



AIR LINK TO JAKARTA
The inaugural Jakarta-Macau flight operated by AirAsia touched down at the local airport yesterday

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NEW BUILDING MANAGEMENT RULES
New rules for building management firms were approved yesterday at the Legislative Assembly

P5 AL PLENARY



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EXPERTS AND CANDIDATES SAY

Electoral guidelines may breach Basic Law

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WORLD BRIEFS

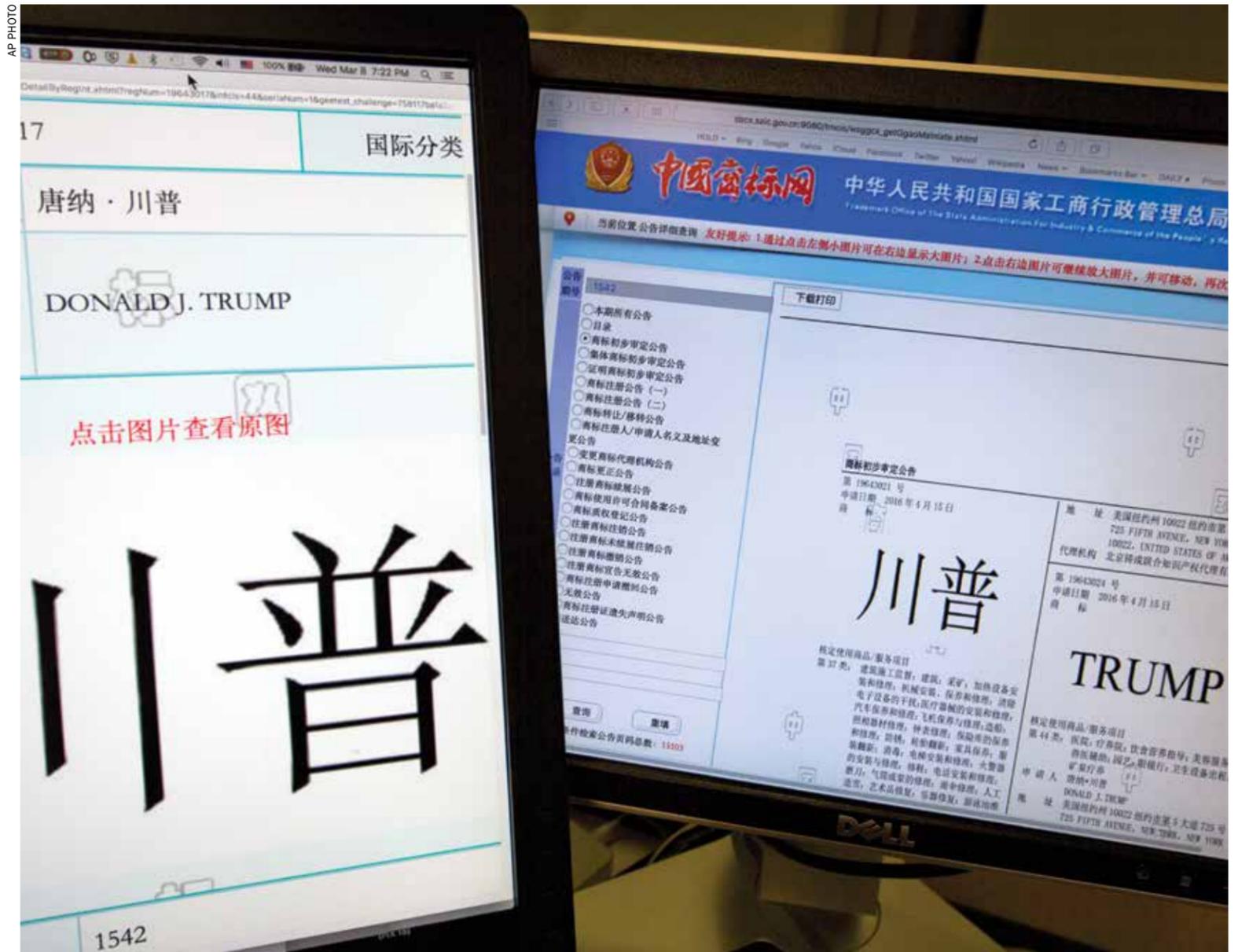


CHINA-VIETNAM
Foreign Minister Wang Yi canceled a scheduled one-on-one meeting with his Vietnamese counterpart in Manila at the last minute yesterday due to a spat over the South China Sea.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA A refugee being held in an Australian immigration camp on the Pacific island nation of Papua New Guinea was found dead in an apparent suicide yesterday, sparking outrage from fellow refugees and advocates who say officials failed to treat him despite a long history of mental illness. More on p12

INDONESIA said yesterday that it will barter coffee, palm oil and other commodities for 11 Russian-made Sukhoi fighter jets, calling U.S. and European sanctions against Russia an opportunity to boost the Southeast Asian nation's trade. More on p13

More on backpage



Trump company applies for casino trademark in Macau

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Lynzy Valles

CANDIDATES and political analysts are criticizing the Electoral Affairs Commission for the Legislative Assembly Election (CAEAL), for creating confusion between the definitions of “propaganda activities” and the rights of candidates to inform the public of their agenda – another controversy in addition to the short amount of time given to candidates to promote themselves.

A total of 25 teams, with an aggregate of 192 candidates, will contest the direct election for the Legislative Assembly (AL) on September 17. Six teams, with a total of 15 candidates will contest the indirect election.

On August 1, the commission issued its second election guideline in a bid to regulate campaign promotional activities. However several candidates and political analysts expressed their belief that it is absurd for the commission to issue such guidelines.

The guideline titled “2/CAEL/2017” requires the removal or deletion of any message or information – displayed in any public area and online platform – that aims to draw public attention to a particular candidate or candidates.

Any message or information aimed at encouraging voters – in an explicit or implicit way – to vote or not vote for a particular candidate or candidates are also prohibited.

Candidates are banned from performing any kind of act deemed as propaganda until September 2. Thus with the current silent period for candidates, some, especially newcomers, are finding it problematic to promote themselves for the AL elections.

Candidate and Assistant Dean of Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Macau, Agnes Lam, lamented that the new guidelines are “absurd and ridiculous,” adding that the new candidates are “basically forbidden to do anything.”

Current lawmakers, some of which are running in the upcoming election, are still permitted to voice their views at the Legislative Assembly. However, newcomers are required to keep silent.

“We only have two weeks to do the campaigning but then, all of the existing legislators can talk about what they can do and they can report to the voters what they have done and accomplished,” Lam told the Times.

“We’re not allowed to talk about our platforms, [...] something for voters to justify if these [candidates] are having same kind of ideology, and that’s very important,” Lam added.

Electoral rules may breach Basic Law, experts and candidates say



CAEAL and the Commission Against Corruption held a briefing on the election rules last week

As candidates are forbidden to tell voters to elect them, Lam argued that the word ‘imply’ is misleading, and that the way the committee interprets the law is problematic.

“This is very ridiculous. It doesn’t go right with the law. [...] I don’t even know if this is really something from the law,” the candidate, who also ran in the 2009 and 2013 elections, said.

This is very ridiculous. It doesn’t go right with the law.

AGNES LAM

Although Lam agreed that using public spaces and public resources for conducting promotional activities for the silent period could be banned, Lam expressed the belief that restricting candidates from meeting people and posting their sentiments on social media platforms is irrational.

With the current regulations in place, Lam said that residents will not have enough time to understand what the newcomers are actually fighting for.

Lam stated that in her view, the CAEAL’s regulations had good intentions, aiming to prevent candidates from buying peoples’ votes and to end corruption.

However she went on to lament that the committee is enforcing regulations that suppress the cam-

paign itself.

Political analyst Larry So also noted that from his perspective, it was unfair for newcomers to be banned from having the chance to communicate with voters.

As existing lawmakers could still conduct activities under the name of different organizations they belong to, this leaves newcomers in a less advantageous position.

So suggested that the region should allow its candidates to conduct promotional activities right from the time CAEAL published the definitive version of the list of accepted candidate teams to direct and indirect elections.

Meanwhile a local lawyer Sérgio de Almeida Correia argued that the problem of the current pre-campaign rules lies in the interpretation of the law.

The law expert recalled that the Law 3/2001, republished on February 13, 2017, according to the Executive Dispatch 21/2017, is applicable to the regulation of the election, by direct and indirect suffrage, of the members of the Macau SAR Legislative Assembly only.

Almeida Correia cited that the purpose of the Electoral Committee, according to article 10, paragraph 1. 2), is to secure the effective equality of “action” and “propaganda” of the candidates during the electoral campaign.

“We are not yet in the period of the electoral campaign,” the lawyer reminded.

“In my view, the interpretations that are currently being made is clearly abusive and prepotent because the Electoral Commission

is making a confusion between “propaganda activities” and the right to inform the public and to be informed, and the freedom of expression,” Almeida Correia explained.

He reminded that the right to inform the public and the freedom of expression, and the right to issue an opinion about any subject is currently regulated by the Basic Law.

The pre-campaign guidelines also stated that promotional messages used during the official campaigning period must be removed or deleted on or before the midnight of September 15.

“The unfairness and absurdity of all process are in the interpretations of the law made by the Electoral Committee. To tell the candidates that they have to remove all information, as well as messages made before the campaign official period starts is an absurdity,” he criticized.

“To tell the candidates that they cannot inform the public about the result of the draw and of the

position they occupy in the voting bulletins is another absurdity,” Almeida Correia added.

Previously, candidates including Lam have filed a complaint to the electoral committee regarding matters such as the short time for campaign activities.

According to the lawyer, the committee can issue binding instructions in order to execute the provisions of the law, but such instructions cannot overpass and be more restrictive of what it is stated in the law.

“Otherwise the committee will be misusing the powers given by the legislator, and this is a serious breach of the law in any “second system” region,” he explained.

The legal expert also slammed CAEAL for violating the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights, noting that the interpretation made by the committee is abusive and violates the Basic Law and the rights to inform, in addition to violating the freedom of expressions and of speech.

Meanwhile Tong Hio Fong, president of CAEAL explained that candidates are permitted to discuss “civic matters related to the community” but are restricted from mentioning their political agendas.

The lawyer criticized Fong’s statement, questioning, “What is a civic matter and issue of the community?”

“This is absurd because all political programs are about “civic matters” and if any candidate, and some are more well known than others, participate in a debate about such issues, how can they hide that they are candidates or that what they defend is included in their programs?” the lawyer asked.

“What he said is perfect non-sense,” Almeida Correia concluded.

NEW GUIDELINES CAUSE CONFUSION AMONG CANDIDATES

THE NEW CAEAL guidelines have also resulted in confusion among candidates, with some reportedly suspending their social media accounts, or deleting posts that they feared may violate the rules. Sulu Sou, president of the New Macau Association has reportedly hidden some contents of his Facebook page. Following the

advertising ban that took effect on August 3, the candidate was reportedly notified by CAEAL that information regarding his candidacy could still be seen. Thus he opted to hide his page contents to be in line with CAEAL guidelines, but hoped to quickly obtain clearer guidelines from the commission.

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Macau linked by flight path to the Indonesian capital

MACAU is once again connected to the Indonesian capital, following the termination of a direct link between the two cities when the carrier of the previous direct route, Viva Macau, filed for bankruptcy. The inaugural Jakarta-Macau flight operated by AirAsia touched down at the local airport at 7:38 a.m., where it was greeted by a water cannon salute. The flight departed from Jakarta's Soekarno-Hatta International Airport carrying 162 guests.



AirAsia Indonesia will operate the Jakarta-Macau service three times weekly using a 180-seat Airbus A320-200 on every Monday, Friday and Sunday. The flight frequency is expected to be increased to four times weekly from September 1.

The arrival of the inaugural flight was followed by a press conference in Macau airport. "The commencement of AirAsia Indonesia's direct service between Indonesia and Macau will strengthen bilateral ties between the two countries and bring a positive economic impact, particularly in trade and tourism," said the Consul General of the Republic of Indonesia in Hong Kong and Macau, Tri Tharyat. "As Indonesia's main gateway, Jakarta is a vibrant city with much to offer, from shopping havens to history and cultural museums, as well as a connection to the country's other exotic tourism destinations."

Eric Fong, Macau International Airport's (CAM) director of marketing, noted that the new route is expected to assist in increasing the volume of passengers using Macau's airport. "We encourage the growth of airlines in the number of routes and a greater frequency of flights, as it will emphasize the role of air travel in boosting the economy of Greater China," he said.

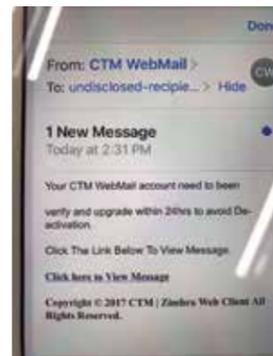
AirAsia Group chief executive officer, Tony Fernandes, did not attend the event in Macau, but he issued a statement claiming that the Malaysian low cost airliner "has always championed Macau."

"Macau was one of our first international destinations and also one of our earliest unique routes from Kuala Lumpur. Today's inaugural flight from Jakarta shows that we remain committed to our goal of improving connectivity between Macau, the Pearl River Delta and Asean, and bringing more visitors both to Indonesia and to southern China," Fernandes said.

To celebrate the route, AirAsia Indonesia is offering a special launch promotion fare to further stimulate demand.

Email scam affects CTM

The name of local telecommunications company CTM is being used in a fraudulent email. CTM issued a statement yesterday alerting the public to an email which has the subject "1 New Message" and states that a webmail account needs to be upgraded within 24 hours to avoid deactivation. It also comes with a hyperlink that must be clicked for the full message to be seen.



The company urged receivers of this email to ignore and delete it immediately. The company stated that it did not send the email message.

According to the statement issued by CTM, the company has taken immediate actions to identify and block the emails which were sent from the same IP address.

CTM reminds customers to refrain from disclosing any personal information through the telephone or Internet,

and to avoid clicking on hyperlinks included in any suspicious emails to browse unknown websites.

CTM further added that the company would not normally request that customers provide personal information such as their ID number, user ID, password and account number over the telephone or through email. CTM urged customers to remain alert for deceptive emails and phone calls, adding that any suspicious emails should be ignored and deleted immediately.

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Judge tightens bail rules for Ng Lap Seng

A Macau billionaire convicted of bribing United Nations diplomats can stay out of jail for now. A federal judge in New York said yesterday he'll let Ng Lap Seng remain under house arrest at his luxury apartment in Manhattan until he is sentenced. But he set new rules for the 69-year-old businessman. He won't be able to meet privately with business associates anymore. He also has to leave the door open during visits from his massage therapist. Ng Lap Seng has spent nearly two years under 24-hour guard at his apartment as part of a USD50 million bail package. Prosecutors had asked that he be jailed following his conviction. Ng could face up to 65 years in prison for paying over \$1.7 million in bribes.

Horse Race Company granted 6-month contract

The Macau Horse Race Company, Ltd was granted another six months of extended contract with the government, according to a notice published yesterday in Official Gazette. The notice was signed by the Secretary for Economy and Finance. The contract will remain standing until February 28, 2018. The Macau Horse Race Company, Ltd owns the Macau Jockey Club. The Macau Jockey Club is one of the largest private employers of Macau with around 800 employees (of which about 400 are stable hands) and over 300 part-time employees.



Malaysian food promoted in Macau

A diplomat and a senior representative of Malaysia's tourism board were in Macau on Friday to launch an event which will promote Malaysian cuisine.

Six top chefs from Malaysia have been invited to the sixth edition of the Malaysian Food Festival, which is being held in Galaxy's Festiva restaurant. They will present hot dishes such as "Penang Oyster Ome-

let," and "Nasi Lemak."

"Food connects people, I hope the uniqueness of Malaysian cuisine and the tropical fruit, durian, will enchant Macau people and their visitors," said Norshamshida Abdul Rahman, director of the Malaysia Tourism Promotion Board in Hong Kong.

"The tremendous success of the food festival for the past five years is a big encourage-

ment for us," added John Sloane, assistant senior vice president, F&B Operations & Culinary at Galaxy.

The festival also offers an outdoor area where guests can experience authentic Malaysian cuisine at various food stalls.

Speaking to the Times, Rahman added: "The hawker style this year is something different because [Galaxy]

was very proud to have brought some home-cooked [style] stalls. It's a local favorite in Malaysia to enjoy the food stalls like this. It's amazing they brought it here."

She also said that the durians on offer at the event will attract fans of the fruit, and that the hawker center-style setup will entice guests with its authentic Malaysian setting.

Rahman invited locals to visit Malaysia, especially the state of Malacca, which has unique historical relations with Macau through links to Portugal and a shared history of trade as a port city.

Also present at the event was Grace Rebekah Teh, Consul of the Consulate-General of Malaysia, Hong Kong and Macau, and Ezzwanee Ahmad, Trade Commissioner for Malaysia in Hong Kong.

Both said that satay – a meat skewer dish that will also be available at the event – was their favorite Malaysian dish.

"The traditional way to cook satay is to cook it over a charcoal pit, so when you taste it you have that barbecue taste," said Teh.

"Malaysian satay is different from other states," Ahmad added.

The Malaysian Food Festival is only available at dinner buffet session at Festiva and is priced at MOP498 per person. The event ends September 3.

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Julie Zhu

AL PLENARY

Developers paying property management fees stirs lawmakers

AN article suggesting that real estate developers should be accountable for paying for property management fees triggered great dispute among the lawmakers, including those who rarely voice their opinions during AL meetings.

Leonel Alves started by criticizing the fact that the bill's Portuguese version was "not ideal", and then pointed out an article that was strongly debated by several lawmakers who normally do not speak during the inquiry sessions.

He expressed the hope that both the government and the AL's consultants can improve their Portuguese version of the bill.

"It is very easy to notice that there are some articles translated directly from Chinese to Portuguese, and that some are repeated," said the veteran lawmaker.

One article suggests that property owners should be liable for management fees when the claimants or people who pre-purchased the properties did not pay for the management fees.

The Legal Affairs Bureau said that the government proposed such an article based on a rule which suggests giving responsibilities to the owners, and noted that the person who pre-purchased the house is not yet considered as an owner, which deems the real owners [or property project developers] to be the



Leonel Alves

actual owners of the properties.

Under such conditions, if the buyers do not pay for property management fees, then the developers should pay.

After listening to the government's reply, Leonel Alves suggested the AL should read two separate articles, both involving the aforementioned topics, for the lawmakers to vote on.

He also criticized the two ar-

ticles for being "unreasonable" and proposing "immature measures to solve [the problem]. This term's AL is about to end, and it is inappropriate [for lawmakers] to hear this."

Leonel Alves's opinion caused many lawmakers to weigh in, expressing their stances on the article.

Melinda Chan deemed that "it should not be" the developers paying for the management fees which are not cove-

red by the buyers.

Angela Leong also said that the articles need to be explained, and she suggested that the article pointed out by Leonel Alves should be voted on independently.

Fong Chi Keong, following Angela Leong, also voiced his disagreement with the article, indicating that he would not vote for it

"If they [buyers] own management fees, and the developers need to be accountable for the responsibilities, I think such law is very problematic. Under which reasons should developers be responsible for the money owned by other people? [...] It is very unreasonable," said Fong.

A consultant from the Legal Affairs Bureau also explained that the government is trying to place the responsibility on the "real owners" and not on the pre-buyers, having told the lawmakers that the government is "respecting the majority's interests" by establishing such an article.

Fong Chi Keong criticized the government for "giving all the benefits to the management companies."

"No matter what you do, there is no reason for 100 percent of benefits. [...] If you establish the law like this, where is fairness? [...] You lawmakers deliver this [the bill to us], but how can we pass it?" asked Fong.

He also said that the "government should abandon the law," and citing the opinion of some lawmakers, he added "I want to say his/her name, but I am afraid that he/she will stare at me."

Government high officials, including Sonia Chan, the Secretary for Administration and Justice, said that the government established the article to "protect the majority of the property owners."

Chan also noted that since the article is relatively independent from other ones, it can be deleted from the bill.

Cheung Lup Kwan felt the article did not have "too many problems."

Zheng Anting hoped the government could make all articles clear to avoid future problems.

The bill was not voted on entirely (three articles were passed) during the meeting, which will resume today.

Government will not issue licenses to property caretakers

THE Legislative Assembly (AL) passed a bill regarding property management for common parts of condominiums.

The new rules for building management firms did not trigger any large-scale arguments among the lawmakers, although one opinion brought out by Au Kam San stirred debate.

According to the new law, the Housing Bureau will become responsible for issuing licenses to companies in order for them to manage common parts of condominiums, with the license being valid possibly for three years.

If any company sees its license being revoked, then the company can take a maximum of up to six months to handover the associated business to another company.

The bill also suggests that a minimum of one technical director should be appointed by the company, and that this director must meet the requirements indicated by the law.

Au Kam San asked how the government would deal with situations where a company is required by the government to suspend its service.

The Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário, explained: "There is no [specific] way to handle" such a situation, noting that the authority will handle each singular case according to its specific characteristics.

"If there are special situations, they will be handled specially," declared Rosário.

Au then asked the Secretary whether the government will promise to provide training to management service providers, and whether condominium caretakers will work with a license.

In Au's opinion, caretakers should be trained to ensure the quality of their services.

Addressing Au, the Rosário affirmed that "the license will only be issued to the technical person in charge. It is impossible [for the government] to issue a license to common people [i.e., ordinary employees]."

Mak Soi Kun, agreeing with Au Kam San, noted "I have been pushing forward for many years the matter of caretakers holding certificates to work. They should only be allowed to work when they are in possession of a working certificate. [...] Not only the person in charged needs to be licensed, [the government] needs to decide soon, [other caretakers also] need to be certificated, [because] eventually things need to be done by someone."

Rosário expressed his disagreement with Mak's comment. "If we were to train thousands of people, what would the companies do?" questioned Rosário, adding that "the government only manages the technical director; while the responsibilities [in training other caretakers] should be delegated to the company, not to the government."

ON THE LAWMAKERS' AGENDA

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION Chan Meng Kam criticized the government's "bureaucracy regarding how the government is subsidizing the region's small business operators installing environment protection equipment in their shops." The Environment Protection Bureau (DSPA) is continuously inspecting thousands of shops subsidized by the bureau so that they can install environmental protection equipment on their premises. The business operators are required to deliver a written explanation if they fail to pass DSPA's inspection. Chan criticized DSPA's strict requirements during the inspections, adding that many of the requirements had not been scientifically proven to be beneficial at the time the criteria were first established.

DENGUE FEVER PREVENTION Angela Leong suggested health authorities should implement measures to eradicate mosquitos near residential buildings where recent Dengue fever cases have been detected. She also called on the government to demand all sectors to undertake similar measures, including ordering several construction sites and buildings to conduct cleaning-up routines. Leong noted that some buildings and construction sites still have poor hygiene conditions, even after an urgent clean up works. She suggested the authority should enhance advertising in order to raise the public's awareness, and also conduct regular cleaning works across town. In Leong's opinion, all hospitals in Macau should be well prepared to prevent a Dengue fever outbreak.

ABANDONED HISTORICAL BUILDING Leong Veng Chai called on the government to pay attention to a Portuguese-style building which has been abandoned for many years. The building is located at the Av. de Demetrio Cinatti. Leong said that the building's neighborhood informed that the building used to be an office belonging to the water police authority. "The building is based on Portuguese style architecture and has some years of history, it carries both historical value and a meaning," said Leong. Leong questioned whether the government, in particular the Cultural Affairs Bureau will preserve and renovate the building or reuse it as a governmental department office.

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Trump company applies for casino trademark in Macau

Erika Kinetz, Kelvin Chan

A Trump Organization company has applied for four new trademarks in the Asian gambling hub of Macau, including one for casinos, public records show. The new applications highlight the ethical complexity of maintaining the family branding empire while Donald Trump serves as president, and are likely to stoke speculation about the organization's future business intentions in Macau, where casino licenses held by other companies come up for renewal beginning in 2020.

The applications for the Trump brand were made in June by a Delaware-registered company called DTTM Operations LLC. They cover gambling and casino services, as well as real estate, construction and restaurant and hotel services. The applications were first reported by the South China Morning Post.

The new applications are identical to four marks applied for in 2006, and granted, but lapsed earlier this year. It was not clear from public records why, though under Macau law trademarks can be forfeited for non-use. There are currently no Trump-branded businesses in Macau.

Trump's trademarks have been a source of concern to ethics lawyers and Democratic officials, who fear they can give foreign governments the opportunity to try to influence the White House. China has approved dozens of Trump trademarks since the president took office. Three U.S. lawsuits against the president contend that the Chinese marks constitute gifts from a foreign state and stand in violation of the emoluments



In this April 5, 1990 file photo, Trump stands next to a genie lamp as the lights of his Trump Taj Mahal Casino Resort light up

clause of the U.S. Constitution. Trump and his lawyers reject that argument and contend that trademarks are a crucial defense against squatters seeking to exploit his name.

Beijing says it has been fair and impartial in its handling of trademarks for the president and his daughter Ivanka Trump.

Macau's six casino operators, including Las Vegas Sands, Wynn Resorts and MGM Resorts, face renewals for their licenses starting in 2020. The government of the former Portuguese colony, now ruled by China, has released few details on the renewal process, which

will be the first since it ended a decades-long casino monopoly and opened bidding to foreign companies in 2001.

Authorities are expected to grant renewals to all six operators, given the big investments they've poured into the city, but there has been speculation that they could issue one additional license to a new investor.

"It would be a long shot" for Trump to win it, said Alex Bumazhny, a gambling analyst at Fitch Ratings. He said recent comments by officials have fueled the perception that any new license should go to a non-U.S. company. "If Macau does look

west, there are a handful of publicly traded gaming companies with more recent track records of developing and operating large-scale casino resorts."

Macau is the world's largest gambling market, with earnings dwarfing the Las Vegas Strip's. It's the only place in greater China where casinos are legal.

Donald Trump began applying for a sweep of trademarks in Macau in 2006. The government's unwillingness to uphold all of them was a source of intense irritation to Trump, who became enmeshed in a lawsuit over rights to the use of his name. He wrote to then-U.S. Commerce

Secretary Gary Locke in 2011 that the courts of China and Macau were "faithless, corrupt and tainted."

"Who could expect anything different from a deceitful culture?" he added. "Their behavior should be a clear warning to the rest of the world to refrain from any trade practice or business relationship with them!"

■ Trump wrote to then-U.S. Commerce Secretary Gary Locke in 2011 that the courts of China and Macau were 'faithless, corrupt and tainted'

Trump finally prevailed in that case last year after his opponent, a local company that had filed for a "Trump" mark for food and beverage services, let his trademark expire.

Trump has pledged to conduct no new foreign deals while in office and handed control of his business to his sons, though he retains ownership. He also has veered away from the casino business. Hard Rock International bought up the last vestiges of his failed Atlantic City gambling empire this year, paying just \$50 million for the shuttered Trump Taj Mahal casino, which cost more than \$1 billion to build.

Back in 2001, Donald Trump was part of a consortium of billionaire investors — including two men subsequently convicted of bribery and money laundering in unrelated cases — that bid unsuccessfully for a casino license in Macau, the Wall Street Journal reported last year. AP

corporate bits

MELCO SUPPORTS THE FIRST MACAU EDINBURGH EXCHANGE TOUR



Melco Resorts and Entertainment Limited recently supported the first Macau Edinburgh Exchange Tour (MEET), enabling interaction between local Macau students and university students from Edinburgh as well as Cambodia.

According to a press release from Melco, local students from three middle schools

under the guidance of the university students from Edinburgh and Cambodia, worked in groups to complete several interesting projects such as website development, human anatomy modelling and program coding writing. In the process of working on these projects, local students were able to put

their organizational, communications and language skills to use.

The three-week program concluded last Friday with a graduation ceremony held at Warner Bros. Fun Zone, Studio City.

At the ceremony, acting deputy director of the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DESJ), Vicky Leong, stated, "The Macau government has always encouraged local youth to broaden their horizon and spend their long summer holiday wisely. Through MEET, students were able to get in touch with new concepts, and to learn to cooperate with those from a completely different cultural background. We are very glad that Melco offered support in several aspects of this program, which contributed to its success."

BNU LAUNCHES NEW VISA INFINITE CREDIT CARD



Local bank, Banco Nacional Ultramarino (BNU), is launching the "BNU Visa Infinite" credit card.

The BNU Visa Infinite card rewards cardholders with a one percent cash rebate from domestic and overseas transactions which is credited directly into their card account, without a maximum cap. Spending with the supplementary card will count towards the rebate of the principal card.

"The BNU Visa Infinite card is also the first credit card in Macau to participate in the Lounge Key program, giving principle cardholders unlimited complimentary access to over

850 airport VIP lounges around the world by simply showing the BNU Visa Infinite credit Card, which has the Lounge Key logo on the back, removing the need to carry an additional card for access," noted Pedro Cardoso, CEO of BNU.

Other benefits to the BNU Visa Infinite credit card include complementary travel accident insurance and overseas emergency medical benefits, access to the Visa Infinite concierge service as well as 24-hour support through the BNU Visa Infinite customer service hotline.

The BNU Visa Infinite credit card is only available through invitation by BNU or referral from other existing BNU Visa Infinite cardholders.



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Regina Garcia Cano, Las Vegas

Casino industry in US has new rules for responsible gambling

THE casino industry's largest lobbying group in the U.S. rolled out a new code of conduct with consumer protection measures that it says are meant to promote responsible gambling.

The code of the American Gaming Association calls on casino operators to be more transparent with patrons and provide training to employees. Its announcement in Las Vegas came within months of two high-profile criminal cases that drew attention to the effects of compulsive gambling as authorities believe the perpetrators were problem gamblers.

"(Responsible gaming) is an everyday, year-round responsibility that we have to every player that walks through our doors and onto our casino floors," said Elizabeth Cronan, the association's senior director of gaming policy. "... We appreciate that this is an issue that must be top-of-mind industry-wide for all employees, from those that interact daily with consumers on the gaming floor to the senior executive leadership and the boards of directors."

The new code calls on casino operators to generally explain patrons the odds of winning or losing at various games and to not use advertising that contains claims that gambling activity will guarantee a person's social, financial or personal success. It also includes training requirements for em-



ployees on procedures for dealing with underage gambling and other issues.

The industry's longstanding estimate is that between 98 percent and 99 percent of casino patrons gamble responsibly. This year, however, the remaining one to two percent have grabbed attention around the world.

In April, the man who randomly

gunned down a Cleveland retiree and posted video of the crime on Facebook in the footage talked about having trouble with his girlfriend and losing everything he had to gambling. Two months later, police in the Philippines said the lone suspect behind a deadly attack on a casino and shopping complex in Manila was a heavily indebted Filipino gambling addict.

The association's members, such as MGM Resorts International and Caesars Entertainment, are expected to commit to the code. Last week, Cronan as well as industry representatives and a regulator participated in a panel discussion at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Alan Feldman, MGM's executive vice president of global industry

affairs, said the industry over the past two decades has focused on tackling the issue "when the fun stops" — also the name of a problem gambling awareness campaign — but the company is expanding its efforts to address the concerns even before the activity stops being fun and affordable.

"... What we should be doing is having a regular ongoing dialogue with our customers to make sure that what they're doing is safe and fun for them and their families," he said. The company later this year will roll out a new responsible gaming program at its properties in Las Vegas and other states.

The lone regulator on the panel, Nevada Gaming Control Board member Terry Johnson, said the next challenge for the industry that fuels the Silver State's economy is the legalization of recreational marijuana. He said existing gambling regulations address impairment from alcohol, but the statutes and regulations are "silent" on marijuana impairment.

"And what happens when persons might be impaired from marijuana intoxication and continue to gamble?" he asked. **AP**

GAMING

Wynn to build USD1.5 billion tropical lagoon in Las Vegas

STEVE Wynn Chairman and CEO of Wynn Resorts, and his team are now making the final touches to plans and permits for the USD1.5 billion tropical lagoon project, "Paradise Park", in Las Vegas. The project is scheduled to begin at the end of this year or early 2018.

Paradise Park is intended to be a beach-style entertainment destination, consisting of a lagoon surrounded by white-sand beaches, a convention facility and hotel rooms. The lagoon will host watersports by day and fireworks at night, and is set to occupy 30 acres of the current 140 acres of real estate occupied by the Wynn Golf Club.

According to the



Las Vegas Review Journal, in a recent conference call with investors, Wynn said that he is encouraged by receiving inquiries from other developers interested in partnering with Wynn Resorts to build on the 140 acres of land.

"That area is the most precious piece of real estate in the whole resort industry

in Las Vegas," Wynn said. "The conversations I've had have been very exciting and give me a lot of optimism about how we will continue over the next four to five years."

In a statement released last year, Wynn said that he wants to reinvent Las Vegas and make the venue an entertainment at-

traction characterized by an idyllic beach paradise.

"People come to Las Vegas from all over the world to live large and have a good time and we can dish up an irresistible entertainment attraction," Wynn added.

A Forbes report last year suggested that the attraction would also include a giant King Kong figure. There will reportedly be two islands in the middle of the proposed lagoon. On one of these islands, the King Kong figure will be installed.

"We will have an eight-story-tall [King] Kong who will make an appearance every day before the water shows," said Wynn at a Couture Time exhibition in June last year.

MEDIA | HONG KONG

TVB invests USD100m in joint venture

HONG Kong broadcasting company, Television Broadcasts Limited (TVB), is partnering with Hollywood film and television production company, Imagine Entertainment (Imagine) in a USD100 million joint finance venture. The financing will be used for the development and production of television projects to be broadcasted in Macau, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

Macau benefits from this venture as TVB will obtain broadcast and distribution rights to the region.

TVB chairman, Charles Chan, stated that TVB's production base for television programs has always remained in Hong Kong. He added that the joint venture with Imagine will provide a new opportunity for collaboration in television projects in the US.

"We can learn from the well-established US production house through participation in television program development and production. TVB can assist in the distribution of Imagine's TV programs in Greater China. It will also help strengthen

TVB's English program library," said Chan.

Imagine is owned by Hollywood actor and director Ron Howard and producer Brian Grazer. Its most well-known projects include Empire for Fox and Genius for National Geographic Channel.

"TVB is a proven leader in the television industry with broad capabilities in broadcasting, production and distribution," said Grazer. "We are honored to have the opportunity to partner with them and are excited about the opportunities this agreement provides for Imagine to invest in our own production and development while also retaining the rights to our intellectual property."

"Together with TVB, we look forward to bringing more viewers around the world the unique, groundbreaking programs and content we feel so passionately about creating," said Howard.

The deal was orchestrated by CMC Holdings, an investor in TVB's largest shareholder, Young Lion.



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, right, and US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson during their bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the 50th ASEAN Regional Forum

Welcome boost from China to global pressure on North Korea

Josh Lederman, Manila

A global pressure campaign on North Korea propelled by sharp new U.N. sanctions received a welcome boost from China, the North's economic lifeline, as Beijing called on its neighbor to halt its missile and nuclear tests.

The Trump administration cautiously embraced China's apparent newfound cooperation, while putting it on notice that the U.S. would be watching closely to ensure it didn't ease up on North Korea if and when the world's attention is diverted elsewhere. But there were no signs the U.S. would acquiesce to China's call for a quick return to negotiations.

The diplomatic wrangling sought to build on the sweeping new North Korea sanctions passed by the U.N. Security Council a day earlier — the strongest in a generation, the U.S. said.

As diplomats gathered in the Philippines for an annual regional meeting, President Donald Trump was cheering the move. He cited the "very big financial impact" of the sanctions and noted optimistically that both China and Russia had joined in the unanimous vote. On Sunday, following a late-night conversation with South Korean President Moon Jae-in, Trump tweeted: "Just completed call with President Moon of South Korea. Very happy and impressed with 15-0 United Nations vote on North Korea sanctions."

In characteristically understated fashion, U.S. Secretary of

State Rex Tillerson said of the U.N. action, "It was a good outcome."

For the U.S., it was a long-awaited sign of progress for Trump's strategy of trying to enlist Beijing's help to squeeze North Korea diplomatically and economically. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, meeting with North Korea's top diplomat during the gathering in Manila, urged the North to "maintain calm" despite the U.N. vote.

"Do not violate the U.N.'s decision or provoke international society's goodwill by conducting missile launching or nuclear tests," Wang said, in an unusually direct admonition.

Tillerson did not meet with North Korea's envoy, Ri Yong Ho. In fact, on his first day in Manila, Tillerson appeared to go out of his way to avoid crossing paths with Ri.

In remarks to reporters yesterday, Tillerson said the best signal North Korea could give that it was prepared for negotiations with the U.S. would be to halt its missile launches.

Tillerson, in his most specific outline to date of what preconditions the U.S. had for talks with Pyongyang, said stopping the launches would be the "first and strongest signal." But he also said it was not as simple as North Korea stopping launches for a few days or weeks. He wouldn't give a concrete timeframe but said that the U.S. would "know it when we see it."

The U.S. has "other means of

communication" open to North Korea if the country wants to express to the U.S. a desire to talk, Tillerson said, but didn't offer specifics.

Though Beijing repeated its call for the United States and North Korea to resume talks, the U.S. said that was still premature, and rejected yet again a Chinese call for the U.S. to freeze joint military exercises with South Korea in exchange for the North halting nuclear development. Pyongyang views the military exercises as rehearsals for an invasion.

We want to make sure China is continuing to implement fully the sanctions regime.

SUSAN THORNTON
US DIPLOMAT

The U.S. also warned it planned to rigorously monitor China's compliance with the new penalties. Susan Thornton, the top U.S. diplomat for Asia, said Beijing had historically cooperated with sanctions after flagrant North Korean violations but then slipped back over time.

"We want to make sure China is continuing to implement fully

the sanctions regime," Thornton told reporters in Manila. "Not this kind of episodic back and forth that we've seen."

Infusing the diplomatic gathering with dramatic intrigue was the presence of Ri, the odd man out at a meeting dominated by concerns about his nation's nuclear proliferation. Indeed, the U.S. was floating a proposal to temporarily kick North Korea out of the 27-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations Regional Forum, although other member nations are divided about that idea.

Would Tillerson interact with his North Korean counterpart, even informally, if they crossed paths in Manila? It was a question driving the hallway chatter at the gathering, but the U.S. shot down that prospect and said Tillerson had no plans to interact with Ri.

Tillerson, who was scheduled to attend a gala dinner Sunday, skipped it. Ri did not. The North Korean was spotted at the gala smiling and toasting with the other foreign ministers.

Tillerson aide R.C. Hammond said that after a productive first day, Tillerson spent several hours preparing for Day 2. Instead, the U.S. was represented at the dinner by Thornton, whose official title is acting assistant secretary of State for East Asia and Pacific Affairs.

Though Tillerson has emphasized the Trump administration's willingness to sit down with North Korea for negotiations, he's

said that won't happen until the North agrees to abandon its nuclear aspirations. Even with new U.N. sanctions in place intended to drive Pyongyang back to the table, conditions still aren't ripe for talks, U.S. diplomats said.

But Wang, the Chinese envoy, cast Ri's presence in Manila as a positive, enabling him to "hear the voices from other sides." Speaking in Chinese, Wang said that Ri "also has the right to share his opinions."

Ri hasn't spoken publicly since arriving in the Philippines. But a commentary in the ruling party's Rodong Sinmun newspaper said Washington had disregarded the warning the North sent with its intercontinental ballistic missile tests and was pursuing "desperate efforts" in the form of stepped-up sanctions.

"Now the U.S. mainland is on the crossroads of life and death," the commentary warned.

The new sanctions could cut off roughly one-third of North Korea's estimated \$3 billion in annual exports, ostensibly denying the nation of funds for its weapons programs. All countries are now banned from importing North Korean coal, iron, lead and seafood products, and from letting in more North Korean laborers whose remittances help fund Kim Jong Un's regime.

The U.S. drafted the sanctions resolution and negotiated it with China following North Korea's unprecedented test of an ICBM in July and a follow-up test weeks later. Those tests sharply escalated U.S. fears that Pyongyang is a key step closer to mastering the technology needed to strike American soil with a nuclear-tipped missile.

Yet despite deeming North Korea a top security threat, the young Trump administration has struggled to find a strategy that differs significantly from what the U.S. has tried in the past. Aside from calling for more sanctions, Trump's approach has centered on enlisting China — the North's biggest trading partner — and others to lessen ties to Pyongyang.

Trump's initial optimism about China's willingness to help gave way to public exasperation, with Trump saying Chinese President Xi Jinping had "tried" but that it "has not worked out." Trump's administration began floating potential plans to punish China for its trade practices in what was widely perceived as a reaction to China's inaction on North Korea.

But in recent days, the two powers have started to paper over some of those differences. Beijing praised Tillerson for declaring the U.S. wasn't seeking regime change in North Korea. Trump has held off, for now, on the trade actions. And China joined the 15-0 vote in the Security Council on the new sanctions.

"Who has been carrying out the U.N. Security Council resolutions concerning North Korea? It is China," Wang, the Chinese foreign minister, said. "Who bore the cost? It is also China." AP

Battle against Chinese fake foods drives new tech

A bowl of ice cream on a hot day in Shanghai gave American Mitchell Weinberg the worst bout of food poisoning he can recall. It also inspired the then-trade consultant to set up Inscatech — a global network of food spies.

In demand by multinational retailers and food producers, Inscatech and its agents scour supply chains around the world hunting for evidence of food industry fraud and malpractice. In the eight years since he founded the New York-based firm, Weinberg, 52, says China continues to be a key growth area for fraudsters as well as those developing technologies trying to counter them.

“Statistically we’re uncovering fraud about 70 percent of the time, but in China it’s very close to 100 percent,” he said. “It’s pervasive, it’s across food groups, and it’s anything you can possibly imagine.”

While adulteration has been a bugbear of consumers since prehistoric wine was first diluted with saltwater, scandals in China over the past decade — from melamine-laced baby formula, to rat-meat dressed as lamb — have seen the planet’s largest food-producing and consuming nation become a hotbed of corrupted, counterfeit, and contaminated food.

Weinberg’s company is developing molecular markers and genetic fingerprints to help authenticate natural products and sort genuine foodstuffs from the fakes. Another approach companies are pursuing uses digital technology to track and record the provenance of food from farm to plate.

“Consumers want to know where products are from,” said Shaun Rein, managing director of China Market Research Group, citing surveys the Shanghai-based consultancy conducted with consumers and supermarket operators.

Services that help companies mitigate the reputational risk that food-fraud poses is a “big growth area,” according to Rein. “It’s a great business opportunity,” he said. “It’s going to be important not just as a China play, but as a global play, because Chinese food companies are becoming part of the whole global supply chain.”

Some of the biggest food companies are backing technology that grew out of the anarchic world of crypto-currencies. It’s called blockchain, essentially a shared, cryptographically secure ledger of transactions.

Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the wor-

BLOOMBERG



■ Fraud costs the global food industry as much as USD40 billion annually

ld’s largest retailer, was one of the first to get on board, just completing a trial using blockchain technology to track pork in China, where it has more than 400 stores. The time taken to track the meat’s supply chain was cut from 26 hours to just seconds using blockchain, and the scope of the project is being widened to other products, said Frank Yiannas, Wal-Mart’s vice president for food safety, in an interview Thursday.

Shanghai-based Zhong An Information and Technology Services Co. said in June it will use the technology to track chickens from the coop to the processing facility and on to the market or store.

Alibaba Group Holding Ltd., too, sees the potential for the eight-year-old technology to provide greater product integrity across its platforms, which accounted for more than 75 percent of China’s online retail sales in 2015. The planned blockchain project will involve the Chinese e-commerce behemoth working with food suppliers in Australia and New Zealand, as well as Australia Post and auditors PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP.

“Food fraud is a serious global issue,” said Maggie Zhou, managing director for Alibaba in Australia and New Zealand. “This project is the first step in creating a globally respected framework that protects the reputation of food merchants and gives consumers further confidence to purchase food online.”

Fraud costs the global food industry as much as USD40 billion annually, according to John Spink, director of Michigan State University’s Food Fraud Initiative. In China, where the 2008 melamine milk crisis resulted in the death of at least six babies, it’s a hot-button issue compounded by the country’s growing appetite for higher quality food and swelling middle class. A Pew Research Center study last year found 40 percent of Chinese view food safety as a “very big problem,” up from 12 percent in 2008.

“This is not a Chinese issue — it’s a global issue,” said Yongguan Zhu, director general of the Institute of Urban Environment, part of the state-funded Chinese Academy of Sciences. “What we have to do is reinforce our regulations to improve the transparency of the administration, for example information-sharing.”

Zhu says blockchain could play an important role in improving traceability. Its database of records can be built like a chain and can’t be broken or re-ordered without disrupting the entire connection.

China strengthened its food safety law in 2015 in response to

the spate of scandals. Counterfeiters and food tamperers face tougher penalties, including jail time in some cases, and more than \$800 million has been spent hiring more food safety personnel and bolstering monitoring facilities, according to an April report from the Paulson Institute, a Washington-based think tank. Last month, Beijing emphasized to authorities the need to be upfront in disclosing food safety issues.

“Food-fraud will always exist,” said Yongning Wu, chief scientist at the government-run China National Center For Food Safety Risk Assessment. While authorities in China have joined the global fight against the scourge, Wu doesn’t see the problem disappearing.

“We can only develop technology to detect it,” he said. “However, fake-food producers will always update their technology to dodge inspections.”

■ Statistically we’re uncovering fraud about 70pct of the time, but in China it’s very close to 100pct.

MITCHELL WEINBERG
INSCATECH

The wiliness of fraudsters is what makes Inscatech’s Weinberg less hopeful about blockchain. His firm mainly uses informants on the ground to sniff out where in the production process food-fraud is taking place, and most of his work in China is with western companies that manufacture or source product there.

“The problem is the data is only as reliable as the person providing the data,” said Weinberg, who recalls seeing everything in China from synthetic eggs to fake shrimp that still sizzle in a wok. “In most supply chains there is one or more ‘unreliable’ data provider. This means blockchain is likely useless for protecting against food-fraud unless every piece of data is scrutinized to be accurate.”

A months-long Bloomberg investigation into the global shrimp trade last year showed how unreliable documentation had fanned an illegal transshipping scheme involving Chinese aquaculture exporters.

But blockchain is “light years” away from the system used by the global food industry today, which relies heavily on paper records, said Yiannas, Wal-Mart’s food safety chief. By recording the identity of those who input data into the chain, the technology removes the anonymity that has helped food-fraud to thrive, he said.

The role of humans in recording the supply chain will also diminish, said Yiannas. “More and more of these documents will eventually be captured in an automated way.”

China’s Food and Drug Administration didn’t immediately respond to an email requesting comment on the country’s food safety efforts.

Some companies are already bringing traceability to consumers. Fonterra Cooperative Group Ltd., the world’s biggest dairy exporter, started putting QR codes on cans of infant formula in April, enabling buyers to verify the product’s authenticity.

The challenges for China — “the factory of the world” — are especially vast because of its size, population, multilayered administrative divisions, and “the willingness of criminals to exploit every corner that they can in order to make money,” said Michael Ellis, who ran Interpol’s trafficking in illicit goods unit until October.

At Interpol, Ellis, a former detective with Scotland Yard in London, was involved in “Opson,” an operation that led to the seizure of more than 10,000 tons and 1 million liters (264,000 gallons) of hazardous fake-food and drinks across more than 50 countries.

Without a presence to fight it, food-fraud globally “will explode,” Ellis said. “It will just continue to grow, and who knows where it will lead.” **Bloomberg**

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Refugee at Australian camp found hanging

Kristen Gelineau, Sydney

A refugee being held in an Australian immigration camp on the Pacific island nation of Papua New Guinea was found dead in an apparent suicide yesterday, sparking outrage from fellow refugees and advocates who say officials failed to treat him despite a long history of mental illness.

Hamed Shamshiripou, a 28-year-old refugee from Iran, was found hanging from the branch of a tree near an elementary school by students yesterday morning, Papua New Guinea police said in a statement. The school is in the Manus Island town of Lorengau, where Shamshiripou had been staying at a transit center for refugees awaiting resettlement.

An autopsy was being conducted, but Police Commissioner Gari Baki said there were no suspicious circumstances surrounding the man's death. Shamshiripou had previously attempted to commit suicide, Baki said.

Australia refuses to resettle any asylum seekers who try to reach its shores by boat. Instead, the country pays Papua New Guinea and the Pacific island nation of Nauru to house them in camps condemned as draconian by human rights advocates.

Behrouz Boochani, an asylum seeker and journalist from Iran who has been detained on Manus since 2013, said in a telephone interview that Shamshiripou had a long history of mental illness. Shamshiripou had been sent to live in the island's so-called transit center, which is

supposed to provide temporary accommodations for refugees waiting to be resettled elsewhere. Many refugees don't want to go there because they view it as unsafe.

Shamshiripou's behavior was erratic, and he was often found wandering the streets of Lorengau dressed only in his underwear, Boochani said. Several months ago, Boochani says he and around 100 refugees signed a letter asking immigration officials to treat Shamshiripou. They got no response, Boochani said. Four days ago, Boochani says, Shamshiripou tried to kill himself with a razor.

Hundreds of refugees are sick — they are damaged physically and mentally in this prison.

ASYLUM SEEKER

"Hundreds of refugees are sick — they are damaged physically and mentally in this prison and Australia doesn't care," Boochani said. "Australia is responsible because Australia took him by force to this island. Australia made him crazy. Australia has kept him in this prison for more than three years. Australia ... took him by force to the transit center and Australia left him wi-



Sri Lankan asylum seekers who were caught in Indonesian waters while trying to sail to Australia hold up posters during a demonstration in August 2016

thout any protection there and now he died. So Australia is responsible."

Manus Provincial Police Commander Chief Inspector David Yapu said in an email that Shamshiripou tried to kill himself last year while in police custody, but was stopped by officers on duty.

The fate of the more than 2,000 asylum seekers living in Papua New Guinea and Nauru has become a political nightmare for Australia's government, which insists its policy of refusing to resettle any asylum seekers who try to reach Australia by boat is necessary to dissuade them from attempting the dangerous and often

deadly ocean crossings. The policy, however, has resulted in scores of refugees languishing for years on the islands. There have been several high-profile suicides and attempted suicides at the camps, including a man who killed himself by setting himself on fire in Nauru last year.

Australian officials thought they had found a solution after hammering out a deal with the Obama administration, which pledged to resettle the refugees in the U.S. But President Donald Trump was enraged upon learning of the agreement, and so far none of the refugees have been moved to the U.S.

Daniel Webb, director of legal

advocacy at Australia's Human Rights Law Centre, said refugees and asylum seekers being held at the camps are in danger, and must be immediately resettled in Australia.

"Like every one of the 2,000 innocent people being warehoused by our government on Nauru and Manus, this man deserved decency and respect. This man deserved a chance to build a life in freedom and in safety," Webb told reporters. "But instead, our government chose cruelty. Instead, our government chose to detain him for four years on a remote island. So this man lost his freedom and then he lost his hope and now he's lost his life. It is an absolute tragedy." AP

US, Australia, Japan want coercive acts at sea to be stopped

Jim Gomez and Teresa Cerrojano, Manila

THE U.S., Australian and Japanese foreign ministers yesterday called for a halt on land reclamation and military actions in the South China Sea and compliance with an arbitration ruling that invalidated China's vast claims to the disputed waters.

U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop and Japan's new top diplomat, Taro Kono, also called on their Southeast

Asian counterparts to rapidly negotiate a legally binding maritime code with China aimed at preventing an escalation of conflicts in one of the world's busiest waterways.

In a joint statement, the three expressed serious concerns over the long-seething sea disputes and "voiced their strong opposition to coercive unilateral actions that could alter the status quo and increase tensions."

They urged rival claimant states in the South China Sea "to refrain from land reclama-

tion, construction of outposts, militarization of disputed features, and undertaking unilateral actions that cause permanent physical change to the marine environment in areas pending delimitation."

The contending states should clarify their claims peacefully in accordance with a 1982 maritime treaty and international law, according to the three, who met on the sidelines of annual meetings of Asia-Pacific foreign ministers in Manila, including those from China and Russia.

Their remarks, which are aimed at taming aggression in the disputed waters, are considerably stronger than a joint statement of concern issued by their counterparts in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, a 10-nation bloc whose economies depend heavily on China.

Their stance contrasts with that of China, which opposes what it calls meddling by the United States and other Western governments in the Asian disputes. Beijing wants the disputes to be resolved through one-on-one negotiations. AP

AUSTRALIA

Wreckage of American military plane found

THE submerged wreckage of a U.S. military aircraft was found yesterday, two days after it crashed into the sea off the east coast of Australia and left three U.S. Marines presumed dead, Australia's defense minister said.

An Australian navy ship arrived in Shoalwater Bay in Queensland state Sunday night to help the U.S. military hunt for the MV-22 Osprey, which the Marines said was conducting regularly scheduled operations on Saturday when it crashed into the water. The wreckage was found shortly thereafter, Australian Defense Minister Marise Pay-

ne said in a statement.

Three Marines remain missing. The U.S. Navy and Marine Corps called off a search and rescue operation for them on Sunday and launched a recovery effort instead, essentially confirming the military does not expect to find them alive.

Twenty-three other personnel who were on board the Osprey when it crashed were rescued.

The Osprey is a tilt-rotor aircraft that takes off and lands like an airplane. They have been involved in a series of high-profile crashes in recent years.

Josh Lederman, Manila

PHILIPPINES

Duterte, Tillerson confer amid North Korea worries

PHILIPPINE President Rodrigo Duterte voiced solidarity with the U.S. as it works to address global concerns about North Korea's nuclear program as the polarizing leader met Monday with the top American diplomat.

Duterte and U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson sat down for a meeting while the American was in Manila for a regional Asia gathering. It was the highest-level interaction to date between a member of President Donald Trump's administration and Duterte, accused by human rights groups of flagrant abuses in his bloody war against illegal drugs.

If the two leaders discussed those or other U.S. concerns about Duterte's government, they didn't do so in public. Instead, the two focused on the alliance between the two countries and on the North Korea issue as reporters were allowed in briefly for the start of their meeting.

Entering an ornate, wood-paneled hall in the Philippine leader's palace, Tillerson was introduced to members of Duterte's Cabinet, shaking hands with each. Duterte welcomed the American and said he said he knew the U.S. was concerned about Pyongyang's missile program.

"You come at a time when I think the world is not so good, especially in the Korean Peninsula," Duterte said. Earlier, as they shook hands, the two ignored a shouted question about whether they'd discuss human rights.

But Duterte's presidential



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte



U.S. State Secretary Rex Tillerson

spokesman, Ernesto Bella, said ahead of the meeting that the topic would indeed come up, along with other pressing matters such as global terrorism threats, economic cooperation and security in Marawi, the city that has been under siege by pro-Islamic State group militants for more than two months.

"We also welcome the opportunity to address concerns such as human rights if and when raised," Bella said in a statement. "We have always included this issue in our discussions and engagements with foreign governments, particularly Western democracies."

The U.S., too, said ahead of the meeting that human rights would be among the topics

on the agenda.

Human rights groups have questioned the Trump administration's willingness to engage with Duterte. But Tillerson argued there's no contradiction presented by the U.S. decision to help his country fight the militants, whose insurgency in the Philippines has stoked global fears about the Islamic State group exporting violence into Southeast Asia and beyond.

Nearly 700 people have died in the intense fighting, including 528 militants and 122 soldiers and policemen, since hundreds of black flag waving gunmen stormed into buildings and homes in the business district and outlying communities of mosque-studded Marawi, a center of Islamic faith in the sou-

thern third of the predominantly Roman Catholic nation.

"I see no conflict - no conflict at all in our helping them with that situation and our views of the human rights concerns we have

Human rights groups have questioned the Trump administration's willingness to engage with Duterte

with respect to how they carry out their counter narcotics activities," Tillerson told reporters before the meeting. He added that it appeared the Philippines was "beginning to get that situation under control."

To that end, Tillerson said the U.S. has been providing the Philippines with surveillance capabilities, training, information and aircraft to help it fight the militants. He said the equipment includes a few Cessna aircraft and a few drones.

"The real challenge is going to come with once they have the fighting brought to an end how to deal with the conditions on the ground to ensure it does not re-emerge." AP

MYANMAR

Government says no crimes against humanity in Rakhine violence

Esther Htusan, Yangon

THE Myanmar government's inquiry into violence in northern Rakhine state last year that forced tens of thousands of Muslim Rohingya to flee to Bangladesh and led to U.N. accusations of crimes against humanity by the army has concluded that no such crimes happened.

Speaking at the release of the Rakhine Investigative Commission's final report, Vice President Myint Swe — a former general — told reporters Sunday that "there is no evidence of crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing as the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights claimed."

He also denied charges that there had been gang rapes by the military as it swept through Rohingya



Myanmar Vice President Myint Swe (center) chairman of Maungdaw Investigation Commission, walks with commission members

villages in a security clearance operation. The army was reacting to deadly attacks against border police posts by a previously unknown insurgent group in October 2016 in the Maungdaw area of Rakhine.

The commission's report did accept that some things might have happened that broke the law, attributing it to excessive action on the part of individual members of the security forces.

Rights groups have previously expressed their doubts over the commission's work, saying it lacked

outside experts, had poor research methodologies and lacked credibility because it was not independent.

The U.N. has mandated its own fact-finding mission to travel to the Maungdaw area to conduct its own inquiry, but the government has said its members will not be allowed to go.

Zaw Myint Pe, a senior member of the government commission, said the report released by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in early February, which included

accusations of rights abuses by security forces, had failed to take into consideration violent acts committed by Muslim groups.

"The report does not contain forward-looking constructive recommendations but instead accuses Myanmar of committing genocide and ethnic cleansing by killing Muslims and it is terribly affecting our country's image," said Zaw Myint Pe.

The government has shut down northern Rakhine, where allegations of rights abuses are ongoing, to independent journalists, rights experts and humanitarian workers for almost nine months. The security forces launched an aggressive clearance operation in Rakhine in October 2016 after shadowy insurgents killed nine border guard police officers. AP

Indonesia barter coffee for Russian fighter jets

Ali Kotarumalos, Jakarta

INDONESIA said yesterday that it will barter coffee, palm oil and other commodities for 11 Russian-made Sukhoi fighter jets, calling U.S. and European sanctions against Russia an opportunity to boost the Southeast Asian nation's trade.

Indonesian Ministry of Trade spokesman Marolop Nainggolan said that a memorandum of understanding for the barter was signed Aug. 4 in Moscow between Russia's Rostec and PT. Perusahaan Perdagangan Indonesia, both state-owned companies.

In a statement, Indonesian Minister of Trade Enggartiasto Lukita said the deal would be realized soon. Coffee, tea, palm oil and defense equipment will be exchanged for the Sukhoi Su-35 jets, he said.

No value for the barter was announced.

Indonesia already operates 16 Sukhoi jets, making its first purchase in 2003 while the country was subject to a U.S. embargo on arms sales due to the military's human rights abuses.

Trade between Russia and Indonesia, the largest economy in Southeast Asia, has tumbled since 2012, but Lukita said the wide-ranging European Union and U.S. financial and trade sanctions against Russia are an opportunity for Indonesia to revive trade through barter deals in other industries.

"This is an opportunity that should not be lost from our grasp," he said.

The Indonesian defense ministry said earlier this month that the Sukoi deal had been finalized but didn't reveal on what terms.

Karin Laub and Iyad Moghrabi,
Ramallah

MIDDLE EAST

Jordan king in rare West Bank trip seen as message to Israel

JORDAN'S king flew by helicopter to the West Bank yesterday — a rare visit seen as a signal to Israel that he is closing ranks with the Palestinians on key issues, such as a contested Jerusalem shrine.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Abdullah II met for about two hours, after a red-carpet welcome for the monarch at the Palestinian government compound in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

Abbas thanked the king for efforts made on behalf of the Palestinians, including during the shrine crisis, said Abbas spokesman Nabil Abu Rdeh. Abdullah expressed support for Abbas and the Palestinians, the spokesman said.

The monarch's West Bank visit, his first in five years, came at a time of rising Israeli-Jordanian and Israeli-Palestinian tensions over the shrine, known to Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary and to Jews as the Temple Mount.

The crisis erupted when Israel installed metal detectors at gates to the Muslim-administered site after Arab gunmen killed two Israeli policemen there in mid-July. The measures triggered protests by Muslims who feared Israel was encroaching on their rights, an allegation Israel has dismissed.

Israel removed the devices after a few days, after intervention from the United States, Jordan and others. The step was seen by many in Israel as a capitulation and by Palestinians and the Arab world as a victory.

The shrine, a sprawling 37-acre esplanade rising from Jerusalem's walled Old City, is central to rival Israeli and Palestinian religious and national narratives and has triggered major confrontations in the past.

Jordan serves as the Muslim custodian of the site, home to the Al-Aqsa and Dome of the

Rock mosques. Jordan's ruling Hashemite dynasty has drawn much of its legitimacy from that role.

On Sunday, Abdullah told lawmakers in Jordan that "without the Hashemite custodianship and the steadfastness of the Jerusalemites, the holy sites would have been lost many years ago."

"Our success requires one stand with the Palestinian brothers, so that our cause wouldn't be weakened and our rights would be maintained," he said.

However, the monarch's role in the standoff with Israel was complicated by a July 23 shooting in which an Israeli guard at the Israeli Embassy in Jordan killed two Jordanians after one attacked him with a screwdriver.

The guard was released by Jordan the next day, after a phone call between the king and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. A few hours later, the metal detectors were dismantled.

The guard's release, though in line with diplomatic protocol, has inflamed Jordanian public opinion, especially after the shooter was given a hero's welcome by Netanyahu. The king blasted the prime minister's actions as "provocative."

Israeli authorities have since said they would investigate the embassy shootings, meeting a Jordanian demand.

Since the embassy shooting, Abdullah has taken several steps that appeared aimed at appeasing Jordanian public opinion.

He has said he would donate



Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas (right) meets with Jordan's King Abdullah II

\$1.4 million to the Muslim administration of the shrine.

Separately, Abbas has said his self-rule government in the West Bank will allocate \$25 million to improve services for Palestinians in Jerusalem.

During the shrine crisis, Abbas said he was suspending security ties with Israel until the metal detectors have been removed.

It is not clear to what extent such ties — mainly cooperation between Israeli and Palestinian forces against the Islamic militant Hamas — has resumed. **AP**

AL-JAZEERA DENOUNCES ISRAELI CRACKDOWN

AL-JAZEERA yesterday denounced Israel's decision to close the Jerusalem bureau of Qatar's flagship satellite network, saying the measure was "undemocratic" and that it will take legal action. Israel's move follows in the footsteps of four Arab countries that are aligned against Qatar as part of a months-long political dispute over Doha's politics and alleged support for extremists. The channel and its affiliate sites have been blocked in Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Jordan and Bahrain. Israel has long accused the network of bias

against it and incitement to violence. On Sunday, Israeli Communications Minister Ayoob Kara announced he would revoke the press credentials of Al-Jazeera journalists, effectively preventing them from working in Israel, and would move to block its transmission from the country. Al-Jazeera's senior political analyst Marwan Bishara noted the irony of Israel following the lead of Sunni Arab states. "Those dictatorships now dictate to Israel what it does about press and press credentials," Bishara said on-air. "Israel is taking its cues from Arab dictators."

FRANCE

Eiffel Tower suspect says he was in touch with IS member

Angela Charlton, Paris

A young French man who recently was discharged from a psychiatric hospital is under investigation for an attempted terrorist attack after he brandished a knife and tried to breach security at the Eiffel Tower, authorities said Sunday.

No one was hurt in the incident late Saturday, though the tower was

briefly evacuated, according to a statement from the company that manages the monument. The tower reopened as usual Sunday morning.

It is the latest of several attempted attacks on security forces guarding prominent sites in France as part of heightened protective measures prompted by deadly attacks since 2015. Monuments in the French capital are oc-

asionally evacuated for security reasons as part of those measures.

In Saturday's incident, the suspect tried to force his way into the secure zone beneath the tower, held out a knife and said "Allahu akbar," the Arabic phrase for "God is great," an official close to the investigation said. He quickly was surrounded by security forces and surrendered, the official

said. A Paris police official said no shots were fired. Both officials weren't authorized to be publicly named.

The suspect later told police that he had wanted to attack a soldier and had been in touch with a member of the Islamic State group who encouraged him to do so, according to the official close to the investigation.

The official said the

claim prompted investigators to upgrade the seriousness of the alleged offense, which originally they classified as a common crime by someone with a history of psychiatric problems. As a result, the probe has been handed to counterterrorism prosecutors.

The man is now under investigation for involvement in a terrorist enterprise and an attempted

terrorism-related attack on security forces.

The suspect was born in Mauritania in 1998, but has French citizenship, the official said. His name wasn't released.

The Eiffel Tower was lit up on Saturday night in the colors of the Paris-Saint Germain soccer club and with lights welcoming star Brazilian striker Neymar to the team. **AP**

Jamey Keaten, Geneva

Ex-war crimes prosecutor quits panel probing Syria abuses

FORMER war crimes prosecutor Carla Del Ponte says she is resigning from the U.N.'s independent Commission of Inquiry on Syria, decrying Security Council inaction to hold criminals accountable in the war-battered country where "everyone is bad."

In comments published Sunday by the Swiss magazine *Blick*, Del Ponte expressed frustration about the commission and criticized President Bashar Assad's government, the Syrian opposition and the international community overall.

"We have had absolutely no success," she told *Blick* on the sidelines of the Locarno film festival Sunday. "For five years we've been running up against walls."

Del Ponte, who gained fame as the prosecutor for the international war crimes tribunals that investigated atrocities in Rwanda and Yugoslavia, has repeatedly decried the Security Council's refusal to appoint a similar court for Syria's 6 1/2-year-old civil war. Permanent member Russia, which can veto council actions, is a key backer of Assad's government.

"I give up. The states in the Security Council don't want justice," Del Ponte said, adding that she planned to take part in the last



Carla del Ponte

meeting in September. "I can't any longer be part of this commission which simply doesn't do anything."

Appointed in September 2012, Del Ponte was quoted by *Blick* as saying she now thinks she was put into the role "as an alibi."

"I've written my letter of resignation already and will post it in the coming days," she said.

She did not immediately res-

pond to a text message from The Associated Press seeking comment.

In her comments to *Blick*, Del Ponte described Syria as a land without a future.

"Believe me, the terrible crimes committed in Syria I neither saw in Rwanda nor ex-Yugoslavia," she said. "We thought the international community had learned from Rwanda. But

no, it learned nothing."

At first in Syria, "the opposition [members] were the good ones; the government were the bad ones," she was quoted as saying.

But after six years, Del Ponte concluded: "In Syria, everyone is bad. The Assad government is committing terrible crimes against humanity and using chemical weapons. And the opposition, that is made up only of extremists and terrorists anymore."

The commission issued a statement saying it was aware since mid-June of Del Ponte's plans to leave and insisted that its work "must continue" to help bring perpetrators in Syria to justice.

Del Ponte's resignation shrinks the commission to two members after Thai professor and former human rights investigator Vitit Muntarbhorn left last year to become the first-ever U.N. independent expert investigating violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation.

The commission was set up in August 2011 by the Human Right-

ts Council to investigate crimes in Syria, no matter who committed them. Since then, it has compiled thousands of interviews and keeps a list of suspected war criminals under lock and key at the offices of the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva.

But Del Ponte said that as long as the Security Council didn't put in place a special tribunal for war crimes in Syria, all commission reports were pointless.

The issue of accountability for war crimes in Syria has largely taken a back seat to diplomatic efforts to end the war in recent months.

The commission's relevance has also come into question after the U.N. General Assembly, acting in the face of the Security Council inaction, voted in December to set up an investigative body to help document and prepare legal cases to possibly prosecute the most serious violations in Syria's war that is estimated to have left at least 400,000 dead. **AP**

AD

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what's ON



DREAM WITH LOVE - PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION
TIME: 10am-7pm (Last admission 6:30pm, closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: August 31, 2017

VENUE: Taipa Houses Museum

ADMISSION: Free

ORGANIZER: Taipa Village Cultural Association

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2857 6116

BALLADE - CONTEMPORARY ART ANIMAMIX

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

UNTIL: October 15, 2017

VENUE: Macao Art Museum

ADMISSION: Free

ORGANIZER: Cultural Affairs Bureau

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

FLOAT INTO THE FLOW - THE EXHIBITION OF SOU CHON KIT

TIME: 1pm-7pm (Closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: September 17, 2017

VENUE: Artistry of Wind Box Community

Development Association, Rua Tomas Vieira 3A R/C

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 6685 9215

MACAU ARTS WINDOW 2017 - HUNDRED SPECIES - WORKS OF PEGGY CHAN

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

UNTIL: August 13, 2017

VENUE: Macao Art Museum

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

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

Offbeat

OH BABY! WOMAN GIVES BIRTH AT GERMAN TECHNO FESTIVAL

A woman has given birth to a baby girl at a techno festival in Germany.

Public broadcaster SWR reports that the 20-year-old was unaware she was pregnant until giving birth at the festival campsite late Saturday.

Organizers of the Nature One festival at a former U.S. military base in southwestern Germany were quoted Sunday as saying the child would get a ticket for life once she turns 16.

Mother and child were taken to a nearby hospital and are reportedly doing well.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	RTPi Live
17:10	NOS League: Desportivo das Aves x Sporting (Repeated)
18:50	Now Generation (Repeated)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Miscellaneous
21:30	Grimm Sr.1
22:10	Now Generation
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:40	RTPi Live

cinema



CINETEATRO

3 Aug - 9 Aug

DORAEMON THE MOVIE 2017

ROOM 1

2:30, 4:30, 7:15PM

Director: Atsushi Takahashi

Starring: Wasabi Mizuta, Megumi Ohara, Yumi Kakazu

Language: Cantonese (Chinese)

Duration: 101vmin

WAR OF THE PLANET OF THE APES

ROOM 1

9:15pm

Director: Matt Reeves

Starring: Woody Herrelson, Sara Canning, Judy Greer

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 140min



THE EMOJI MOVIE

ROOM 2

2:15, 5:45, 7:30, 9:30pm

Director: Tony Leondis

Starring: T.J. Miller, James Corden, Anna Faris

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 86min

DESPICABLE ME 3

ROOM 2

4:00pm

Director: Eric Guillon, Kyle Balda, Pierre Coffin

Starring: Steve Carell, Kristen Wiig, Trey Parker

Language: Cantonese

Duration: 90min

47 METERS DOWN

ROOM 3

2:15, 6:00, 9:45pm

Director: Johannes Roberts

Starring: Mandy Moore, Claire Holt, Mathew Modine

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 89min



CARS 3

ROOM 3

4:00, 7:45pm

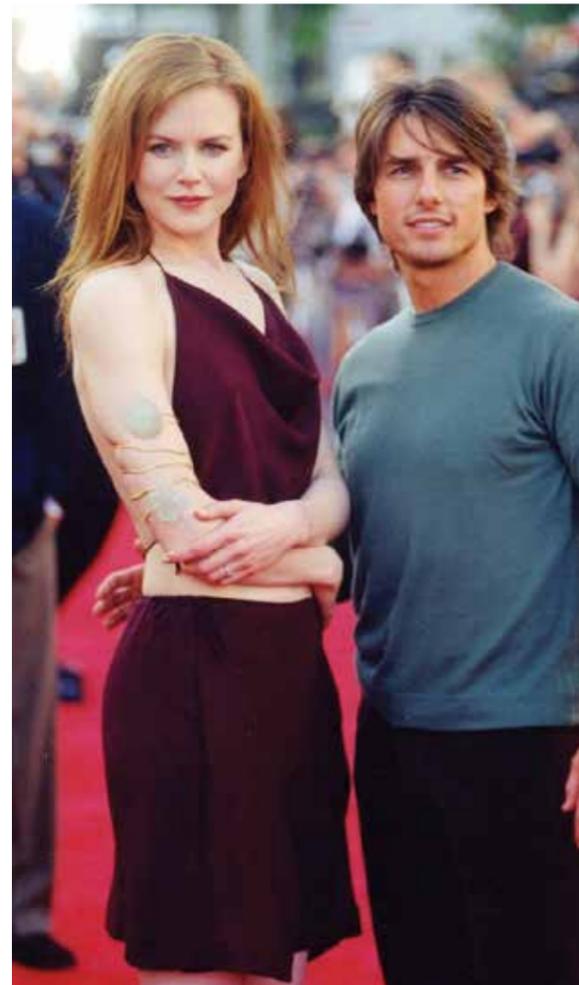
Director: Brian Fee

Starring: Owen Wilson, Cristela Alonzo, Chris Cooper

Language: Cantonese

Duration: 102min

this day in history



2001 HOLLYWOOD'S 'GOLDEN COUPLE' DIVORCE

Hollywood superstars Nicole Kidman and Tom Cruise have divorced.

The final decree came just hours after Kidman and Cruise separately attended the premiere of their new film, *The Others*.

Both were reluctant to comment on their impending divorce at the event in Los Angeles.

But Cruise told reporters: "It's over, we're moving forward with our lives and I think it's important for people to mind their own business."

Cruise and Kidman, who have two adopted children, Isabella, 8, and Conor, 6, separated in February.

Cruise filed for divorce claiming "irreconcilable differences".

Now the divorce is final, attention will focus on the value of the divorce settlement which may be the largest that Hollywood has yet seen.

Cruise's fortune is reported to be in the region of \$250m (£170m) - it includes five houses, two aeroplanes and around \$1m (£680,000) worth of jewellery.

The couple must reach a private settlement before October to avoid a court battle.

The result could be expensive for Cruise.

California law states the assets of the marriage must be divided equally if a couple have been together for 10 years or more - Kidman and Cruise married in 1990.

Cruise's lawyer Dennis Wasser told the BBC: "He will provide what is required by law and as I have said many times this means Miss Kidman will leave the marriage with tens of millions of dollars."

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The couple eventually reached an "amicable" out-of-court settlement over the division of their assets.

They were granted joint custody of their two children.

The amount Kidman received was not disclosed but it was widely believed to have been more than the \$100m (£69m) film director Steven Spielberg paid out to his ex-wife Amy Irving in 1989.

Since their separation both Kidman and Cruise have been linked romantically with other people.

In 2005 Tom Cruise announced he was engaged to actress Katie Holmes. And a year later Nicole Kidman got engaged to singer Keith Urban.

YOUR STARS

Aries
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
The stronger you feel about something, the more difficult it becomes to really keep quiet. What should that tell you? Well, that you're not supposed to be keeping quiet, for starters!

Taurus
April 20-May 20
Okay, so it's expensive. And really quite lavish. But it's not for you; it's for someone else. Doesn't that help justify the expense? Maybe, maybe not. Just be sure you really can afford it before you throw down the plastic.

Gemini
May 21-Jun. 21
You're not quite sure what's up with them, but your family and friends have been acting quite strangely of late, almost as if they're avoiding you. Before you get upset about it and threaten to disown them.

Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
When a tough situation comes up, demanding that someone fix it, guess who will quietly spring into action? That's right, you will. Just be sure you're not doing all of this at your own expense.

Leo
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
You've always taken good care of your friends - really good care of them. You're so devoted to them, in fact, that your family members are often quite jealous, much as they may be right now.

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22
A higher-up who's always seemed a bit more reckless than you are has just said or done something that removed all doubt from your mind. Now you're officially wondering what to do about it.

Libra
Sep.23-Oct. 22
A planetary team will conspire to put you in touch with the last person on earth you ever thought you'd see again - especially now. Ready or not, here comes a giant wake-up call.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
You need to be sure that anything you even come close to signing is exactly what it's cracked up to be. That goes double for anything of a joint financial nature. For the most part, you'll do just fine with any agreement.

Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Once again, romance is at the very top of your priority list. Oh sure, you'll get through work, and do a fine job of it as a natural-born multitasker, but you'll really just be running on autopilot.

Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Your willing hostage will say or do just about anything to stay in your presence. Seeing exactly what that might be would certainly be fun and definitely tempting - but would it be fair?

Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Speaking of traveling - and you've probably been doing a lot of that lately - why not invite a dear one to go along with you? Whether it's for the day, the weekend, a five-day cruise or a month in Europe.

Pisces
Feb.19-Mar. 20
An awful lot of fire is in the sky, and you've been using most of it in your conversations lately. Today, however, a new concept will spring to mind: Since you're obviously feeling intellectually bored, why not take a trip?

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

		9		7	5			
8	7					9		5
5				8				3
	4				1	6		
1			4		6			9
		3	5					8
2				1				6
7	8						3	2
			2	6		5		

Easy+

		2		3				7	
						9	5		6
7	6		1						
4	1	7			5				
			3		1		8		
				2			7	5	1
						1		8	4
2		6	3						
7				2			6		

Medium

		1	9					2
		2	3			5	7	
5				6				
	1	6				8	9	
		2	3					
4	5			1	6			
			8					1
	8	9		6	4			
3				4	7			

Hard

7		1							
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						4			
			3	1					
	8					5			
				6	4				
3							7	6	
	4	2							
									1

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	25	33	cloudy/overcast
Harbin	20	26	thundershower
Tianjin	27	34	clear/overcast
Urumqi	21	32	clear
Xi'an	20	35	drizzle/cloudy
Lhasa	14	23	thundershower/shower
Chengdu	20	30	moderate rain/cloudy
Chongqing	24	33	heavy rain/moderate rain
Kunming	18	25	shower/moderate rain
Nanjing	27	33	moderate rain/heavy rain
Shanghai	29	36	cloudy/thundershower
Wuhan	29	32	cloudy/shower
Hangzhou	29	38	cloudy/thundershower
Taipei	28	36	cloudy/overcast
Guangzhou	28	37	cloudy
Hong Kong	28	33	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	12	25	overcast/cloudy
Frankfurt	14	25	cloudy/drizzle
Paris	14	27	drizzle
London	12	18	drizzle
New York	20	22	thundershower

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- At right angles to a ship's length; 6- How sweet ___; 10- Lisbon lady; 14- Stiller's partner; 15- Unclothed; 16- Part of QED; 17- Privileged; 19- Clinton cabinet member Federico; 20- Gidget portrayer Sandra; 21- ___ best friend; 22- Encroachment; 24- Be bold; 25- French girlfriend; 26- Tight swimsuit; 29- Person who makes arrows; 33- Keyed up; 34- Unskilled laborer; 35- Aviation prefix; 36- Came down to earth; 37- Bias; 38- Ciao!; 39- Caboose; 40- Facilitate; 41- Gads about; 42- Refuses to submit; 44- Most desperate; 45- Fluid-filled sac; 46- Impose, as a tax; 47- European-style restaurant; 50- Mustachioed artist; 51- Paddle; 54- ___ B'rith; 55- Unnecessarily; 58- Prom wheels; 59- Bibliography abbr.; 60- Esther of "Good Times"; 61- Type of gun; 62- Strike out; 63- At ___ for words;

DOWN: 1- Diary of ___ Housewife; 2- "Venerable" English monk; 3- Gutter locale; 4- Altar constellation; 5- Created by humans; 6- Senseless; 7- Pulls; 8- Ox tail?; 9- Dregs; 10- Apologetic; 11- Creme-filled snack; 12- Grandma; 13- Somewhat; 18- Poi source; 23- It may be picked; 24- Demolition; 25- Unaccompanied; 26- Belle or Bart; 27- Martinique volcano; 28- Early computer; 29- Sumptuous meal; 30- Hoist; 31- Some Art Deco works; 32- Way to cook; 34- Factory; 37- Weathered; 41- Mediterranean resort area; 43- Isr. neighbor; 44- Big name in PCs; 46- Big dipper; 47- OPEC units; 48- What's ___ for me?; 49- Identical; 50- Distribute cards; 51- Capital of Norway; 52- ___ well...; 53- Deli breads; 56- Summer on the Seine; 57- Fa follower;

Yesterday's solution

G	T	O	S	E	A	T	M	E	E	L	E	A
R	A	P	T	C	H	A	O	S	V	E	S	T
A	L	A	R	L	O	O	N	S	E	A	T	A
S	C	H	O	L	A	R	S	E	A	R	N	E
S	C	A	L	A	R	U	N	C	O	O	K	E
T	A	P	E	D	E	L	L	E	N	E	N	A
O	N	O	R	O	R	C	A	S	H	A	I	L
I	A	L	R	E	N	E	W	F	I	N	A	L
C	L	O	T	H	I	E	R	F	L	E	E	C
V	A	S	S	A	L	B	U	N	G	A	L	O
A	L	O	T	A	D	A	G	E	T	E	A	R
S	O	M	E	D	A	R	E	R	I	N	R	I
E	G	A	D	E	M	E	R	Y	C	I	S	T

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- PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
- PSP 28 573 333
- Customs 28 559 944
- S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
- Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
- Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
- IACM 28 387 333
- Tourism 28 333 000
- Airport 59 888 88
- Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
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ATHLETICS

Bowie gets gold, and Jamaica fails to medal in the 100

THE American sprinter took a mighty tumble. Nobody, however, has fallen harder than Jamaica so far at this year's world championships.

The evening after Usain Bolt's improbable loss to a pair of U.S. runners, the world's best sprint island watched the red, white and blue paraded around the track once again at its expense.

Tori Bowie leaned over the line for her 100-meter victory, then stumbled and crashed down to the track to put the exclamation point on the second straight sprint shock of the meet. Her .01-second victory Sunday over Marie-Josée Ta Lou of the Ivory Coast was a photo-finish thriller. The fact that the defending Olympic champion and the most dominant female sprinter of 2017, Elaine Thompson of Jamaica, finished fifth was every bit as stunning.

"The past few years, Jamaica has dominated," Bowie said. "We've had no harsh feelings toward them, no negative thoughts. We've been extremely focused on ourselves. Just trying to get where they're at."

In snapping a stretch of four straight Jamaican wins at the Olympics and worlds, Bowie became the first U.S. woman to win the world title at 100 meters since Carmelita Jeter in 2011. This marks the first U.S. sweep of the 100 at the worlds since 2005.

Bowie's time, 10.85 seconds, was nothing spectacular. Her race, though, was something to behold.

She trailed Ta Lou by two paces as they headed into the last 20 meters but Bowie just kept charging. She caught Ta Lou at the end, and Bowie's lean at the line was textbook. The photo finish actually shows Ta Lou's foot ahead of Bowie's, but Bowie beats her where it counts — her torso is

AP PHOTO



United States' Tori Bowie (right) hugs Jamaica's Elaine Thompson after winning the Women's 100 meters final

over the line a fraction of an inch ahead of Ta Lou's.

Dafne Schippers, the 2015 world champion in the 200, took bronze in 10.96.

"It's not like there's a training session for a lean," said Bowie's coach, Lance Brauman. "She did what she had to do to get to the line first. She's scraped up and won and that's all that really matters."

The lean was so extreme, it sent Bowie off balance and careening into Lane 8, where she landed on her left hip while the runner in that lane, Murielle Ahoure, had to slow down, then jump to avoid landing on her.

Bowie stayed down for a few seconds. The "7" sticker on her left hip was torn almost completely off. She gathered herself and walked gingerly around the tra-

ck for the victory lap. Afterward, she spent about an hour receiving treatment for abrasions on her shoulder, back and hip. The pain will go away. That gold is hers forever.

"The plan was to just come out here and execute, leave it all on the track," Bowie said. "I didn't want to come back saying, 'Oh, I should've done this. I should've done that.'"

That for sure wasn't the case."

Much as Bolt did the night before, Thompson moved awkwardly out of the blocks. Her 0.2 second reaction time was the worst in the field, and from there, she was never a factor in the race.

Quite a stunner, given the way she's dominated the sprint game over the past year. Since she beat the previous champion, Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce of Jamaica, at the Olympics last year on her way to a 100-200 double, Thompson has been virtually untouchable. She came to London on a 17-race winning streak at 100 meters and her season-best time of 10.71 was the fastest in the world by more than 0.1 second.

One thing: She had been dealing with an Achilles' injury this year and ran — and won — a race last month in training shoes, not spikes. She refused to use injuries as an excuse.

"I can't complain," she said. "I can't re-run that race. I have to give those girls a lot of credit. It didn't go as I planned."

Like Bolt, Thompson won't be running in the 200, raising the distinct possibility that the Jamaicans could get completely shut out of individual sprint gold at the worlds.

But Bowie will be there. The one-time long jumper who took up the sprint game only a few years ago posted a 21.77 at the Prefontaine Classic earlier this year, which is the fastest in the world this season. **MDT/AP**

FOOTBALL

Community Shield: Arsenal beats Chelsea in ABBA shootout

ARSENAL will start the Premier League season on a high note after mastering the experimental ABBA penalty shootout pattern to beat Chelsea to the Community Shield.

Wembley Stadium provided the biggest stage yet for global trials with the format that mixes up the order of penalties rather than spotkicks alternating between teams A and B.

The long-standing system was deemed by soccer's lawmaking body to be handing an unfair advantage to the team going first. And going second in the rejigged shootout, Arsenal overwhelmed Chelsea 4-1

to win the traditional curtain raiser to the English season after the match was locked at 1-1 after 90 minutes.

"We showed great composure to come back to the game," Arsenal goalkeeper Petr Cech said, "then it is penalties and who keeps their cool better."

Only six penalties were required between Premier League champion Chelsea and FA Cup holder Arsenal.

Gary Cahill got Chelsea off to a perfect start before Theo Walcott and Nacho Monreal responded by finding the target for Arsenal. But Chelsea goalkeeper

Thibaut Courtois blazed his kick over the crossbar followed by striker Alvaro Morata also missing.

Arsenal duo Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain and Olivier Giroud then converted their kicks in succession to ensure the north London club started the new season just as it finished the last one — by beating Chelsea at Wembley.

Just like in the FA Cup final, Chelsea was reduced to 10 men.

Victor Moses, who was sent off in the May showpiece, made amends this time by putting Chelsea in front a minute into the second half by getting

on the end of Cahill's header.

"Even though we were 1-0 down we didn't panic and kept control of our game and came back," Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger said.

Arsenal gained a man advantage with 10 minutes to go when Pedro Rodriguez, wearing a mask after being injured on Chelsea's pre-season tour of Asia, was dismissed for a studs-up sliding challenge on Mohamed Elneny.

It proved even costlier when the resulting free kick by Granit Xhaka was headed in by new defensive signing Sead Kolasinac,

AP PHOTO



Arsenal players hold up the trophy after winning the English Community Shield soccer match

sending the game into the shootout.

"Physically he is naturally very strong," Wenger said of Kolasinac, who was a free recruit after being out of contract at Schalke. "We have players pumped up in the gym and players who were born strong. And he

was the second part."

Defeat for Chelsea added to the uneasy atmosphere around the club since winning the title, with uncertainty and rancor surrounding the future of striker Diego Costa, who is up for sale and didn't play at Wembley. **MDT/AP**

opinion

Our Desk
Lynzy Valles



WHAT IS IT LIKE WITHOUT UBER?

The exit of Uber in the city has left many residents upset and frustrated, furious and ridiculed.

After trying so hard to legalize its service in Macau, the ride-sharing giant decided to press pause during the third week of July, which came as a surprise to many Uber users.

Following its announcement that it is leaving the territory, several Facebook users have strongly criticized relevant authorities, as despite the firm's effort to communicate with government departments, no fruitful dialogues were established.

Uber admitted that it was not able to secure a business environment in which it could continue to unlock the full benefits of ride-sharing, yet it expressed the hope that its decision to leave Macau will bring positive changes.

It could be understood that the company's operation in Macau is illegal, yet the public was hoping that the government would spend at least some effort to create a jurisdiction in relation to ridesharing.

In a territory that aims to be a smart city, and with the region's recent strategic partnership with the renowned Alibaba Group, one wonders what would be Macau's way of creating smart transportation.

Don't we need to partner with ride-hailing services to combat challenges to smart transportation?

Uber has served residents in the most significant way one would imagine. From providing job opportunities to local residents who were tired of working on shifts in gaming operators, or offering employment to entrepreneurs who were forced to close their businesses due to absurd rental prices, to delivering quality service.

The public has not even heard of a string of allegations about the aggressiveness of Uber drivers, which made it harder for them to understand Uber's exit.

Although authorities have reiterated its illegality in the territory, also citing safety concerns, the ride-sharing giant has showed residents why it should stay in the city.

The rise of taxi fares did not also help residents' dilemma, nor that of the region's Radio Taxi.

Recently, Radio Taxi, which is the only legal app-based taxi hailing company in the territory, admitted that it failed to answer the requests of approximately 70 percent of passengers.

According to their data, Macau Radio Taxi received 320,000 calls but shamefully failed to respond to 200,000 calls due to shortage of taxis and drivers.

The app is only operating 50 vehicles and fails to serve the city's population of 650,000.

Uber's integration in Macau has offered much convenience to the public, such as to those who could not communicate in the local language.

Yet, the ride-sharing giant that operates at such reasonable prices was sadly seen as the antagonist in Macau's transportation tale.

With the degrading quality of the region's transportation network, Uber riders would agree that it made traversing the crowded city easier and more convenient.

If taxis and taxi drivers were more efficient, residents would stop slamming relevant authorities for suppressing the use of the ride-hailing app. But then again, one would wonder what actually was the main reason behind suppressing Macau's jurisdictions over ride sharing.

Uber Macau's fruitless battle for nearly two years is not stopping the company from making a comeback – a return residents will be waiting for.

With a lack of alternatives for such modes of transportation, residents are forced to wait and hail a taxi on the streets and hope they won't be overcharged, and non-Chinese speakers have to line up in taxi stands and hope they will be understood.

For now, commuters will also have to hope that they will not be a part of the 200,000 calls that were not accommodated by Macau Radio Taxi.

THE BUZZ TRUMP: MY BASE IS STRONGER THAN EVER, DESPITE 2020 RUMBLINGS

President Donald Trump is insisting his support is stronger than ever, despite a report that some Republicans are weighing a 2020 presidential run without him.

In a flurry of early morning tweets yesterday, Trump says "the Trump base far bigger & stronger than ever before (despite some phony Fake News polling)." He specifically criticized the "failing @nytimes." The New

York Times detailed efforts by some Republicans looking ahead to 2020, including Vice President Mike Pence. Pence called the report false.

Trump also tweets that he is "working hard" from his private golf club in central New Jersey, while the White House heating and cooling system is repaired, and plans to head to New York next week for "more meetings."

Taylor Swift expected to testify in groping case in Denver

Tatiana Flowers, Denver

A few moments at a backstage photo session four years ago are about to be relived, as lawyers for pop star Taylor Swift and a former disc jockey she accuses of groping her begin picking jurors in their dueling lawsuits.

Radio host David Mueller sued the singer-songwriter, saying he was falsely accused and that she should have called police instead of his bosses, who fired him soon after the June 2013 encounter. He's seeking up to USD3 million in damages.

Swift countersued, claiming sexual assault, setting up the civil trial where she is expected to testify amid tightened courthouse security.

Jury selection is to start today [Macau time]. Opening statements were expected to begin tomorrow in the case that could last two weeks. Court documents say it is unlikely that either side will settle.

Swift is seeking a verdict that awards her \$1, while holding Mueller responsible and "serving as an example to other women who may resist publicly reliving similar outrageous and humiliating acts," her lawsuit says.

Mueller is also expected to testify, along with Mueller's



former boss and members of Swift's entourage.

Mueller, then 51, was a morning host at a country music station when he was assigned to attend Swift's concert at the Pepsi Center in Denver. Mueller was backstage with his girlfriend when they met with Swift, then 23, in a curtained enclosure. They posed for a photo and left.

Later, Swift's bodyguard confronted Mueller with the allegation that he had reached under the singer's dress and grabbed her buttocks.

Mueller denied the allegation and asked that they call the police. He and his girlfriend were escorted out of

the arena and a member of Swift's team called his boss.

Swift never went to the police. She tried to keep the situation "discreet and quiet and confidential" and was upset by Mueller's claim that "for some reason she might have some incentive to actually fabricate this story," her attorney, Douglas Baldridge, has argued in court.

Mueller's attorney, Gabriel McFarland, argues that Mueller may have been misidentified after someone else touched Swift.

Swift's mother and a member of her team are also defendants in the lawsuit filed by Mueller. AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



Mi navio tu navio. Mexican Navy crew stand on the ARM Cuauhtemoc as it prepares to dock in the South Harbor for a five-day goodwill visit in Manila, which ends tomorrow.

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

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

PAKISTAN A government official says a gas explosion in a coalmine in the Pakistan-controlled part of Kashmir has killed five miners and injured two after a part of the mine collapsed.

SYRIA Opposition activists say government warplanes have bombed a suburb of the capital Damascus where President Bashar Assad's forces are fighting insurgents. Yesterday's violence in eastern Damascus comes amid a truce in the area that went into effect last month.



ISRAEL-PALESTINE Jordan's king flew by helicopter to the West Bank yesterday – a rare visit seen as a signal to Israel that he is closing ranks with the Palestinians on key issues, such as a contested Jerusalem shrine. More on p14

SOUTH SUDAN Government forces have overtaken the rebel-held stronghold and opposition headquarters of Pagak, along the Ethiopian border. The rebels burned their military barracks before fleeing, to prevent government forces from being able to use the ammunition, according to residents.

ITALY Police in Sicily say 15 firefighters are suspected of setting blazes that they were then called to extinguish. Police in Ragusa, Sicily, said yesterday the head of a firefighting squad was put under house arrest and the others under investigation. Auxiliary firefighters like them receive 10 euros per hour from the Italian government to fight fires.

BRAZIL Police say a family of British tourists who made a wrong turn while traveling in a car outside Rio de Janeiro was shot at and a woman was wounded.