



IACM: NO MORE MEAT FROM BRAZIL
IACM suspended treatment of applications to import meat from Brazil following a tainted-meat scandal

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DEVELOPER RIDES VIETNAM GAMBLING TREND
Billionaire Trinh Van Quyet will invest about USD2b in a casino resort in the Van Don Special Economic Zone

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WORLD BRIEFS

AP PHOTO



TAIWAN will build its own submarines to get around Beijing's efforts to prevent it from purchasing such craft from overseas and ensure an adequate defense against Chinese threats, President Tsai Ing-wen said yesterday. [More on p11](#)

AP PHOTO



PHILIPPINES-MYANMAR Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte and his Myanmar counterpart, State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi, held talks in Myanmar's capital. Duterte promised USD300,000 in humanitarian aid for Myanmar's Rakhine state, where communal conflict has displaced more than 100,000 people from their homes. [More on p12](#)

MALAYSIA Walt Disney Co.'s "Beauty and the Beast" will open in Malaysia later this month without removing gay scenes as demanded by local censorship authorities.

JAPAN-EU The European Union and Japan have pledged to get to a free trade at the earliest possible opportunity. As they met for bilateral talks, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said a deal was on the horizon, while EU Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker suggested it should be clinched within the next nine months.

[More on backpage](#)

Taiwanese vanishes after landing in Macau

▲ P3

BLOOMBERG



Mideast airlines face US ban on laptops in plane cabins

▲ P14

SURVEY

Decrease in casino dealers' confidence and satisfaction index

AN index measuring the confidence of casino dealers marked a decrease from 2.84 to 2.74 while another index measuring satisfaction in employment showed a 1.6 percent decrease from 3.19 to 3.14, according to the Macau Employee Confidence and Satisfaction Index 2017. The report was released by the Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) yesterday.

The factor that is believed to have triggered the decrease was the employees' personal development index, which scored 2.9, a 5.2 percent decrease compared to last year.

Considering all the sectors of the economy, Macau employees' confidence towards



the region's overall job market has slightly increased this year. This optimism was connected to the territory's recent

economic growth.

The employee confidence index scored 3.05 on a 1 to 5 scale, a minor increase of 0.1 compa-

red to last year.

Employees' confidence in their employment for the upcoming five years, reasonable expectation of job promotion within a year and supervisors' appreciation towards staff increased by 2.1 percent, 1.9 percent and 1.3 percent respectively.

Macau employees' satisfaction had a particularly slight increase of 0.03 percent. Workers' satisfaction index scored 3.37 this year, from 3.36 last year.

"This year, it [the satisfaction index] went up a little bit compared to last year. The increase is very small but if you look at the number, it's the highest over the past 11 years," said Chan Lai Kow, director of MUST's Sustainable Develop-

ment department (ISD).

The sub-index of satisfaction concerning personal development for all the sectors of the economy, which triggered the slight increase, scored 3.27, 0.3 points higher than last year.

The section of the satisfaction index regarding the workers' job stabilization remained steady at 3.59.

Further, the survey showed that gaming employees are satisfied with their work schedules and feel as though they have time to spend with their families.

The study concluded that the total index and sub-index of employees' confidence and satisfaction index in the gaming industry are still lower than those of non-gaming employees.

Although the region's employment and income remained stable, the survey suggested that the government should continue to promote workers' training to enhance local staff's ability to move upwards.

This year's survey, conducted from February 6 to February 23 involved 820 employees who were all above 16 years of age. **LV**

ENVIRONMENT

IPIM announces keynote speaker for MIECF's 'Green Forum'

THE Macau Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) announced that Achim Steiner, a former executive director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), will be the keynote speaker of the "Green Forum" at the 2017 Macau International Environmental Co-operation Forum & Exhibition (MIECF).

Steiner, who is also a former Under-Secretary General of the UN, now serves as International Vice-Chair of the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED).

Themed "Innovative Green Development for a Sustainable Future", Steiner's speech will analyze global environmental challenges and their impact on economic activity, and the main pressures on sustainability.

He will focus in particular on issues related to climate change, and goals for sustainable development and for better use of natural resour-



Achim Steiner

ces.

According to a statement released by IPIM, Steiner will also discuss concepts of green economy, the circular economy and ecological civilization.

Steiner is also set to provide insight on the role that public policy has in promoting a green economy, and public policy's likely impacts on future businesses, industries and markets (including technological innovations).

The speaker will analyze four cases and in so doing, cover the following sectors: low-carbon and renewable

energy; electric vehicles; low-carbon and sustainable agriculture; and green finance.

Steiner will also share his own views on these subjects, as well as discussing the possible impact of those sectors on governments, public policy, enterprises and consumers.

The 2017 MIECF will take place from March 30 to April 1. To commemorate the event's 10-year milestone, the three-day event will include activities such as a "Green Showcase," a "Green Forum," "Green Matching" and a "Green Public Day."



New body to administer Macau maritime area

THE government has announced and officiated the commission of a special body to lead the management and economic development of the maritime area that comes under the responsibility of the MSAR.

The Coordination Commission for the Management and Economic Development of the Maritime Area was outlined in Executive Order no. 57/2017 published on Monday in the Government Gazette.

The responsibilities of the commission include the management of the city's maritime area, the initiation of research for the creation of a master

plan and policies for the economic development of the waters. It will also promote legislation for the economic development and utilization of the maritime area, and issue guidelines for its future use.

The commission is under the supervision of the chief executive (CE), who will also act as its chairman, while the five secretaries and the heads of various related departments will also join as members. Among these department heads are the directors of the Customs Service, the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau, the Legal Affairs Bureau and the Macau

Economic Services.

According to the executive order, the commission has the power to set up specialized task forces to undertake those works for which the commission is responsible.

Members of such task forces might include distinguished persons from Macau or further afield, including those from academic institutions and from public or private entities. These persons might also be asked to attend commission meetings.

The CE's office will provide administrative, technical and logistical support to the commission, including the organization's budget, which will be provided by Chui's office.

On December 20, 2015, the State Council, via the Decree No. 665, approved a new administrative division map for the Macau SAR. According to the decree, 85 square kilometers of waters surrounding Macau, and an area of land where the Border Gate with Zhuhai is located, are placed under Macau's management.

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Taiwan resident disappears after landing in Macau

Daniel Beittler

A Taiwanese community college manager and member of Taiwan's Democratic Progressive Party has allegedly disappeared – possibly in Macau – while en route to Guangdong Province, according to Radio Free Asia (RFA) who reported the story after getting in touch with the friends and relatives of the missing person.

Lee Ming-cheh, who was traveling to mainland China to seek medical treatment for his mother-in-law, was last known to be traveling to Macau on Sunday morning. He was reported to be on-board an Evergreen Airlines flight from Taipei to Macau that was scheduled to land in the MSAR at 10:40 a.m.

However, a friend who was due to meet him at the Macau International Airport said that, even after four hours of waiting, Lee never showed up.

"He is incommunicado," RFA



was told by Cheng Shiojjuan, who heads the Taipei Wenshan District Community College where Lee works. "We haven't been able to contact him since he got on the plane [and] a friend who went to meet him at the airport waited for four hours, but he never showed up."

Lee's disappearance has prompted concerns that Macau immigration officials have detained or arrested him, possibly because of the community college manager's

links with Taiwan's ruling party, which Beijing views as harboring separatist tendencies.

An official from Macau's Public Security Police Force refused to comment on the issue, citing privacy concerns. "Because this case is a private case, we cannot comment on it," he told the Times.

Another official contacted by the Times confirmed that "there is no record of him on our system" and that she only knew of the case through the media. Asked if the lack of a record means that Lee had not been detained, the official maintained, "we have no comment about that."

Other reports suggest that Lee in fact entered mainland China. These accounts are potentially inconsistent with that of his friend waiting at the Macau International Airport.

A representative for the Taiwan government's Mainland Affairs Council said that the Straits Exchange Foundation had been privy to immigration records

showing that Lee entered the mainland just before midday on Sunday.

The Straits Exchange Foundation, a government non-profit organization that coordinates minor diplomatic relations between Taiwan and the mainland, was contacted by Lee's wife after her husband's disappearance. According to RFA, she was advised to file a missing persons report with mainland police authorities.

"There are no records of him having been formally detained by police, nor of him having checked into a hotel," a spokesperson for the Mainland Affairs Council told RFA.

Meanwhile, a border official at a checkpoint between Macau and Guangdong Province, also refused to comment on the matter.

"You may think [he was detained], but we can't tell you anything about this," the official said, according to RFA. "If law enforcement really did take him away, then we wouldn't be allowed to

tell you anyway."

The person in question is a former secretary of Taiwan's Democratic Progressive Party and has a history of involvement in democratic activism, human right advocacy and non-government organizations (NGOs).

These connections fuel speculation that his disappearance might be linked to the mainland's crackdown on NGO activities, including a recent ruling that prevents such organizations from accepting funding from international benefactors.

"I think we can rule out the possibility of ordinary criminal proceedings," said Lee's colleague, Cheng. "We think a more political explanation is possible."

The alleged disappearance could be only the most recent of a series of operations conducted by Beijing agents outside mainland China.

Between October and December 2015, five staff of a Hong Kong publishing house and bookshop went missing, with some of the individuals reportedly detained in China, while others disappeared in Hong Kong and Thailand.

The apparent violation of Hong Kong's Basic Law in the suspected abductions shocked residents of the two SARs and, to some, represented an undermining of the "One Country, Two Systems" policy.

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Young musicians competition opens applications

Applications for the 35th Macau Young Musicians Competition are now open until March 26 at 7 p.m., with interested parties invited to complete the online registration and submit the relevant documents and fee before then. The competition, organized by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), will be held between July 22 and August 3 at designated venues in Macau. This year, in order to facilitate applications, online registration has been opened to the public and payment and document submission can be arranged soon after. Applicants can receive assistance for the online registration from staff at the IC's building, if necessary.

Inflation slows from January increase

The Composite Consumer Price Index (CPI), a key measure of inflation, increased by 0.37 percent year-on-year in February to 108.79, according to information released yesterday by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC). The bureau accredited the rise to the expenses of eating out, higher rentals for parking spaces, rising prices of gasoline and motor cars, as well as increases in tuition fees and out-patient service charges. Nevertheless, DSEC notes that the year-on-year growth last month eased significantly from the 1.76 percent year-on-year rise observed in January. On a monthly basis, the Composite CPI decreased by 0.42 percent month-by-month, led by declines in the prices indexes of cultural activities and clothing and footwear, which fell by 9.74 percent and 1.84 percent respectively. For the 12-month period ending February 2017, the average Composite CPI rose by 1.91 percent from the previous comparable period.

Sonia Chan praises food safety regulations

SECRETARY for Administration and Justice Sonia Chan made a speech at the opening ceremony of the 49th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA), according to a statement published by the Government Information Bureau (GCS) and in her speech she praised the efforts of Macau authorities in augmenting the food safety regulations.

The session, which is led by the mainland's National Health and Family Planning Commission and Codex Committee on Food Additives, is being held in Macau.

"As the saying goes, 'People view food as their primary need.' Thus food safety is the first priority [of the MSAR government]," said Sonia Chan during her speech, according to GCS.

"The Macau SAR Government attaches great importance to safe consumption and healthy eating of every resident. In view of this, we formulated the Food Safety Law in 2013," added the Secretary.

Macau's Food Safety Law sets a number of standards that aim to provide a legal means for regulating and supervising food production and consumption. It includes stan-



dards for drug residues, radionuclides, pathogenic microorganisms and mycotoxins in food.

Chan also pointed to a cooperation mechanism signed with authorities in Portugal that helps to coordinate surveillance of food activities.

"Through the co-operation mechanism, the information exchange, supervision and contingency ability in food safety are raised," said Chan. "This is beneficial to [...] raise the management level of food safety in Macau [and] attain international standards."

The CCFA is an international organization that seeks to promote international food safety and protect the health of consumers worldwide. In 2006, China was elected as the host country of CCFA and is responsible for organizing and convening the relevant meetings. This year it is being held in Macau.

Last year's session of the CCFA was held in Xi'an, Shaanxi Province, and it welcomed over 260 representatives from 55 member countries, including representatives of the European Union. **DB**

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VIETNAM

Billionaire developer rides gambling trend with casino

Nguyen Kieu Giang

FLC Group Joint-stock Co., co-founded by billionaire Trinh Van Quyet, has joined a growing number of foreign and local investors betting on cashing in on Vietnam's decision to allow locals to roll the dice in casinos for the first time.

FLC Faros Van Don received permission from the northern provincial government of Quang Ninh to invest about USD2 billion in a casino resort, the company said in an email statement. The project will include a five-star hotel, convention center and golf course in the Van Don Special Economic Zone on the islands of Ngoc Vung and Van Canh. The company hopes its complex on a total of 4,000 hectares will tap tourists and possibly domestic gamblers.

FLC's shares surged as much as 5.1 percent during Tuesday's trading after news

of the casino project was released.

Vietnam's communist leaders, who are grappling with growing budget deficits, are hatching gambling initiatives to retain millions of dollars in the country that middle-class and wealthy Vietnamese otherwise spend in casinos abroad. Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc has issued two decrees this year to raise Vietnam's game in the regional competition for gambling revenue.

■ Vietnamese going places such as Macau spend around USD800m on gambling yearly



A pilot plan to take effect this month will allow Vietnamese to gamble in the country's casinos for the first time. Another will allow bets nationwide on horse and dog races, as well as international soccer matches. This follows what officials call an "American-style" lottery started last year by the finance ministry in partnership with Malaysia's Berjaya Corp Bhd.

Overseas gaming companies have long eyed Vietnam for expansion. Las Vegas Sands Corp. has for years considered a resort in Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi according to George Tanasijevich, the company's managing director for global development. Hong Kong's Chow Tai Fook Enterprises and VinaCapital Investment

Management are investing in a \$4 billion project in the prime minister's home province of Quang Nam along the central coast. In January, former hedge-fund manager Phil Falcone, the largest investor in the Grand Ho Tram Strip casino resort a two-hour drive from Ho Chi Minh City, met with the prime minister in Hanoi.

Vietnamese going abroad to such gambling locales as Macau, Singapore - and just across the border in Cambodia - spend an estimated \$800 million on gambling every year, according to Augustine Ha Ton Vinh, an adviser to the Van Don Special Economic Zone where a casino funded by local investor Sun Group is planned about 175km northeast of Hanoi. **Bloomberg**

Fiscal Reserve grows 27 percent in 2016

As of the end of 2016, total assets of the MSAR Fiscal Reserve stood at approximately MOP438.7 billion, comprising MOP132.8 billion of Basic Reserve and MOP305.9 billion of Excess Reserve. According to information released yesterday by the Monetary Authority of Macau (AMM), the Fiscal Reserve recorded a total investment income of MOP3.31 billion for 2016. The income represented an annual return of 0.8 percent in 2016, a slight increase compare to the 0.7 percent of 2015. The size of the Fiscal Reserve grew 27 percent over the year. AMM stressed that in 2016, asset allocation of the Fiscal Reserve included "global bonds of high credit quality (with low default risk), equities of medium and large scale enterprises (with relatively small business operation risk) and money market instruments from institutions with high liquidity and creditworthiness (with low deposit default risk)." For the year 2016, the annual investment income for the Fiscal Reserve totaled MOP3.31 billion, equivalent to an annual return of 0.8 percent.

Applications to import Brazilian meat suspended

The Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau announced yesterday it has suspended the treatment of applications to import meat from Brazil after producers in the South American country become embroiled in a tainted-meat scandal. China, the largest importer of Brazil chicken and beef, has temporarily suspended shipments from Brazil, while the European Union, Chile and Japan have restricted purchases.

GAMING

Worst is over for Macau, analysts say

THE latest gaming revenues have signaled renewed optimism in Macau over the industry's future growth, with many eagerly awaiting the March results that will be issued about 10 days from now.

February's 17.8 percent year-on-year increase, which recorded a take of MOP23 billion (USD2.9 billion), marked the strongest growth in three years and indicated that the world's biggest gaming market may have finally recovered from the adverse effects of Chinese President Xi Jinping's anti-corruption campaign.

"I think the downturn is well and truly behind us now," Andrew Scott, CEO of Macau-based Inside Asian Gaming magazine, told the AFP.

"It took us a couple of years to weather that storm - it was unexpected - but we're through that."

Scott said that continued growth in the territory would only be moderate in comparison to the unprecedented growth of the pre-2004 era.

The gaming revenue rebound has been partly propelled by a return of VIP visitors to the city, as well as gaming operators' efforts to diversify and develop mass-market attractions over the past few years. The extent that each component has been responsible for the recovery is still up for debate.

The gaming junket industry, which provides loans and other services to high-rollers in Macau's casinos, has taken a beating in the past 36 months, with some analysts predicting it may never return to the heights of earlier years.

Many operators have already gone out of business and some have encountered scandals

such as Dore Entertainment's internal fraud fiasco in 2015. According to some reports, only 130 operators remain in the territory, down from about 230.

However, Kwok Chi Chung, president of the Association of Gaming and Entertainment Promoters of Macau, claimed last month that some junkets in the city had seen their fourth-quarter revenue for 2016 grow by one-fifth compared to the previous year.

Brokerage and investment firm CLSA told AFP that the VIP segment in Macau "is showing signs of life" and estimated growth of around 3 percent for this sector in 2017. However, the firm also predicted that the mass market would be the main driver of growth in the territory, and might expand by 14 percent this year. **DB**

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AL PLENARY

Cultural Affairs Bureau criticized following CCAC report

Renato Marques

SEVERAL lawmakers yesterday recalled the recent Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) report in their criticism of the recruitment system that has been used by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC).

Ella Lei brought up the issue during yesterday's Legislative Assembly (AL) plenary meeting, claiming "the chief executive and the secretary responsible for the public service in question have the duty of giving direct instructions and supervision to the IC to correct the illegalities." Lei said that if there are officials who have violated the law, they should take responsibility for their actions.

The lawmaker remarked that, to defend its "prestige," the government should disclose the status of the follow-up work on the case, step-by-step, and keep all citizens informed of what is being done to fix the problem.

Claiming that governing in accordance with the law is a fundamental responsibility of the government, Song Pek Kei remarked: "All this shows is that many civil servants have, in fact, little legal knowledge." Song said that even if the laws are good, in the event that civil servants do not comply them, it is still "the government's prestige" on the line. Song Pek Kei urged the government to reinforce the work being done to reform the juridical training.

Lawmaker Ho Ion Sang also



The IC headquarters at Tap Seac Square

criticized the services' alleged non-adoption of guidance measures proposed by the CCAC and the Audit Commission and

said that the government was incapable of inspecting such infractions. Ho claimed that there is a need to adopt a system that "reduces the intervention of

human factors" to raise transparency. Ho urged the government to make significant changes after such investigations and outcomes.

All this shows is that many civil servants have, in fact, little legal knowledge.

SONG PEK KEI

ACCOUNT APPROVED WITHOUT DEBATE

THE 2016 AL Management Account report and first supplementary budget were both approved by unanimous vote. Both issues did not raise any debate among the lawmakers. The Management Account registered in 2016 a surplus of about

MOP738,000. The total expenditure on the same year was about MOP160 million, an amount which represents an execution rate of 87 percent, 2 percentage points less than in the previous economic year (89 percent in 2015).

Debate on DSAT fees hike voted down

A proposal by lawmaker Leong Veng Chai that aimed to bring representatives of the government to the Legislative Assembly (AL) to justify the increase in fees for traffic violations, as implemented by the Transport Bureau (DSAT) was yesterday voted down by the members of the plenary - with 14 votes against, 10 votes in favor and 2 abstentions - disappointing several lawmakers that wanted further explanations from the government on the case.

In the debate, lawmaker Ma Chi Seng,



against the proposal, noted that although it is true the measures "generated a reaction from society," in his opinion there are "many others that think that such measures are actually helping to release

parking spaces [for general use]."

"I think we should let the measures be implemented and produce results so we can evaluate it at a later stage," Ma concluded.

Also against the mo-

tion was lawmaker Vong Hin Fai, who questioned the legality of such a proposal since the lawmaker had already presented an enquiry to the government that was answered.

Vong also remarked that, since the implementation of the rate hike, there has been a significant decrease in these types of infringements.

On the other hand, Pereira Coutinho queried to understand "the reasons that led the government to raise the fees in this way." He noted that the government has said

"other fees would be raised too," and wanted the government to discuss them with the legislature and during a public consultation period prior to implementation.

In agreement were also Au Kam San, Ng Kuok Cheong, Kwan Tsui Hang, Ella Lei, Song Pek Kei and Angela Leong, among others, all claiming that the topic deserved to be debated and the government needed to provide an explanation.

The issue has already caused several demonstrations in the streets of the region. **RM**

ON THE LAWMAKERS' AGENDA

RECYCLING Mak Soi Kun and Angela Leong urged authorities to devote land resources to people and enterprises dedicated to recycling, calling on the government to present concrete measures to support such micro and small enterprises dedicated to this field. "The sector has already complained to the government but they seem not to give any importance [to the issue]. The support is zero and the disappointment is great," Mak said, noting that people dedicated to the sector are in decline and distrust the government. Leong also said that recent government measures have contributed to a rise of 5 percent of 'vehicle scrapping', which has left the scrapyards overburdened. According to Leong's estimates, the goal of recycling 30 percent of abandoned resources is still far from being achieved.

PEARL HORIZON

Zheng Anting brought the topic of the Pearl Horizon flat owners' rights to the plenary once again. Remarking on a solution allegedly being negotiated between the government and the developer to refund the buyers, Zheng claimed to have been granted authority on the behalf of the buyers to denounce the solution as unacceptable. He said that the flat owners demand what they paid for - an apartment.

DOMESTIC WORKER RESTRICTIONS

Wong Kit Cheng remarked that both the current and the former Secretaries for Economy and Finance had promised to implement measures aiming to restrict the ability of visitors on tourism visas to apply for non-resident worker permits. According to Wong, the lack of regulation of work agencies is contributing to an imbalance in the market, which might create problems for the hiring of domestic helpers. Wong also urged the government to establish communication mechanisms with the countries and provinces that traditionally supply such workers, in order to strive for a method of their training and certification.

BMW mulls moving iconically British Mini amid Brexit talks

Dalia Fahmy, Elisabeth Behrmann

BMW AG hinted it may shift production of the quintessentially English Mini car to mainland Europe, a harbinger of the cultural tremors that may follow Brexit's economic fallout.

The German automaker is preparing for "different scenarios" in response to the U.K.'s planned exit from the European Union, and has the leeway to move output elsewhere if necessary, according to a statement yesterday. While most Minis are made in Oxford, England, some of the urban brand's models are already produced in the Netherlands and other facilities could also handle assembly.

"Our production network offers us flexibility," CEO Harald Krueger said at BMW's annual press conference in Munich. Nevertheless, "the U.K. remains an important location for us. Much will depend on how Brexit is ultimately negotiated."

Carmakers are concerned that Brexit may lead to costly trade barriers, hampering the free movement of components and vehicles



between production sites and end consumers across Europe. Production of the Mini could move to BMW's plant in Born, Netherlands, where some versions are already being made, or to Leipzig, Germany, where 1-Series compact autos are rolled out based on a similar platform.

BMW has owned Mini and its other iconic British brand, Rolls-Royce, for about two decades. In addition to the Oxford site it also has facilities in Goodwood and Hams Hall. The Munich-based

manufacturer employs about 18,000 across the U.K. and exports about 2.4 billion pounds (USD3 billion) of vehicles and parts from the country.

While it's too early to change operations there since Brexit terms are still being negotiated, the company is hoping for "a tariff-free environment and a legal equilibrium," BMW's head of sales Ian Robertson said at the press conference.

The Brexit comments come as the German carmaker's overseas

operations become increasingly vulnerable to a possible clamp-down on free trade. U.S. President Donald Trump criticized BMW for planning to make cars at a \$1 billion factory it's building in central Mexico, and threatened the automaker with a 35 percent duty on its imports to the U.S.

Carmakers are concerned that Brexit may lead to costly trade barriers

Despite these threats, BMW is pushing ahead with plans to roll out 3-Series models at the San Luis Potosi plant starting in 2019, Chief Financial Officer Nicolas Peter said at the event. Construction at the site is "proceeding according to plan," he said.

Krueger was among the German business leaders who accompanied Chancellor Angela Merkel during her first visit with Trump at

the White House last week. During the meeting, Trump reprised his complaints that the U.S. had been treated "very, very unfairly" by its German trade partners and poured loaded praise over European officials for besting their American counterparts.

BMW has sought to defuse conflict with Trump by noting that it also has a factory in the U.S., its biggest worldwide, and that the new site in Mexico will make vehicles for global customers and not just Americans.

"The meeting with President Trump was a great opportunity to show BMW's commitment and activities in the U.S.," Krueger said, noting that Trump was particularly impressed by the company's apprenticeship program. The CEO said they discussed the importance of free trade to maintaining BMW's exports from the U.S., and described the encounter as "successful all-round."

The German luxury brand plans to increase capacity at its site in Spartanburg, South Carolina, which makes X Series sport utility vehicles, to 450,000 annually from 410,000 currently. BMW has said it's the largest exporter on a net basis from the U.S., with goods worth \$10 billion per year, and that it helps support 70,000 jobs in the country.

"The U.S. is our second home, and I told the President that too," Krueger said. **Bloomberg**

Google opens 'shortcuts' to information, tools on phones

Michael Liedtke,
San Francisco

GOOGLE wants to make it easier for you to find answers and recommendations on smartphones without having to think about what to ask its search engine.

Its new feature, called "shortcuts," will appear as a row of icons below the Google search box. Where now you'd have to ponder and then speak or type a request, the shortcuts will let you tap the icons to get the latest weather, movie show times, sports scores, restaurant recommendations and other common requests.

The shortcuts will begin appearing in updates to Google's app for iPhones, Android phones and its mobile website. The Android app will also include various tools such as a currency converter, a language translator and an ATM locator, which you can also summon with a tap. Those tools may

eventually make it to the iPhone as well, although Google says it doesn't know when.

These shortcuts are the latest step in Google's quest to turn its search engine into a secondary brain that anticipates people's needs and desires. The search engine gleans these insights by analyzing your past requests and, when you allow it, tracking your location, a practice that periodically raises privacy concerns about Google's power to create digital profiles of its users.

Based on the knowledge that Google already has accumulated, its shortcuts feature may already list your favorite sports teams or recommend nearby restaurants serving cuisines you prefer.

Shortcuts also show how Google's search engine has been adapting to its audience, now that smartphones have become the primary way millions or of people stay connected to the internet.

Since more than half of requests for Google's search engine now come from smartphones, the Mountain View, California, company has adapted its services to smaller screens, touch keyboards and apps instead of websites.

Early in that process, Google tweaked its search engine to answer many requests with factual summaries at the top of its results page, a change from simply displaying a list of links to other websites. Voice-recognition technology also allows you to speak your request into a phone instead of typing it.

The transition is going well so far. Google's revenue rose 20 percent last year to USD89 billion, propelled by digital ads served up on its search engine, YouTube and Gmail. Although shortcuts won't initially show ads after you tap them, Google typically sells marketing space if a feature or service becomes popular. **AP**

AD

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婆仔屋文創空間

Seminar "Active House"
Architecture and Technologies for Sustainability

Prof. Marco Imperadori, Ph.D
Professor of the Politecnico di Milano

Date & Time
19:00, March 27th, 2017 (Monday)

Language
English

Venue
Grand Hall, Inspiration Building, IFT – Institute for Tourism Studies, Colina de Mong-Há, Macau

CPD Hours
2.5 Hours

Payment Method & Registration Fee
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Uber's messy breakup with Jones complicates search for COO

Eric Newcomer

DURING his brief tenure as Uber Technologies Inc.'s president, Jeff Jones toured far-flung offices in India, the Netherlands and other key markets for the global ride-hailing giant. In meetings with local staff, Jones professed that one of his biggest apprehensions was working with Chief Executive Officer Travis Kalanick, according to a person familiar with the gatherings.

Six months after joining Uber, his misgivings were apparently confirmed. Jones, the most senior member of Kalanick's executive team, resigned as president of ride sharing on Sunday. He joins three other senior executives who have left in the last month as the company grapples with a long succession of scandals. Without naming his boss, Jones chastised Uber management: "The beliefs and approach to leadership that have guided my career are inconsistent with what I saw and experienced at Uber," he wrote in an email.

The ugly split with Jones further complicates Kalanick's attempts to navigate Uber's crises. Along with fulfilling his promise to seek "leadership help" by hiring a chief operating officer, Kalanick must fill new holes in his top ranks and prove that Uber's culture isn't beyond repair. "Startups that lose people, that happens," said Bill Aulet, a senior lecturer on entrepreneurship at MIT. "But startups that lose people in such a bitter way that they don't believe in the company's existence? That's toxic."

Before joining the adolescent San Francisco startup, Jones was chief marketing officer at Target Corp. The 49-year-old quickly found that his younger supervisor lived up to his reputation for being headstrong, pugnacious and hard-partying, said a person familiar with Jones's thinking. Jones advocated for major changes favored by Uber drivers, such as adding the ability to tip within the app and a more cautious approach to the company's auto leasing and safety programs, the person said. However, the CEO was resistant to some of the proposals, and Jones's team of Kalanick loyalists often bristled at taking direction from a new leader, said multiple people, who asked not to be identified discussing internal matters.

Kalanick, 40, has acknowledged his weaknesses as a manager. He apologized after Bloomberg published a video of him berating an Uber driver. His plan to hire an operating chief was seen internally as an effective demotion for Jones, insiders said. In an email to employees obtained by Bloomberg,



Kalanick wrote: "After we announced our intention to hire a COO, Jeff came to the tough decision that he doesn't see his future at Uber."

Bill Gurley, a venture capitalist who sits on Uber's board of directors, is helping lead the COO search, along with executive recruiting firm Heidrick & Struggles, people familiar with the process said. Possible targets floated by investors include Thomas Staggs, the former COO at Walt Disney Co.; Tim Armstrong, CEO of Verizon Communications Inc.'s AOL; and John Martin, CEO of Time Warner Inc.'s Turner, said a person familiar with the matter. The three men declined to comment.

Kalanick has turned to some Silicon Valley bigwigs for advice on the search. He's sought input from Facebook Inc.'s Mark Zuckerberg and Sheryl Sandberg, as well as Hewlett-Packard Enterprise Co.'s Meg Whitman, two people familiar with the matter said. Kalanick and Zuckerberg were recently photographed together at a Breakfast at Tiffany's-themed ping-pong party called Babes and Balls.

Uber, a worldwide ride-hailing gargantuan that once seemed unstoppable, has been rocked by tumult this year. It was the subject of a boycott in January dubbed #DeleteUber for appearing sympathetic to Donald Trump, which led Kalanick to step down from the president's business advisory council. In February, it faced explosive allegations from a former employee that her boss sexually harassed her and that the human resources department protected

him, prompting the company to hire the former U.S. attorney general Eric Holder to investigate. Alphabet Inc.'s Waymo sued Uber for allegedly stealing trade secrets. This month, the New York Times reported that Uber used a tool called Greyball to help drivers evade government regulators and enforcement officials.

If not for the maelstrom at Uber, the COO job might be one of the Valley's most appealing job openings. The privately held company was valued at USD69 billion by investors last year, making it the world's most valuable technology startup. But the company risks setting expectations for this role too high, said Robert Siegel, a lecturer at Stanford's Graduate School of Business: "Is an outsider coming in going to fundamentally overhaul the culture in and of itself? No."

"Is an outsider coming in going to fundamentally overhaul the culture in and of itself? No."

There's also the question of whether Kalanick will entrust his new deputy to operate unimpeded. In order to attract a top candidate, Uber may offer the person an expanded role beyond operations to suit his or her area of expertise, people familiar with the matter said. For example, Uber doesn't have a chief financial officer.

Several more vacancies opened up amid the recent tumult. Amit Singhal, a former Google executive, was asked to resign as senior vice president of engineering last month when Uber learned of a previously undisclosed sexual harassment claim from his time at the search giant. Singhal denied

the allegation. Ed Baker, vice president of growth and product, left this month. And hours after Jones's exit became public on Sunday, Brian McClendon said he was leaving amicably to return to his hometown in Kansas. McClendon was a vice president overseeing mapping projects.

The four men who left in the last month sat on a senior leadership team of about two-dozen. Raffi Krikorian, a director in Uber's self-driving car division, also quit this month.

The beliefs and approach to leadership that have guided my career are inconsistent with what I saw and experienced at Uber.

JEFF JONES

In Jones's short stint at Uber, he positioned himself as a voice for drivers. He held question-and-answer sessions on his Facebook page, which were frequently flooded by complaints from Uber drivers. He promised them better support, clearer communication and improvements to the app. "From

all I heard and experienced, one thing is clear: we have a lot of work to do," Jones wrote in a blog post.

Behind closed doors, Jones was a vocal proponent for allowing customers to tip within the app, a top-requested feature by drivers, according to two people familiar with the discussions. Although other executives have privately expressed support for in-app tipping, Kalanick has long held what he's called "principled" opposition to it. He believes restaurants and taxicab companies have used the prospect of tips as a way to underpay workers, the people said.

However, Kalanick may be softening on this stance. During a recent call with employees, he suggested he would reconsider his views on driver earnings and tips, one person said.

Among Jones's objections, he thought the company should have pursued a path to profitability, which it had set in some developed markets last year, said one of the people. As he argued for more careful spending, the mandate from the top was for aggressive expansion. Bloomberg reported last year that Uber was on track to lose \$3 billion in 2016 based on performance from the first three quarters. Uber was on pace to generate more than \$5.5 billion in revenue. Jones joked to at least one group of people that when he came to the company, he expected a P&L, meaning a profit and loss statement, but he'd found only an L, said a person at the meeting.

Despite expressing strong views, Jones failed to make sweeping organizational changes during his time there. By contrast, Rachel Whetstone quickly restructured her policy and communications team after coming onboard. Jones had outlined some plans for changes in his group before his abrupt resignation, another person said.

Jones also expressed concerns that Uber's auto leasing program could attract reckless drivers and that options to pay for fares in cash, mainly outside the U.S., put drivers in danger, one person said. Riders who pay in cash can avoid registering their names with Uber, making it easier for criminals to remain anonymous, and drivers who collect cash can be lucrative targets. But the cash option has helped the app grow in places where people don't usually have credit cards.

Uber was rolling out cash payments more broadly in Latin America when Jones joined last year. At the time, Andrew Macdonald, the regional general manager, dismissed concerns about dangers associated with tipping: "If they're worried, it's a bit emotional." He later apologized and committed to making improvements to how Uber handles cash.

Jones had mostly resisted accepting cash in the U.S., along with Rachel Holt, who runs the region, a person familiar with the matter said. With Jones gone, Holt and Macdonald will report to Kalanick until he hires an operating chief. **Bloomberg**

Kelvin Chan, Hong Kong

THE three candidates vying to be Hong Kong's next leader squared off in a feisty debate in front of hundreds of voters who peppered them with questions.

They wrangled over policy proposals for the semiautonomous Chinese city and took jabs at each other at Sunday night's forum. In one particularly testy exchange, frontrunner Carrie Lam, a former chief secretary, sniped at rival John Tsang for keeping a clean desk during his time as the city's finance chief, implying that he hadn't kept himself busy enough.

"No files, no papers, so I really envied him," Lam said, adding that her desk was always covered in documents.

Tsang shot back that "besides working hard, we have to work smart," drawing cheers from the audience.

With the vote for Hong Kong's next chief executive set for coming Sunday, the forum was one of the last big chances for the contenders to drum up support from among the 1,194 members of an election committee who take their cues from Beijing. Voters from among Hong Kong's 7.3 million residents have no say in choosing the chief executive.

Although the mustachioed Tsang, nicknamed "Pringles" or "Uncle Chips" for his resemblance to the snack food mascot, enjoys broad support, Lam, the city's former No. 2 ranking official, is widely expected to win.

The election committee, whose members organized and attended Sunday's debate, is heavily stacked with representatives of business, trade and professional groups who vote according to the wishes of China's communist leaders. There are also about 320 pro-democracy supporters among their ranks.

The electoral system was the main target of 2014's massive pro-democracy street protests that gripped the city for 79 days and grabbed world headlines, altering common views of Hong Kong as a ruthlessly efficient business center with little interest in politics.

In contrast to Lam, Tsang has an affable, easygoing persona and has deftly used so-

Hong Kong set to pick new leader anointed by Beijing



The candidates: from left, former judge Woo Kwok-hing, former Financial Secretary John Tsang and former chief secretary Carrie Lam

cial media to connect with ordinary people. He earned kudos in 2015 for cheering on Hong Kong's soccer team in World Cup qualifier matches against China, while other officials took a more politically correct noncommittal stance.

In a mock poll organized by Hong Kong University researchers, Tsang had a net support rate of 87.7 percent from about 65,000 votes cast electronically or in person. Lam had net negative support of 94.5 percent. A third candidate, ex-judge Woo Kwok-hing, had negative support of 12.3 percent.

"Nobody is in doubt that Carrie will win," because Beijing has been heavily lobbying pro-establishment election committee members to support her, said Willy Lam of the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Willy Lam and Carrie Lam are not related.

Lam has Beijing's backing but she's been ridiculed for gaffes that give the impression she's out of touch with ordinary people.

In one incident, Lam said she couldn't find toilet paper for

the new apartment she moved to after vacating her official residence upon launching her campaign for chief executive. She was forced to make a late evening return to her government apartment to spend the night.

■ Although the mustachioed Tsang enjoys broad support, Lam, the city's former No. 2 ranking official, is widely expected to win

Despite that, Lam has a reputation for being a pragmatic and effective administrator. Beijing's support for her candidacy is seen as a reward for her loyalty while serving under the deeply unpopular current

leader, Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying, known by his initials, C.Y.

Leung has passed on the opportunity to seek a second term in office, citing family reasons. His surprise announcement was seen by analysts as an indication that Beijing asked him to step aside in favor of someone less unpopular but who could still be trusted to carry out its agenda in Hong Kong.

The city is supposed to have much leeway in running its own affairs but recent incidents have stoked fears that Beijing is tightening its grip.

Analysts said Beijing wants to ensure Hong Kong's next leader will have more support than Leung, who could never shake off his nickname "689," a reference to the number of votes he received — barely half of the total.

"The last time it was a bit humiliating, 689 was considered to be a bit low," said Willy Lam. "This time their top priority [in Beijing] is that Carrie must be seen as doing substantially be-

ter than C.Y., so that means at least a vote closer to 750."

Lam been dubbed C.Y. 2.0, because many Hong Kongers believe she'll adopt the same hard-line policies pursued by her former boss.

Samson Yuen, a politics lecturer at the Open University of Hong Kong, predicted a Lam administration would continue to take actions that constrain the "organizational resources" of pro-democracy parties, making it difficult for them to survive.

Under Leung, the government won an unprecedented lawsuit last year disqualifying two activist lawmakers who advocated Hong Kong independence over improperly taking their oaths of office. It's pursuing similar suits against four others.

Carrie Lam "will inherit the tactics of C.Y. Leung, because if Carrie wins that means C.Y. will have a lot of influence over the political system," said Yuen. "That means such kind of repression will still go on. I do think the space for the pro-democracy movement will shrink." AP

Beijing: Australia should look beyond the nations' differences

CHINA hopes Australia will continue to look beyond the countries' ideological differences and focus on bilateral business ties and other forms of cooperation, a senior Chinese official said yesterday.

Vice Foreign Minister

Zheng Zeguang was responding to comments by Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop earlier this month that China can only reach its full economic potential if it embraces democracy.

Zheng told journalists that Australia and its

largest trading partner had "gone beyond our ideological differences [...] to make the pie of cooperation and common interests bigger." He said China hopes that Australia will "continue to uphold this spirit, abandon the zero sum or

ideologically biased mentality and view China and China-Australia relations in the right light."

Zheng said that annual China-Australia bilateral trade had exceeded USD107 billion and bilateral investment exceeded \$100 billion,

and that the bilateral trade volume in the first two months of 2017 had grown nearly 50 percent year-on-year.

Chinese Premier Li Ke-qiang begins a seven-day trip to Australia and New Zealand on today. Zheng said China hopes to

enhance free trade agreements with both nations and promote cooperation in science, technology and innovation.

China wishes to "make China-Australia business cooperation more diverse and more sustainable," Zheng said. AP



President Tsai Ing-wen (center) along with Defense Minister Feng Shihkuan (right) and Secretary-General of National Security Council Joseph Wu, cheers with soldiers during a visit to Zuoying naval base in Kaohsiung yesterday

their expertise.

Earlier reports have said Taiwan was seeking eight new submarines, although Tsai gave no details other than to say that sub production would be the “most challenging” aspect of Taiwan’s development of an upgraded indigenous defense industry.

The craft will be built through a joint venture between the government’s Chungshan Institute of Science and Technology and the formerly state-owned ship maker CSBC Corp.

Taiwan’s navy presently has just two combat-ready subs purchased from the Netherlands in the 1980s

The announcement comes weeks after Tsai announced a USD2.1 billion investment in the production of air force jet trainers to be designed and manufactured on the island.

China has successfully used its diplomatic and economic clout to prevent many overseas military purchases by Taiwan, which Beijing claims as its own territory.

Most of Taiwan’s military hardware is either produced domestically or bought from the United States, which is legally bound to ensure Taiwan can defend itself, despite having only unofficial ties with the island. **AP**

Taiwan announces plan to build own submarines

TAIWAN will build its own submarines to get around Beijing’s efforts to prevent it from purchasing such craft from overseas and ensure an adequate defense against Chinese threats, President Tsai Ing-wen said yesterday.

During a visit to the navy’s

main base in Tsoying, also spelled Zuoying, Tsai oversaw the signing of a memorandum of understanding on the construction of submarines.

“Under the strategic concept of effective and multilayered deterrence, sub-surface combat ability is what Taiwan’s defense is most in need of strengthening,” Tsai said. “This is a problem that everyone is aware of but which in the past we were never able to resolve.”

Taiwan’s navy presently has just two combat-ready subs, versions of the Zwaardvis-class subs purchased from the Netherlands in the 1980s in a deal that led to a major diplomatic

rift between Beijing and The Hague.

Although George W. Bush’s administration had pledged to help Taiwan procure more submarines, the U.S. no longer makes the diesel electric craft that Taiwan needs and has apparently been unable to enlist foreign makers in providing

US group seeks better access to farm goods market

AN American business group appealed to China yesterday to ease import restrictions on agricultural goods including genetically modified seeds and other biotechnology, highlighting complaints Beijing blocks market access despite its vocal support for free trade.

The American Chamber of Commerce in China wants a quicker review of foreign biotechnology products, an end to restrictions on beef and pork imports and other changes. In a report, the group said that could improve the food supply for China’s consumers and create new opportunities for Chinese and foreign companies.

Chinese leaders have publicly defended free trade in response to U.S. President Donald Trump’s promises to restrict imports. But yesterday’s report was a reminder of enduring complaints China is the least open major economy.

In a separate segment of the food industry, foreign suppliers are alarmed by Chinese plans to require intensive inspections of imports including low-risk items such as wine and chocolate. The United States, the European Union and other suppliers worry that could disrupt billions of dollars of trade and are lobbying Beijing to sca-

le back its requirement.

In agriculture, the American chamber cited areas ranging from genetically modified seeds to grain processing to pork in which imports and foreign competitors are banned or sharply restricted.

“There is huge opportunity for foreign business to access the Chinese market and that will really bring the whole industry up,” a co-chairman of the chamber’s agriculture committee, Yong Gao, told reporters.

Foreign suppliers have long complained Beijing uses safety and other regulations to hamper imports of food and farm goods.

In biotechnology, the chamber said Chinese approval of imported products takes several times longer than in the United States, Brazil or other countries and the process is slowing down. Regulators approved only one of 18 foreign products under review in a list issued in January. Gao said that was fewer than in recent years.

“The industry is extremely disappointed,” he said.

Beijing lifted an import ban on U.S. beef in October, but producers must wait for individual facilities to be inspected by Chinese regulators before shipments can begin, a process that can take months. **AP**



Contrast in style as Duterte meets Myanmar's Suu Kyi

REGIONAL politics makes for strange bedfellows, and at first glance, it is hard to imagine more of an odd couple than tempestuous Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte and his cerebral de facto Myanmar counterpart, State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi, who met this week in Myanmar's capital, Naypyitaw.

After his arrival in Myanmar on Sunday, Duterte rejected European criticism of his deadly war on drugs with his usual profanity, insisting that "more people will die."

"I said I will not stop," he declared. "I will continue until the last drug lord in the Philippines is killed and the pushers out of the streets."

Suu Kyi has just as little time for critics, but her crisp Oxford-accented speech is more like a dagger to her guest's blunderbuss. The Philippines' hard man thrives on press coverage, while Myanmar's leader barely conceals her contempt for the media. She is the ice to Duterte's fire.

The main purpose of Duterte's visit to Myanmar is to complete visits to nine fellow members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN, which the Philippines is helming this year.

While their meeting is said to have included the usual pro forma talk about trade and investment, it had a tangible result when Duterte promised USD300,000 in humanitarian aid for Myanmar's Rakhine state, where communal conflict has displaced more than 100,000 people, mostly Muslims, from their homes.

Here is a look at two Southeast Asian leaders who have made a name for themselves worldwide:

AUNG SAN SUU KYI

As the daughter of Myanmar's martyred founding father, Gen. Aung San, she is the closest thing the country has to aristocracy. Many would say her manner is aristocratic — imperious and uncompromising. For those around the world who admired her as a democracy icon, her government's lack of transparency and less-than-who-



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, left, talks with Myanmar's State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi during their meeting at the Presidential Palace in Naypyitaw, Myanmar

lehearted embrace of remedying human rights problems have been a disappointment.

BACKSTORY: Suu Kyi had spent most of her life abroad as an academic until she found herself in Myanmar — then called Burma — during its 1988 pro-democracy uprising against military rule. When she stepped up to support the unsuccessful rebellion, her fresh face, name recognition and eloquence rocketed her to the leadership of the pro-democracy movement. It cost her 15 years under house arrest, won her a Nobel Peace Prize, and brought her National League for Democracy party to power in 2015.

CHALLENGES: Suu Kyi's biggest problem is probably

meeting the expectations of her supporters in Myanmar and abroad. Myanmar's economy lagged badly behind most of its neighbors after five decades of military rule. Widespread prejudice against the country's Muslim Rohingya minority has led to deadly communal violence, posing a political threat to Suu Kyi while earning international opprobrium. Other minorities are restive, seeking greater political autonomy promised since the nation became independent in 1948. All the while, provisions in the military-drafted constitution restrict Suu Kyi's ability to make any reforms affecting the army's considerable influence.

RODRIGO DUTERTE

A foul-mouthed, crime-busting mayor credited with turning the southern Philippine city of Davao into an oasis of relative tranquility and economic vibrancy in an insurgency-

pestered region, he expanded his brutal anti-drug crackdown when he rose to the presidency last June. Supporters cheer his anti-establishment and populist mindset but critics regard him as a human rights calamity.

BACKSTORY: A former government prosecutor who dealt with rogue policemen, outlaws and insurgents, he parlayed that background to build a name in politics as a tough and hands-on overseer of a city who dealt harshly with law breakers, especially drug dealers and addicts, hundreds of whom ended up dead in Davao. His expletive-ridden speeches, often spiced with sex jokes, are adored by his followers but have unnerved the predominant Catholic church and the intelligentsia and upended Philippine politics and foreign policy.

CHALLENGES: While seen as a tough and unorthodox leader who could break through an anemic bureaucracy and tradition to spark radical reforms, he faces the same deep-seated problems that have stymied his predecessors: crushing poverty that afflicts a fourth of more than 100 million Filipinos, decades-old Muslim and Marxist insurgencies, and often-turbulent politics. He is also unwinding his country's traditional ties with the United States, while jousting with China over its rival territorial claims in the South China Sea. **AP**

DUTERTE WRAPS UP SE ASIA TOUR IN THAILAND

PHILIPPINE PRESIDENT

Rodrigo Duterte is in Thailand for a two-day visit rounding out his nine-country tour of southeast Asia. Duterte has visited members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN, which the Philippines is helming this year. He met with Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha yesterday. They are

expected to sign agreements involving agriculture, education, energy, and science and technology. Today, Duterte will hold a roundtable discussion with business executives and meet the Filipino community in Bangkok. There are about 16,000 Filipinos living and working in Thailand. He is scheduled to return to Manila tomorrow.

AUSTRALIA

Facebook and Google are paying more local tax

FACEBOOK, Google and other multinational companies are now paying tax in Australia based on their Australian profits instead of shifting income to low-tax countries since the government cracked down on such tax avoidance, the treasurer said yesterday.

Australia will take in an extra 2 billion Australian

dollars (USD1.5 billion) in tax from multinational giants in the current fiscal year because of the Multinational Anti-Avoidance Law, which took effect in late 2015, Treasurer Scott Morrison told Parliament.

The government had given the Australian Taxation Office "the power, the resources and the penalties to get

the job done," Morrison said.

"Facebook [...] are now booking their Australian revenue in Australia, not in Ireland," he said, adding the multinational companies were abandoning contrived structures and restructuring their models to show sales booked in Australia.

Australian tax authorities

were currently conducting 71 audits involving 59 major global corporations, Morrison said.

Facebook did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Tuesday. Google declined to comment.

The law, dubbed the "Google Tax," targets global companies with annual incomes

exceeding AUD1 billion that use financial schemes for the principal purpose of obtaining an Australian tax benefit.

The Australian Taxation Office has the power to charge tax on profits diverted offshore and to fine the corporations an amount equal to the tax evaded.

When the law was proposed in early 2015, the government said there were 30 global corporations that paid little or no tax on the profits from their Australia-

lian operations. The government did not name them. Tax officials were posted to the Australian offices of the 30 companies.

The problem, known as "base erosion and profit shifting," stoked public anger at a time when the global economy was still struggling to recover from the 2008 financial crisis. Critics say it was an example of the powerful being given an unfair advantage, while the companies said they were not breaking any laws. **AP**



Ousted President Park Geun-hye, foreground, arrives at a prosecutor's office in Seoul

SOUTH KOREA

Park says 'sorry' as she undergoes questioning

Hyung-Jin Kim, Seoul

SOUTH Korea's just-ousted president said yesterday she was "sorry" to the people as she underwent questioning by prosecutors over a corruption scandal that led to her removal from office.

The questioning of Park Geun-hye came 11 days after the Constitutional Court ruled unanimously to dismiss her as president over allegations she colluded with a confidante to extort money from businesses and committed other wrong-

doings. Her power had been suspended since she was impeached by parliament in December.

It was a dramatic fall for Park, a daughter of slain dictator Park Chung-hee, who was elected as the country's first female president in late 2012 amid a wave of support from conservatives who remembered her father as a hero who pulled the country up from poverty despite his suppression of civil rights.

"I am sorry to the people. I will sincerely undergo an investigation," Park said when

arrived at a Seoul prosecutors' office.

She did not elaborate and went inside the building amid a barrage of camera flashes. Prosecutors later said they began questioning Park with her lawyer present.

It was not clear if Park's brief statement meant she acknowledged the corruption allegations, as she has repeatedly denied any legal wrongdoing. South Korean politicians embroiled in scandals often offer public apologies for causing trouble though they deny their involvement.

The questioning of Park was expected to last until late in the evening, and South Korean media reported prosecutors won't likely summon her again after yesterday's questioning.

Dozens of high-profile figures including some top Park government officials and Samsung heir Lee Jae-yong have already been arrested or indicted in connection with the scandal.

Park could face extortion, bribery and other criminal charges, but it is not known if prosecutors will seek to arrest her anytime soon, especially ahead of an election in May to choose her successor.

Some experts say there would be a strong backlash from conservatives if Park were to appear on TV dressed in prison garb and handcuffed. Currently, Moon Jae-in, a liberal opposition leader who lost the 2012 election to Park, now has a commanding lead in opinion surveys.

The scandal has roiled and divided South Korea for months, with millions of people taking to the streets and calling for park's ouster in the largest public demonstrations in deca-

des. In recent weeks, pro-Park supporters, mostly elderly conservatives, have staged their own rallies. Three people died in clashes between Park's supporters and the police after the court ruled against her.

Earlier yesterday, hundreds of Park supporters waited for hours near her Seoul home, holding national flags and chanting her name as thick lines of police officers separated them from a group of reporters. Stepping out of her home's black metal gate, Park did not address to her supporters before getting into a black sedan, which followed a motorcade of police motorcycles to the prosecution office.

Park had immunity while in office and had refused to meet with prosecutors or allow officials to search her presidential compound. She has since expressed defiance toward the allegations, saying "I believe the truth will certainly come out."

The March 10 ruling has made Park South Korea's first democratically elected leader to be forced out of office since democracy replaced dictatorship in the late 1980s. AP



Supporters of Park Geun-hye hold flags outside of a prosecutors' office

Raimundos Oki, Dili

EAST TIMOR

Former guerrilla fighter set to win presidency

AN unofficial vote count shows a former guerrilla leader has won East Timor's presidency in the first election without U.N. supervision since peacekeepers left in 2012.

The tally announced yesterday by the country's election office indicated that Francisco "Lu-Olo" Guterres had a commanding lead over the Democratic Party's Antonio da Conceicao, who is minister of education and social affairs.

Official results are not expected until next week, but with more than 70 percent of the ballots tallied, Lu-Olo, a 62-year-old former guerrilla commander representing Fretilin, the traditional party of resistance to Indonesian rule, had 60 percent of the votes. Da Conceicao had 30 percent and said

he would accept the outcome. The remaining votes were divided among six other candidates.

East Timor's president has a mostly ceremonial role.

East Timorese voted overwhelmingly in 1999 to end 24 years of brutal Indonesian occupation that killed more than 170,000 people. Indonesia's military and pro-Indonesian militias responded to the independence referendum with scorched earth attacks that devastated the East Timorese half of the island.

The young nation's transition to democracy has been rocky, with its leaders battling massive poverty, unemployment

and corruption as it continues to struggle with the legacy of its bloody independence battle.

It was Lu-Olo's third attempt to win the presidency since 2007, when Jose Ramos-Horta, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, secured an easy victory over him in a second-round vote. Lu-Olo lost to current President Taur Matan Ruak in the 2012 election, but this time he had strong support from resistance hero and former Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao, who remains influential in politics.

"This is the decision from the voters, from the people," Lu-Olo said. "Changes will happen in many aspects, and fun-

damentally, I want to change the people's condition in health services, education and have a sustainable economy to accelerate national development."

Ruak, also a former guerrilla fighter, was not up for re-election and is expected to make a run for prime minister in July's parliamentary elections.

"We have voted based on our own choice," Ruak said. "I am grateful to all people for a peaceful election. This will result in greatness for our people and the nation."

Jacarias Meta, who was among the more than 740,000 eligible voters, said he hoped the economy would improve.



"This election is crucial for the future of our nation," said Meta, a 50-year-old farmer. "I want to see a new president who can bring a positive change to society." AP

Alicia A. Caldwell, Washington

AIRPLANE SECURITY

No electronics on some US-bound jets from Mideast, Africa

THE U.S. government is ordering passengers on nonstop, U.S.-bound flights from a handful of mostly Middle Eastern and North African countries to pack electronic devices other than cellphones in their checked baggage.

Senior Trump administration officials said that starting today [Macau time] airlines flying directly to the United States from 10 airports in eight countries starting passengers that only cellphones and smartphones will be allowed in the passenger cabin of U.S.-bound flights. Other electronics, including laptops and tablets, will be indefinitely banned from the passenger cabin.

The officials said the airlines will have 96 hours to implement the security order or face being barred from flying to the United States. The officials spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the security ban despite President Donald Trump's repeated insistence that anonymous source should not be trusted.

The electronics ban affects flights from international airports in Amman, Jordan; Kuwait City, Kuwait; Cairo; Istanbul; Jeddah and Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; Casablanca, Morocco; Doha, Qatar; and Dubai and Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates. About 50 flights a day, all on foreign carriers, will be impacted. The officials said no U.S.-based airlines have non-stop flights from those cities to the United States.

The officials said the decision was prompted by "evaluated intelligence" about ongoing potential threats to airplanes bound for the United States. The officials would not discuss the timing of the intelligence or if any particular terror group is thought to be planning an attack.

The ban would affect laptops, iPads, cameras and most other electronics. Royal Jordanian Air-

AP PHOTO



lines tweeted about the ban Monday, telling passengers that medical devices would also be allowed onboard with passengers.

Details of the ban were first disclosed by Royal Jordanian and the official news agency of Saudi Arabia.

■ About 50 flights a day, all on foreign carriers, will be impacted

In its statement, Royal Jordanian said the electronics ban would affect its flights to New York, Chicago, Detroit and Montreal.

Across the Atlantic yesterday,

problems and confusion ensued.

Egyptian officials at the Cairo International Airport said they had not received any instructions on banning passengers from bringing laptops, iPads, cameras and some other electronics on board direct flights to the United States. The officials said a New York-bound EgyptAir flight departed and that passengers were allowed to take their laptops and other electronics on board in their carry-on luggage.

A spokesman for Royal Jordanian says the airliner has not yet started to enforce the new U.S. regulation. Basel Kilani has told The Associated Press that the airline was still awaiting formal instructions from the relevant U.S. departments, which could possibly come today.

Brian Jenkins, an aviation-

security expert at the Rand Corp., said earlier that the nature of the security measure suggested that it was driven by intelligence of a possible attack. There could be concern about inadequate passenger screening or even conspiracies involving insiders — airport or airline employees — in some countries, he said.

Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly phoned lawmakers over the weekend to brief them on aviation security issues that have prompted the impending electronics ban, according a congressional aide briefed on the discussion. The aide was not authorized to speak publicly about the issue and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

The administration officials who briefed reporters about the ban said foreign officials were

told about the impending order starting Sunday.

A U.S. government official said such a ban has been considered for several weeks. The official spoke on the condition of anonymity to disclose the internal security discussions by the federal government.

The ban would begin just before Wednesday's meeting of the U.S.-led coalition against the Islamic State group in Washington. A number of top Arab officials were expected to attend the State Department gathering. It was unclear whether their travel plans were related to any increased worry about security threats.

Another aviation-security expert, Jeffrey Price, said there could be downsides to the policy.

"There would be a huge disadvantage to having everyone put their electronics in checked baggage," said Price, a professor at Metropolitan State University of Denver. He said thefts from baggage would skyrocket, as when Britain tried a similar ban in 2006, and some laptops have batteries that can catch fire — an event easier to detect in the cabin than the hold.

Most major airports in the United States have a computer tomography or CT scanner for checked baggage, which creates a detailed picture of a bag's contents. They can warn an operator of potentially dangerous material, and may provide better security than the X-ray machines used to screen passengers and their carry-on bags. All checked baggage must be screened for explosives. AP

MIDDLE EAST

Syrian troops counter-attack after Damascus rebel incursion

SYRIAN government forces launched a counter-attack against rebels in Damascus yesterday, following a rebel suicide car bombing and another insurgent assault earlier in the day in the country's capital, media reports said.

It was the second attempt by rebels in three days to penetrate Damascus' defenses. Rebels have been trying for years to break into the heart of Damascus, at times in conjunction with al-Qaida-linked militants.

Al-Qaida-affiliated suicide bombers have been targeting government security installations since the early days of the conflict.

Early yesterday, Syrian rebels detonated a car bomb in an eastern neighborhood of Damascus and launched a renewed attack from the city's opposition-held Jobar neighborhood, according to the Lebanese militant Hezbollah group. There were no immediate reports on casualty numbers in those

attacks.

Hezbollah is heavily invested in defending Syrian President Bashar Assad in his country's civil war. Its military media arm said fighting was underway in Jobar, which Syrian government forces had held under siege since 2013.

Syrian state media later said the military responded with airstrikes and artillery fire and that government forces repelled the attack.

Sounds of blasts and ar-

tillery fire shook Damascus, and smoke clouded the skies over the eastern Jobar and Qaboun neighborhoods, where fighting had also broken out on Sunday.

Syria's SANA news agency said government forces encircled the "terrorist groups." It said 15 people were wounded in shelling across the capital.

A rebel blitz spearheaded by Syria's al-Qaida branch shook the eastern parts of Damascus on Sunday,

AP PHOTO



Damaged and blocked street where clashes erupted between regular forces and rebels near the Abbasiyin square, east Damascus

with fighters managing to seize a neighborhood before pro-government forces pushed them back on Monday. It was the most serious insurgent incursion into Damascus since 2012.

The insurgent gains in Damascus, though short-lived, come against the

backdrop of months of steady rebel losses to government forces across Syria. It appeared to be an attempt by al-Qaida's affiliate to mount sophisticated attacks against high-value targets to portray itself as the main force capable of fighting the government. AP



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Thursday 30th March
Banyan Room 2, 1/F**



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what's ON



THE VOICE OF DESIGN – WORKS EXHIBITION BY STUDENTS AND TEACHERS OF THE BACHELOR OF ARTS IN DESIGN OF MACAU POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

TIME: 11am-10pm

UNTIL: April 15, 2017

VENUE: IFT Café, Anim'Arte NAM VAN

ADMISSION: Free

MACAO ARTS WINDOW 2017: UNTITLED TRAVEL – WORKS OF LIN GE

TIME: 10am-7pm (Last admission at 6:30pm, closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: May 14, 2017

VENUE: Macao Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

PACKING THE NATURE - WORKS BY NG MAN WAI

TIME: 11am-7pm (Closed on Mondays and mandatory holidays)

UNTIL: March 26, 2017

VENUE: 1st Floor, Macao Art Garden, No. 265, Av. Dr. Rodrigo Rodrigues

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6064

ARTISTIC CRAFTSMANSHIP OF OUR ANCESTORS - EXHIBITION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RELICS OF TAIPA AND COLOANE

TIME: 10am-6am daily (Last admission at 5:30pm, closed on Mondays)

ADDRESS: Rua Correia da Silva, Taipa

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

PHOTOGRAPHS OF OLD TEMPLES IN MACAU

TIME: 10am-7pm (Last admission at 6:30pm, closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: July 16, 2017

VENUE: Macao Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

Offbeat

LACK OF COMMA SENSE IGNITES DEBATE AFTER RULING IN USD10M SUIT

It all came down to a missing comma, and not just any one. And it's reignited a longstanding debate over whether the punctuation is necessary.

A federal appeals court decided this week to keep alive a lawsuit by dairy drivers seeking more than USD10 million in an overtime pay dispute.

It concerned Maine's overtime law, which doesn't apply to the "canning, processing, preserving, freezing, drying, marketing, storing, packing for shipment or distribution of" foods.

There's no Oxford, or serial, comma in the "packing for shipment or distribution" part. The drivers said the words referred to the single activity of packing, which the drivers don't do. The defendant, Oakhurst Dairy, said the words referenced two different activities and drivers fall within the exemption.

Circuit Judge David Barron wrote: "For want of a comma, we have this case."

The court sided with the drivers.

"Comma sense ain't so common," Jeffrey Neil Young, an attorney for the drivers, said last week.

David Webbert, another attorney for the drivers, said the "fight for overtime rights has been vindicated" by what he called a "landmark" ruling made possible by an ambiguous exemption and a lack of a punctuation mark.

"Our argument was that it was a train wreck of a sentence," Webbert said. "The tie goes to the workers."

Oakhurst representatives said they plan to keep fighting the suit and declined to comment on the comma kerfuffle. A trial could follow. The company is well known in Maine for its line of milks, creamers and other dairy products.

Since the ruling, the internet has become a battlefield for defense — and derision — of the comma. News website Vox tweeted that the "Oxford comma is the world's most controversial punctuation mark."

Indeed, use of the Oxford comma has divided people for years. FiveThirtyEight and SurveyMonkey Audience polled more than 1,000 people about it in 2014 and found that more than half favored the extra comma.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	RTPi Live
17:00	Criminal Minds S.9
17:40	Once Upon A Time Sr.2 (Repeated)
18:20	Fifties Club (Repeated)
19:10	TDM Interview (Repeated)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Non-Daily Portuguese News
21:30	Drama
22:10	Now Generation
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:20	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:50	RTPi Live

cinema



CINETEATRO

22 MAR

KONG: SKULL ISLAND

ROOM 1

(2D): 2:30, 4:45, 9:30pm

(3D): 7:15pm

Director: Jordan Vogt-Roberts

Starring: Tom Hiddleston, Samuel L. Jackson, Brie Larson

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 118min



SILENCE

ROOM 2

2:30pm

Director: Martin Scorsese

Starring: Andrew Garfield, Adam Driver, Liam Neeson

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 118min

THE GIRL WITH ALL THE GIFTS

ROOM 3

2:30, 9:30pm

Director: Colm McCarthy

Starring: Gemma Arterton, Glenn Close, Sennia Nanua

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 111min

SILENCE

ROOM 3

4:15pm

Director: Martin Scorsese

Starring: Andrew Garfield, Adam Driver, Liam Neeson

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 118min

LA LA LAND

ROOM 3

7:15pm

Director: Damien Chazelle

Starring: Ryan Gosling, Emma Stone

Language: English

Duration: 128min

MACAU TOWER

15 MAR - 29 MAR



BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30pm

Director: Bill Condon

Starring: Emma Watson, Dan Stevens, Luke Evans

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 129min

this day in history



The arrest of Rosa Parks sparked the boycott

1956 KING CONVICTED FOR BUS BOYCOTT

Civil rights leader, the Reverend Martin Luther King, has been convicted of organising an illegal boycott by black passengers of buses in the US state of Alabama.

Mr King, 27, was fined \$500 (£178) and ordered to pay an equal amount in costs.

However, his lawyers immediately gave notice of their intention to appeal and the fine was converted into a prison sentence of 386 days, suspended until the appeal hearing.

The 17-week-old boycott in the town of Montgomery was sparked by the arrest of a black woman, Rosa Parks, who refused to give up her seat for a white passenger on 1 December last year.

The town's segregation laws stipulate separate areas on buses for blacks and whites and require blacks to give up their seats for whites if necessary.

Black travellers have long complained of being called racist names by bus drivers and being forced to stand even if seats were vacant in the whites-only section.

Mrs Parks, 42, was not the first to be arrested for refusing to give up her seat but she was a well-known and respected figure in Montgomery's black community.

Four days after her arrest an almost universal boycott of the town's buses by black passengers began which has seriously diminished the companies' revenues.

Mr King was found guilty under an archaic law dating from 1921 designed to break trade union action. The law carries a maximum penalty of \$1,000 and six months in prison.

But Judge Eugene Carter said he had been lenient with Mr King because he had advocated non-violence.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The bus boycott lasted a total of 382 days.

It ended in December 1956 after bus companies throughout Alabama were forced to comply with a US Supreme Court ruling that segregation on public transport was illegal.

Martin Luther King organised non-violent campaigns for equal rights throughout the 1950s and 1960s and was jailed many times.

In August 1963 he made his famous "I have a dream" speech at a march in Washington which attracted more than 250,000 demonstrators.

The following year he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

He survived several attempts on his life but was assassinated in April 1968.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Take a long hard look around before you take any action...

Taurus April 20-May 20 Some days you are so darned analytical it seems as if you could take any old problem...

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 If you're painting your bedroom, don't go back to the drawing board...

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 If you're doing this work metaphorically, you'll be building important muscle groups...

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Sometimes you can't move on until you've really faced a problem from the past...

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 If you've been feeling stymied by various blocks, external and internal, that could all change now...

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Nobody ever said it was going to be easy. Okay, maybe somebody did say that...

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 If you don't feel like posing that question, you can just sit back and see what you get...

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 This curiosity for the world around you is one of your most valuable assets...

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Further, people trust you to distribute the hot dogs fairly, equitably and fully cooked...

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You have never been particularly immature, but lately you've been noticing a certain shift in yourself...

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You like to work hard and you like hard work. You could get trapped, though, in the pattern of avoiding other things...

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

Easy Sudoku grid with numbers 5, 6, 2, 8, 1, 9, 7, 5, 9, 1, 5, 2, 9, 2, 9, 1, 7, 5, 4, 7, 9, 7, 5, 4, 2, 3, 9, 3, 7, 8.

Easy+

Easy+ Sudoku grid with numbers 2, 3, 5, 5, 3, 6, 9, 1, 7, 6, 4, 8, 8, 3, 9, 4, 6, 7, 8, 5, 8, 6, 3, 9, 7, 7, 1, 2.

Medium

Medium Sudoku grid with numbers 1, 6, 8, 7, 3, 8, 4, 1, 2, 6, 9, 8, 7, 4, 2, 3, 9, 9, 4, 2, 5, 7, 2, 8, 1, 2, 5.

Hard

Hard Sudoku grid with numbers 2, 8, 3, 7, 5, 3, 4, 4, 1, 7, 6, 9, 1, 7, 2, 5, 3.

WEATHER

Weather table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION.

CHINA

Table of weather conditions for various Chinese cities: Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, Urumqi, Xi'an, Lhasa, Chengdu, Chongqing, Kunming, Nanjing, Shanghai, Wuhan, Hangzhou, Taipei, Guangzhou, Hong Kong.

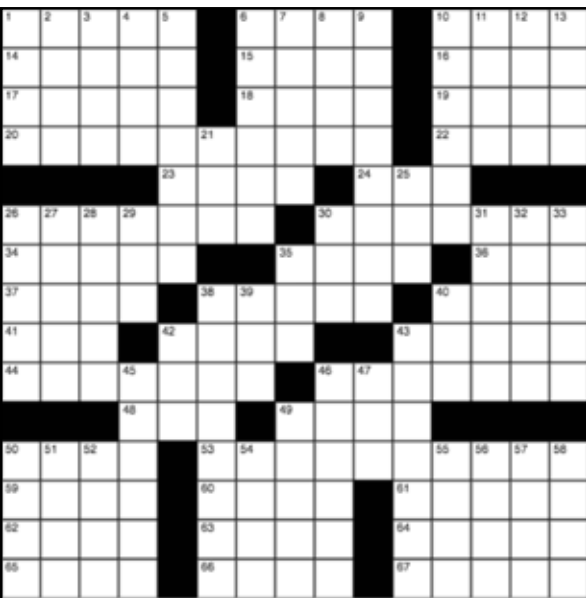
WORLD

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Water vapor; 6- Banned orchard spray; 10- Dates; 14- Nabisco's... 18- Pitchfork-shaped letters; 19- Barbarous person; 20- Trifling fault; 22- Top-flight; 23- Able was...; 24- Safety device; 26- Lord's estate; 30- Person who rows; 34- Concur; 35- 'acte; 36- Hot time in Paris; 37- 1994 Jodie Foster film; 38- Slender boat; 40- Toddler's glassful; 41- Legal conclusion?; 42- Emulates Eminem; 43- Charged toward; 44- Spire; 46- Conductor; 48- Marseille Mrs.; 49- Brick baker; 50- buco; 53- Embroidery; 59- And goes; 60- Remnant; 61- Urchin; 62- 'Rule Britannia' composer; 63- Diarist Frank; 64- Uneven, as if gnawed away; 65- Hankerings; 66- Take a breather; 67- Tend a fire;

DOWN: 1- Ginger cookie; 2- Fork feature; 3- Util. bill; 4- Actor Baldwin; 5- General bodily weakness; 6- Have high hopes; 7- Fine cotton thread; 8- Blue dye source; 9- Resound; 10- Summer ermines; 11- Thus; 12- Merit; 13- Graf; 21- Lair, often for wild animals; 25- Drift, make a mistake; 26- Borge's countrymen; 27- Discharge; 28- 1957 hit for the Bobbettes; 29- Conger; 30- Lennon's lady; 31- Had in mind; 32- Fighting; 33- Swell; 35- Nav. officer; 38- System of reckoning time; 39- Primate with a short tail or no tail; 40- Has been; 42- LP speed; 43- Goes back on; 45- Hams it up; 46- Miniature; 47- The lot; 49- Walls; 50- Anthem starter; 51- Tender; 52- Fein; 54- Fish-eating eagle; 55- Flaw, so to speak; 56- Melville novel; 57- Hazard; 58- Leg joint;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

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- Emergency calls 999
Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
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
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“ THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’ ”

ATHLETICS

US marathon star Meb Keflezighi races toward retirement

William J. Kole, Boston

AMERICA'S premier marathoner is taking his victory lap.

Meb Keflezighi says he'll hang up his racing shoes for good after running next month's Boston Marathon and the TCS New York City Marathon in November.

By then, he'll have racked up 26 marathons and he'll be 42. Considering the metric equivalent of the classic 26.2-mile distance is 42.2 kilometers, it feels to Keflezighi like the universe is saying it's time to call it a career.

"People say, 'Why stop? You're still at a high level.' But it takes a lot out of you," the four-time Olympian told The Associated Press in an interview.

"Even when my family gets together, I've got to get my run in," he said. "I love the sport. I had the best job in the world for a long, long time. But I have to be fair to my wife and my three daughters."

Keflezighi was born in Eritrea, but his family fled the Horn of Africa's war and poverty and eventually settled in San Diego. A U.S. citizen, he was a high school standout who went on to break records at UCLA and win four NCAA titles before turning pro in 1998.

He made his first U.S. Olympic team in 2000, competing in the 10,000 meters in Sydney. The following year, he set a U.S. record of 27:13.98 in the 10K, and in 2002, he made his marathon debut in New York.

It took a while for Keflezighi to warm to the distance. He'd finished ninth. Everything hurt. He swore that first marathon would be his last.

Nevertheless, he persisted. And at the 2004 Athens Olympics, he took silver, becoming the first American man in 28 years to medal in the marathon.

He won New York in 2009 — the first U.S. champion there in 27 years. Meb memes materialized overnight: Meb on Mount Rushmore, Meb at the moon landing, Meb as the Statue of Liberty.

U.S. marathon record-holder Deena Kastor calls Keflezighi "one of the best tac-

AP PHOTO



tical U.S. distance runners in history."

"He hangs on patiently when the pack erratically surges. He attacks when others seem vulnerable," she said. "If there is one thing you can always be sure of, it's that he gave his best, his all."

■ Meb was born in Eritrea, but his family fled the Horn of Africa's war and poverty and settled in San Diego

Keflezighi finished just out of the medals at the 2012 London Olympics. Fourth is usually the most pitiful place for an Olympian, but he was overjoyed. He'd clawed his way back, picking runners off one by one while resisting the urge to drop out. "Running isn't always about getting the win. It's about getting the most out of yourself," he said. "That made me feel I had a chance to win Boston."

No American had taken

Boston, marathoning's biggest prize, in three decades.

And after a pair of bombs planted near the finish line in 2013 killed three spectators and wounded more than 260 others, it became desperately, overwhelmingly important to do so.

In April 2014, two weeks shy of his 39th birthday, Keflezighi scribbled the names of the dead on his race bib and set off from Hopkinton, Massachusetts. Two hours, 8 minutes and 37 seconds later, he stormed across the finish line on Boylston Street in a personal best, pumping his fist to wild chants of "U-S-A! U-S-A!"

"Every day for 365 days I was visualizing how I could do something meaningful on Boylston Street," he said. "You couldn't script it any better than that. It was the most gratifying moment of my life."

Boston Marathon race director Dave McGillivray says Keflezighi — the only Olympic medalist who's won New York and Boston — will forever be part of running's pantheon.

"Meb is a true hero in our sport," he said. "Not because of his many victories or because of all the medals he's won, but more so because

of the standards he lives by — his unselfish and philanthropic generosity, his humbleness, his positive attitude, and his compassion and caring for those who are less fortunate."

That's expressed in the MEB Foundation the runner set up to promote health, education and fitness among youth.

As a former refugee who chased the American dream, Keflezighi takes a dim view of travel bans and the notion that immigration needs to be reined in.

"We're positive contributors to society," he said. "You want to give people a chance and a hope. That's what the United States is built on. Our diversity is our strength."

Keflezighi intends to run his final Boston and New York marathons with all the strength and speed he can muster.

But after that, it's chill time, even though he'll do an occasional 5K or half-marathon "so I can run with the people."

"When I run, I don't run for myself. I run for the sport of running and for the people who pushed me to be the best I could be," he said.

"I like to think I'm the people's champion." AP

AP PHOTO



FOOTBALL

Schweinsteiger leaving Man United for Chicago Fire

World Cup winner Bastian Schweinsteiger is leaving Manchester United to join the Chicago Fire. The former Germany midfielder has struggled for playing opportunities since joining United in 2015. United says the 32-year-old Schweinsteiger still needs to pass a medical examination and obtain a visa before moving to Major League Soccer. Schweinsteiger says he's "sad to leave so many friends at Manchester United. But I am grateful to the club for allowing me the chance to take up the challenge at Chicago Fire."

FIFA bans referee for life over disputed penalty

FIFA has banned for life the referee who awarded a disputed penalty for South Africa against Senegal in a World Cup qualifying match. Referee Joseph Lamptey of Ghana gave a penalty for a non-existent handball against Senegal defender Kalidou Koulibaly. Replays clearly showed the ball struck Koulibaly's knee and then dropped to the ground. Lamptey was found guilty of breaching the rule relating to "unlawfully influencing match results," FIFA said. His assistant was cleared. South Africa scored the penalty kick to lead 1-0 in the 42nd minute. The home team went on to beat Senegal 2-1 and is now in second place in the four-team group after two matches. Senegal is third, with only the group winner advancing to play in Russia.

CRICKET

Australia offers to double incomes of female players

AP PHOTO



Cricket Australia has offered to more than double the salaries of female international players and raise payments for all professionals in a five-year deal it is proposing in lieu of a long-standing revenue sharing model. Cricket Australia chief executive James Sutherland unveiled the plan yesterday, highlighting that the top female players were in line for an immediate average pay rise of more than 125 percent — from an average of 79,000 Australian dollars (USD61,000) to 179,000 Australian dollars — and an estimated average of 210,000 Australian dollars by 2021. Sutherland said Cricket Australia was promoting gender equality by ensuring the minimum and average hourly pay would be the same for men and women.

opinion

Macau Matters

Richard Whitfield



THE RIGHT TO PRIVACY AND CHARITABLE GOOD GOVERNANCE

I have helped local charities publish several annual reports. While published annual reports are very common for charities internationally, very few are done in Macau, which is very interesting, given that most of Macau's social services rely totally on charitable organisations. (Of the hundreds of charities in Macau, I only know of a few that publish substantial annual reports.)

I believe that it is crucial for charities to publish annual reports to demonstrate transparency and good governance. While charities benefit communities, they cannot exist without the donations and other support that the local community provides. Annual reports are an important tool for charities to prove that they are properly and efficiently utilising the support that they receive. They are also a key promotional tool - people will only donate to charitable organisations that they can understand and sympathise with.

I decided to get involved with this work mainly to set a precedent and hoped that many other Macau charities follow our example and produce good annual reports (but this has not happened).

Developing the first annual report for a charity involves a considerable data collection effort, but it becomes much easier in succeeding years. In a few cases now, the Macau government has obstructed the publication of charity annual reports, supposedly to "preserve the privacy" of the recipients of charitable efforts. In particular, we were asked to remove a photo of an academic achievement medal because it named the child and to remove a photo that showed a volunteer hugging a child because she could be identified.

The "elephant in the room" here was the right to privacy. The Macau government treats it as an undeniable trump card that I do not accept - the individual's right to privacy must be always be balanced by the community's right to ensure that public institutions operate effectively and efficiently and deserve the community's support.

In the children's charity case, medals of academic achievement are very important evidence that the charity is properly managing the education of the children in its care and should be shown. Schools generally publish this kind of information and so why should it not appear in a charity's annual report? Similarly, from a community perspective it is very important to know that volunteers work with charities - they show that reasonable leverage is being obtained for the funds received and that third parties are involved and know what is happening within the organisation.

I have checked charity annual reports from several countries and they all show information about their "customers" and identify individuals - it is normal international practice in the USA, Europe, Australia and Hong Kong and other forward looking Asian countries. Needing assistance is not something shameful, and people help people - not faceless, opaque organisations. Personalising social institutions is crucial for demonstrating transparency and good governance and for attracting donations and it is why charities all round the world ask their "customers" for permission to use their names and images (which is also what the charity here does). If your right to privacy is so sacrosanct you do not have to accept the charitable assistance being offered, but the vast majority of people receiving assistance understand the need to balance their right to privacy with the community's need to know how effectively and efficiently its charitable giving is being utilised.

It is very unfortunate that the authorities governing charities in Macau are not up with modern practices. They seem to fear transparency and good governance and want to hide behind a cloak of "privacy" concerns. This is unreasonable and unacceptable, and we need to demand that Macau charities prove their transparency and good governance, and our public officials should be leading the way in this regard, not obstructing progress.

THE BUZZ WOODY HARRELSON GIVES UP SMOKING POT AFTER '30 SOLID YEARS'

Woody Harrelson has given up marijuana after decades of what he calls partying too hard.

The actor is one of Hollywood's most well-known marijuana enthusiasts. Harrelson tells Vulture that he hasn't smoked pot in nearly a year.

He cites "30 solid years" of partying

for his decision to quit. He also says he felt like the drug was "keeping me from being emotionally available." Still, he has nothing bad to say about marijuana, which he calls "a great drug."

The 55-year-old says he still drinks alcohol in moderation.



Martin McGuinness, Irish rebel turned politician, dies at 66

Shawn Pogatchnik

MARTIN McGuinness, the Irish Republican Army commander who led his underground paramilitary movement toward reconciliation with Britain, died yesterday, his Sinn Fein party announced. He was 66.

Turning from rebel to peacemaker, McGuinness served as Northern Ireland's deputy first minister for a decade in a Catholic-Protestant power-sharing government.

The party said he died following a short illness.

McGuinness suffered from amyloidosis, a rare disease with a strain specific to Ireland's northwest. The chemotherapy required to combat the formation of organ-choking protein deposits quickly sapped him of strength and forced him to start missing government appointments.

"Throughout his life Martin showed great determination, dignity and humility and it was no different during his short illness," Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams said.

"He was a passionate republican who worked tirelessly for peace and reconciliation and for the re-unification of his country. But above all he loved his family and the people of Derry and he was immensely proud of both."

Irish President Michael D. Higgins said people across Ireland would miss "the leadership he gave, shown most clearly during the difficult times of the peace process, and his commitment to the values of genuine democracy that he demonstrated in the development of the institutions in Northern Ireland."

Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, who worked with McGuinness to forge Northern Ireland's 1998 peace accord, expressed "immense gratitude for the part he played in the peace process."

"Whatever the past, the Martin I knew was a thoughtful, reflective and committed individual," Blair said. "Once he became the peacemaker he became it wholeheartedly and with no shortage of determined opposition to those who wanted to carry on the war."

But some who suffered at



the hands of the IRA could not forgive.

Former British government minister Norman Tebbit, whose wife was paralyzed by the IRA bombing of a hotel in Brighton in 1984, said he hoped McGuinness was "parked in a particularly hot and unpleasant corner of hell for the rest of eternity."

McGuinness' transformation into a peacemaker was all the more remarkable because, as a senior IRA commander during the years of gravest Catholic-Protestant violence, he insisted that Northern Ireland must be forced out of the United Kingdom against the wishes of Protestants.

Even after Sinn Fein — the IRA's legal, public face — started to run for elections in the 1980s, McGuinness insisted as Sinn Fein deputy leader that "armed struggle" remained essential.

"We don't believe that winning elections and any amount of votes will bring freedom in Ireland," he told a BBC documentary team in 1986. "At the end of the day, it will be the cutting edge of the IRA that will bring freedom."

Yet within a few years of making that stubborn vow, McGuinness was exploring the opposite option in covert contacts with British intelli-

gence that led eventually to a truce, inter-party talks and the installation of the IRA icon in the heart of Northern Ireland's government.

Irish Times columnist Fintan O'Toole argued in January 2017 that McGuinness had been "a mass killer — during his period of membership and leadership the IRA killed 1,781 people, including 644 civilians — whose personal amiability has been essential to the peace process.

If he were not a ruthless and unrepentant exponent of violence, he would never have become such a key figure in bringing violence to an end."

Unlike his close ally Adams, McGuinness never hid the fact that he had been a commander of the IRA — classed as a terrorist organization by the British, Irish and U.S. governments. Nor could he.

Born May 23, 1950, he joined the breakaway Provisional IRA faction in his native Londonderry — simply Derry to Irish nationalists — after dropping out of high school and working as an apprentice butcher in the late 1960s. At the time, the Catholic civil rights movement faced increasing conflict with the province's Protestant government and police. He rose to become Derry's deputy IRA commander by age 21. AP

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	40-60 Moderate	☹️
High Density Residential Area	40-60 Moderate	☹️
Ambient	40-60 Moderate	☹️

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS



INDIA Two of India's most iconic rivers, considered sacred by nearly a billion Hindus in the country, have been given the status of living entities to save them from further harm caused by widespread pollution.

PAKISTAN's National Assembly has passed a constitutional amendment that would continue the practice of trying terrorism suspects in military courts. The measure was approved by the lower house yesterday, but has yet to be voted upon by the senate.

RUSSIA A Russian group of reporters say they have uncovered details of a complex system in which USD21 billion were allegedly transferred illegally out of the country through a network of banks.



SYRIA Government forces launched a counter-attack against rebels in Damascus yesterday, following a rebel suicide car bombing and another insurgent assault earlier in the day in the country's capital, media reports said. It was the second attempt by rebels in three days to penetrate Damascus' defenses. More on p14

SOMALIA A car bomb exploded yesterday at a military checkpoint near Somalia's presidential palace in the capital, killing at least five people, police said.

FRANCE The French financial prosecutor's office opened a preliminary investigation Tuesday into a report that Interior Minister Bruno Le Roux hired his two daughters for 24 temporary parliamentary jobs.

BRAZIL's president said yesterday that a scandal over sale of expired meat is an "economic embarrassment". President Michel Temer sought to downplay the scandal, calling it a "fuss" and noting that only three of the more than 4,000 meatpacking plants in Brazil have been forced to close. More on p5