move to promote safe, efficient and environmentally sustainable engineering operation and professional development, Companhia de Electricidade de Macau (CEM) hosted a delegation comprising the Trustee Board members of the Society of Operations Engineers (SOE)

of the United Kingdom and the Committee members of the SOE Hong Kong Regional Group.

Both parties exchanged views on how SOE can support professional training and development for CEM's engineers.

SOE UK Trustee Board

Members Chris Grime and John Eastman gave a presentation outlining the benefits of SOE membership, the registration process for professional engineering, and registration processes for Chartered Environmentalists.

The Chairman of CEM's Executive Committee Bernie Leong expressed his gratitude towards SOE for its cultivation of engineering expertise through regular seminars and site visits, as well as technical support for training and development.

CEM hopes to collaborate with SOE in the near future, so as to continuously strengthen the exchange of information and expertise between engineers.

H&M SEES LOWER EARNINGS AMID COLD WEATHER, STRONG DOLLAR

Low-cost fashion brand Hennes & Mauritz AB yesterday reported a 17 percent drop in its second-quarter net profit and sluggish sales growth, partly due to cold spring weather and the impact of a stronger dollar.

The Swedish fashion retailer said sales grew five percent in the quarter under review, but rose only two percent – to 54.3 billion kronor (USD6.6 billion) – when converted to Swedish currency.

Profit plummeted to 5.3 billion kronor from 6.4 billion a year earlier, with increased markdowns and investments.

Sales of spring clothes were hurt by a cold March and April in many markets, but H&M



said May was "significantly better."

CEO Karl-Johan Persson said that the first half of the year had been difficult, but that he expected future growth for the Stockholm-based company. H&M currently has 4,000 stores in 62 markets and plans to open more than

400 new stores this year.

"It has been a challenging half-year for fashion retail in many markets, but we have great confidence going forward and are continuing to develop our offerings further within all our brands," Persson said.

"The combination of strong brands, a large body of retail stores in good locations, and a successful e-commerce business puts us in a unique market position for future growth."

H&M now offers e-commerce services in 32 markets, having launched online sales in nine new markets this year. H&M will launch e-commerce in Canada and South Korea later in 2016, and plans to scale up its online business in 2017.

ANALYSIS

Putin heads to Beijing to cement ties, but obstacles remain

Vladimir Isachenkov, Moscow

WITH President Vladimir Putin heading to China this weekend, officials in both countries extoll a blossoming "strategic partnership" between the two former communist rivals.

But despite Moscow's push to strengthen ties with Beijing amid a bitter strain in relations with the West, Russia-China trade has shrunk sharply and a slew of ambitious projects have remained largely on paper. Observers attribute the slow progress to Beijing's hard-nosed bargaining position and the Kremlin's deep-seated suspicions about the growing power of its mighty partner.

A shared desire to counter perceived U.S. global domination and strong personal ties between Putin and Chinese leader Xi Jinping, who are to meet Saturday in Beijing, appear to be the main driving forces behind Russia-China cooperation.

The renewed push to bolster relations with China came after the United States and the European Union imposed an array of crippling sanctions on Russia over its annexation of the Crimean Peninsula in March 2014, cutting its access to world financial markets and blocking the transfer of modern technologies. Moscow was also purged from the Group of Eight leading industrialized nations.

In a bid to show the West that the ties with China could offer a viable alternative, Putin visited Beijing in May 2014, presiding over the signing of numerous deals, including a mammoth 30-year natural gas contract worth USD400 billion.

A later deal saw a branch of Chinese state-owned energy company CNPC buying a stake in a project to build a giant liquefied natural gas plant on the Yamal Peninsula in the Arctic. Last December, Chinese company Sinopec bought a stake in the Russia's Sibur energy company.

China also promised to offer multibillion dollar loans to help build a high-speed rail link between Moscow and the Volga River city of Kazan.

Other ambitious deals have been expected, but most of them have floundered amid Russia's economic uncertainty.

A key factor behind Russia-China trade dropping from nearly \$100 billion a year in 2014 to just over \$60 billion



In this Friday, May 8, 2015 file photo Russian President Vladimir Putin (left) shakes hands with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping during their meeting in the Kremlin in Moscow

last year has been the sharp devaluation of the Russian currency under the double impact of low global oil prices and Western sanctions. With energy resources accounting for two-thirds of Russian exports to China, trade volumes have shrunk as oil prices fell.

The devaluation of the ruble has spooked Chinese investors, and low energy prices made some prospective energy projects unfeasible. Plans to tap new oil and gas fields in Siberia and build more China-bound pipelines, which require massive investment, have stalled.

Chinese companies and banks also have been cautious about developing their business in Russia, fearing that it could adversely affect their operations elsewhere due to the spiraling Russia-West tensions and Western sanctions.

Plans for Chinese companies to invest in the giant Vankor oil and gas fields in eastern

Siberia have bogged down over pricing disputes, Russia's hopes of using China as an alternative to European financial markets have failed and a prospective transport corridor between China and the European Union has remained mired in uncertainty.

Beijing's ambitious Silk Road Economic Belt project, intended to encourage infrastructure development in formerly Soviet Central Asia which Russia sees as its home turf, has caused unease in Moscow. China has promised to coordinate the project with the Russia-dominated Eurasian Economic Union, but clearly has put an emphasis on bilateral deals with Kazakhstan and other members of the bloc.

"Moscow can't preserve its economic domination in Central Asia," Alexander Gabuyev of the Carnegie Moscow Center wrote in a commentary.

At a recent Russia-China forum in Moscow, officials hai-

led an "unprecedented" closeness, but businessmen and experts pointed at numerous problems.

Russian tycoon Viktor Vekselberg deplored what he described as a "catastrophically low" level of Russia-China cooperation in the high-tech sector, saying that Chinese companies have shown little interest in investing in Russian industries.

While ambitious hopes for closer economic cooperation haven't materialized, Russia and China have bolstered their military ties, which have included joint war games and contacts on missile defense. Russian weapons exports to China, which peaked in the 1990s and fell dramatically in the following decade, have received a new boost recently.

"We have common interests, especially now, when the United States has put pressure on both Russia and China," said Li Fenglin, a former Chinese

While ambitious hopes for closer economic cooperation haven't materialized, Russia and China have bolstered their military ties

ambassador to Moscow who heads a government-sponsored think tank. He urged Moscow to cooperate more closely with Beijing, noting that some in Russia still fear China and seek to counterbalance its influence.

Some Russian military and political insiders view China's growing power with unease, fearing that the giant eastern neighbor could one day try to dictate its terms.

The prospect of potential Chinese expansion long has worried residents of Russia's sparsely populated far eastern regions, where many growled about the Kremlin's decision to surrender significant slices of land along the 4,200-kilometer (2,600-mile) border to China in a 2005 demarcation deal.

Reflecting such fears, Russia's state television recently aired a program hosted by famous film director Nikita Mikhalkov that included a video describing a hypothetical Chinese invasion. The video ended with China quickly overrunning all of Russia's Far East and Siberia and drawing a new border along the Urals, the mountain range that traditionally serves as the boundary between Europe and Asia.

Many in Russia also have been appalled by Chinese farmers leasing Russia's agricultural lands, seeing them as both a vanguard of potential expansion and an environmental scourge because of aggressive use of toxic fertilizers.

"Chinese farmers have poisoned our land," ultranationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy ranted during recent debates in parliament. "Nothing grows after them!" AP

US, North Korean diplomats attend meetings in Beijing

DIPLOMATS from the U.S. and North Korea are attending a six-nation security forum in Beijing yesterday, in a rare opportunity for contact between them after the North fired two suspected powerful new ballistic missiles.

Despite their attendance at the event, the U.S. State Department has said there were no plans for direct talks between the U.S. special representative for North Korea policy Sung Kim, and the deputy director general of the North Korean Foreign Ministry's Department of U.S. Affairs, Choe Son Hui.

The conference is described as a multilateral forum involving high-level policymakers, defense ministry officials, military officers, and researchers from China, Japan, North and South Korea, Russia, and the United States.

The nations taking part had participated in years of negotiations on North Korean nuclear disarmament that stalled in 2008. There are few prospects of a resumption of the talks amid the Kim Jong Un government's attempts to assert itself as a nuclear weapons state and heightened tensions following a North Korean nuclear test and rocket launch that drew stiff sanctions.

The U.S. and its partners want Pyongyang to recommit



Choe Son Hui (third from left) deputy director general of the Department of US Affairs of North Korea Foreign Ministry, prepares to sit as Sung Kim, special representative for North Korean Policy of the U.S. Department of State (left) arrives to attend the 26th Northeast Asia Cooperation Dialogue in Beijing

to denuclearization before restarting the discussions.

The closed-door Beijing conference was organized by the Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation at the University of California, San Diego.

The institute calls the dialogue a "regular channel of informal communication among the six governments." Officials participate in the meetings in their private capacity, not as official government representatives.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said that a suspected first Musudan launch from the east coast city of Wonsan failed yesterday. While it didn't elaborate, Japan's Defense Ministry said the missile fragmented and pieces fell into waters off the Korean Peninsula's east coast.

A second missile flew only about 400 kilometers, well short of its potential 3,500-kilometer range.

The launches were North Korea's fifth and sixth such attempts since April [more on page 12]. AP

USA-CHINA

In Utah speech, Dalai Lama says actions spread compassion

Lindsay Whitehurst, Salt Lake City

THE Dalai Lama delivered his message of peace and compassion yesterday to thousands of people during a visit to Utah that included a luncheon with the governor and a planned meeting with senior Mormon leaders.

The Tibetan spiritual leader encouraged the audience at the University of Utah to start with themselves and their families to spread a sense of wonder in humanity.

"Who creates violence? Who destroys peace? Not God, but you. So you have the responsibility to solve this problem," he said.

The self-effacing Nobel Peace Prize laureate wore an honorary medal on a thick chain and a white university visor during the talk punctuated by his hearty chuckles.



The Dalai Lama

"This is very, very practical," he said about the cap that contrasted with his crimson robes.

His speech came after stops in Washington, D.C., and California. The Tibetan spiritual leader was greeted when he arrived at his Salt Lake City hotel by an admiring crowd of a few hundred

people who waited in nearly 100-degree heat.

Gov. Gary Herbert hosted the private lunch for the 80-year-old Dalai Lama that was attended by former presidential candidate Mitt Romney and the mayors of Salt Lake City and county. The spiritual leader is also expected

to meet with two senior Mormon church leaders yesterday.

The meetings with politicians came despite a warning letter from a Weber State University professor who helped broker Utah's relations with China.

Professor Taowen Le said that officials cou-

ld jeopardize that relationship if they met with the Tibetan spiritual leader, but Utah leaders said the China connection doesn't mean giving up core values such as freedom of speech.

The sentiment echoes Beijing's position on President Barack Obama's meeting with the Dalai Lama last week.

Beijing accuses the Tibetan spiritual leader of heading a campaign to split the region off from the rest of China, though the Dalai Lama says he simply wants a higher degree of autonomy under Chinese rule.

The Dalai Lama said Tuesday that a relationship with China is good for Tibet's economy, but the country still wants to maintain its traditions. He said he's sensing ordinary Chinese tourists want to visit Tibet and change could come even though hard-line Chinese leaders remain opposed.

The appearance in Utah was scheduled after the Dalai Lama had to cancel a speech last year when doctors at the Mayo Clinic told him to rest. AP

The People's Daily hits US over sea dispute

THE flagship newspaper of China's ruling Communist Party has issued a harsh attack on U.S. policies in Asia, accusing it of seeking to turn the disputed South China Sea into a powder keg and warning it not to underestimate China's determination to defend its territorial claims.

The People's Daily on Wednesday cited recent combined exercises by two Navy aircraft carrier strike groups as a sign of U.S. hegemony and says Washington has made a mistake in seeking to intimidate China.

The article comes amid rising tensions over contested waters, islands and reefs and Chinese outrage over U.S. support for a case brought by the Philippines before a United Nations arbitration panel challenging Beijing's claims to virtually the entire South China Sea. A verdict in that case is expected soon.

KOREAS

South military: North fires 2 suspected midrange missiles



South Korean army soldiers prepare to fire 105mm howitzers during an exercise in Paju

Foster Klug & Hyung-Jin Kim, Seoul

IN a remarkable show of persistence, North Korea yesterday fired two suspected powerful new Musudan midrange ballistic missiles, U.S. and South Korean military officials said, its fifth and sixth such attempts since April.

Five of those launches failed, many exploding in midair or crashing, and the sixth flew only about 400 kilometers, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said, an improvement but still well short of the missile's potential 3,500-kilometer range and not long enough to be classified as intermediate.

Despite the repeated failures, the North's determination in testing the Musudan worries Washington and its allies, Tokyo and Seoul, because the missile's range puts much of Asia and the Pacific, including U.S. military bases there, within reach.

Each new test — apparently linked to a command from North Korean leader Kim Jong Un — also likely provides valuable insights to the North's scientists and military officials as they push toward their goal of a nuclear and missile program that can threaten the U.S. mainland. Pyongyang earlier this year conducted a nuclear test, its fourth, and launched a long-range rocket that outsiders say was a cover for a test of banned missile technology.

A statement from South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said a suspected first Musudan launch from the east coast city of Wonsan failed early yesterday morning. It didn't elaborate. But Japan's Defense Ministry said the missile fragmented and pieces fell into waters off the Korean Peninsula's east coast.

Later yesterday, the JCS said the North fired another suspected Musudan, which flew about

400 kilometers. Seoul didn't immediately classify this launch as either a success or failure, but the reported distance is well short of past tests of other midrange missiles.

A U.S. official also said the first launch appeared to be another failure, adding that the U.S. was assessing exactly what had happened. The official wasn't authorized to comment publicly and requested anonymity. Another American official said the first launch was a suspected Musudan but initial indications were that it failed in flight over the Sea of Japan, which the Koreans call the East Sea.

The U.S. Strategic Command in Hawaii said its systems detected and tracked two suspected North Korean Musudan missiles that fell into the Sea of Japan. It said in a statement that they didn't pose a threat to North America.

In April, North Korea attempted unsuccessfully to launch

three suspected Musudan missiles, but all exploded in midair or crashed, according to South Korean defense officials. Earlier this month, North Korea had another suspected Musudan failure, South Korean officials said.

Before April's launches, North Korea had never flight-tested a Musudan missile, although one was displayed during a military parade in 2010 in Pyongyang, its capital.

The launches appear to stem from Kim Jong Un's order in March for more nuclear and ballistic missile tests. The order was an apparent response to springtime U.S.-South Korean military drills, which North Korea views as an invasion rehearsal.

Since the end of those military drills, Pyongyang has repeatedly called for the resumption of talks with Seoul, even as it pursues new missile development, but the South has rejected the overtures. Seoul wants the North to

first take steps toward nuclear disarmament. Pyongyang says its rivals must negotiate with it as an established nuclear power, something Washington and Seoul refuse to do.

The string of recent launch attempts shows the North is pushing hard to upgrade its missile capability in defiance of U.S.-led international pressure. The North was slapped with the strongest U.N. sanctions in two decades after its nuclear test and long-range rocket launch earlier this year.

"These provocations only serve to increase the international community's resolve to counter [North Korea's] prohibited activities, including through implementing existing U.N. Security Council sanctions," State Department spokesman John Kirby said in a statement. "We intend to raise our concerns at the U.N. to bolster international resolve in holding [North Korea] accountable for these provocative actions."

South Korea's Unification Ministry called the launches a "clear provocation" that violated U.N. Security Council resolutions banning any ballistic activities by North Korea. In Tokyo, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was also critical, saying "We find it utterly unforgivable."

North Korea has recently claimed a series of breakthroughs in its push to build a long-range nuclear missile that can strike the American mainland. But South Korean officials have said the North doesn't yet possess such a weapon.

The North, however, has already deployed a variety of missiles that can reach most targets in South Korea and Japan, including American military bases in the countries.

The Korean Peninsula remains in a technical state of war because the 1950-53 Korean War ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty. About 28,500 U.S. soldiers are stationed in South Korea to deter possible aggression from North Korea; tens of thousands more are stationed in Japan. **AP**

AUSTRALIA

Asylum seeker boats have been turned back

AUSTRALIA'S ruling party said yesterday that it had turned back 28 boats to prevent asylum seekers reaching Australia during its three years in power and warned that such vigilance would not continue if the country's opposition wins next month's national election.

The conservative coalition government has warned that the boats would start coming

from Indonesian ports in greater numbers if the center-left Labor Party wins the July 2 elections.

The latest boat carrying 21 Vietnamese was intercepted this month, Border Protection Minister Peter Dutton said. They were returned to Vietnam after their refugee claims were assessed and rejected at sea, he said. He declined to give details.

The government rarely gives details of its

military-run operations against asylum-seeker boats at sea. Indonesia objects to boats carrying foreigners being towed by Australian warships back to Indonesian shores.

How to deal with asylum seekers is a major political issue in Australia, and Dutton said if opposition leader Bill Shorten were to win the election, his plan to give 30,000 asylum seekers already in Australia permanent

refugee visas would only attract more boats.

The government has given them three-year temporary protection visas and threatens to send them back to their homelands when those visas expire. Dutton said changing that would give people smugglers hope that Australia was softening its policies designed to deter asylum seekers from the Middle East, Africa and Asia from at-

tempting to reach Australia by boat.

"That sends a green light. It is basically Bill Shorten waiving a white flag to the people smugglers," Dutton told reporters.

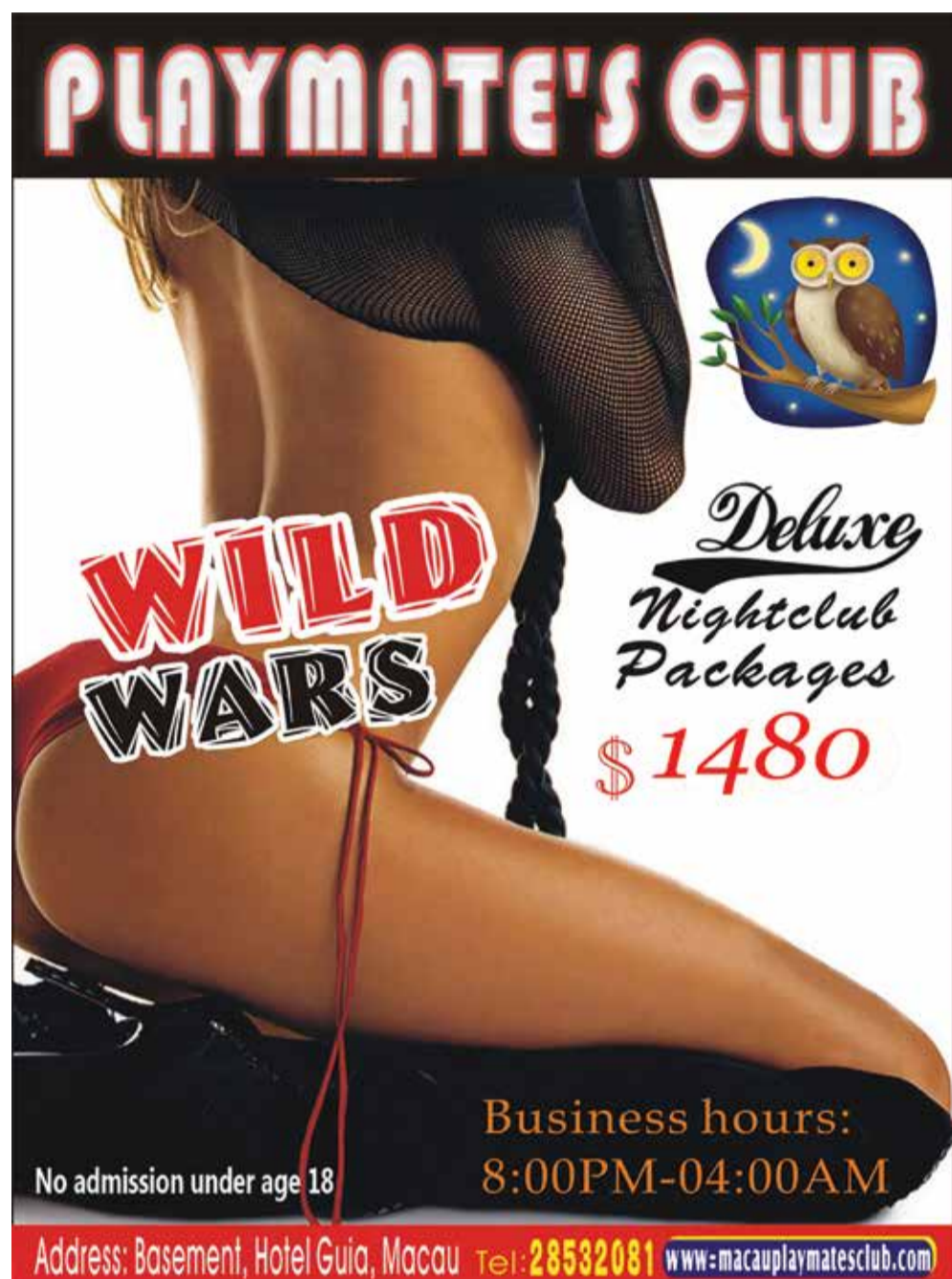
Shorten has denied that dumping the temporary refugee visas would encourage more boats, and said the conservatives were irresponsible to suggest there would be more people smuggling

if he won.

Shorten said a Labor government would maintain the same tough policies that have prevented any asylum seekers from reaching Australia by boat for two years in it was in power.

Like the government, Labor would turn back boats. If any asylum seekers reached Australia, they would be sent to Australia-run immigration camps on the Pacific island nations of Nauru and Papua New Guinea with a promise that they would never find a home in Australia, Shorten said. **AP**

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USA ELECTIONS

Dump Trump movement preparing fight at GOP convention

Stephen Ohlemacher,
Thomas Beaumont

THE "dump Trump" movement is gaining followers among delegates to next month's Republican National Convention, an effort that could tarnish Donald Trump's coronation even if it ultimately fails.

Several hundred Republican delegates are organizing to oppose Trump at the convention. That's not enough delegates to topple Trump. But it's more than enough to create turmoil at an event that is typically used to bring a political party together in support of a presidential candidate.

"If Trump is the nominee, we truly believe it's the end of our party," said Kendal Unruh, a Colorado delegate who is leading the effort to dump Trump. "We're trying to save the party."

There could be floor fights over convention rules and the party's platform. And instead of a coronation, the roll call to nominate Trump could be an opportunity for delegates to voice their displeasure on national television.

"What's worse for the Republican Party — this is the calculation — one week of absolute chaos and all sorts of recriminations or four and a half months of this looming, rolling catastrophe?" conservative Milwaukee radio host Charlie Sykes said on his Tuesday show. Some delegates are appalled



AP PHOTO
Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump

that their party would endorse a candidate who has publicly insulted women and a reporter with disabilities. Many were alarmed by his incendiary remarks following the Orlando massacre, and some were distressed by his assertion this month that a Mexican-American judge couldn't fairly preside over a Trump civil case.

When asked about her objections to Trump, Unruh said: "You mean besides the fact that he's not a Republican? He's progressive populist protectionist." Trump dismisses attempts to deny him the nomination, noting he will have more than

enough support at the convention to win the nomination and control the proceedings.

He has noted correctly that he received far more votes, won many more states, and collected nearly three times as many delegates as his closest rival, Texas Sen. Ted Cruz.

The dump Trump group faces another obstacle: It has no candidate to challenge Trump.

"I have zero clue who is going to do this," said Unruh, who supported Cruz.

Some veteran Republican strategists and Republican National Committee members expressed resignation about the

effort and predicted it will factor little in the convention proceedings.

"I expect the whole thing to fizzle before the convention," said Charlie Black, an adviser to John McCain in 2008 and other GOP nominees.

Toppling Trump is a longshot effort, according to the math.

Unruh said she has the support of at 400 delegates, including some who are alternates. There will be 2,472 delegates at the convention. It takes 1,237 delegates to win the Republican nomination for president.

Trump has 1,542 delegates, including 1,447 who are required by party rules to vote for him on the first ballot at the convention, according to the Associated Press count.

People in the Cruz camp say there is no organized effort on their part to encourage delegates loyal to the senator to oust Trump. But they aren't discouraging a delegate revolt, either.

"You've got [House Speaker] Paul Ryan saying over the weekend that they should be allowed to vote their conscience — that's a pretty big deal," said Chris Wilson, who led polling and data operations for Cruz. "If they somehow end up becoming unbound, I don't know. All bets are off there."

Unruh said she and her supporters will work to adopt rules that allow delegates to support the candidate of their choice. They are busy trying to contact members of the in-

fluent rules committee, which will meet the week before the convention.

The entire convention will vote on the rules adopted by the 112-member rules committee. It would take 28 votes by committee members to issue a minority report, which would also get a vote on the convention floor.

"I can confidently say that I will have a minority report," said Unruh, who sits on the rules committee. "We're saving the party and [GOP Chairman] Reince Priebus will send me flowers, I'm sure."

Former Illinois Republican Party Chairman Pat Brady's job is rounding up anti-Trump delegates in the Midwest. He acknowledged it's a longshot campaign, but said there's little to lose.

"Can I see it falling into place, given how poorly his campaign has gone? Yes," Brady said.

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker said that delegates should be free to vote their conscience at the convention.

"I think historically, not just this year, delegates are and should be able to vote the way they see fit," Walker said. "We'll see how things go between now and the convention as to what the next steps are. I'm not going to speculate now only because you all know the situation may change by this afternoon, let alone between now and the convention."

Walker has endorsed Trump. AP

BREXIT | TODAY IS THE DAY

Campaigners in EU vote take on final day of campaigning

CAMPAIGNERS on both sides of the crucial vote today on whether or not Britain should remain in the European Union crisscrossed the country yesterday, their last day to win support from the undecided.

Prime Minister David Cameron outlined his vision for a future with Britain retaining its place in the 28-nation bloc, bristling at the notion that the country would be headed in the wrong direction if it stayed in. He flatly rejected the notion that the institution is moribund.

"We are not shackled to a corpse," Cameron told the BBC. "You can see the European economy's recovery. It's the largest single market in the world."

The most notable figure in the "leave" campaign, former London Mayor Boris Johnson, kicked off a whirlwind tour of England as he pushed for a British exit — or Brexit. Touring the Billingsgate Fish Market, Johnson mugged for the cameras with fish in hand — a not-so-subtle reminder that this is an island nation — and one very proud of its

independence and self-assurance.

"It's time to have a totally new relationship with our friends and partners across the Channel," Johnson said. "It's time to speak up for democracy, and hundreds of millions of people around Europe agree with us. It's time to break away from the failing and dysfunctional EU system."

Britain goes to the polls today after a campaign that has been both heated and complicated. The reach of the EU into every aspect of life has meant

that all sorts of groups — from scientists to CEOs — have registered opinions on whether to stay or go.

The stakes are high as the vote is final — unlike an election in which the results can be reversed in the next term.

Much of the debate has hinged on the economy. From the international banks in the skyscrapers of Canary Wharf to the traditional home of Britain's financial industry in the City of London, business has largely awaited the referendum with trepidation and cau-



AP PHOTO
British Prime Minister David Cameron makes a statement appealing for people to vote to remain in the European Union outside 10 Downing Street in London

tion. Many fear a vote to leave would undermine London's position as the world's pre-eminent financial center and damage an industry that underpins the British economy.

Leaders of about half of Britain's largest companies made a last-ditch

appeal to their employees to vote for remaining in the European Union.

In a letter to the Times on the eve of today's vote, some 1,285 business leaders — include representatives of half of the FTSE 100 businesses — argue that a vote to leave will hurt the British economy. AP

what's ON



EDGAR DEGAS: FIGURES IN MOTION - A COLLECTION OF 74 BRONZE SCULPTURES
TIME: 12pm-9pm
 (Closed on Mondays, except public holidays)
UNTIL: November 20, 2106
VENUE: MGM Art Space, Macau
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (852) 3678 0150

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

Offbeat

MYSTERY BREWS IN ATLANTA: SOMEONE STOLE A WHOLE LOT OF BEER

A mystery is brewing in Atlanta, where someone stole an ocean of beer.

A brewery in the city says nearly 3,300 cases of beer went missing when two of its refrigerated trailers were stolen.

SweetWater Brewing Co. said the trailers had been loaded for a morning pickup when they were taken from the plant north of downtown in the pre-dawn darkness Tuesday.

"For a small company like us to lose that much beer, it really hurts," said Steve Farace, who handles marketing for the 140-employee craft beer company.

The two trailers carried 3,272 cases altogether - or more than 78,500 bottles - of SweetWater's Summer Variety Pack, company spokeswoman Tucker Berta Sarkisian said.

Both trailers were later found in the Atlanta area by using GPS, but both were empty.

By the afternoon, about one-fourth of the stolen beer was found at a warehouse in Clayton County just south of Atlanta, Sarkisian said.

Farace was at the warehouse as police looked over the recovered beer and sought clues about who stole it.

Though some of the beer was found, "we can no longer trust that that beer would be up to the quality standards that we as a brewery maintain, so unfortunately we have to destroy it all," Farace said.

The warehouse where the beer was found isn't far from some of the locations where the 1977 movie *Smokey and the Bandit* was filmed. In the movie, Coors Beer is hauled across the South with a sheriff in hot pursuit. Those similarities have led to plenty of jokes inspired by the movie since word of the crime spread through the SweetWater plant, Farace said.

But it's not generating many laughs at the company. AP

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:40	UEFA EURO 2016 - Group Stage (Group F) Hungary - Portugal (Repeated)
16:30	UEFA EURO 2016 - Group Stage (Group E) Italy - Rep. of Ireland (Repeated)
18:20	Helena's Shadow (Repeated)
19:10	Montra do Lilau (Repeated)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:10	Sports
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Talk Show
21:40	The Toque 12
22:10	Helena's Shadow
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Variety
23:55	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:30	Sports (Repeated)

cinema

CINETEATRO

23 JUN - 29 JUN



INDEPENDENCE DAY: RESURGENCE

ROOM 1

(2D) 2.30, 4.45, 9.30 pm

(3D) 7.15 pm

Director: Roland Emmerich

Starring: Liam Hemsworth, Jeff Goldblum,

Bill Pullman

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 120min

ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS

ROOM 2

(2D) 2.30, 4.30, 9.30 pm

(3D) 7.30 pm

Director: James Bobin

Starring: Mia Wasikowska, Johnny Depp,

Helena Bonham Carter

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 113min

KIDNAP DING DING DON

ROOM 3

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Wilson Chin

Starring: Ivana Wong, Alex Fong, Kabby Hui,

Bill Chan

Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 98min

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

MACAU TOWER

23 JUN - 07 JUL

INDEPENDENCE DAY: RESURGENCE

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Roland Emmerich

Starring: Liam Hemsworth, Jeff Goldblum,

Bill Pullman

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 120min

this day in history



1972 CHANCELLOR ORDERS POUND FLOTATION

The Chancellor, Anthony Barber, has announced his decision to temporarily float the pound.

The news comes only a day after the bank lending rate was increased by 1% - and four days after an interview on the BBC's Panorama programme in which he denied Britain was in danger of devaluation.

Labour MPs will see his decision to float the pound - rather than trade within a broad band linked to other currencies - as a first step towards devaluation.

Mr Barber told MPs the trade balance had deteriorated in the past couple of months and it had become necessary to shore up sterling by using the Bank of England's reserves.

He told MPs he was determined not to "allow ourselves to slide into a situation where we would have to borrow substantial sums".

"One of our underlying causes of this situation has undoubtedly been the concern about inflation... To curb inflation remains our first priority," he added.

The immediate crisis was sparked by heavy selling of the pound on the markets, which began on 16 June.

Investors' unease about high inflation in Britain has been exacerbated by recent highly publicised pay settlements for coal miners and railway workers, taking the average public sector wage increase to 9%. The Government has also become locked in two disputes over its industrial relations act, further damaging its image abroad.

The Chancellor accused his shadow Denis Healey of adding to pressure on the pound by speculating about a possible devaluation in a speech on Monday evening. In it, Mr Healey said there would be a devaluation by July or August.

Amid Conservative jeers, leader of the opposition Harold Wilson denied his shadow chancellor's remarks had anything to do with the pressure on the pound.

Labour front benchers also claimed the decision to float was in direct contradiction of the Government's agreement to keep the pound's exchange rate within a narrow band as a first step towards economic and monetary union with the other Common Market countries.

Mr Barber insisted the flotation would be temporary. The foreign exchange market will be closed today (Friday) and Monday in order to prepare for the new arrangements.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The Chancellor went to Luxembourg on 26 June to explain his decision to float the pound to the finance ministers of the six Common Market countries.

He assured them the pound would return to operating within fixed trading bands in time for Britain to join its European partners in 1973.

Britain did join the Common Market, but the economy went from bad to worse. Mr Barber imposed a 90 day price freeze from 6 November.

1973 saw more industrial action and petrol rationing as a result of a Middle East oil embargo.

Prime Minister Edward Heath was finally forced to call a snap election in February 1974 - which he lost to Harold Wilson.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 No one expects you to be a saint. Using people a tiny bit here and a tiny bit there is really the norm.

Taurus April 20-May 20 No one can knock you down and nothing can make you float on air, either. You have both feet planted firmly on the ground.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Is someone trying to confuse you or is it inadvertent? Either way, they're losing you. When you're not clear about the entire proposition, it goes without saying you should keep your wallet shut.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 There's always something that needs your immediate attention. You're starting to wonder if the money is worth this constant effort.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Your enthusiasm is infectious. So is your arrogance. Someone around you is working your nerves and it takes a while to realize where they picked up their bad habits.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Being the creative type makes being critical of others that much easier. You can take someone's ideas apart and put them back together again without blinking an eye.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Old emotional issues are even harder to banish than old financial ones. When they're intertwined, it's easy to feel like you've got a ball and chain.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Whether or not your boss is in a good mood is less important than whether the universe is. You get all smiles and glittery stars from the ultimate authority.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 The entire universe seems focused on money, but actually that's only the way it looks through your own eyes. You don't have to live in a cardboard box to have a wildly different view of the world.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 If you didn't get a positive financial outcome, would you still be pursuing the task at hand? It's not very likely. That makes money your only real accomplishment when all is said and done.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You're chafing against any kind of discipline today, even if it's all self imposed. Not the right attitude for getting things done, but also not an attitude to ignore.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Are you willingly helping people or are they secretly siphoning off your energy? If it was money they were helping themselves to, you'd be up in arms.

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- Nonsense; 5- Flirtatious girl; 9- Pond scum; 14- 1975 Wimbledon winner; 15- Tiny particle; 16- Closes in on; 17- Pet plant; 18- And here it is!; 19- Grannies; 20- Small amount; 22- Cuddle; 24- Actress Streep; 26- de cologne; 27- Act properly; 30- Physically active; 35- All together; 36- Romanov ruler; 37- Parks on a bus; 38- Youth org.; 39- Very funny; 42- Lisa, to Bart, briefly; 43- Actress Deborah; 45- Speaker of note; 46- Representative; 48- Hans Christian; 50- Claim; 51- Block; 52- Infomercial knife; 54- Dollar; 58- Attains; 62- From head; 63- First person; 65- Wild ones are sown; 66- Rose essence; 67- Sari-clad royal; 68- Sp. ladies; 69- Chairs; 70- Lamb's pseudonym; 71- 911 respondents;

DOWN: 1- German composer; 2- Dept. of Labor division; 3- Type of guard; 4- Chief; 5- Ripe; 6- Pisa place; 7- Silent assent; 8- December day, briefly; 9- Yearly; 10- Member of a sports organization; 11- Group; 12- Asian inland sea; 13- "quam videri" (North Carolina's motto); 21- Abnormal body temperature; 23- Indira Gandhi's father; 25- Enduring; 27- Sweet spongy yeast cake; 28- Ruhr Valley city; 29- Stockpile; 31- Town near Santa Fe; 32- We're off the Wizard; 33- Of Thee; 34- Class of Indian society; 36- Sped; 40- "Who's there?" reply; 41- Tortilla chip dip; 44- British soldier; 47- Sugar; 49- Gardeners, at times; 50- Hemoglobin deficiency; 53- Tehran native; 54- RR stops; 55- Speck of dust; 56- girl!; 57- Hard to find; 59- Injure; 60- Coup d'; 61- Flat sound; 64- Lentil and spice dish



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Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
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EURO 2016 | ROUNDUP

Croatia ends Spain's 12-year unbeaten run at European finals

Tales Azzoni, Bordeaux

SPAIN'S 12-year unbeaten run at the European Championship ended when Croatia rallied for a stunning 2-1 win yesterday, sending the two-time champions into an intense, high-profile knockout match against Italy in the round of 16.

Ivan Perisic's 87th-minute winner for Croatia not only ended Spain's unbeaten run at the tournament that stretched back to 2004, it also relegated the defending champions into second place in Group D.

A draw would have been enough for Spain to secure first place in the group and a potentially easier second-round game.

Spain will face the Italians at the Stade de France in Saint-Denis on Monday [Tuesday, 0:00] — a repeat of the 2012 final that Spain won 4-0. Croatia will play one of the third-place teams in the northern French city of Lens on Saturday.

"It's not the best path for us, but you never know where the danger will be," Spain coach Vicente Del Bosque said. "We wanted to advance in first place but we are prepared to overcome this."



Croatia's Nikola Kalinic celebrates after scoring his side's first goal during the Euro 2016 Group D soccer match against Spain at the Nouveau Stade in Bordeaux

It had all started so well for Spain, when striker Alvaro Morata put his side ahead in the seventh minute, redirecting the ball into the net after a shot by midfielder Cesc Fabregas.

Nikola Kalinic equalized just before halftime when he steered a Perisic cross into the Spain net with a nice back-heel flick.

Spain had a chance to retake the lead, but defender Sergio

Ramos saw his penalty saved by Croatia goalkeeper Danijel Subasic in the 72nd minute.

It proved to be a costly miss when Perisic finished off a fast counter attack with a low left-foot shot that beat Spain goalkeeper David De Gea at his near post.

Both teams had entered the match at the Stade the Bordeaux guaranteed a spot in the

knockout stage. However, both teams wanted to win especially as the runner-up in the group will meet Italy. That was evident in the starting lineup that Del Bosque picked — the same 11 that won its first two games.

"We have to get over this," Del Bosque said. "Now we have to prepare well."

The result ended Spain's 14-game unbeaten streak at the

European Championship over two tournaments. It also ended the team's run of seven straight games without conceding a goal. The last time it had conceded was in a 1-1 draw against Italy in its first group match in the 2012 tournament — 734 minutes ago.

"It's better to lose now than on Monday [against Italy]," Spain striker Manuel "Nolito" Agudo said. "It will be harder now, but you have to beat everybody to be the champion. We still depend on ourselves. We will be ready to play Italy."

Italy has been somewhat of a surprise package at Euro 2016. The team arrived in France with few predicting it would go far but it qualified top of its group with a game to spare, after winning both of its matches without conceding a goal.

"Italy is playing well of late," Spain midfielder Andres Iniesta said. "They also like to keep the ball as part of their defensive tactics."

Croatia's surprise victory came despite playing without star midfielder Luka Modric and forward Mario Mandzukic, both out with muscle injuries.

"The team spirit helped us and we were fighting until the last minute," Perisic said through a translator. "I think we can go far now. If we play like this we can go to the very end."

Croatia hadn't beaten Spain since a 2-0 result in friendly in Valencia in 1994. The teams had also met in the final group game at Euro 2012, when Spain won 1-0. **AP**

Turkey remains in contention with 2-0 win over Czechs

Karel Janicek, Lens

TURKEY rebounded from two losses at the European Championship to beat the Czech Republic 2-0 and keep alive its chances of reaching the knockout stages from Group D.

With their team having failed to score in its defeats to Spain and Croatia, some Turkish fans celebrated with firecrackers and flares that landed on the pitch after the second goal at the Stade Bollaert-Delelis.

Turkey must now wait until the final group matches are played today to discover whether it can advance as one of the four best third-place teams. Croatia won Group D after beating two-time defending champion Spain 2-1 to finish with seven points.

Spain has six points, Turkey has three and the Czechs are eliminated



Turkey coach Fatih Terim (left) celebrates after the final whistle when his team won 2-0 in the Euro 2016 Group D soccer match against the Czech Republic at the Bollaert stadium in Lens

with one point, 20 years after their team reached the final and 40 years after becoming European champions as Czechoslovakia.

Both teams in Lens yesterday needed a win to advance.

Turkey coach Fatih Te-

rim stuck by striker Burak Yilmaz, despite his disappointing performances in earlier matches, and the act of faith paid off.

Yilmaz struck early, rounding off a swift counter attack just 10 minutes into the game. Emre Mor broke down the right

flank before crossing for Yilmaz, who beat Czech goalkeeper Petr Cech at the near post with a first-time right shot.

"I am very happy, I scored a very important goal in a deciding game," Yilmaz said. "It's been a good night and a good goal for me. I hope we'll advance."

As the Czechs pushed forward, they also opened up their defense for the Turkish attack.

Ozan Tufan doubled the lead in the 65th minute, hammering a rising shot past Cech from close range following a free kick by Selcuk Inan.

"It's a huge disappointment for us," Cech said.

Ahead of the tournament, the Arsenal keeper had said he would decide after Euro 2016 whether to retire from international football. He didn't immediately comment on it Tuesday.

For Turkey, there is still hope.

"If we advance, we can do what we did in Euro 2008, because our confidence is growing now," Terim said. **AP**

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
Romania	1	1	Switzerland
France	2	0	Albania
England	2	1	Wales
Ukraine	0	1	N. Ireland
Germany	0	0	Poland
Italy	1	0	Sweden
Czech Rep.	2	2	Croatia
Spain	3	0	Turkey
Belgium	3	0	Rep. Ireland
Iceland	1	1	Hungary
Portugal	0	0	Austria
Romania	0	1	Albania
Switzerland	0	0	France
Russia	0	3	Wales
Slovakia	0	0	England
Ukraine	0	1	Poland
Northern Ireland	0	1	Germany
Czech Republic	0	2	Turkey
Croatia	2	1	Spain

EURO 2016 | PREVIEW

Six teams advance, one goes home as championship takes shape

Graham Dunbar, Paris

SIX teams advanced at the European Championship yesterday, and a heavyweight clash was set up as the round of 16 took shape.

Only one team, the Czech Republic, was definitely eliminated; Turkey and Albania were left with hope but no security; and the eight teams playing today [after press time] were left knowing exactly what they need to do to stay on in France.

Still, one match stands out as Euro 2016 finally heats up.

Two-time defending champion Spain plays Italy on Monday [Tuesday]. A repeat of the Euro 2012 final. At the 75,000-capacity Stade de France.

Spain dropped into an unwanted match against its old rival after conceding an 87th-minute goal in a 2-1 defeat by Croatia yesterday.

Croatia is the unexpected winner of Group D and is rewarded with a game against one of the third-place teams. That will be made clear when the final round of group stage games is played today.

Earlier, Croatia was among



Poland's Jakub Blaszczykowski (front) celebrates after scoring the opening goal during the Euro 2016 Group C soccer match against Ukraine at the Velodrome stadium in Marseille

five teams whose place in the knockout rounds was sealed by 1-0 wins for Germany and Poland in Group C, over Northern Ireland and already eliminated Ukraine, respectively.

Germany advanced as group winner and Poland as runners-

up. But those results also set the bar at four points as a guarantee of staying in France for at least one more match.

Croatia, Hungary and Slovakia had already reached that mark and so advanced.

The new format for Euro 2016

— with 24 teams creating an imperfect tournament number — means four of the six third-place teams advance to complete a 16-team bracket, along with the top two in each group.

Northern Ireland's early evening loss left its noisy, boiste-

rous with three points and hope, but no guarantee of advancing. That was clarified three hours later when the other match in the Croatia-Spain group ended 2-0 to Turkey against the Czech Republic.

Turkey, like Albania in Group A, has three points but a minus-2 goal difference. Northern Ireland's zero goal difference — preserved by a heroic display by goalkeeper Michael McGovern against the Germans — ensures it will advance. It will next play either host nation France or Wales.

Slovakia advanced without playing yesterday. With four points and third place behind Wales and England in Group B on Monday, the Slovaks looked sure to be safe and duly were. AP

WHO'S WHAT

WHO'S THROUGH: France, Switzerland, Wales, England, Slovakia, Germany, Poland, Northern Ireland, Croatia, Spain, Italy, Hungary.

WHO'S OUT: Romania, Russia, Ukraine, Czech Republic. [by press time]

Group A	PL	W	DRAW	L	GF-GA	PNT
France	3	2	1	0	6-3	7
Switzerland	3	1	2	0	3-2	5
Albania	3	1	0	2	3-3	3
Romania	3	0	1	2	2-6	1

Group B	PL	W	DRAW	L	GF-GA	PNT
Wales	3	2	0	1	2-1	6
England	3	1	2	0	3-3	5
Slovakia	3	1	1	1	1-1	4
Russia	3	0	1	2	2-3	1

Group C	PL	W	DRAW	L	GF-GA	PNT
Germany	3	2	1	0	3-0	7
Poland	3	2	1	0	2-0	7
N. Ireland	3	1	0	2	1-2	3
Ukraine	3	0	0	3	0-4	0

Group D	PL	W	DRAW	L	GF-GA	PNT
Croatia	3	2	1	0	5-3	7
Spain	3	2	0	1	5-2	6
Turkey	3	1	0	2	2-4	3
Czech Rep.	3	0	1	2	2-5	1

Group E	PL	W	DRAW	L	GF-GA	PNT
Italy	2	2	0	0	3-0	6
Belgium	2	1	0	1	3-2	3
Sweden	2	0	1	1	1-2	1
Rep. Ireland	2	0	1	1	1-4	1

Group F	PL	W	DRAW	L	GF-GA	PNT
Hungary	2	1	1	0	3-1	4
Iceland	2	0	2	0	2-2	2
Portugal	2	0	2	0	1-1	2
Austria	2	0	1	1	0-2	1

MEANWHILE IN AMERICA...

Messi leads Argentina over US 4-0, into Copa final

Ronald Blum, Houston

LIONEL Messi was too much for the United States to contain.

The five-time world player of the year set up Ezequiel Lavezzi's opening goal in the third minute, then scored on a free kick to break Argentina's career scoring record and assisted on the final goal in a 4-0 rout of the U.S. yesterday that put the La Albiceleste into the Copa America final.

"This was the goal when we got here, to play another final and we made it," Messi said. "We've been spectacular from day one and we deserved this."

After Messi doubled the lead in the 32nd minute with his 55th international goal, his tournament-leading fifth, Gonzalo Higuain quickly ended U.S. comeback hopes when he put the rebound of his initial shot past goalkeeper Brad Guzan in the 50th. Higuain scored off a Messi pass in the 86th.

Argentina will seek its first major title since the 1993 Copa — and its first since Messi's debut in 2005 — when it plays Chile or Colombia



Argentina midfielder Lionel Messi gets the ball past United States midfielder Kyle Beckerman during a Copa America Centenario semifinal soccer match, in Houston

on Sunday [Monday, Macau time] in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

"That's what we hope and what we want, to finally achieve that," Messi said. "We deserve it, for all the good work we've been doing all these years."

It might be missing Lavezzi, who fell backward over an advertising sign board and appeared to land hard on

his left arm at about the 60th minute. Lavezzi was able to get up several minutes later and left on a cart.

Hosting a special, expanded 16-nation edition of South America's championship to celebrate Copa America's 100th anniversary, the U.S. won a difficult group that included third-ranked Colombia and then beat No. 13 Ecuador in the quarterfinals. But top-ranked Argentina and Messi, who turns 29 Friday and is at the top of his game, outclassed the U.S. from the opening whistle and stunned the sellout crowd of 70,858 at NRG Stadium.

Messi has helped Barcelona win eight titles in Spain's La Liga and four in the Champions League, but his Argentina trophies have been limited to the 2005 FIFA World Youth Championship for players under 20 and the gold medal in the 2008 Olympics, mostly for players under 23. La Albiceleste lost to Germany in the 2014 World Cup final and to Chile in last year's Copa America final.

The U.S. and coach Jurgen Klinsmann were trying to rebound after getting eliminated by Jamaica in the semifinals of last year's CONCACAF Gold Cup, losing to Mexico in a playoff for a 2017 Confederations Cup berth and struggling in the semifinal round of 2018 World Cup qualifying. The Americans close the tournament in the third-place match at Glendale, Arizona. AP

THE McILROY OPTS OUT OF RIO OLYMPICS
BUZZ OVER ZIKA CONCERNS

Golfer Rory McIlroy became one of the most high-profile sports stars to opt out of the Rio de Janeiro Olympics because of concerns about the Zika virus, saying yesterday it is "a risk I am unwilling to take."
"After speaking with those closest to me, I've come to realize that my health and my family's health comes before any-



thing else," the four-time major winner said in a statement. The fourth-ranked McIlroy was scheduled to play for Ireland as golf makes its return to the Olympics for the first time since 1904.
The Olympic Council of Ireland (OCI) said it was "extremely disappointed" not to have McIlroy on its team.

opinion

Girl About Globe

Linda Kennedy



OF BEEHIVES AND GENDER IN
OBITUARIES

RIP the ultimate tease. The woman who invented the beehive hairstyle has died.

The news of Margaret Vinci Heldt's passing, aged 98 in Chicago, appeared in newspapers from Taiwan to Malaysia, Ireland to the US. That made me glad.

Not because I wear a beehive. Sure, there are many humid days in Hong Kong when one's hair is bigger than one might wish. But any of my beehives are accidental.

The interest is for another reason. The beehive was the signature style of the 1960s. People cite the Sixties as the time of 'women's lib': mini skirts, free love, the pill.

Fifty years on, 'women's lib' still has a lot to do. Women are not honoured as often as men when they die, and the coverage of the beehive inventor is notable as an exception.

"Obituaries about men far outnumber those of women in top national and regional newspapers," says the Women's Media Center, an organization which aims to 'amplify women's voices', in its report, "The Status of Women in US Media 2015".

It's not a phrase much in use but, dearly beloved, it seems there's a glass gravestone. Women don't get gender equality after death, and rigor mortis prohibits any attempt to 'lean in'.

Obituaries count. Too few obits for women sends a message: men's lives and achievements matter more than women's.

Here, I could start writing a female RIP wish list. Or a different kind of bucket list: obituaries to be achieved for women after they die. But if life, or death, for women isn't even close to ideal despite more than fifty years passing, I am tempted to dream bigger. Say, if we lived on Venus, or a female sci-fi planet of the future, where - of course - there would be no gravity around the boobs and jowls, who would the obituaries be of?

(Well, whomever had invented that gravity thing, for a start.)

Obits on Venus would be of women who did great things; but also women who did things that largely only women might consider great. Hailing women, and attaching value to what's significant to us.

So, yes, of course, writers and scientists, teachers and travellers.

But also, the designer of Spanx (other slimming intimates are available). And whoever thought of eyelash extensions - that's an extra ten minutes in the morning. And yes, to the creator of the beehive, and the creators of subsequent hairstyles and hair equipment that made women happy.

And obits for forgotten women who deserved recognition. Like those who lived in Hong Kong before hair straighteners. All deserve the Victoria Frizz, for bravery.

From Venus, back to the beehive. Heldt created it for a magazine, experimenting with ways to achieve a "tall wraparound crown, creating a circular silhouette, with high-rise accents." To those in the industry, it's one of the great styles invented by a hairdresser, as Heldt was. These days, famous styles are popularized by celebrities, like the 'Jennifer Aniston' look.

Why was the beehive so popular? It seemed to need so much 'doing' - all that lacquer and teasing. Was it the added height? A pair of heels for the head? Did Heldt wear one regularly? She reached 98 - I am hoping the secret to long life might be back-combing every day.

It was a style that appealed to the rebellious - Amy Winehouse - and the gracious - Audrey Hepburn. But it was eminent on its own merits, strong enough to enjoy endorsement from famous heads but not need it. I hope the eulogy at Heldt's funeral explained its appeal, and lauded its inventor. An elegant parting. Just like a beehive.

Plane lands at South Pole in daring winter medical rescue



Seth Borenstein, Washington

AFTER flying through dangerous dark and cold, a rescue plane landed yesterday at the South Pole to evacuate a sick worker from a remote U.S. science station, federal officials said.

The plane arrived at the South Pole after a daring 1,500-mile, nine-hour trip from a British base on the Antarctic peninsula, according to the National Science Foundation, which runs the polar outpost.

The plane's crew - a pilot, co-pilot, flight engineer and medical worker - will rest and wait for at least 10 hours. Then if weather conditions are favorable, the plane will refuel and return to Rothera, said agency spokesman Peter West. After that the sick worker will be taken out of Antarctica for treatment.

"It went all according to plan," West said from Arlington, Va.

A second worker is also ill, but officials have yet to decide whether that patient will also fly out, West said. The science foundation will not identify the workers, who are employees of Lockheed Martin which handles logistics at the station, nor their medical conditions.

There have been three emergency evacuations from the Amundsen-Scott

station since 1999. Workers at the South Pole station are isolated from February through October, the coldest and darkest months when it's too risky for routine flights.

The latest mission is pushing the limits of what is acceptable, said Tim Stockings, operations director at the British Antarctic Survey in London. He said being prepared is key.

"The air and Antarctica are unforgiving environments and punishes any slackness very hard," Stockings said. "If you are complacent it will bite you."

"Things can change very quickly down there" with ice from clouds, high winds and snow, he said.

The first day of winter in the Southern Hemisphere was Monday - the sun will not rise at the South Pole till the first day of spring in September. A South Pole webcam showed the station in the distance during the landing. There was some light because of the full moon and the ability of the camera to operate on low light, West said.

It is still pitch-dark, he said.

The National Science Foundation decided last week to mount the rescue operation because one staffer needed medical care that can't be provided there. The station has a doctor, a

physician's assistant and is connected to doctors in the U.S. for consults, West said. There are 48 people - 39 men and 9 women - at the station.

The temperature yesterday [Macau time] at the South Pole station was minus 75 degrees (minus 60 Celsius), with a wind chill that makes it feel like minus 108 degrees (minus 78 Celsius) according to the science foundation's weather station and webcam.

The extreme cold affects a lot of things on planes, including fuel, which needs to be warmed before takeoff, batteries and hydraulics, West said. The Twin Otter can fly in temperatures as low as minus 103 degrees (minus 75 degrees Celsius), he said.

The 1999 flight, which was done in Antarctic spring with slightly better conditions, rescued the station's doctor, Jerri Nielsen, who had breast cancer and had been treating herself. Rescues were done in 2001 and 2003, both for gallbladder problems.

Scientists have had a station at the South Pole since 1956. It does astronomy, physics and environmental science with telescopes, seismographs and instruments that monitor the atmosphere. The foundation runs two other science stations in Antarctica. AP

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	10-30 Good	😊
High Density Residential Area	20-40 Good	😊
Ambient	20-40 Good	😊

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS



UK Campaigners on both sides of the crucial vote today on whether or not Britain should remain in the European Union crisscrossed the country yesterday, their last day to win support from the undecided. More on p15



MARKETS Asian shares were mostly higher yesterday, with investors focused on today's vote on Britain's possible withdrawal from the European Union and after relief over U.S. Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen's statement that the Fed would remain cautious in raising interest rates. More on p9

INDIA Lightning has killed 74 people, mostly farm laborers working in fields, across the eastern India state of Bihar over the past 24 hours. At least 24 others were injured when thunderstorms and monsoon rains lashed 14 districts of the state. Scores of cattle also perished after being struck by lightning.

ITALY's highest court has made it easier for gays to adopt a partner's biological child but the decision does not give long-sought automatic recognition to the families of same-sex couples.



USA Selma Blair is apologizing for her outburst on a flight. The actress says in a statement to Vanity Fair that she mixed alcohol with medication which caused her to black out and make statements that she regrets on a Monday flight from Cancun to Los Angeles. TMZ reported Blair was crying and talking about an abusive man. The site says she was attended to by nurses on the plane and taken off on a stretcher at Los Angeles International Airport.