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FOUNDER & PUBLISHER Kowie Goldenhuys EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho

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**WORLD BRIEFS**



**PHILIPPINES** Muslim rebels fled after freeing dozens of hostages from a school in a southern Philippine village yesterday and were being pursued by army troops, as a daylong crisis eased in the volatile region. At least four rebels were killed and two government militiamen were wounded in the fighting, which caused nearly 1,000 villagers to flee to safety. More on p12

**THAILAND** A man arrested over the bombing of an army hospital in Bangkok said that he carried out the attack that wounded 21 people as an act of resistance against Thailand's ruling military junta.

**SINGAPORE** An auxiliary police officer who planned to join the armed conflict against Syria's government has been arrested along with one of his colleagues, the Singapore Home Affairs Ministry said. More on p13



**SAUDI ARABIA**'s King Salman yesterday appointed his 31-year-old son Mohammed bin Salman as crown prince, placing him first-in-line to the throne and removing the country's counterterrorism czar and a figure well-known to Washington from the line of succession.

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**AL ELECTION**

**Macanese vie to keep political weight** P4-5 MDT REPORT

BLOOMBERG



**Hong Kong is 2nd-most expensive city for expats** P10

# Tigerair to run more flights between Macau and Taiwan

Julie Zhu

**T**HE Chairman of Tigerair Taiwan, Chang Ho-Jo, said that the low-cost carrier will increase the frequency of flights between Macau and Taiwan, starting from August.

The information was announced on the sidelines of a ceremony where the company welcomed its three-millionth passenger at the Macau International Airport.

Specifically, the airline is considering adding three – and possibly up to seven – additional lines connecting both regions. Currently, there are 42 links between Macau and several destinations in Taiwan.

At the end of March, Tigerair Taiwan launched a new route between Macau and Taichung.

The airline's chairman disclosed that this route has been running well, despite the unbalanced number of passengers. According to Chang, there are more passengers flying to Macau from Taichung and fewer passengers flying to Taichung departing from Macau.

The number of passengers is more balanced with respect to cities such as Taipei and Kaohsiung.

For the past few years, Tigerair Taiwan has been running a deficit. However, Chang expressed his optimism concerning the airline's revenue in 2017, noting that Tigerair Taiwan can naturally continue its operations.

In July, the airline will unveil an independent website, that



Chang Ho-Jo

the company anticipates will allow it to seize more opportunities. In particular, they hope to convince more passengers to choose Tigerair Taiwan to

provide one of their connecting flights on the way to their final destination. "Currently, we are still sharing a website with Tigerair Singapore, but after July

11 [the date on which Tigerair Taiwan will cease sharing their website with Tigerair Singapore] we will bump sales regarding this aspect, [...] by letting

the transit passengers become the main source of customers," explained Chang.

So far this year, the airline has registered a 20 percent increase on average when compared to the homologous period of last year. Most noticeably, the airline's passenger load factor reached more than 80 percent, a jump from the previous load factor of over 70 percent.

In the upcoming December, the airline will include another aircraft in the operations based in Kaosiung city. "We will transfer some operations to Kaosiung, where we hope to expand the tourism market," said Chang.

With the addition of this new aircraft, Tigerair Taiwan will have a total of 11 aircraft in its fleet.

In yesterday's celebration, the three-millionth Tigerair Taiwan passenger, who happens to be a Macau resident, took the airline's flight to Taipei.

To celebrate the milestone, Tigerair Taiwan awarded the passenger with a one-year pass offering free passage on an unlimited number of flights run by Tigerair Taiwan.

## Capital Airlines links Macau and Lisbon

**S**TARTING from July 25, Capital Airlines will run four flights per week between Macau and Beijing.

Eric Fong, director of the Marketing Department of the Macau International Airport Co. Ltd, said that the flight will mainly establish a connection with the direct flight between Beijing and Lisbon.

"Capital airline has opened a route to Lisbon. Macau is the platform between China and the Portuguese-speaking Countries. [The airline] considers that Macau has the potential to be included in the new line," said Fong.

On Capital Airlines' website, it is indica-

ted that direct flights between Beijing and Lisbon will be available until December 31.

Fong told the Times that these dates are schedules for the summer season, further indicating that the flight operator "might consider extending the lifespan of this line a little bit more." He added that "reactions [from the passengers] seem to be quite good."

Fong also disclosed that, in August, there will be one daily flight running between Macau and Jakarta, and that more flights between Macau and cities in Southeast Asia will also be added.



Eric Fong

## Chui visits Shanghai to strengthen ties

**C**HIEF Executive, Chui Sai On, is in Shanghai for a two-day visit. He is due to meet leaders of the Shanghai municipality to review current cooperation and explore further ties.

His visit is an effort to "expand cooperation on MICE (meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions) business, cultural affairs, medical

and health sector services, and the training of civil servants."

"Macau will continue to assist Shanghai businesses to explore opportunities in Portuguese-speaking countries," he said yesterday before leaving Macau.

According to a statement issued by the Government Information Bureau, Macau and

Shanghai have a long history of close relations. Such ties included Shanghai sending experienced doctors to Macau in order to train a greater number of medical professionals. The two cities also signed a memorandum in 2012 on strengthening financial cooperation in relation to the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone and on

mutual contributions to the process of internationalizing the use of the renminbi.

During his two-day visit to Shanghai, Chui will be attending an event to mark the 75th anniversary of the Tai Fung Bank and the launch of the institution's Shanghai branch.

In other comments, Chui stressed that the

government has dedicated all possible efforts to protecting Macau's cultural heritage. The government does not believe Macau is under risk of being taken off the UNESCO world heritage list and maintains that the government will not do anything to negatively affect the Historic Center of Macau.

Chui added that local

authorities "maintained constant and close touch" with UNESCO experts and often invited them to Macau.

On the issue of public housing, Chui stated that the government is determined to use plots in Avenida Wai Long in Taipa for the accommodation of public housing units. He added that departments under the secretary for Transport and Public Works are working on planning the project.

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A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

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“THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’”

## Zhuhai bus driver strike

Bus drivers in Zhuhai went on strike on Tuesday to express their dissatisfaction with low salaries and social welfare benefits. On Tuesday, approximately 95 percent of the region's bus drivers stopped driving. The drivers organized demonstrations in front of the Zhuhai government office and a petition stating that the bus company, the only state-owned bus company in Zhuhai, is corrupt. The petition alleges that the company's leaders took public money into their own pockets. A report by the Hong Kong Economic Times revealed that the Zhuhai government and the bus company agreed to increase the drivers' monthly salaries by RMB1,200, placing their new salary at RMB5,300.

## Toothpick crossbow sparks concerns

The Toothpick Crossbow, a new type of toy sold in mainland China, has raised concerns at the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) and the Judiciary Police (PJ). The PJ have warned that the crossbow is in fact a kind of weapon, and it might be used to inflict physical injury on people. They have consequently called upon local schools to ban students from bringing this weapon to school, and appealed to parents to prevent their children from purchasing or playing with it. The DSEJ noted that, up to this point, the bureau has not received any reports from local schools regarding students in possession of a toothpick crossbow.

## Man robbed of HKD1.5m in hotel room

Three mainland residents [two men and one woman] have been arrested for robbing 1.5 million patacas from a mainland resident in a Cotai hotel room. The two men have yet to be detained by the police. The victim earns money from currency exchange (HKD to RMB). The female suspect phoned the victim to exchange RMB1.4 million into HKD1.5 million. The victim brought the money to a pre-arranged hotel room, but, upon arrival, he was assaulted by three men while the woman assailed him with pepper spray. Following the assault, the suspects took the money and left.

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2017

# Bloc voting scorned despite risk

Daniel Beitler

**I**N cosmopolitan Macau, a city where around 60 percent of the total population was born abroad and where many others can trace their roots in the territory back only a single generation, the Macanese community is perhaps one of the few that can truly lay claim to the city's past.

The community, commonly defined as those with a mixed Sino-Portuguese ethnicity and identity, wields more influence in the territory than their numbers would suggest. They are overrepresented in the fields of government, law and culture, and they hold a vast number of leadership roles in city-wide, multi-ethnic associations.

They may number as many as 8000 but, according to some predictions, just eight to nine hundred of them will participate in the 2017 Legislative Assembly (AL) election. When united, the political weight of this ethnic group represents only a trivial fraction of the more than 300,000 people in the territory who are eligible to vote.

But they are not united. When it comes to the election, members of this prominent community are as much divided in their choice of AL candidates as the rest of the electorate en masse. In political terms, there is no Macanese community at all.

Miguel de Senna Fernandes, president of the board of the Macanese Association, and renowned local architect Carlos Marreiros put this partly down to the numbers.

With less than a thousand potential voters of Sino-Portuguese identity, Senna Fernandes says that a Macanese-orientated platform would be akin to "political suicide" for any prospective legislator. It is a sentiment confirmed by Marreiros, who notes that "a genuine Macanese platform cannot attract enough voters."

"[Legislative] candidates need more than just a Macanese platform," said the architect, who was the president of the city's cultural institute between 1989 and 1992. "[The Macanese are] insignificant in terms of the mathematics of the election."

Under the current configuration of Macau's legislature body, two of the 33 lawmakers are Macanese. They are Leonel Alberto Alves, a functional constituency lawmaker under the "professional" category and José Pereira Coutinho, the association president and list leader of Nova Esperança (New Hope), who has consecutively reclaimed his seat in every election since 2005.



Jorge Neto Valente



Miguel de Senna Fernandes

Both candidates are broadly popular with the Macanese population although they stand on very different platforms. Alves is sometimes regarded as a pro-business lawmaker, while Coutinho is considered more of a "unionist" and tends to find his support base among the city's numerous civil servants.

**The Macanese – by their definition – are a mixed people, with one foot in the Chinese world and the other in the Portuguese world.**

DUARTE ALVES  
YOUNG MACANESE ASSOCIATION

Members of the Macanese community told the Times this week that they tend to vote as individuals rather than as a collective. This is despite the tight-knit nature of the ethnic group, many of whom have familial or close relationships with incumbent legislators and senior government officials.

"The Macanese are more outstanding as individuals than a community," said Marreiros. "To say that the Macanese are not united is quite skeptical. They vote in their own interests [as individuals]."

Leonel Alves announced through Ponto Final this week that he will not be standing for re-election as the AL nominee for the Macau Professional Interests Union. Meanwhile, Coutinho, who has confirmed he will once again vie for a seat in the legislature, openly admitted that New Hope has low expectations for the 2017 election. "It will be difficult to elect even one [lawmaker]," he said.

"The interests of the Macanese are very diverse," said Marreiros. "For instance, [Pereira Coutinho], whether you agree with him or not, has a wide spectrum, claiming to represent the Macanese and the civil servants."

At a pre-election press conference held last week, Coutinho stressed that discrimination in the public sector was a serious matter affecting the Macanese and Portuguese communities. Acting as a bridge between the key interest groups he represents, Coutinho accused the government of "taking poor care of the defense of the Portuguese language" and of sidelining job applicants with a Portuguese-sounding name.

However, Coutinho's center-left orientation makes him an unappealing candidate to some within the Macanese community, particularly those with business interests, said Marreiros.

"There are those who do not appreciate Coutinho's 'unionist' stance," he said. "Entrepreneurs will tend to prefer other professional interests [candidates] from the business sector [...] and they will be mostly Chinese."

Senna Fernandes said that the two Macanese lawmakers are not meant to be representatives

of this small community alone. While they sometimes champion Macanese interests, their election platform always covers a much wider scope and they are not specifically targeting Sino-Portuguese residents in their campaigns.

The resounding message of both Marreiros and Senna Fernandes is that the Macanese will not necessarily vote for the Macanese. This perhaps puts Macanese candidates at a disadvantage when compared with more loyal political cleavages in the city, such as the Jiangmen or Fujian groups.

Speaking to the Times yesterday, Duarte Alves, a board member of the Young Macanese Association and the son of retiring lawmaker Leonel Alves, concurred that the Macanese community tends to vote by individual interest rather than as a cohesive bloc.

"The other communities in Macau are much bigger [than the Macanese one] and so can throw their weight around," he said. "Also, the Macanese – by their definition – are a mixed people, with one foot in the Chinese world and the other in the Portuguese world. They are less inclined to vote as a group."

There is a possibility then, with Coutinho's uncertainty and the withdrawal of Alves, that for the first time in the MSAR's history, the new Legislative Assembly could feature no Macanese lawmakers.

"Coutinho is a fighter and has his own causes, and [Leonel] Alves is a brilliant legislator," said Senna Fernandes speaking prior to the latter's withdrawal announcement. "If either of them ▶"

# of forfeiting political weight



Carlos Marreiros



José Pereira Coutinho

[do not return to the AL] this year, it would be a loss.”

Frederico Santos Rosario, the chairman of the board of the Grow uP eSports association in Macau and whose mother, Rita Santos, is responsible for managing New Hope's election list, also cast his doubts over the future of Macanese representation in the AL.

“I believe that the biggest issue is that we don't have a lot of candidates who are really defending the Macanese community,” he said. “Of course we have Pereira Coutinho and the other Macanese representatives, but whether they will last after this election is an issue.”

The hope may instead lie with a new generation of Macanese who are becoming increasingly active as community leaders. One of them, Jorge Neto Valente, the son of the famous lawyer of the same name, has a small chance at making his legislative debut this year.

Running as the third candidate on lawmaker Melinda Chan's list, Alliance for Change, Valente's ascent to the legislature is deemed unlikely. In 2013, only Chan Meng Kam's United Citizens Association of Macau secured a third seat, while Alliance

for Change obtained just one. It is speculated that bringing Valente into the fold - for this election at least - was a way to rally youth voters behind Melinda Chan.

## The Macanese are more outstanding as individuals than a community.

CARLOS MARREIROS

Some from the community say that, more generally, they are worried about a growing political indifference among the Macanese youth.

“For this election, the young Macanese are not that interested in the outcome. The outcome will not be that different from previous years, so there is some [disinterest],” said Senna Fernandes. “It will be business as usual either way.”

“We need more young people who are interested in politics,” added Santos Rosario. “As a young Macanese, I believe that

[the youth] still do not have much confidence in the quality of the elections.”

The worst-case scenario will see a Legislative Assembly devoid of Macanese representatives. However, this has always been a possibility in Macau due to the nature of the electoral system and the relative size of the community.

“Traditional Macanese societies do not have the scale to run today [on their own platform],

because of the electoral system,” said Marreiros. To balance this, the chief executive has been given the prerogative to directly appoint Macanese legislators, if he or she chooses to do so. “This was because it is very difficult for them [the Macanese] to get elected through the direct elections.”

Even with a legislative flop, the Macanese community will still find itself well-represented in other influential areas of

Macau life.

“Of course, when we talk about numbers, the Macanese vote is irrelevant,” said Senna Fernandes. “But the relevance of the community is expressed on another, non-electoral level. We don't rely on elections to express ourselves; instead we prefer associations.”

“We can still wield influence outside of the legislature,” the leader of the Macanese Association promised.

## Who are the Macanese?

**T**HE Macanese ethnic group is commonly defined as persons with a mixed Chinese and Portuguese ancestry, who normally - but not always - have a direct connection with the territory of Macau.

Originating in Macau in the 16th century, the term has come to be applied more broadly to those of a mixed Portuguese-Asiatic identity. Today, the Macanese community is often characterized by the ability of its members to simultaneously bestride the Chinese and Portuguese worlds.

Prior to the handover, many Macanese would have identified more as Portuguese, given the tendency for the Portuguese language to be spoken at home and for the children to attend Portuguese curriculum schools. But according

to some studies, the 1999 handover has prompted some Macanese to reevaluate their identity, with increasing numbers of them preferring to recognize their Chinese heritage foremost.

Others, such as local architect Carlos Marreiros, advocate an even broader spectrum of what constitutes the Macanese community. “The Sino-Portuguese descendants are wider than just the Macanese,” he told the Times. “They include the Portuguese who have been here for decades or generations. These can also be considered the Macanese.”

Under the traditional definition, there are an estimated 42,000 Macanese people worldwide. Outside of Macau, the largest communities reside in the United States (15,000), Canada (12,000), Hong Kong (1,000) and Brazil (300). **DB**

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# As China trial looms, Crown's offshore network is hard to find

Angus Whitley, Daniela Wei

**C**ROWN Resorts Ltd.'s operations in eight Asian countries are suddenly hard to find.

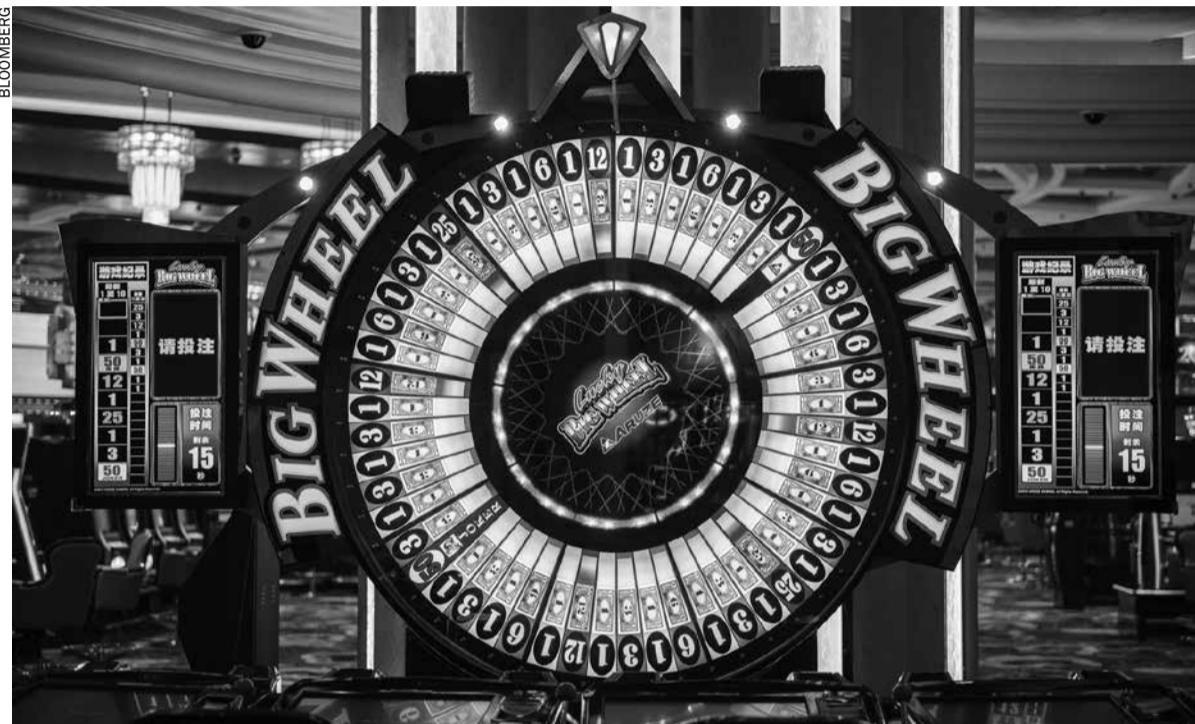
Since the Australian casino operator's staff were detained in China last October and accused of illegally promoting gambling, Crown's network of offices from Macau to Indonesia appears to have vanished.

Visits to seven of the eight premises showed offices that appeared to be shuttered. With 19 individuals due to appear next week in a Shanghai court, references to all but one of Crown's representative offices outside Australia have been removed from the company's website, leaving just Hong Kong. Phone numbers for those offices, previously listed online, won't connect or are answered by individuals who no longer represent Crown.

The apparent retreat underscores the scale of the fallout from the detentions, which fueled concern that China was clamping down on overseas casino operators that drum up business on the mainland. Any scaling back of international marketing might weaken Crown's ability to attract big-spending gamblers from overseas.

When asked about the office closures, employees affected and what prompted the changes, a representative for Crown in Melbourne said the company had no comment. The company also declined to comment on whether it would be tougher to attract high-stakes players to Australia without offshore offices.

A dismantling of its overseas office network would be the latest sign of a strategic reversal at billionaire James Packer's Crown in the wake of the China arrests. New Chief



Executive Officer John Alexander is focusing on Crown's hotels and casinos in Australia, including a new AUD2 billion (USD1.5 billion) luxury resort on Sydney's waterfront. That new resort is focusing on high rollers, even after turnover from so-called VIPs slumped since the crackdown.

In Vietnam, the former Ho Chi Minh City office is empty, and a woman who said she was Crown's former representative said it closed about six months ago. Staff at a building in Bangkok say Crown vacated the premises this month. There's no trace of Crown at its former premises in Taipei and Jakarta.

In Singapore, Macau and Kuala Lumpur, the Crown offices were closed during business hours and neighboring tenants or building management say the offices appear to have been shuttered in the past few months. Meanwhile

in India, where Crown previously listed just a phone number for its representative office, a man who identified himself as Nilay Singh said he no longer works for Crown as its head of marketing in the country.

A Crown staff member at the company's Hong Kong premises, said it was business as usual there. The woman, who asked not to be identified as she's not authorized to speak to media, said Crown had not notified the Hong Kong office of any changes at other offices in Asia.

According to Internet Archive, a non-profit that's a repository of cached web pages, Crown's multiple offices were listed as recently as May 3 on its website but had disappeared by May 27.

Crown, with Packer as its biggest shareholder, is focusing on its Australian resorts after selling out

of its Macau venture with Lawrence Ho. Packer has since returned to the board and has made resolving the situation in China his top priority.

The overseas marketing offices helped to funnel visitors to Crown's resorts in Australia. More than one third of the revenue at the Melbourne and Perth resorts in the year ended June 2016 was generated by international visitors, predominantly from mainland China, according to Crown's latest annual report.

Closing down international offices could be aimed at mitigating perceived risks in using Asian locales to market to Chinese gamblers, said Sudhir Kale, who has worked on projects for Crown and other large casinos as head of GamePlan Consultants in Queensland.

Crown is sending a signal that, "Hey, we have shut down most

of our offices. We've learnt from the experiences. And not just in China, but in other markets, we are taking the appropriate steps to prevent these things from happening again," Kale said.

Crown shares have dropped 0.8 percent in the period since the news of the detentions in October through Tuesday. That trails a 6 percent gain by Australia's benchmark index.

## ■ Crown's main Australian rival, Star Entertainment Group, closed its doors to new business from China in the wake of the detentions

Crown said June 13 that the detained workers in China have been charged with offenses related to the promotion of gambling. Among those scheduled to appear in a district court on June 26 is the company's head of international high-roller operations, Australian Jason O'Connor.

It's illegal to run a casino or promote one anywhere in China, other than in Macau, the world's biggest gambling market.

Crown isn't alone in exercising caution. The company's main Australian rival, Star Entertainment Group Ltd., closed its doors to new business from China in the wake of the detentions. Star stopped chasing new customers in China or even taking calls from unknown parties, CEO Matt Bekier said in February.

Star is pushing ahead with a plan to generate more income from Southeast Asia to reduce reliance on China. The most lucrative markets are Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand, Bekier said then. **Bloomberg**

# Consumer prices up almost 1 percent

**T**HE Composite Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased by 0.95 percent year-on-year to 109.2 in May 2017, according to information released by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC). The increase last month was 0.15 percentage points higher than the growth in CPI during April.

In a statement released yesterday, DSEC attributed the increase to higher charges for eating out and outpatient services, as well as rising tuition fees, as in the previous month.

In May, the price indexes of the categories of Education and Health increased by 7.46 percent and 5.14 percent respectively year-on-year. Meanwhile, the index for Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages, which accounts for the largest share of household expenditure, increased by 1.62 percent.

At the same time, the price indexes of Communication and Housing & Fuels dropped by 5.79 percent and 1.28 percent respectively year-on-year.

For the 12 months ending

May 2017, the average Composite CPI increased by 1.37 percent from the previous period, with a marked increase in the price indexes of Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco (+10 percent), Education (+7.75 percent) and Transport (+6.12 percent). The average Composite CPI for the first five months of 2017 increased by 0.92 percent year-on-year.

CPI reflects the impact of price changes on the general households in Macau and is used as a key measure of inflation.

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# First-class meals now served at the airport, for the elite few

Justin Bachman

**YOU'VE** got to try the burger." That was the counsel of Kurt Stache, a veteran of airport dining and airline marketing, while briefing me on the various attributes of recent renovations his employer, American Airlines, has completed at New York's JFK International Airport.

This particular "flagship" sirloin burger is one of the initial hits on the new menu American assembled for its first foray into restaurant-style dining at an airport lounge. The carrier opened its "Flagship First Dining" room in May in a space adjacent to its renovated lounge in Terminal 8.

The venue has the spartan sensibility one expects from some high-end eateries. The bar is up front and the tables in back, with a lovely chandelier dangling overhead. But the glass windows are rightfully allowed to dominate. The room is a sleek space overlooking the tarmac — aviation geeks will be pleased by the aircraft views.

So, anyway, I went with the burger. It is a lovely thing to behold, not super-sized or excessively messy the way many renditions are engineered. It's served atop a crisp tomato slice and a few shreds of arugula and then topped with a marmalade of red onion and bacon. This last bit adds a subtle sweetness to the thin layer of char that encloses juicy ground sirloin. There were French fries, I think, but I don't really recall. The beef was so much more interesting. Cheddar cheese is a good option, but I chose to taste the burger on its own.

While the focus is on seasonal and local ingredients, it's one of the very few items that will stay year-round, said Stache, senior



Check-in counters and stores stand at Terminal 2 of Hong Kong International Airport

vice president for marketing and loyalty at American Airlines Group Inc. I preceded the burger with samples of three appetizers: basil-infused "compressed" watermelon with a feta cheese garnish, tomato bisque with a miniature (2 inches square!) grilled cheese sandwich, and a chilled smoked duck breast. The Loch Duart salmon, a farmed variety from the northern reaches of Scotland, was fresh, tender, and poached superbly in olive oil and served atop a cauliflower risotto. Each entree is listed with a suggested wine pairing.

The restaurant isn't fussy or pretentious, nor did the wait staff appear to consider these menu selections precious heirlooms. Instead, these are carefully attended plates with high-quality ingredients — minus the stuffy. After all, this is JFK.

While the larger lounge accepts an array of American's elite customers, access to the dining room is tightly controlled — only people traveling internationally or transcontinental in first class are

allowed, or those at the invitation-only Concierge Key elite level. This keeps the amenity highly exclusive — always a tantalizing allure for a certain jet set — and prevents the dining room from becoming overly crowded. Our waiter said he'd seen no more than 10-12 diners concurrently during the first three weeks of operation.

## ■ A restaurant style dining experience is relatively new to the U.S. aviation scene

American put its first Flagship dining eatery at JFK, the airport where it has the most departures booked in first class, and will open two more by yearend at its hubs in Los Angeles and Miami. In 2018 the airline will expand this dining concept to Dallas-Fort

Worth and London.

This focus on finer dining in the airport is one that premium long-haul airlines have offered for years, from Sydney to Singapore, Hong Kong to Dubai, London, and Paris. Yet a restaurant-style dining experience is relatively new to the U.S. aviation scene, where airlines have traditionally pinched pennies even for their wealthiest passengers.

United Continental Holdings Inc. opened its first "Polaris" business class lounge in December at its Chicago hub, with a la carte menu items supplementing the lounge's buffet and designed by Chicago chef Art Smith. United plans five more of the lounges this year at its U.S. hubs, with Hong Kong, London, and Tokyo slated for 2018. United also offers a posh burger as an entree, from Chicago's Blue Door Kitchen, served with an optional fried egg.

Since righting their financial fortunes following the bankruptcy years, U.S. airlines have invested heavily to spruce up their fleets and onboard amenities, particularly those targeting the big spenders who sit up front. Premium-cabin meals and wines have seen gradual upgrades while the carriers have also deployed upscale seats that transition into fully flat beds for improved sleep.

In some ways, the reclining airline beds up front are driving the rise of U.S. airport-lounge restaurants. As part of its Polaris work, United conducted more than 12,000 hours of research and interviewed more than 350 "high-mileage customers" and more than 50 frontline employees, spokeswoman Maggie Schmerin said.

"One thing we heard more than anything else was a good night's sleep was the most important

thing to our global travelers," she said. "So we set out to design from scratch a completely reimagined premium experience focused on sleep. Giving customers the option to enjoy a meal in the United Polaris lounge prior to their travel means they can go directly to sleep once onboard, should they choose."

Sleep is also a driving influence at American, where many passengers prefer to board, recline, and snooze as quickly as possible, Stache said. "On the shorter trans-Atlantic flights [...] you prefer to eat before you get on the plane to maximize your sleep time or your work time in-flight," he said.

American focused heavily on the airport dining experience of its oneworld marketing alliance partners Qantas Airways Ltd. in Sydney, Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd. in Hong Kong, and British Airways in London. (Cathay's Pier Lounge in Hong Kong offers not only upscale dining, but also a spa for pre- and post-flight foot massages.)

"I think in today's world there's a growing expectation from the premium customer that they have the ability, or the choice, to dine on the ground," Stache said. "We need to be at that level, and it moves the bar."

Delta Air Lines Inc., meanwhile, has made its lounge buffets heartier, including soups and salads and more local food items. But it has no immediate plans to begin restaurant-style dining, a spokeswoman said.

Of course, migrating preflight dining from the traditional serve-yourself buffet to a tony restaurant with servers doesn't come cheap — and U.S. airlines have become global masters of operating as skillful nickel-squeezers. But Stache said the effort to sell an upscale restaurant idea to American's top executives "wasn't as difficult as you think."

In the lean years, "we didn't have capital to invest in the products," Stache said. But "we're in a different world now. We know we're going to have longer-term stability." **Bloomberg**

## corporate bits

### SANDS CHINA HOLDS EVENTS WITH MACAU DEAF ASSOCIATION



Around 100 Sands China employees participated in events jointly organized by Sands China Ltd and the Macau Deaf Association (MDA) last Friday and Saturday at The Venetian Macao and the MDA service center as part of the

company's Care Ambassador Program. The program aims to work towards a better Macau through serving the local community.

The events included a discussion on the U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons

with Disabilities, which was established in 2006 and came into force in Macau in 2008. The Sands China Care Ambassadors learned about the Macau government's definition of disability, and were introduced to the ways the government provides assistance to the deaf in the city.

In addition, the care ambassadors received a lesson on the science of hearing, as well as aspects of Macau sign language, including learning how to sign some of Macau's cultural heritage sites such as A-Ma Temple and the Ruins of St. Paul's.

According to a press release from Sands, the Sands China Care Ambassador program was founded in 2009, and has since contributed more than 10,000 hours of voluntary community service in the city.

### BNU EMPLOYEES VISIT MENTALLY HANDICAPPED ASSOCIATION



The BNU employee association visited Kai Hong Center of the Macau Association for the Mentally Handicapped last Saturday.

Employees from BNU, along with members from the center, made "fortune

rice bags." These are small packs of rice that are said to bring good fortune to homes and families, made by mixing them with the rice used in private households, according to BNU's public relations officer Kathy Mok.

BNU purchased these bags of fortune rice from the members of the center and will be distributing them to the elderly during an elderly home visit next month.

BNU's chief executive officer, Pedro Cardoso, expressed the company's commitment to fulfilling corporate social responsibilities. According to a press release issued by BNU, he said: "We will continue to contribute to the community, and send our love and care to minorities."



# Uber CEO Kalanick resigns under investor pressure

**T**RAVIS Kalanick, the combative and embattled CEO of ride-hailing giant Uber, has resigned under pressure from investors at a pivotal time for the company.

Uber's board confirmed the move yesterday, saying in a statement that Kalanick is taking time to heal from the death of his mother in a boating accident "while giving the company room to fully embrace this new chapter in Uber's history." He will remain on the Uber Technologies Inc. board.

The move comes as Uber, the world's largest ride-hailing company, was having trouble morphing from a free-wheeling startup into a mature company that can stanch losses and post consistent profits. After eight years of phenomenal growth by upending the taxi business, Uber had reached a point where the culture that created the company had become a liability that threatened to kill it.

In a statement, the 40-year-old co-founder said his resignation would help Uber go back to building "rather than be distracted



Travis Kalanick

with another fight," an apparent reference to efforts on the board to oust him. It was unclear who would replace Kalanick.

The resignation came after a series of costly missteps under Kalanick that damaged Uber's reputation, including revelations of sexual harassment in its offices, allegations of trade secrets theft and a federal investigation into efforts to mislead local government regulators.

Uber lost an expensive battle

for supremacy in China against Didi Chuxing and had to be satisfied with taking a stake in Didi as a consolation prize. Uber posted a USD708 million first-quarter loss, unable to turn \$3.4 billion in revenue into a profit. The loss narrowed from the \$991 million it posted in the previous quarter.

Investors have talked about selling stock in Uber to the public, a move that would imply a transition to an established business. The company was valued at near

\$70 billion the last time it sought capital.

Kalanick's penchant for conflict undermined the company's prospects, said Ferdinand Dudenhofer, director of the Center for Automotive Research at the University of Duisburg-Essen. Ride-hailing itself remains a topic of intense interest for the tech and auto industries as they compete to see whether Silicon Valley or the automakers will reap the profits from the digitalization of how people get from one place to another. But "the significance of Uber has declined because the company has not managed to present itself in a stable and socially responsible way," Dudenhofer said.

"When you're at war with customers, employees, service suppliers, you can't build up a business model and Kalanick was at war with everyone," said Dudenhofer. "There is no business model in being at war."

On Tuesday, the company embarked on a 180-day program to change its image by allowing riders to give drivers tips through the Uber app, something Kalanick

had resisted. Drivers have said that Kalanick didn't value their labor even though it was the heart of the San Francisco-based company.

Uber's board said in a statement that Kalanick had "always put Uber first."

But under Kalanick, the company developed a reputation for ruthless tactics that have occasionally outraged government regulators, drivers, riders and employees. The company often flouted city regulations for taxi companies with a culture that encouraged "Principled Confrontation."

The company's hard-charging style has led to legal trouble. The U.S. Justice Department is investigating Uber's past usage of phony software designed to thwart local government regulators who wanted to check on whether Uber was carrying passengers without permission.

A key step toward Kalanick's downfall came in February, when former Uber engineer Susan Fowler posted a personal essay about the year she spent at Uber, writing that she was propositioned by her manager on her first day with an engineering team. She reported him to human resources, but was told he would get a lecture and no further punishment because he was a "high performer," she wrote. That caught the board's attention and brought outside investigations that led to the firing of 20 people including some managers. **AP**

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**H**ONG Kong is now the second-most expensive city worldwide for expatriates, according to Mercer's latest cost of living survey, after ceding the top spot to Angola's capital Luanda.

Asian cities continue to dominate the rankings, with five in the top 10. Seoul climbed to sixth from 15th, while Mumbai was one of the biggest movers, surging 25 places to 57 due to its rapid economic growth, inflation and stable currency. India's capital New Delhi stands one shy of the century mark, at 99.

Hong Kong, which ECA International also recently ranked as the most expensive city in Asia for expatriates, is followed by Tokyo (3), Singapore (5), Seoul (6), Shanghai (8), Beijing (11), Tianjin (12), Shenzhen (13) and Guangzhou (19), according to the Mercer rankings, which are based on a survey conducted in March. Macau is not included in the 209 cities surveyed.

"Although a number of Asian cities remain amongst the world's most expensive cities, key financial hubs such as Hong Kong and Singapore still continue to attract talent and remain a top choice for relocation," said Mario Ferraro, global mobi-

**SURVEY**

# Hong Kong is now 2nd-most expensive city for expats

lity leader for Asia, Middle East and Africa with Mercer.

"Although this year's movements were due mainly to currency fluctuations, in particular against the U.S. dollar, we did see cities - such as Mumbai - move up the ranks due to their strengthening economy and growing opportunities," Ferraro said.

Most Chinese cities fell down the rankings as the yuan weakened against the dollar, while Japanese destinations climbed on the stronger yen, high cost of expatriate consumer goods and "dynamic housing market," added Mercer's Nathalie Constantin-Metral, who is responsible for compiling the survey ranking.

New York City and Bern returned to the top 10 this year, while Beijing fell one place to 11th. Zurich and Geneva also featured in the top 10. Luanda's rise to the top was driven by cost of goods

and security, Mercer said.

The annual survey uses New York as its base point of comparison and includes more than 400 cities across five continents, measuring the cost of more than 200 items including housing, transportation, food, clothing, household goods and entertainment.

Elsewhere, Sydney gained 17 places to 25, equal with Taipei, while Melbourne and Perth both cracked the top 50 on the strengthening Australian dollar. The Russian ruble's gains saw Moscow and St. Petersburg soar up the rankings to 14th and 36th place, respectively. London tumbled 13 places to 30th as the pound weakened against the dollar following the Brexit vote.

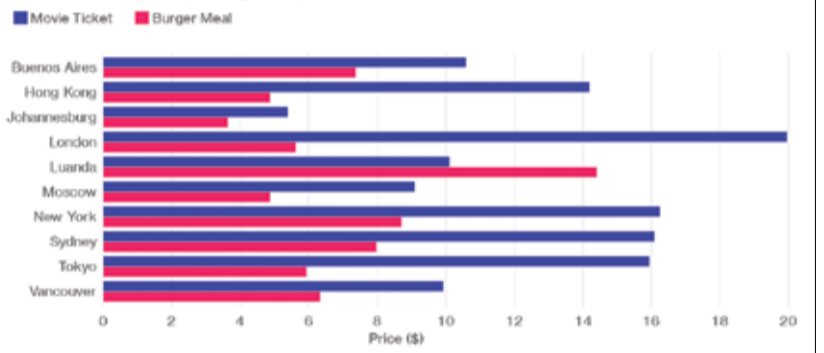
The world's least expensive city for expatriates is Tunis, according to the survey, followed by Kyrgyzstan's capital Bishkek and Skopje in Macedonia. **MDT/Bloomberg**

BLOOMBERG

**Asia Dominates World's Most Expensive Cities**  
Hong Kong's dollar peg fuels rising accommodation costs, Mercer says

City	Country	Global Ranking 2017	2016
Luanda	Angola	1	2
Hong Kong	Hong Kong	2	1
Tokyo	Japan	3	5
Zurich	Switzerland	4	3
Singapore	Singapore	5	4
Seoul	South Korea	6	15
Geneva	Switzerland	7	8
Shanghai	China	8	7
New York	U.S.	9	11
Bern	Switzerland	10	13

**Going Rate for a Burger and a Movie**  
Mercer's survey compares global prices for more than 200 items



AD

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# As Li Ka-shing's retirement nears, spotlight shifts to son

Prudence Ho

**V**ICTOR Li's moment may have finally arrived. The son of billionaire Li Ka-shing is poised to inherit an empire spanning across more than 50 countries in businesses ranging from telecommunications to retail and ports. The elder Li plans to step down as chairman of CK Hutchison Holdings Ltd. by the time he turns 90 next year, according to the Wall Street Journal, a move that would be in line with comments he made a year ago when he said he might retire "today if I wanted to, in the next five minutes or whenever."

The patriarch, who spoke in a rare Bloomberg Television interview last year, said at the time that those worried about succession should note that his son had been working alongside him for 30 years and been taking care of his businesses full-time for the past few. Victor was named as heir to the Li business five years ago.

While the company said on Tuesday that "no concrete timetable" had been set for the succession, Victor will assume control of a far-flung group of business making him one of the most influential business executives in Asia.

He'd also be filling the shoes of a man who's known as "Superman" in Hong Kong business circles for his deal-making and managerial acumen.

Shares of CK Hutchison fell 0.2



Victor Li, chairman of Cheung Kong Infrastructure Holdings

percent to HKD98.50 in Hong Kong on Tuesday.

Victor, 52, is currently deputy chairman at CK Hutchison and Cheung Kong Property Holdings Ltd. He's also chairman at group units CK Infrastructure Holdings Ltd. and CK Life Sciences Int'l Holdings Inc. Other titles include co-chairman of Canada's Husky Energy Inc.

He joined Cheung Kong in 1985 in his 20s and steadily rose

through the ranks, taking on various positions at his father's empire throughout the years, alongside his younger brother Richard, who later branched off on his own.

In 1996, Victor made headlines when he was kidnapped. The kidnapper later fled to mainland China, only to be apprehended and executed there.

The media-shy Victor, who studied at Stanford University,

was particularly instrumental in spearheading CKI, which he has led since its listing two decades ago with the help of his uncle Kam Hing Lam. Victor was named heir to Li Ka-shing's empire in 2012 and has since been assuming more responsibilities.

## Victor was named heir to Li Ka-shing's empire in 2012 and has since been assuming more responsibilities

As to his father, the retirement of Hong Kong's richest man would mark the end of an era. Throughout his storied career, the elder Li has amassed a \$32.6 billion fortune that ranks second in Asia after that of Alibaba Group Holding Ltd.'s Jack Ma, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. More broadly, Li is wealthier than the likes of former Microsoft Corp. Chief Executive Officer Steve Ballmer or billionaire investor George Soros.

"On the whole it would be a bit of a shock," said Richard Harris, Hong Kong-based chief executive officer of Port Shelter Investment Management. "Not only is he a local entrepreneur who

built things up in terms of Hong Kong, but he really got it in terms of turning his empire into a global empire rather than just a big company based in Hong Kong."

In an illustration of how closely the elder Li is tracked in Hong Kong, throngs of TV cameras were lined up at the lobby of his headquarters building within an hour of the Wall Street Journal report on Tuesday, aiming to catch a glimpse and sound bite from the famed tycoon.

A refugee to Hong Kong who swept factory floors as a teenager in the 1940s, Li rose to head a global business empire that built skyscrapers, provided mobile-phone services and controlled ports across the globe. He made his first fortune through a plastic-flower manufacturer that later became Asia's biggest maker of the ornaments.

After some well-timed property investments cemented his wealth, he began expanding his empire into retail, energy, telecommunications, media and biotechnology. By 2016, he employed 270,000 people in more than 50 countries.

Despite his success, Li also symbolized the wealth inequality in a city known for having the most unaffordable private housing in the world and where business is dominated by a handful of families. In an interview last year, he called for higher corporate taxes to help tackle wealth inequality.

"I could retire today if I wanted to, in the next five minutes or whenever," Li said in the interview with Bloomberg Television. "We'll carry on what we do now."

Li was born July 29, 1928, in Chiu Chow, a city in the southern Chinese province of Guangdong, which adjoins Hong Kong. In 1940, his family fled to Hong Kong to escape Japanese invaders, though Hong Kong was occupied the following year. **Bloomberg**

# Warmbier's death looms over US-China talks on North Korea

**O**TTO Warmbier's death after returning from North Korean imprisonment is stoking outrage in Washington and threatening to overshadow high-level U.S.-Chinese talks yesterday.

President Donald Trump has been counting on China to use its economic leverage with Kim Jong Un's totalitarian government as American concern grows over North Korea's acceleration toward having a nuclear-tipped missile that can strike the U.S. mainland.

Top U.S. and Chinese diplomats and defense chiefs are meeting in the U.S. capital for security talks,

and North Korea will get "top billing," according to Susan Thornton, the senior U.S. diplomat for East Asia. The two world powers are trying to build on "positive momentum" created when Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping met in Florida in April, she said.

Yesterday's discussions replace a sprawling strategic and economic dialogue held annually under the Obama administration. It rarely produced significant results. This year's edition separates out the security aspects, and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Secretary of Defense Jim

Mattis are hosting Chinese foreign policy chief Yang Jiechi and Gen. Fang Fenghui, chief of the People's Liberation Army's joint staff department.

Thornton said talks would cover the South China Sea, where Beijing's island-building and construction of possible military facilities have rattled neighbors and caused tension with Washington; U.S.-Chinese military cooperation to reduce risk of conflict; and efforts to defeat the Islamic State group. Divisive trade issues will be tackled separately at a later date.

While Trump has heaped praise on Xi for trying to contain North Korea, which counts on China for some 90 percent of its trade, the effort has delivered few results. Trump appeared to acknowledge as much in a tweet yesterday, a day after Warmbier's death.

"While I greatly appreciate the efforts of President Xi & China to help with North Korea, it has not worked out. At least I know China tried!" Trump wrote.

No cause of death has been determined for Warmbier, 22, who was detained for nearly a year-and-a-half in North Korea

before being sent home in a coma last week. The University of Virginia student was accused of trying to steal a propaganda banner while visiting with a tour group and was convicted of subversion. His family is blaming North Korea for "awful, torturous mistreatment."

From Capitol Hill to the White House, pressure is mounting for a tough U.S. response. The Trump administration is considering banning travel by U.S. citizens to North Korea, officials said Tuesday, and Trump declared Warmbier's treatment a "total disgrace."

Like past presidents, Trump is finding the U.S. has limited scope for punishing North Korea, particularly over the arrest of U.S. citizens.

A ban on Americans visiting North Korea would

only slightly add to Pyongyang's isolation and loss of revenue. The route to inflicting significant economic pain on Kim's government remains through China.

Thornton said the U.S. will be seeking "concrete cooperation" with China on getting North Korea to abandon its nuclear and missile programs and return to negotiations. Such talks are a seemingly distant goal since Kim is believed to see his weapons of mass destruction as a guarantee against invasion.

North Korea hasn't conducted a nuclear test explosion as feared earlier this year — a possible consequence of Chinese pressure — but it has kept up its rapid pace of missile launches, drawing another U.N. Security Council resolution this month and additional sanctions. **AP**

# Philippine rebels escape from school after hostages freed

**M**USLIM rebels fled after freeing dozens of hostages from a school in a southern Philippine village yesterday and were being pursued by army troops, as a daylong crisis eased in the volatile region, officials said.

Gunmen from the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters prepared to attack troop and militia-men outposts but were repelled by government forces yesterday, prompting them to seize villagers as human shields in Malagakit village in North Cotabato province, military officials said.

At least four rebels were killed and two government militiamen were wounded in the fighting, which caused nearly 1,000 villagers in Malagakit and two nearby villages to flee to safety, the officials said.

The retreating gunmen, estimated by the military and police to number from 200 to 300, later occupied a Malagakit grade school building, where they sporadically traded shots with troops up to nightfall, said local army spokesman Capt. Arvin Encinas.

During a lull in the gunbattle, 31 people, including a dozen children, were either allowed to dash to freedom or escaped from the school. Other captives in the school and more 20 other residents who were trapped in their houses later were taken to safety by troops, officials said.

The gunmen managed to escape from the school after freeing the hostages and the other cap-



A military helicopter hovers by a mosque as government troops battle with Muslim militants

tives were rescued, Encinas said. "While our troops were slowly approaching, they fled and left behind the civilians that they held as hostages," he said.

The rebels may have taken advantage of a massive military offensive against militants aligned with the Islamic State group who have laid siege to the southern city of Marawi, and plotted to attack military targets elsewhere, military spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said at a news conference.

"They were taking advantage of the situation that we have a very lightly defended outpost and that they think our forces are elsewhere in the province," Padilla said. "But that is not the case, our forces are spread all over. We may be facing many fronts [...] but we've properly assigned our forces."

Rebel spokesman Abu Misry Mamah acknowledged in a radio interview that his group staged the attack, but said they only took hold of some villagers to protect

them during the gunbattle.

The rebels broke off from the largest Muslim rebel group several years ago to protest peace talks with the government. Weakened by battle setbacks, some commanders have aligned themselves with the Islamic State group in the hope of securing funding from the Middle East-based group, according to the military.

Last month, about 500 militants seized Marawi, a mosque-dotted center of the Islamic faith in

the south of the predominantly Roman Catholic nation. The attack followed an army and police raid on a hideout that failed to capture a top militant suspect. Philippine troops, backed by airstrikes, have been fighting street battles to wrest back control of four areas in the city's business district.

At least 258 militants, 65 soldiers and police and 26 civilians have been killed and more than 300,000 villagers have fled from Marawi and outlying towns.

**At least 258 militants, 65 soldiers and police and 26 civilians have been killed and more than 300,000 villagers have fled from Marawi**

The U.S. military in recent weeks deployed a P3 Orion aircraft to provide surveillance for troops battling more than 100 gunmen holding an unspecified number of hostages in Marawi. President Rodrigo Duterte, despite having an antagonistic stance toward Washington, has acknowledged the U.S. assistance is helping save lives.

The attack has sparked fears that the Islamic State group, while losing territory in Syria and Iraq, may be gaining a foothold in Southeast Asia. Duterte declared martial law in the entire Mindanao region to deal with the Marawi crisis. **AP**

# Australia: US vetting of Pacific island refugees nearly done

Rod McGuirk, Canberra

**U.S.** officials are "in the final stages" of vetting up to 1,250 refugees rejected by Australia for resettlement in the United States, an Australian official said yesterday.

The refugees are among hundreds of asylum seekers — mostly from Iran, Afghanistan and Sri Lanka — who have been languishing for up to four years in immigration camps on the impoverished Pacific island nations of Papua New Guinea and Nauru.

Immigration and Border Protection Minister Peter Dutton said U.S. State and

Homeland Security Department officials should be commended for their effective work with the Australian, Papua New Guinea and Nauru governments to fulfill a promise by President Barack Obama's administration to take up to 1,250 refugees off Australia's hands.

"There's no delay in the process," Dutton told reporters. "It's in the final stages and I'm very pleased that hopefully as soon as possible we can get people [...] off the islands."

Dutton declined to outline any details of that process or say when the first refugees were likely to leave the islands. Homeland

Security did not immediately respond to a request for comment on yesterday.

President Donald Trump berated Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull during their first telephone conversation as national leaders in January over the deal which Trump described in a tweet as "dumb."

Trump said the refugees would be subjected to "extreme vetting" before they were accepted. There are few details on what that would entail.

U.S. Vice President Mike Pence assured Turnbull during a visit to Australia in April that the Trump administration will honor

the deal, but "that doesn't mean we admire the agreement."

Refugee Action Coalition spokesman Ian Rintoul, an Australia-based advocate, said he had been told that U.S. officials had interviewed around 600 asylum seekers and conducted more than 200 medical examinations on Nauru. They had interviewed 300 at the men-only facility at Papua New Guinea's Manus Island and completed 70 medical examinations, he said.

"We are getting close to some people being taken from Nauru," Rintoul said.



Australia's Immigration and Border Protection Minister Peter Dutton

Australia will not settle any refugees who try to arrive by boat — a policy that the government says dissuades asylum seekers from attempting the dangerous and occasionally deadly ocean crossing from Indonesia. Australia instead pays Papua New Guinea and Nauru to

house asylum seekers in camps that have been plagued by reports of abuse and draconian conditions.

Australia last week reached a settlement of 90 million Australian dollars (USD68 million) with more than 1,900 asylum seekers who sued over their treatment on Manus Island. **AP**

AP PHOTO



# Toshiba chooses US-Japan bidder for memory chip biz sale

**MONEY-LOSING** Toshiba Corp. said yesterday that it has chosen a U.S.-Japan consortium as the preferred bidder in the sale of its lucrative memory chip business, but hurdles remain as an American joint-venture partner is opposing the move.

Toshiba sorely needs the sale, with its U.S. nuclear unit Westinghouse Electric Co. racking up massive red ink and filing for bankruptcy protection.

Tokyo-based Toshiba said the board of directors selected the bid, totaling about 2 trillion yen

(USD18 billion), from the consortium of Innovation Network Corp. of Japan, Bain Capital Private Equity and the Development Bank of Japan in the sale of Toshiba Memory Corp.

But Western Digital of the U.S., which has acquired some SanDisk chip operations, including a joint venture with Toshiba in Japan, reiterated its opposition to such a move. It said in a statement that Toshiba "has no right" to transfer the joint venture without its consent.

It said it filed a request for arbitration last week. Toshiba has

accused Western Digital of interfering with its sales efforts. Such sales can be sensitive because they involve the transfer of technology.

SK Hynix, a major South Korean chip supplier, confirmed it was a lender to the consortium, "seeking new business opportunities," but declined to elaborate. Toshiba said Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group of Japan was also a financier for a consortium member, but neither SK Hynix nor MUFJ will have managerial say.

"Toshiba has determined that the consortium has presented the best proposal, not only in terms of valuation, but also in respect to certainty of closing, retention of employees and maintenance of sensitive technology within Japan," it said.

Damian Thong, senior technology analyst with Macquarie in Tokyo, said the decision reflects how Japan wants to keep the technology, but concessions would be needed from Western Digital.

A fight in court would be detrimental long term, because delays would give an edge to rivals, he added. Samsung Electronics is No. 1 in the field.

"The whole point of this is to help Japan retain control of the semiconductor operations and business of Toshiba," Thong said. "This is Japan trying to protect its position and relevance in global chip-making." AP

# Singapore arrests two police over plan to join Syria conflict

A Singapore auxiliary police officer who planned to join the armed conflict against Syria's government has been arrested along with one of his colleagues, the Home Affairs Ministry said Tuesday.

Muhammad Khairul bin Mohamed, 24, was arrested earlier this month under the country's Internal Security Act, which allows indefinite detention without trial, the ministry said in a statement.

It said Khairul was "radicalized and had the intention to undertake armed violence in Syria" by traveling there and joining the Free Syrian Army. The group, founded by defectors from the Syrian Armed Forces, aims to overthrow the Syrian government led by President Bashar Assad.

His colleague, 36-year-old Mohamad Rizal bin Wahid, was also arrested in June under the Internal Security Act, but was released under a restriction order that forbids him from moving to a new address or traveling without approval, the ministry said.

Rizal "did not share Khairul's desire to participate in armed violence," but had been aware of

his plans since 2015 and did not alert authorities, and "even suggested to Khairul various ways to get to Syria and to die there as a 'martyr,'" it said.

The ministry said Khairul perceived the conflict to be a sectarian struggle between Sunni and Shiite Muslims, who follow different interpretations of Islam.

"Being a Sunni Muslim, he wanted to fight against the Shiites in Syria by joining the Free Syrian Army," the ministry said. "His readiness and proclivity to resort to violence in pursuit of a religious cause makes him a security threat to Singapore."

The two men were employed by AETOS, a private security company that provides security guards to companies and auxiliary police to the Singapore Police Force.

At the time of his arrest, Khairul was involved in traffic enforcement at Woodlands Checkpoint, which separates Singapore from neighboring Malaysia. The ministry said he did not carry a weapon in that role.

Since 2015, Singaporean authorities have detained 15 Singaporeans suspected of being Islamic State group sympathizers. AP

AD



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Protesters take part in an anti-government rally outside the Greek parliament

## GREECE

# Tsipras lays out prospect of bond market return

Nicholas Paphitis, Athens

**G**REECE'S prime minister said yesterday that his bailout-reliant country will "very soon" be in a position to tap bond markets again, which

would be Greece's first test of investor sentiment since 2014.

Alexis Tsipras told his cabinet that this was a result of last week's deal with European creditors, which eased fears Greece might face another brush with

bankruptcy this summer.

That's evident in the sharp fall in the interest rates the markets are ascribing to Greek government bonds. The yield on the benchmark 10-year stands at 5.5 percent, way down on the le-

vels seen during the more acute phases of the Greek debt crisis.

"I believe that in the near future the downwards trend of yields will continue, so that we can very soon be in a position, under very good terms, to make our first trial effort to tap markets," Tsipras said.

For Greece to end its bailout program next summer, it will have to be able to borrow on bond markets at affordable rates for the money it needs to meet its debts.

The country's only bond issue since it became dependent on international bailouts seven years ago was in May 2014, when it raised 3 billion euros with a 4.75 percent coupon.

But Tsipras' election in early 2015 on promises to ditch bailout-linked austerity and his subsequent confrontational negotiations with creditors — which led to a third bailout and even more austerity — drove borrowing costs out of reach again.

Yesterday, Finance Minister Euclid Tsakalotos was due to travel to London for two days of talks with international investors.

A finance ministry statement said Tsakalotos would be presenting the new prospects of the economy after the June 15 agreement with European

creditors, which it said would boost investor confidence in the Greek economy.

Under the deal, which was delayed by months of haggling, the 19-country eurozone cleared the release of a further 8.5 billion euros (USD9.5 billion) after Athens accepted a batch of measures that will see further tax hikes and pension cuts through 2020. Greece acutely needs the money to meet a debt repayment hump next month.

Eurozone members also professed readiness to ease the burden of Greece's debt repayments at the conclusion of the current bailout program.

The country has depended on rescue loans since 2010, when it was locked out of bond markets following revelation it had under-reported key financial data. To secure the funds, successive governments imposed resented tax hikes, income cuts and market reforms to reduce state spending and boost competitiveness.

Although the country has now balanced its books, it is still lumbering under past debts equivalent to 180 percent of annual economic output. The austerity cuts deepened a recession that wiped 27 percent off the economy, while unemployment hit record highs and is still around 23 percent. **AP**

## ROMANIA

# Prime minister, gov't ousted in no-confidence vote

**R**OMANIA'S prime minister and his government were ousted yesterday in a no-confidence vote submitted by members of his own party.

A total of 241 lawmakers approved the motion, more than the 233 votes required. The governing Social Democratic Party filed the motion to oust Prime Minister Sorin Grindeanu, saying that he had failed to implement the party's political agenda.

Grindeanu, in office since January, had refused to resign and rejects the assessment of his performance. He claims powerful party leader Liviu Dragnea wants to replace him with a party loyalist.

"This is a sad day for us. The premier did not perform," Dragnea told lawmakers before the vote yesterday. "It didn't go badly, it went quite well, but that's not enough."

Dragnea himself is barred from being prime minister because of a 2016 conviction for vote-rigging.

Speaking from the gover-



Head of the ruling Social Democratic Party, Liviu Dragnea

ment offices, Grindeanu later said he would remain in office until a new government is installed.

He said it was "important we get out of this blockage and send a message to investors and governments all over the world that Romania remains a stable and predictable environment."

After the vote was annou-

nced, some Social Democrats hugged each other. The party will now choose a candidate for prime minister who needs to be nominated by President Klaus Iohannis. Talks with the president are scheduled for Monday and Iohannis has the right to refuse a candidate. Parliament then votes to approve the new government. **AP**

# Egypt sends fuel to power-starved Gaza

**E**GYPT yesterday trucked 1 million liters of cheap diesel fuel to the Gaza Strip's sole power plant — a rare shipment that temporarily eased a crippling electricity crisis in the Hamas-ruled enclave but also appeared to undercut Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

Abbas has been stepping up financial pressure on Gaza in hopes of forcing the militant group Hamas to cede ground in the territory. Hamas seized Gaza from Abbas' forces in 2007, and yesterday's delivery was the result of a strange new alliance of old foes united against the Palestinian president.

The power plant stopped operating in April after Hamas could no longer afford to buy heavily taxed fuel from Abbas' West Bank-based government, leaving Gazans with just four hours of electricity a day.

Abbas also asked Israel to reduce the elec-

tricity it sends to Gaza, which amounts to about a third of the territory's needs. This electricity, paid for by the Abbas government, has been reduced by one-fourth since Monday, worsening the crunch.

The power shortage has cast a pall over the current holy month of Ramadan, when Muslims often end their dawn-to-dusk fasting with lavish family meals. With their homes in the dark and refrigerators not functioning, families have had to scale back the celebrations.

Yousef al-Kayali, a Hamas finance official, said 11 trucks delivered the fuel yesterday. He said a second shipment of an additional 1 million liters was expected by today.

The fuel will not solve Gaza's electricity woes, however. Israel is now providing just 88 megawatts of power each day, down from 120 earlier this week. The Egyptian fuel is expected to provide about

50 megawatts of power each day for several days, making up the cut in Israeli supplies.

In all, Gaza requires about 400 megawatts to meet its daily needs. The hot weather and Ramadan have increased demand, adding to the shortages.

"There will still be troubles, but not the maximum troubles. Re-running the power plant is better than keeping it shut down," said Fathi Sheikh Khalil, director of the Hamas-run energy authority.

It was not clear whether the Egyptian deliveries were a one-time gesture or would continue.

Egypt and Hamas have had cool relations since the Egyptian military overthrew Islamist President Mohammed Morsi in 2013. The new Egyptian government accuses Hamas of cooperating with Islamic militants in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula.

But earlier this month, Egypt hosted a delegation of top Hamas officials. The delegation also met Mohammed Dahlan, an exiled Palestinian leader and Abbas rival. Those talks led to the fuel shipments. **AP**

# Maduro replaces Venezuela's military chiefs after shooting

Andrew Rosati

**V**ENEZUELAN President Nicolas Maduro shook up his military leadership Tuesday after images of soldiers firing on anti-government demonstrators in Caracas a day earlier provoked a massive outcry across the country's bitter political divide.

During a two-hour televised address Tuesday, Maduro named new commanders for the Army, Navy, Air Force and National Guard, but did not address Monday's protests that left a teenager dead and four wounded by gunfire. Two members of the National Guard were arrested in connection with the shootings.

An initial probe of Monday's shootings indicated "misuse and disproportionate use of force," Interior Minister Nestor Reverol wrote on Twitter late Monday, adding that the investigation was still underway. His comments represent a rare display of official condemnation, and were echoed by



Anti-government demonstrators face off with security forces along the Francisco Fajardo highway in Caracas

other top members of Maduro's administration who urged restraint in anti-government protests that have left over 70 dead and thousands injured and jailed.

Rocio San Miguel, president of Control Ciudadano, a citizen watchdog group, says that the rebuke by Reverol was an effort at controlling damage for an increasingly discredited armed forces. The abuses "were

so evident that he is looking to maintain the bare minimum sense of law."

Earlier Tuesday opposition lawmakers protested outside a National Guard base in western Caracas. "What you did yesterday was murder!" congressman Tomas Guanipa yelled outside the barracks' gate. "You cannot keep serving as a bodyguard for those who are against the Constitution."

Since early April, Venezuelans have taken to the capital's streets and other major cities almost daily, denouncing Maduro for wrecking the economy and what they say are his efforts to install a dictatorship. Reports alleging excessive use of tear gas, illegal raids, torture and lethal force are rife.

**Since early April, Venezuelans have taken to the capital's streets and other major cities almost daily**

The heavy-handed response and Maduro's efforts to rewrite the South American nation's constitution have

fueled divisions within the ruling socialist party's ranks. Most prominently, the country's chief prosecutor, Luisa Ortega Diaz, a long-time loyalist to the late Hugo Chavez, has become a vocal critic of the crackdown on dissent, launching a raft investigations into alleged state abuses.

On Tuesday, Venezuela's top court accepted a request filed by a pro-government lawmaker to find "serious fault" with Ortega Diaz's actions and determine if she should stand trial. The infighting has only emboldened Maduro's opponents, who called on the military to uphold the Constitution.

"All of Venezuela must stand up to rescue democracy," Julio Borges, head of the National Assembly, said at news conference, vowing another wave of protests was soon on their way.

Still, Maduro's shakeup of his commanders could help the nation's military, long seen as the South American nation's major power broker, remain above the escalating political fray.

The government's moves are more about saving face rather than preventing a potential break in ranks. "It's not about order, it's about shame," said San Miguel. **Bloomberg**

AD

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## what's ON



**BLACK AND WHITE - WORKS BY LEONG WAN SI**  
TIME: 11am-6pm (Closed on Mondays and public holidays)

UNTIL: June 28, 2017

VENUE: 10 Fantasia, No. 10, Calçada da Igreja de S. Lazaro

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 4582

**MORE THAN JUST TEXT - EXHIBITION OF BOOK LAYOUT AND DESIGN WORKS BY JOAQUIM CHEONG AND STUDENTS**

TIME: 9am-10pm

UNTIL: June 30, 2017

VENUE: Gallery at team building, IFT, Colina de Mong ha

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2856 1252

**BRAND STORY - POP-UP SHOP**

TIME: 10am-8pm

UNTIL: October 1, 2017

VENUE: Macao Fashion Gallery

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 3341

**ABSTRACT PAINTINGS FROM THE MAM COLLECTION**  
TIME: 10am-7pm (Last admission at 6:30pm, closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: September 17, 2017

VENUE: Macao Art Museum

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

**STORY OF CANNON MAKING - CHILDREN EXPERIENCE EXHIBITION**

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

UNTIL: August 20, 2017

VENUE: Exhibition Gallery, 3rd floor of Macao Museum

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911

## Offbeat

## RINGING THE CHANGES: DUTCH BIKE LOCK BLOCKS RIDER'S PHONE

A telecom company in the Netherlands has teamed up with the country's traffic safety authority to develop a bicycle lock that also blocks its mobile network, in a move aimed at protecting young riders who regularly pedal through busy streets while looking at their phone, the developers said yesterday.

An app opens the lock and simultaneously blocks the KPN cellular network, meaning that the cyclist's phone can only be used to call emergency services. Once the bike is locked using the app, the cellphone will work again.

The app does not stop users listening to music stored on their phone, but would prevent them playing streaming content.

The Dutch Traffic Safety Association said that the "Safe Lock" is expected to go on sale by the end of the year for around 100 euros (USD110).

The association said that one in five bicycle accidents involving children is caused by smartphone use.

KPN spokeswoman Victorina de Boer said the combination of a network-blocking app and lock, made by the AXA company, is believed to be a world first.

By blocking the network, the lock and app halts not only calls but also the beeps and buzzes that alert users to new messages.

"If you want to assure yourself of not being disturbed by [...] notifications which can take away your attention from the traffic around you, then this is a good solution," De Boer said.

The lock initially will be only for KPN clients, "but of course we're open to working together with other providers on this. Anything to increase the safety of children on their bike in traffic," De Boer said.

The app and lock, which will be tested over the summer, are initially only available for Android phones, but De Boer said KPN also is looking into the possibility of a version for Apple's mobile software IOS.

## TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	RTPi Live
17:40	Revenge Sr 3
18:20	Now Generation (Repeated)
19:10	Miscellaneous
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Interview
21:30	Miscellaneous
22:10	Now Generation
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:05	RTPi Live

## cinema



## CINETEATRO

22-25 JUN

## TRANSFORMERS: THE LAST KNIGHT

ROOM 1

2:00, 4:45, 9:30pm

Director: Michael bay

Starring: Mark Wahlberg, Anthony Hopkins, Josh Duhamel

Language: English

Duration: 148min



## RESIDENT EVIL: VENDETTA

ROOM 2

2:30, 4:30, 9:45pm

Director: Takano Tsujimoto

Starring: Orion Acaba, Erin Cahill, Darin De Paul

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 93min



## A FAMILY MAN

ROOM 3

2:30, 4:30, 9:30pm

Director: Mark Williams

Starring: Alison Brie, Gerard Butler, Willem Dafoe

Language: English

Duration: 118min

## MACAU TOWER

22 JUN - 5 JUL



## TRANSFORMERS: THE LAST KNIGHT

ROOM 1

2:00, 4:45, 9:30pm

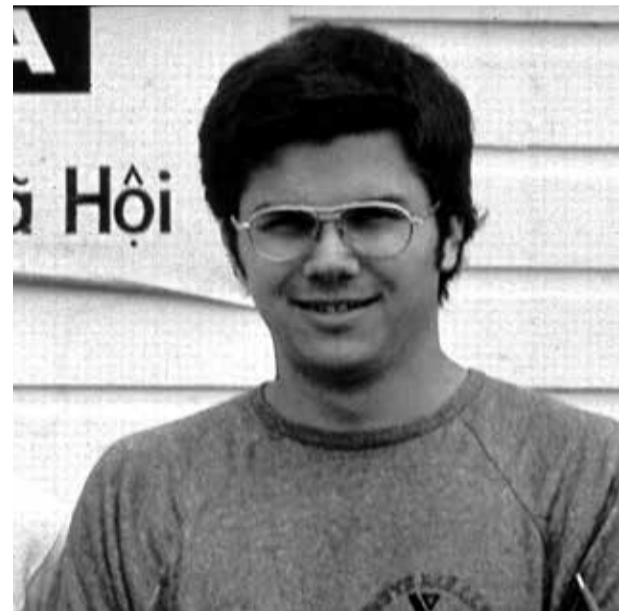
Director: Michael bay

Starring: Mark Wahlberg, Anthony Hopkins, Josh Duhamel

Language: English

Duration: 148min

## this day in history



## 1981 CHAPMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO LENNON MURDER

A man has pleaded guilty to shooting dead former Beatle John Lennon in New York.

The court heard Mark Chapman dramatically change his plea to admit responsibility for the murder, saying God had told him to do so.

Even his own defence team were taken by surprise by the decision, and his lawyer has asked the judge to examine his client to ensure he is mentally fit to stand trial.

Appearing at a pre-trial hearing, Chapman said nothing in open court. The drifter now faces a minimum of 15 years imprisonment, although the judge has indicated it will be more like 20.

Lennon, 40, was shot several times as he entered his luxury apartment building, the Dakota on Manhattan's Upper West Side, opposite Central Park, in December 1980.

The musician was rushed in a police car to St Luke's Roosevelt Hospital Center, where he died.

Explaining that Chapman had decided to plead guilty after "God told him" to do so on June 8, his lawyer revealed he had "serious questions" over his client's sanity.

"I have asked that he be examined to determine whether or not he is fit to go to trial or to change his plea," he said.

The judge will receive a full report on the defendant before passing sentence in August.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

Mark Chapman is serving 20 years to life in Attica prison near New York after he was deemed competent to plead guilty.

He said he had heard voices in his head telling him to kill the world-famous musician.

In 2000 the killer had his appeal for early release turned down, the same happened in October 2002 when he made another appeal for early release.

A third appeal was rejected in October 2004.

Lennon's widow, Yoko Ono, has said she would not feel safe if Chapman were released, and experts believe it is quite possible he will stay behind bars for the rest of his life.



YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Some last-minute news is due so suddenly you may not know quite what to do with it.

Taurus April 20-May 20 You're about to be on the receiving end of several pieces of really great news.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 your razor-sharp intellect has informed you that something needs to be done and that you're the only person on board who's equipped to make a logical decision.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Your house of relationships has been pretty darned crowded for the past few days, and it's probably going to stay that way, at least until after the first of the year.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Just when you thought you were ready to settle down and stop showing the world how unique, unusual and sophisticated you are, someone has planted a bug in your brain that's making it impossible.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 After months of griping about how nothing exciting ever happens to you, your friends will suddenly need to remind you that you've been wishing this on yourself -- and to be quiet.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Your specialty is taking care of others, and more often than not, you do it at your own expense. Well, prepare yourself to make a decision that may actually take your own needs into account, just this once.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 You're absolutely entitled to indulge yourself in the deeper side of life: intimacy, intensity, intrigue and a bit of leisure. It's now officially your turn to go for it, and if anyone knows how to be hedonistic, it's you.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 An affectionate, inviting message that arrives this morning will set you off on a path that includes not just adventure, but a new and improved intimacy with your partner.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Several planetary influences will inspire you to go after what you want with a vengeance. If you're challenged, you'll easily convince any and all opponents just to drop it.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Just when you thought you were done righteously, instructing the world about exactly how it should be run, you've discovered you still have plenty left to say. You've earned a couple of days of well-earned rest.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 For the next couple of days, you'll quite literally be wearing your heart on your sleeve. Does this mean you're especially vulnerable at the moment? You bet it does.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzles categorized by difficulty: Easy, Easy+, Medium, and Hard. Each category contains a 9x9 grid with some numbers pre-filled.

WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for 'ACROSS' and 'DOWN'. Includes a 'Yesterday's solution' grid with filled-in words.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

List of useful telephone numbers including Emergency calls, Fire department, PJ (Open line), PJ (Picket), PSP, Customs, S. J. Hospital, Kiang Wu Hospital, Commission Against Corruption (CCAC), IACM, Tourism, and Airport.



Real estate advertisement for 'FOR SALE' and 'FOR RENT' with website www.JMLProperty.com and contact info.

Real estate advertisement for 'Mandarin Residences Serviced Duplex, Macau' and 'Calçada da Surpresa, 12 Ching Fai Court, Macau'.

Real estate advertisement for 'Nam Hong Studio Apartment Macau' and 'Va Fat Taipa'.

Real estate advertisement for 'St Pauls Ruins Central Macau' and 'Soi Cheung, Taipa Village'.

Real estate advertisement for 'Cattleya Court, Ocean Gardens Taipa' and 'Pacifica Gardens, L Unit Taipa'.

JML Property logo and contact information, including '卓雅物業' and 'since 1994'.

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COMEMORAÇÕES DO 10 DE JUNHO  
DIA DE PORTUGAL, DE CAMÕES E  
DAS COMUNIDADES PORTUGUESAS

Exposição de pintura portuguesa  
**ALFREDO LUZ,  
CRUZEIRO SEIXAS  
E JOÃO PAULO**  
Clube Militar de Macau  
8 a 24 de junho



Exposição do cartoonista  
**RODRIGO DE MATOS**  
Espaço expositivo do  
Consulado-Geral de Portugal  
5 a 30 de junho



Exposição de aquarelas  
"NOTURNO" de  
**FILIPE MIGUEL DAS DORES**  
Albergue SCM | 6 de junho a 9 de julho



Exposição "O MAR"  
de **ANA PESSANHA**  
Galeria da Casa Garden  
7 de junho a 31 de agosto



Lançamento do CD  
de música infantil  
"CASTELOS NO AR"  
Pequeno Auditório do CCM  
9 de junho | 20:00



Encontro com o escritor  
**JOAQUIM FURTADO**  
Café Oriente - IPOR  
13 de junho | 18:30



MOSTRA DE **INDIELISBOA**  
CINEMA PORTUGUÊS  
Cinemateca Paixão  
30 de junho, 1 e 2 de julho



Exposição coletiva dos alunos  
dos **CURSOS DE GRAVURA**  
da Casa de Portugal em Macau  
Espaço expositivo da Residência Oficial  
do Consul-Geral de Portugal  
10 a 17 de junho



Exposição "DEBRIS" de **VHILS**  
Oficinas Navais nº 1  
Centro de Arte Contemporânea  
31 de maio a 13 de junho



MÊS DO LIVRO  
PORTUGUÊS  
Livraria Portuguesa | 5 a 22 de junho



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Vinhos de Portugal PRIMAVERA 2017  
com os chefes

**JOSÉ JÚLIO VINTÉM  
E CATARINA P. ÁLVARES**  
Clube Militar de Macau  
de 9 a 19 de junho



Espectáculo  
"NO PRECÍPIO  
ERA O VERBO"  
Teatro D. Pedro V | 4 de junho | 20:00



Concerto com  
**JOÃO CAETANO**  
Grande Auditório do CCM  
2 de junho | 20:00



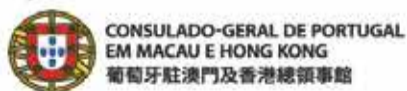
Cerimónia do  
**HASTEAR DA BANDEIRA**  
Consulado-Geral de Portugal  
10 de junho | 9:30



**TAÇA DAS  
CONFEDERAÇÕES**  
Café Oriente - IPOR  
17 de junho a 2 de julho



organizadores



patrocinador oficial



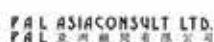
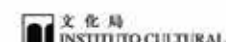
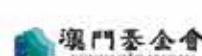
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## FOOTBALL | CONFEDERATIONS CUP

# Ronaldo heads Portugal to 1-0 win over Russia



Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates after scoring his side's first goal against Russia

James Ellingworth

**C**RISTIANO Ronaldo set aside his legal troubles to score the winning goal for Portugal yesterday in a 1-0 victory over hosts Russia in the Confederations Cup.

Ronaldo headed Portugal in front in the eighth minute at Moscow's Spartak Stadium. The European champions struggled to kill off the game despite several chances and could have conceded when Georgy Dzhikiya headed narrowly over in stoppage time.

A day after Ronaldo was summoned to court in Spain over allegations relating to a complex tax fraud, his goal was simple. He found space on the right flank and crept in behind defender Fyodor Kudryashov to head in Raphael Guerreiro's lofted cross at the far post.

It could have been 2-0 in the 50th if not for Russia goalkeeper Igor Akinfeev, playing his 100th international game, and his acrobatic one-handed save to keep out Adrien Silva's header. Guerreiro limped off injured in the 65th.

Russia failed to register a shot on target, though Fyodor Smolov should have done better when he sliced a shot wide from a good position shortly

before half-time.

On a chilly Moscow evening, Russia coach Stanislav Cherchesov set up his team defensively, putting right-back Roman Shishkin into a midfield role, but his plans were upended after just eight minutes when Ronaldo headed in Portugal's opener.

Portugal outplayed Russia comprehensively for the rest of the half but created no clear-cut chances, Ronaldo going closest.

The Russians barely made it into the Portuguese half for long periods of the opening 45 minutes, and only came remotely close to scoring with Smolov's mishit effort off Alexander Golovin's cross.

## ■ The European champions struggled to kill off the game despite several chances

Besides the Silva header saved by Akinfeev, the Portuguese also threatened to score a second when Ronaldo headed wide in the 63rd and blasted a shot over the bar shortly after.

The Russians made attacking substitutions and pushed forward, testing the Portuguese defense with balls over the top, but often left themselves open on the counter.

Guerreiro had to be substituted in the 65th after limping off for medical treatment.

Russia threw men forward in search of a late equalizer, but came no closer than Dzhikiya's header over the bar.

The win leaves Portugal in a strong position on four points in Group A with just a game against outsiders New Zealand remaining Saturday. Russia has three points and must face Mexico next. **AP**

## FIFA warns Mexico over discriminatory chants

**F**IFA warned Mexico about the conduct of its fans on Tuesday at the Confederations Cup, but the country's coach maintained that the chants are not discriminatory.

The homophobic abuse was heard during Mexico's opening game against Portugal in Kazan on Sunday despite FIFA warning on the eve of the World Cup warm-up tournament that there would be tighter monitoring of offensive incidents in stadiums.

FIFA said disciplinary committee chairman Anin Yeboah "decided to impose a warning on the Mexican Football Federation for the misconduct of a small group of Mexican fans

in relation to insulting and discriminatory chants." Mexico has been sanctioned eight times over the same gay slurs by fans in the current World Cup qualifying campaign by international soccer's governing body.

"I understand why the crowd chants and I don't think the interpretation made internationally is right," Mexico coach Juan Carlos Osorio said through a translator ahead of Wednesday's Group A match against New Zealand at the Confederations Cup. "I hope the Mexican federation will tell FIFA again that this doesn't mean what people think it means." **AP**



## Boris Becker declared bankrupt by British court

**B**ORIS Becker was declared bankrupt by a British court yesterday after the former tennis player failed to pay a long-standing debt.

A lawyer for the six-time Grand Slam champion pleaded with a Bankruptcy Court registrar in London for a last chance to pay a debt that Becker has owed to private bankers Arbuthnot Latham & Co. since 2015.

The registrar, Christine Derrett, said there was a lack of credible evidence that his debt would be paid soon. She refused to

adjourn the case for a further 28 days and announced a bankruptcy order.

"One has the impression of a man with his head in the sand," said the registrar, who said she watched Becker play on Centre Court at Wimbledon.

The 49-year-old Becker, who was born in Germany and lives in London, recently coached Novak Djokovic and has been a TV commentator.

His lawyer, John Briggs, had argued there was sufficient evidence to show that Becker would be able to pay the debt through a

refinancing arrangement, involving remortgaging a property in Mallorca, which was expected to raise 6 million euros (USD6.7 million). Briggs said it was expected the deal would be approved by a Spanish bank in about one month.

Briggs also said Becker was "not a sophisticated individual when it comes to finances," and that bankruptcy was likely to have an adverse effect on Becker's image.

"He should have thought about that a long time ago," the registrar said. **AP**



opinion

Made in Macao  
Jenny Lao-Phillips



COFFEE, TEA OR BOTH?

Tea drinking has long been considered an important part of Chinese culture, while coffee drinking is seen by some as a part of foreigners' culture. It is not surprising that with the bloom of coffee businesses in China, there are concerns that it is over-shadowing our thousands-of-years-old culture. How about in Macao? With the number of coffee shops in a small place like ours reaching over 110, is this evidence that coffee is overtaking the tea culture? Or, perhaps with the hundreds of years of Portuguese influence in town, we have always been on team "bica"?

I would say that coffee and tea are inseparable in Macao. Most set menus, for lunch or dinner, end with 'coffee or tea'. While we tend to be using the term "coffee break" more these days in English for our afternoon breaks, in Chinese, we say 下午茶 "afternoon tea". So, we often find ourselves inviting a friend 'for coffee' when the text is in English, and another 'for tea' in Chinese, though it's the same occasion.

The culture of "3:15 afternoon tea" has been in practice in Macao since the '70s. We often see workers in the construction and renovation industry shutting down their equipment around 3:15 everyday to take their break from work and patronize one of the 茶餐廳, 'Cha Chaan Teng', directly translated as 'Tea Restaurants' or also known as 'Hong Kong-style coffee shops'. For office workers, it is also common for colleagues to take turns ordering coffee (or tea) and sandwiches around 15:15 for an Afternoon Tea break together.

From the '70s up until the '90s, this was a practice of the local police too, who would take a break from their duties and patronize one of the many small 'tea restaurants' in the alleys around Horta e Costa. Although we use the term 'Afternoon Tea', most people order coffee in these Cha Chaan Tengs. So, coffee drinking culture is not new in Macao. The differences are merely the types of coffee and the style of the coffee shops.

Historically speaking, western style coffee was brought into Macao during the 18th century by the Portuguese. But the drinking of Bica (a.k.a. espresso) was only common among the local Portuguese and Macanese; it was only in the last ten years or so that we see more local Chinese drinking western coffee like espresso, latte or cappuccino, thanks to the popularity of Starbucks, and the many romantic movies from Japan, Taiwan and Hong Kong that begin in the ambience of a romantic western coffee shop.

Of course, ambience aside, the local coffee is very different from western coffee served in modern cafés. The local coffee is usually boiled in pots on charcoal, or filtered in small bags like the materials of pantyhose, that's why they are also known as 'pantyhose coffee' or 'pantyhose tea'. These types of coffee served in Cha Chaan Tengs are usually less strong compared to their western counterparts, and are served with condensed milk instead of fresh milk.

While customers of 'Tea Restaurants' in Macao are ordering coffee on their tea break, it is also interesting to see that many locals going to western coffee shops are ordering tea. So, whether the booming coffee culture in Macao is taking over our tea culture is not really a question that needs to be answered. From what I see, the two are always together. We do not really have an afternoon tea drinking culture, just an afternoon break where coffee or tea is served. And if one cannot decide whether to order coffee or tea, one other popular local 'Afternoon Tea' drink is the 'Yuenyeung' which is a mix of half coffee and half tea served only at Cha Chaan Tengs.

THE CHINA INVITES IVANKA TRUMP, JARED KUSHNER TO VISIT BEIJING

A White House official says the Chinese government has invited Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner to visit Beijing later this year.

It's not clear whether President Donald Trump's daughter and son-in-law would accept the invitation, or when a trip would be. The official commented Tuesday on condition of anonymity because nothing has been formally announced.

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman says he

noted reports of the invitation but was unaware of the specifics.

The invitation from China underscores the influential roles that Kushner and Ivanka Trump hold in Trump's administration, including in matters of foreign policy.

Both have been at the center of a group of advisers helping Trump navigate his turbulent first few months in office.

Warship clash site known for congested traffic

Mari Yamaguchi, Tokyo

THE site of a fatal collision between a U.S. Navy destroyer and a container ship off Japan's coast is notorious for congested sea traffic, particularly during the night when merchant ships are trying to reach Tokyo's port by daybreak.

The USS Fitzgerald collided with the ACX Crystal about 12 nautical miles (22 kilometers) off the southern tip of the Izu Peninsula in the early hours of Saturday just as the two ships were to merge into heavy traffic.

Maritime officials and ship operators call the area a convergence zone, where ships coming from the east and west converge with others leaving Tokyo. On average, about 400 ships pass through the waters each day.

The area, also known for strong tides, is the most accident-prone in Japanese waters. The Japan Transport Safety Board investigated 28 serious collisions between 2008 and 2014, including one between a Japanese navy submarine and a fishing boat in 1988 in which 30 people died.

"Because many ships unload their cargo in Tokyo during the day, they want to be there early in the morning. Many of them pass through the area during the night," said Hiroshi Ando, an official in the Japanese coast guard's navigation safety department. "It's known as one of the busiest waters, where ships from different routes merge."



AP PHOTO

The nighttime rush hour continues from about 1 a.m. to 3 a.m. A second rush hour goes from about 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. as ships that reloaded in Tokyo leave through the area, he said.

The ACX Crystal was a typical example. The 19,060-ton ship, carrying about 1,000 containers from Nagoya, was traveling east and scheduled to arrive in Tokyo at 8 a.m., according to its operator, NYK Line. The coast guard said it and the Fitzgerald collided at about 1:30 a.m.

How the collision occurred is still under investigation, but experts generally agree that the Philippine-flagged container ship was likely trying to pass the destroyer from behind when the two collided. The Navy ship suffered severe damage to its starboard side. An underwater gash flooded two sleeping compartments, killing seven sailors who were trapped inside.

Ships heading to Tokyo have to decide whether to take a shortcut between the Izu Peninsula and Izu Oshima is-

land, or make a bigger circle around the island, partly to avoid traffic. Most ships take the shorter route, Ando said. He said route decisions are up to the captains.

Because of the frequent accidents, the transport ministry has proposed to the International Maritime Organization a virtual median line between the peninsula and the island, with Tokyo-bound ships traveling on the east side and those from Tokyo on the west side. The proposal, adopted by the IOM earlier this month, is to take effect next year.

A senior official at Shinshinkisen Co., a passenger ferry operator, said it assigns three crewmembers to monitor surrounding traffic when its ferries pass through the area, even though they only operate during the day. He spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the topic.

But after following all the rules and carefully monitoring other vessels, ships that make it through the congested area then reach Tokyo Bay, which is even more crowded, he said. AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Xinhua/Wang Jianwei



The construction site of Heihe-Blagoveshchensk road bridge at the border of China and Russia. A 19.9km highway bridge connecting China and Russia over the Heilongjiang River is under construction. The road bridge is scheduled to open to traffic in October 2019.

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	15-35 Good	
High Density Residential Area	15-35 Good	
Ambient	25-45 Good	

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

EGYPT's highest court yesterday ordered a temporary suspension of rulings by other courts on a 2016 deal that transfers two Red Sea islands to Saudi Arabia, deepening the legal wrangling over the issue.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC Clashes between armed groups in the town of Bria have left at least 100 people dead in the wake of a peace agreement signed this week in Rome that called for an immediate ceasefire.

ANGOLA Rafael Morais, a prominent journalist and human rights campaigner in Angola, says he and another journalist face charges of insulting the state for an article about an allegedly unethical real estate deal involving the attorney general.



PORTUGAL is close to containing the wildfire that killed 64 people last weekend, authorities said yesterday, as a minute of silence was held in memory of the victims.

GREECE's prime minister said yesterday that his bailout-reliant country will "very soon" be in a position to tap bond markets again, which would be Greece's first test of investor sentiment since 2014. More on p14



ARGENTINA Former President Cristina Fernandez has returned to Argentina's political stage, launching a new party and promising to fight the economic policies of her conservative successor.

BRAZIL President Michel Temer is being accused of organizing the distribution of about USD6 million of public funds into electoral campaigns. The latest corruption allegations came from key party fundraiser Lucio Bolonha Funaro.