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Ella Lei is reiterating her calls for local residents' employment stability and greater protection of their rights

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## WORLD BRIEFS



**MYANMAR** An aid group that plucked tens of thousands of migrants from the Mediterranean with its rescue ship is shifting operations to Southeast Asia to help Rohingya refugees fleeing violence in Myanmar. The decision by Malta-based MOAS, or Migrant Offshore Aid Station, came as the number of migrants leaving Libya's lawless coast has plummeted since July.

**CAMBODIA**'s opposition leader was formally charged yesterday with treason for allegedly conspiring with the United States to topple the government, and could face up to 30 years in prison if convicted. [More on p12](#)



**JAPAN** A Japan Airlines plane bound for New York returned safely to a Tokyo airport yesterday after the pilot reported a bird strike to an engine during takeoff.

**PAKISTAN** Diplomats from around the world are meeting in Islamabad to form a new policy on fighting militants. The meeting comes weeks after U.S. President Donald Trump claimed Islamabad harbors fighters battling U.S. forces in Afghanistan.

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## TYPHOON HATO

# FM pays compensation to victims' relatives

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■ Stanley Au: Nearly all local SMEs affected



## USJ moves to new campus this week, recovers from typhoon damage

▲ P7 MDT REPORT



## Man sentenced for child abuse

A man was sentenced to five and a half years, yesterday, for abusing his two children. The man, a Portuguese national who resides in Macau, has been preventively arrested since May 2016. The trial sessions took place from April until July of this year. Besides prison time, the man will have to pay compensation of MOP200,000 to each of his children. The man's defense lawyer, João Miguel Barros, told Lusa news agency that there would be an appeal and criticized the court for considering the children's testimonies as the sole evidence. At the time of the man's arrest, the two children, a boy and a girl, were aged nine and seven. They reported the abuse on April 14, together with their mother, who is divorced from the defendant. According to the accusation, the abuse occurred during the weekends between 2011 and the time of the detention.

## Trial of Coutinho's sons starts

Yesterday the Court of First Instance (TJB) started the trial for the two sons of lawmaker Pereira Coutinho. The siblings aged 31 and 27, as of December of last year, were detained under the charge of possession of cannabis. The combined weight of the seized items was one kilogram and the drugs had an expected market value of about MOP500,000. The Judiciary Police disclosed the case to the public on December 22 and they have stated their belief that the brothers were the masterminds of a criminal group that was aiming to sell the drug in night clubs across the territory.

## Scholar wins award in int'l communication studies

Professor Wu Mei from the Department of Communication, University of Macau (UM), received the Outstanding Paper Award at the Fifth National Conference on International Communication Theories. According to a statement issued yesterday by the UM, the event organized by the State Council Information Office is China's highest award in international communication studies. This is the second time Professor Wu has won this award. The award-winning paper is co-authored by Professor Wu and Zhu Wenbo, a UM MA graduate of 2014 and an assistant research fellow at the CICS. It presents innovative approaches in international communication studies. It is also one of the products of a National Social Sciences Fund Major Project that aims to promote innovative studies and the international dissemination of Chinese culture.



Ella Lei (center)

### AL ELECTION

# Ella Lei: 'Locals should occupy 90pct of executive positions'

Lynzy Valles

**U**NION for Development head and lawmaker Ella Lei is reiterating her calls for local residents' employment stability and greater protection of their rights and interests - a message she has emphasized for the past four years.

Candidate to the Legislative Assembly (AL) elections, Lei is advocating that no less than 90 percent of enterprises' executive management positions should be occupied by local residents.

At a press conference held by the group yesterday, the first-ranked candidate stressed that there should be a mechanism to manage non-local workers, particularly non-local executives who occupy executive positions at the gaming operators.

"No matter if it is the casinos, or other big enterprises, local people must constitute 90 percent or more of middle management and senior management personnel," said Lei, who is also the vice president of the Macao Federation of Trade Unions (FAOM).

Lei's party is calling for the government to reduce the

number of non-local executives and managers - even going as far as to zero - so these positions can propel local peoples' career development.

"We have to train talented human resources and not depend on [non-local workers]," Lei insisted.

Listed as the 16th team in the AL elections, the group reiterated that there should be no expat workers for dealers, casino supervisors, and occupational drivers. The group said it would push for the government to have a mechanism, which regulates non-local executives to leave the market within a limited period, to give locals more job opportunities.

Meanwhile, Union for Development recalled that FAOM has handled a significant numbers of cases submitted by residents regarding employment rights, and has improved laws and regulations for local employees to enjoy a good employment environment, as well as job security.

When questioned by the press on its plans for refurbishing the labor law - if elected to the next assembly - the candidate noted that

the association would work on paid paternity leave, extend the current maternity leave, and several matters in the construction industry.

**Local people must constitute 90 percent or more of middle management and senior management personnel.**

ELLA LEI

"Occupational safety law [and] construction industry supervision; the government is relatively slow about these topics [so] these are our focus," she said.

"The rights protection definitely can't go backwards; rights, such as the right to have a rest and the right to have holidays. We hope to improve this aspect in the labor law," Lei affirmed.

Meanwhile the second-ranked candidate, Leong Sun Iok, is calling for the government to provide a mechanism for suspending work during typhoons in a bid to ensure employees' health and safety.

"We [also] hope the government takes back some land to build affordable houses," Leong added.

Both Lei and Leong also announced several proposals for matters including public housing, environmental protection and infrastructure improvement.

Union for Development pledged to call on the government regarding the housing demands of the youth and elderly.

It also vowed to demand better urban planning in the city, calling for the government to establish a detailed plan to protect the environment.

Leong expressed that the government should conduct less road digging and build Macau into a "walking city," giving a wider access for pedestrian lanes.

He added that there should be a mandatory central provident fund, and that social security fund source should be expanded.

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# News At Hand



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# Nearly all SMEs were affected by storm



Stanley Au

Julie Zhu

**SEVERAL** small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Macau are said to have been affected by Typhoon Hato, according to the president of the Macau Small and Medium Enterprises Association of Macau, Stanley Au Chong Kit, at a roundtable forum organized by the association yesterday.

"Almost every single SME is still recovering from the destruction caused by the typhoon, with

various degrees of impact," said Au, although no exact numbers regarding SMEs' damages have been disclosed.

"I believe that everybody in Macau felt the impact of the typhoon, but I also believe that the ones who encountered the biggest impact are the shops located at low levels. [...] All of Macau registered losses, even casinos, some of which saw slight floods [in their premises] because of the typhoon," Au remarked.

The association president also pointed out that Hato made the Macau public realize that there are many things in the territory that need to be improved.

**The ones who encountered the biggest impact are the shops located at low levels.**

STANLEY AU

According to Au, the association has announced it will help all businesses to apply for the government's financial support.

Furthering his comments on the typhoon disaster, Au believes that there should be methods to allow the city to solve the problems caused by typhoons more substantially.

"The government reacted really fast in terms of offering compensation, but I think the current problem is not a matter of financial support, but of a per-

manent cure to ensure that [such disasters] will not repeat in the future, and to ensure that when [typhoons] occur, we know how to face them," Au stated.

Yesterday's forum featured the future of Macau, especially the future of SMEs.

Concerning the current situation of Macau's SMEs, Au noted that these enterprises are facing many difficulties, including the shortage of talented human resources professionals and increasing operational costs, adding that "the government is using many locals as civil servants, the

casinos are using many locals as dealers, and Macau's unemployment rate is only 1.8 percent. [...] The SMEs cannot hire people. [...] Many SMEs say that there is work to be done but nobody can do it."

When addressing the roundtable forum, Au said that the forum was organized while the Legislative Assembly (AL) election campaign is ongoing to remind the Macau public to think about Macau's future and to think about what kind of AL Macau needs, so that people vote for good lawmakers.

## Domestic appliances imports to increase

**THE** Macau Importers and Exporters Association is expecting the importation of domestic electronic devices to increase during the rest of the year, according to a report by TDM.

The increase is due to the damages caused by Typhoon Hato, according to the president of the association, Sio Chi Wai.

These devices include air conditioners, fridges and cars. As many of the city's shops and households recorded different levels of damage on their domestic equipment, change for new equipment are largely expected.

In addition, Sio believes that some developing countries may implement trade protectionism soon, which will bring about unstable factors for Macau's trade.

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Daniel Beitler

**N**EW Macau Association (ANM) is calling for chief executive Chui Sai On to take more accountability for the way the government handled the aftermath of Typhoon Hato, the deadliest typhoon to strike Macau in recorded history.

Following media reports on the weekend that New Macau had called for Chui's resignation, Kin Long Wong, a spokesperson for the group, informed the Times that they are actually demanding greater accountability, with "resignation being one option."

The spokesperson said that, as the head of the civil protection services, Chui should take responsibility for the ineffectual government response to the natural disaster.

Chui has admitted that the typhoon preparations were insufficient and the government has pledged to do more in the future to mitigate the impact of extreme weather phenomena.

The Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) has already begun an investigation into the Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) and its former chief, Fong Soi Kun, over its typhoon preparations and management strategy.

ANM vice president Sulu Sou is insisting that the CCAC open another investigation into Chui's accountability for the destructiveness of the typhoon. The group is also holding Chui responsible for the re-appointment of Fong last year after the SMG failed to raise Signal 8 for Typhoon Nida. The bureau argued that the wind speed of Nida was just short of that required for Signal 8. Macau locals had pro-

# New Macau want Chui to be held accountable for Hato

tested the reappointment decision at the time.

Last week, Sou criticized the chief executive for neglecting to take any measure to improve the drainage system and anti-flooding measures in the Inner Harbor area since his tenure began eight years ago.

**There is an alarm system for public disasters, in which the CE can declare a state of emergency or other, lesser alarm categories.**

KIN LONG WONG

In 2015, the MSAR government completed a small project to strengthen the Inner Harbor's short-term flood control system. More comprehensive plans are underway, according to a government statement released over the weekend, and approval in principle has been granted by Beijing for a cross-boundary tidal barrier.

But ANM argues that other measures, including the raising of an

emergency alarm, could and should have been used by the Chui once the severity of the natural disaster was understood.

"There is an alarm system for public disasters, in which the CE can declare a state of emergency or other, lesser alarm categories. The mechanism was not used in the disaster," said Wong, adding that it should have been.

Sou is now thought to be the de facto leader of New Macau. The young candidate-lawmaker tops the New Macau election ticket and is expected to take over as ANM leader once outgoing president Scott Chiang steps down after the September 17 Legislative Assembly election.

The ANM spokesperson would not confirm if Sou will become the group's next leader, regardless of hypothetical scenarios in which he is not elected as a lawmaker later this month. "Scott Chiang is still the president of New Macau," he said, adding that the judgement concerning changes to the ANM leadership "is up to the membership of the association to decide."

This is not the first time that the association has called for Chui's resignation.

Last year, New Macau co-organized a demonstration in response to what the group described as the chief executive's "poor integrity and alleged involvement in corruption," following the Jinan University donation controversy.

In May 2016, Chui was accused of using his position as Macau's most senior official to facilitate a RMB100 million donation from the Macau Foundation to the mainland's Jinan University, to coincide with the education institution's 110th anniversary. Chui previously served as vice-chairman of Jinan University Council and remains president of the Council of Trustees of the Macau Foundation.

The CCAC released a report the following month concluding that the donation did not breach the law.



New Macau's vice president Sulu Sou

## BESIEGED BY DAILY RUMORS

NEW MACAU Association (ANM) spokesperson Kin Long Wong told the Times yesterday that the group has been besieged by online rumors and allegations since the official election campaign period began. "We face difficulties in the [election] campaign every day," he said. "Every day, there are inaccurate or false stories about [New Macau] on the internet. Some of them are posted by

fake social media accounts [...] but there is no clear evidence which group is contributing to this." Wong said that some of the stories falsely accuse ANM of being a separatist organization, striving for Macau's independence. Another popular rumor concerns fabricated "love stories" from Sulu Sou's student years in Taiwan that are based on another individual with the same name, he said.

AD



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propina/fee:  
MOP 1260 \*

### AVANÇADOS . ADVANCED

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fim/finishes: 01/11/2017  
total: 45 horas/hours  
15 sessões/sessions  
propina/fee:  
MOP 1350 \*

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#### TARDE . AFTERNOON

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fim/finishes: 01/11/2017  
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RENATO MARQUES



In this May 15, 2016, file photo, police and demonstrators are seen on the street during the anti-Jinan University donation protest





## Red Market library closes for 2017

The Red Market Library will not be able to open for the remainder of the year due to the damage caused by Typhoon Hato. According to the director of the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), Leung Hio Meng, the library is in deep need of internal maintenance, and of removing damaged books and electronic devices. The Patane Library, the Wong Ieng Kuan Library in Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Municipal Park, and the Wong Ieng Kuan Library in Luis de Camões Garden are also currently closed for maintenance work. The IC's only mobile library is also severely damaged, and its services are currently suspended.

## Taipa road holes under repair work

Recently, in some areas in Taipa holes have been opening up along the roads, according to the information released by the Civil Protection Center. The holes are located on the Estr. Flor de Lotus, the side of the Av. de Cotai towards Rotunda do Dique Oeste, Estr. da Ponta da Cabrita, and the side of the Rotunda Da Piscina Olímpica towards Av. dos Jogos da Ásia Oriental. The related public departments have already started to carry out repair works. In addition, the Civil Protection Center reported that 40 street lights across the territory have not yet been repaired after the damage caused by Typhoon Hato, but CEM assured that they are working on their maintenance.

# Macau Foundation concludes payment to Hato victims

THE Macau Foundation (FM) said in a statement yesterday that they have concluded the payments to the families of victims of Typhoon Hato.

The Foundation used a total of MOP3 million for the payments to the families of the 10 fatal victims.

According to the same statement, another of the catastrophe relief programs, relating to the residential repairs, will be implemented soon.

The foundation noted that they will proceed to examine each of the requests and send staff to each site to learn about the current situation to ensure that the support can effectively assist the residents affected by the disaster.

Until now, the FM is said to have received a total of 7,595 applications. People wishing to apply to the Residential Restoration Fund must submit their applications before September 30.

Regarding the "Medi-



cal Assistance Subsidy", the registration of which ended on August 31, the Macau Foundation is currently checking the entries warning the applications to prepare all receipts and documents needed to be submitted in between September 1 and October 31.

Separately, the Trans-

port Bureau (DSAT) has established teams that are operating in the car parks affected by flooding in order to accelerate the process of removing the vehicles affected by the floods, the DSAT informed. The plan is to assist the owners of the affected vehicles in order to quickly free up the space.

Such teams will be in operation until September 10 (Sunday) from 9.30 to 11 a.m. and from 7 to 8.30 p.m. The bureau also informed that on the first morning of this effort (yesterday morning) the DSAT helped to cancel the registration of a total of three vehicles that were immediately removed. **RM**

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## EDUCATION

# USJ moves to new campus this week, recovers from typhoon damage

Renato Marques

**T**HE University of Saint Joseph (USJ) is moving in to its new campus located at Ilha Verde, as planned. Although significant damage was caused to the new campus by the passage of the recent typhoons, Rector Peter Stilwell shared in an interview with the Times that, "the move will be completed by the end of this week. Next week, we already have a meeting organized in the new campus [as well as] the orientation [day] for the new students," Stilwell said. He added, "settling in will probably take a while... We know that these changes always have a relatively long transition period. In our case this is made particularly difficult because of the recent typhoon."

According to the Rector, "most of the buildings stood up very well, windows were not broken with exception of one or two that [were hit by] something that was flying around. There were infiltrations of water in one or two places but it wasn't significant." He continued, remarking, "what is worst - and will cause us a great deal of work in the future - was the flood that came in from the river and went down to our underground basements."

The basements of the campus are where most of the sporting facilities and functions rooms are located. Adding to that, as Stilwell noted, the basements were serving, at the time, as a temporary storage place for

books as well as equipment that were waiting to be installed. "We had it kept in the basement thinking that would be a safe place, [but it wasn't] and those were completely destroyed."

**What is worst - and will cause us a great deal of work in the future - was the flood that came in from the river.**

PETER STILWELL

Continuing to address the issue, Stilwell noted that because of this natural disaster the institution was forced to learn the vulnerabilities of the campus very quickly, stating that, "we have to sit with the architects and see how we can avoid such situations from occurring again."

While some of the damage is being already addressed and will be resolved in a short time, other things will take longer. The Rector gave examples of the work ahead, "we need to redo the whole basketball court, the swimming pool [area], and the gymnasiums... And that can take some time [also] because it requires funds and [at this time] we aren't sure what kind of funds we can rely on." He noted that although the Uni-

versity has insurance, it "has its limits" and in regards to the government promising funding to schools and universities, it is still unclear how much that could cover.

Questioned on the sum needed to cover such damage, Stilwell preferred not to throw out any concrete numbers as he mentioned that the assessment on the extension and value of the damage is currently being done with the insurance company. Nevertheless, he assured the Times that it would total in the "many tens of millions."



Peter Stilwell

## Campus challenge is to create a culture within the university

**I**N an academic year that will see the USJ slightly increase the number of students, Rector Peter Stilwell said that one of the biggest challenges will be to use the new campus to start to establish a new culture in the university. For a long time, students and teaching staff had been spreading over different flats and different buildings, namely in the NAPE area, without a real campus where all people could really gather, share and bring new ideas together.

"We had been working out of flats here in NAPE, which meant that our students practically only had the corridors in which to meet and after classes they either sat around in the classrooms or they came down and disappeared," the Rector said. "In the new campus, we are in a campus atmosphere and the possibilities of students meeting professors while having a cup of coffee and talking among themselves or just going across to library to do some research... That's what will change," Stilwell noted, reaffirming that pedagogical quality of the courses will also benefit from the ease the new campus will provide. He qualified that, "how we make good

use of that change is the challenge," adding, "whether our professors and our staff understand that we need to build up a culture and cultures are not things that you bring in by decree." He noted the need to "develop a relationship" as "when we get intelligent people seated together and talking together then we get good ideas."

The University is beginning this year with 355 new students; a figure that slightly surpasses the one from the previous academic year of 342 new students.

The Rector also informed that besides the figures growing, it is also necessary to note that new students are enrolling more in Bachelor areas such as education and less in areas like Business where the University registered a very significant drop as there are high number of courses provided in Macau in this field.

"As an institution, we have not [done] badly and we have seen an increase on the number of students that [is also followed] at the Masters level which is probably an area that we need to further develop in the future," Stilwell concluded.

## corporate bits

### 'PYGMALION - THE MUSICAL' AT THE PARISIAN MACAO



Spring-Time Experimental Theatre is bringing Pygmalion - The Musical presented by The Parisian Macao and the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) Macau to The Parisian Theatre on September 16 and 17.

The storyline of Pygmalion - The Musical by the Hong Kong theatre group, was adapted from the classic play "Pygmalion" written by George Bernard Shaw, with the addition of some local twists.

A linguistics professor meets Eliza, a young country woman selling flowers on the street while he is carrying out research, and is so intrigued by both her beauty and rough speech that he offers to teach her to talk like an educated lady. They fall in love, but sepa-

rate because of their class differences.

Spring-Time Experimental Theatre has produced an entertaining local take on this tale which examines issues of class, education, romance and gender, with a light and humorous touch. The musical's cast will include local performers Perry Chiu, Kevin Lee, Chung Yat Ming, Angus Chan, Charles Teo, Vannizza Chan, Ada Wong, Connie Wong, Paris Wong and Yola Li.

Founded in 1999, the Spring-Time Experimental Theatre is a non-profit organization that has produced several stage plays across different genres.

The company aims to discover and nurture young talents who will go on to become the next generation

of directors, screenwriters, actors, stage designers and managers, while supporting and encouraging original and locally relevant work.

Spring-Time Experimental Theatre also adapts overseas productions and re-stages them, incorporating new and unusual artistic elements.

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**F**OSUN International Ltd., one of the companies in the cross hairs of a Chinese government crackdown on offshore acquisitions, says its plans for growth don't clash with the authorities' agenda.

The acquisitive insurance-to-drugs group remains on course to expand its footprint globally, focusing on sectors the government has indicated are good for deals, Fosun Group Co-President Xu Xiaoliang said in an interview. The government has even endorsed Fosun's two most recent purchases, Xu said.

Government probes into offshore deal finances have been generating headlines for months, slamming some companies' shares, prompting asset sales, delaying purchases and spawning speculation about executives being detained. Like Fosun, HNA Group Co., Dalian Wanda Group Co., Anbang Insurance Group Co. and the Chinese owner of the AC Milan soccer club have been affected.

"Now that we know what the government encourages and discourages, we have a clearer idea of where to expand our global footprint," Xu said Aug. 31 in Hong Kong. "Over time, we will demonstrate to the government what we are trying to achieve."

Xu has a couple of other reasons for optimism. The company last week reported first-half profit rose by more than a third. Also, its stock is up about 15 percent since the close on Aug. 18, the day the government set out the specifics of its push against "irrational" overseas investments. The shares fell 1.6 percent Monday as of the close in Hong Kong trading, compared with a 0.8 percent drop in the benchmark Hang Seng Index.

# Fosun sees green light at end of government crackdown tunnel



Xu Xiaoliang

Under billionaire founder Guo Guangchang, Fosun group announced about \$14 billion in acquisitions since 2014. The crackdown began last year and intensified in June. Since then, the pace of deals has slowed, with Fosun announcing the USD732 million purchase of French margarine maker St Hubert in July and the acquisition of

Koller Beteiligungs GmbH, a supplier to German automakers, last month, without disclosing terms.

As part of a drive to reduce leverage and risk in the financial system, Chinese authorities last month issued a directive restricting companies from making investments in overseas sectors such as real estate, hotels, entertainment

and sports clubs. Activities supporting the nation's "Belt and Road" infrastructure initiative will be encouraged.

"Authorities will be selective," said Nigel Stevenson, an analyst at Hong Kong-based GMT Research. "You'll see certain things approved, if it meets the priorities the politics demand. Football clubs, media assets, trophy properties in London and New York are off the agenda."

Evidence is mounting that big overseas deals can still be done if they're in the right industries. On Sept. 1, Legend Holdings Corp., the Chinese company that owns computer maker Lenovo Group, agreed to buy a controlling stake in Banque Internationale a Luxembourg SA, for 1.5 billion euros (\$1.8 billion).

China Merchants Port Holdings Ltd. on Monday said it offered to buy the operator of Brazil's second-largest container terminal for 2.89 billion Brazilian reais (\$920 million).

People familiar with the matter have said China Merchants Group is exploring acquisitions of offshore rig operators, which have struggled to recover from a collapse in oil-industry spending. The Chinese firm has looked at assets and companies including Seadrill Ltd. and Shelf Drilling Ltd., the people said, asking not to be identified as the information is private. **Bloomberg**

Now that we know what the government encourages and discourages, we have a clearer idea of where to expand our global footprint.

XU XIAOLIANG  
FOSUN GROUP CO-PRESIDENT

## Hyundai Motor's China plant halts again on supply disruption

Youkyung Lee, Seoul

**H**YUNDAI Motor Co. said its China plant halted operation due to a supply disruption yesterday, its second shutdown in China in less than a month as diplomatic tensions between China and South Korea over a U.S. missile-defense system took a toll on its business.

Its factory in Cangzhou, Hebei provin-

ce stopped churning out cars earlier in the day as a German supplier stopped deliveries of air intake systems when Hyundai delayed payments, Hyundai Motor's spokesperson Cha Seon-jin said by phone.

It is one of the five China plants operated by Beijing Hyundai Motor Co., Hyundai's joint venture with BAIC Motor Corp.

The company is in

talks with the supplier to resume operations as soon as possible, Cha said.

The latest shutdown is part of Hyundai's ongoing woes in China. Its car sales were nearly halved after Beijing expressed anger to Seoul over its decision to install the U.S. anti-missile system. The Terminal High Altitude Area Defense system, known as THAAD, is aimed at deterring



North Korean aggressions, Seoul says, but Beijing is worried that its powerful radars would peer into its territory.

Last month, Hyundai's entire China production stopped for a week when it couldn't pay a supplier. **AP**

### opinion

#### FALL OF SINGAPORE WOULD BE BEGINNING OF THE END FOR UBER

Andy Mukherjee, Bloomberg

Of all the setbacks during World War II, the one that British Prime Minister Winston Churchill could never really get over was the fall of Singapore. Seventy-five years later, Dara Khosrowshahi shouldn't even want to contemplate the costs of surrendering the city's ride-hailing market - for that might mean the beginning of the end of Uber Technologies Inc.'s global empire.

As my colleague Shira Ovide points out, from angry drivers and wary regulators to a sick corporate culture and a founder with outsize voting power, Khosrowshahi, Uber's new CEO, has a lot on his plate. Add to that the battle for Singapore.

The enemy is Grab, a regional rival that claims to be the No. 1 choice in Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand and the Philippines. On Sunday night, Grab reached out to drivers at ComfortDelGro Corp., Singapore's largest taxi company, offering them discounts of almost 50 percent on rentals if they switch. Although ComfortDelGro shares fell for a second day on Tuesday, it's clear who Grab's real target is: The attack came after the operator said it was talking to Uber about a partnership.

Khosrowshahi is being dared to an all-out war. If he doesn't take up the gauntlet, it'll be a repeat of China, where Didi Chuxing forced Uber to throw in the towel.

Singapore is a small market of 5.6 million residents, but 3 million Indonesians came to the island last year to shop and consult with their private bankers and dentists. Add the 1 million visitors from Thailand and Vietnam, and Singapore becomes the beachhead of an emerging single market of more than 600 million. Within the next decade, Malaysia and Singapore will be connected by a 350-kilometer-long high-speed train network. People won't use different apps at the two ends of their journey. The winner will take all.

But who'll emerge victorious? Toyota Motor Corp. has invested in both Uber and Grab. The traditional taxi business in Singapore, however, is being forced to choose. Even as ComfortDelGro is thinking of throwing in its lot with Uber, the smaller operators have gone over to Grab's camp.

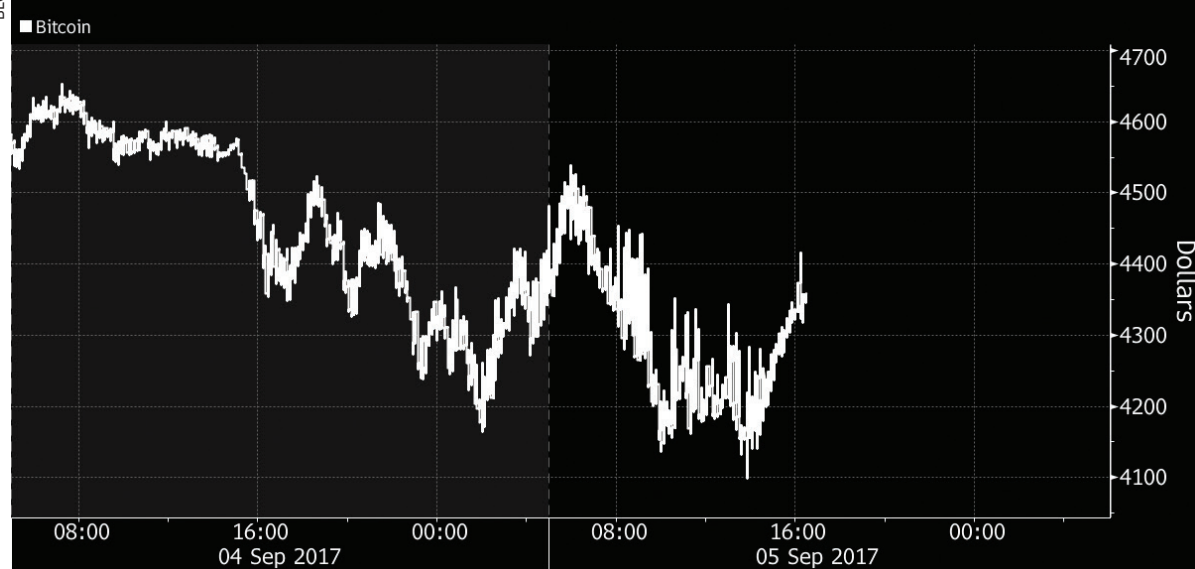
Platform markets are double-sided: drivers are as much the customer as the riders. And some innovation, such as Grab's in-app messaging service that translates seamlessly between Vietnamese and English, can make a big difference to wooing both, as Bloomberg News reporter Yoolim Lee recently found out.

It might appear a small thing, but every little bit counts when the stakes are so high. With Qantas Airways Ltd. ditching the Middle East and returning to Singapore for its Sydney to London flights, Uber can't afford to be the No. 2 ride-hailing app of choice on the kangaroo route hub. Besides, the anti-Uber alliance cobbled together by SoftBank Group Corp., Grab and Didi includes Ola, which is giving bumper-to-bumper competition to Uber in India.

Losing a second billion-people-plus market to a local incumbent would be a body blow. But if Khosrowshahi can't win the battle for Singapore, defending the remaining crown jewel of the empire might become that much harder.



## Another China Crackdown Bitcoin slid after China halted ICOs



### ECONOMY

# Ban can't solve legal puzzle of cryptocurrency sales

Justina Lee

WITH a blanket ban on initial coin offerings (ICOs), China has sidestepped an issue plaguing regulators worldwide: are such tokens securities?

A cross between crowdfunding and an initial public offering, ICOs - which have raised at least USD1.25 billion globally so far - are the sale of tokens based on the blockchain, the technology underlying bitcoin. While they at least ostensibly promise the holder access to the final product, making them more like vouchers, the problem for regulators is they also often bear the characteristics of regulated securities, especially when buyers are betting on capital gains.

So far, regulators in most major markets haven't taken actions as drastic as China, whose ban on ICOs spurred selloffs across bitcoin and ethereum. The U.S. said in July ICO issuers must adhere to federal securities law, while Singapore and Hong Kong have also said they will regulate such sales if the tokens constitute securities. The latter said in a statement yesterday that ICOs bear risks of fraud and money laundering.

"Most of them are going to fall back on whatever they have released on what constitutes securities," said Arthur Hayes, founder of cryptocurrency exchange BitMEX in Hong Kong. "You'll have a lot of people falling back on what they've said previously as opposed to trying to come up with regulations for an industry they have absolutely no clue on."

Most cryptocurrencies slid amid increasing signs of a crackdown by China, according to data from CoinMarketCap. Ethereum - whose blockchain is the basis of most token sales - has plunged 18 percent over the past week, while NEO, which boasts China's first open source blockchain, lost 40 percent.

While the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission declined to bring charges in one high-profile case of digital assets stolen by hackers, it did note that the DAO tokens were securities. Canada published a notice in August with more detailed guidelines on the applicability of securities laws, noting that many cryptocurrency offerings involve sale of securities. As regulators show increased interest in ICOs, some sales have started to exclude investors in certain jurisdictions such as the U.S.

"We believe more advanced economies with robust legal systems and mature financial regulation will follow the example of Canada and release some explicit guidelines for token sales," said Aurelien Menant, Hong Kong-based chief executive officer of Gatecoin Ltd., which runs a token exchange and advises ICOs. "Specifically, this means clarifying whether token sales are subject to existing securities regulation and if so what processes are required to comply accordingly or apply for exemptions."

To avoid running afoul of the law, ICO issuers should establish a clear link between the rights attached to a token and its usage and performance on the blockchain platform, said Pdraig Walsh, partner at law firm Bird & Bird in Hong Kong, who advises on ICOs. Companies can also impose a lock-up period during which the tokens can't be exchanged, or they can ban conversion entirely.

"It is about the token representing the ability to operate on the blockchain platform that's being developed, so it's less about giving a direct rate of return," he said. "Once you've got that embedded speculative gain element to it, you're at risk."

There are many remaining questions in ICO regulation: who will be liable in case of any violations and what will happen to past ICOs? Regulating token sales is also especially difficult since investors can easily buy digital currencies and use them to invest in ICOs and issuers can simply mount a website to start a sale, BitMEX's Hayes said. What China's ban might do is curb high-profile marketing and downsize upcoming ICOs, he added.

**To the cryptocurrency world, the silver lining is that increased - not draconian - regulation of ICOs might mean more legal clarity**

China has never shied away from drastic interventions in markets, whether it's in stocks, currency or digital assets, especially given speculation tends to be more extreme there. Bitcoin trading plunged earlier this year after the biggest Chinese exchanges started charging transaction fees, following warnings and inspections by the central bank. For the nation, digital currencies are a particularly thorny problem, since they can be used to circumvent capital controls.

To the cryptocurrency world, the silver lining is that increased - but not draconian - regulation of ICOs might mean more legal clarity in the future. **Bloomberg**

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To the cryptocurrency world, the silver lining is that increased - but not draconian - regulation of ICOs might mean more legal clarity in the future. **Bloomberg**

### HUMAN RIGHTS

# Beijing must stop pressuring advocates at UN

HUMAN Rights Watch says in a new report yesterday that China has tried to intimidate, blacklist and squelch the voices of rights advocates who operate within the U.N. system, calling on Beijing to stop such pressure and urging U.N. agencies to resist.

Announcing the report, HRW Executive Director Kenneth Roth said that China's influence and crackdown on civil society at home "make it a model of bad faith that challenges the integrity of the U.N. rights system."

The New York-based group's report is based on interviews with 55 people including U.N. officials, diplomats and civil society representatives between May 2016 and March, and takes aim at a powerful, rising



Chinese President Xi Jinping speaks on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit in Xiamen

country with a permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council.

In Beijing, Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said the Chinese government is committed to promoting and protecting human rights, and accused Human Rights Watch of being prejudiced against China.

"We urge the relevant organization to remove its tinted lenses and view China's human rights development and its contribution to the international rights cause in an unbiased and objective way, and stop its groundless accusations against China," Geng told reporters at a regular briefing.

The report said some U.N. officials have pushed back at "improper Chinese pressure" at times, while they "have capitulated" at others. It pointed to detention, travel restrictions and reprisals faced by Chinese activists, as well as efforts to hinder supporters of the Dalai Lama when he travels even within the vicinity of U.N. venues.

In one instance, the group said, U.N. officials sent home some of the 3,000 staffers at the U.N. Geneva campus during a visit by Chinese President Xi Jinping to Switzerland in January, and barred NGOs from attending his speech there.

The report, in essence, pieces together individual incidents into a broader whole to suggest that China is systematically thwarting efforts to monitor and protect human rights - not just in China but abroad, too.

It cites examples of China failing to ratify language on protection of individuals, working to slash funding for human rights officers in U.N. peacekeeping missions and refusing to affirm civil society's role in a 2015 resolution at the U.N. Human Rights Council on public health.

"Taken individually, many of China's actions against NGOs might be viewed as an annoyance or an irritant," the report says. "But taken together, they amount to what appears to be a systematic attempt to subvert the ability of the U.N. human rights system to confront abuses in China and beyond."

The group also warns about China serving as an example that other countries might follow. "China's efforts to subvert the U.N. human rights system also need to be scrutinized because they have been adopted by other countries. China should not become a model for others that hope to hobble or obstruct U.N. human rights bodies," it said. "The dangers to human rights posed by an assertive China at the U.N. are likely to increase as the rights situation in China under President Xi [Jinping] worsens."

Keith Harper, who served as President Barack Obama's ambassador to the Human Rights Council in Geneva, said Beijing "absolutely" had the ability to intimidate other countries into keeping quiet about its human rights record. **AP**



Ralph Jennings, Taipei

TAIWAN

# Tsai appoints new premier amid tense China relations

**T**AIWAN'S president yesterday appointed a new premier seen as willing to reach out to rival China amid ongoing tense relations between the two sides.

President Tsai Ing-wen named William Lai to head up the government following the resignation Monday of Lin Chuan. Lin had asked to leave the post before local elections next year added an unwanted political element to his work.

The smooth transfer of office "represents that there is absolutely no problem with the communication and handing over of the functions within the Cabinet," Tsai told reporters at a news conference attended by both Lin and Lai.

"All the reform projects will be handed over and carried on," Tsai said.

Lai, a 57-year-old Harvard-educated physician, served for 11 years in the legislature and since 2010 has been mayor of the southern city of Tainan.

China cut off all contacts with Tsai's government more than a year ago after she refused to endorse Beijing's position that Taiwan is Chinese territory.

Over the past year, China has persuaded two of Taiwan's diplomatic allies to switch sides as it ratchets up its diplomatic and economic pressure on Tsai's administration, causing her job approval rating to plummet to just 33 percent. Since the sides split amid civil war in 1949, China has refused to renounce using force to gain control over Taiwan if it were deemed necessary.

China also uses its diplomatic clout to bar Taiwan from United Nations agencies, another sore spot with the public. The two sides were able to reach 23 economic, trade and tran-

sit agreements under the previous president, Ma Ying-jeou, because he agreed to the "one-China" precondition.

Lai suggested earlier in the year seeking common ground with China, according to local media reports, and said the ruling Democratic Progressive Party, which supports Taiwan's formal legal independence, should have confidence to approach Beijing. The party normally takes a guarded view toward relations with China.

In June, Lai described his outlook on relations between the sides as "feel affinity toward China, love Taiwan." Amid criticism, he said he meant offering China a gesture of friendship to seek understanding.

"He tested the water and shrank back," said Lin Chong-pin, a retired professor and former deputy Taiwanese defense minister. "But we can't say he won't try again" after China's ruling Communist Party holds a key national congress next month, Lin said.

However, Huang Kwei-bo, associate professor of diplomacy at National Chengchi University in Taipei, said Beijing was unlikely to see Lai's appointment in a positive light given his pro-independence background.

"No matter what Lai talks about, he still supports Taiwan independence, so mainland China won't give him much face," Huang said.

The Tainan city news department director declined to

AP PHOTO



Former mayor and legislator William Lai, 57, speaks to media after being appointed as the new premier

answer a question Tuesday about whether Lai would hold to his earlier statements about China.

Neither Tsai nor the new premier mentioned China at Tuesday's news conference, focusing instead on domestic issues such

as tax reform and energy supplies.

Taiwan's premier functions as head of all government ministries and commissions. Traditionally, the president rather than the premier sets policies on China and foreign affairs,

Huang said.

"Our reform direction is already very clear," Tsai told the news conference. "Premier Lai will lead the administrative team, eliminate extreme difficulties and do his utmost to sprint ahead." AP

TANGSHAN

## Videos of alleged Muslim riot spark online outcry

**C**HINESE internet users have flooded government social media accounts this week with thousands of angry anti-Muslim comments after unverified videos surfaced online showing an apparent riot by members of a Muslim minority group in a northern city.

The furious comments posted on the official microblog sites of a local police bureau, the Communist Youth League, and other accounts have centered on unconfirmed reports that dozens of Hui Muslims rioted at a highway toll station in the city of Tangshan after a cleric from

their community was beaten or hurt in a scuffle.

Calls to police and government offices at various districts in Tangshan city, where the riot allegedly occurred, rang unanswered yesterday or were answered by officials who said they were not in charge of responding to media requests over the incident.

The official Global Times newspaper said an official surnamed Zhao from the Guye district government in Tangshan confirmed that "someone was beaten" but provided no details. The website of U.S. government-funded Radio Free Asia reported that

unrest occurred at the toll station Saturday night after the Muslim cleric was injured in a scuffle, and cited online posts as saying he had been beaten by a toll station worker after he tried to pass through a closed lane instead of waiting in a long line.

Chinese internet users complained on social media about having their posts about the riot scrubbed off Chinese microblogs, while internet searches of the words "Muslim Tangshan," "Tangshan tollbooth" and other related terms were blocked by online censors. Two women who answered the

phones at restaurants near the Kaiping district government office said they had heard about the unrest but had no details.

Video clips posted on YouTube, which is outside the reach of Chinese censors, showed a group of men with white skull caps gathering at the office of the Kaiping district government and nighttime clashes between similarly dressed men and riot police. The videos could not immediately be verified.

According to official statistics, there are more than 20 million Muslims in China, mainly among Uighur, Hui and other

ethnic minorities living around the country. China's 10.6 million Hui — descendants of Muslim settlers and Chinese who converted to Islam — have long endured strained relations with the Han, who constitute more than 90 percent of China's 1.37 billion people.

However, violence involving Hui Muslims, who mostly live in northern China, has been relatively rare in recent years. In 2004, as many as 5,000 people reportedly fought with clubs and burned several houses during street fights in a central Chinese town between Hui and

Han.

The flood of comments highlights a recent surge in anti-Muslim sentiment online that experts fear could exacerbate simmering ethnic and religious tensions in the country.

The Global Times said the Chinese commentators see the authorities as being more lenient toward offenders who are from Muslim minorities. However, some Chinese Muslim minorities, particularly Uighurs who are native to the northwestern region of Xinjiang, complain of being targets of economic and social discrimination. AP



Sopheng Cheang & Todd Pitman,  
Phnom Penh

AP PHOTO

**CAMBODIA'S** opposition leader was formally charged yesterday with treason for allegedly conspiring with the United States to topple the government, and could face up to 30 years in prison if convicted.

Kem Sokha had been expected to lead his Cambodia National Rescue Party in next year's election in a strong challenge against the ruling Cambodian People's Party of Prime Minister Hun Sen, who has held power for three decades. The opposition party has denied the treason allegation, saying the charge is strictly politically motivated.

Kem Sokha's arrest on Sunday in the middle of the night came amid a crackdown on the media. Radio stations among the few mass media to carry voices critical of the government were shut down for alleged breaches of regulations, and the English-language Cambodia Daily, also independent of the government, was forced out of business after being presented with a huge but disputed tax bill.

Phnom Penh Municipal Court spokesman Ly Sopha-na said y that Kem Sokha was charged after a thorough investigation, including interrogation and examination of the evidence. The crime is punishable by 15 to 30 years in prison.

A statement issued by the court said Kem Sokha had secretly conspired with a foreign country to carry out an act harmful to the social order and that could cause unrest. It said he had been carrying out his plan since 1993 to topple the government step by step.

Speaking to 4,000 Cambo-



Opposition National Rescue Party Deputy President Kem Sokha in a rally in September 2016

## CAMBODIA

# Court formally charges opposition leader with treason

dian garment factory workers Sunday, Hun Sen claimed Kem Sokha had colluded with the United States against his government and warned the opposition party it could be dissolved if it defended him. He provided no proof for his claim.

The government appeared to have based part of its claims against Kem Sokha on a video clip that shows the opposition leader giving a public speech

in which he describes a grassroots political strategy to challenge Hun Sen with U.S. support.

The clip, which was released by the government Sunday, was published on YouTube by the Australia-based Cambodia Broadcasting Network in 2013. In it, Kem Sokha says the United States hired university professors and experts in America and Canada "to advise me on [a] strategy

to change the leadership" in Cambodia.

A U.S. State Department spokeswoman, Heather Nauert, did not address the allegations against Washington, but issued a statement expressing "grave concern" over Kem Sokha's arrest, saying he "has a long, distinguished, and internationally recognized commitment to human rights and peaceful democracy."

Nauert said the detention and "unprecedented" restrictions recently imposed on independent media and civil society "raise serious questions about the government's ability to organize credible national elections in 2018."

Legal threats forced Kem Sokha's predecessor as leader, Sam Rainsy, to resign this year from the opposition party. He now lives in exile. **AP**

## AUSTRALIA

# Tourist faces upgraded charges over death in Sydney clinic

**A** Chinese tourist with no Australian medical license has been charged with the manslaughter after police say she gave a woman an anesthetic during a procedure at a Sydney beauty clinic last week and the woman later died.

Shao Jie, 33, was not required to appear in Sydney's Central Local Court yesterday when a prosecutor announced that charges against her had been upgraded. Manslaughter carries a potential maximum sentence

of 25 years in prison.

Shao allegedly administered drugs to Jean Huang, 35, during a breast procedure at Sydney's Medi Beauty Laser and Contour Clinic last Wednesday.

Huang was taken to hospital in critical condition and died Friday, police said.

Shao had been charged last week with causing reckless grievous bodily harm and using poison to endanger life. Each charge carries a potential maximum of 10 years in prison.

Court documents allege Shao administered "an intoxicating substance," tramadol and Lidocaine to Huang during the procedure. Lidocaine is a numbing agent, and tramadol is a painkiller. She also allegedly injected Huang with Hyaluronic acid, also known as hyaluronan. It is a restricted substance that is commonly used to the cosmetic industry as a soft tissue filler to smooth facial wrinkles.

Shao's lawyer, Mary Underwood, said last week that her client was a graduate of a Chinese medical university and had arrived in Australia several days before the botched procedure on a tourist visa. Shao was a dermatology specialist who had practiced in Great Britain as well as China, Underwood said.

Shao has been in custody since her arrest and has yet to enter pleas. She will appear on court next on Oct. 31. **AP**

## INDIA

# Police arrest Briton for alleged sexual abuse of blind boys

**A** 54-year-old British man has been arrested for allegedly sexually abusing three blind students at a school in the Indian capital, police said yesterday.

Murray Dennis Ward had been associated for nine years with the New Delhi school run by the National Association for the Blind, initially as a donor and later as a volunteer teacher, police said.

School authorities contacted the police after the boys, aged 14 and 15, complained about the alleged abuse, police said.

Ward appeared before a judge after his arrest on Monday, and was ordered held in police custody while investigations were going on. Police have seized his laptop computer and cell phone.

Ward hails from Gloucestershire in the U.K. He had been working with a technology company in the New Delhi suburb of Gurgaon until April.

A top police officer Ishwar Singh told reporters that the British high commission in New Delhi has been informed of the arrest.



## KOREAN CRISIS

# Seoul displays military strength anticipating new missile test from North Korea

Foster Klug & Kim Tong-Hyung,  
Seoul

**W**ITH Seoul expecting another North Korean missile test, South Korean warships conducted live-fire exercises at sea on Tuesday in a second straight day of military swagger from a nation still rattled by the North's biggest-ever nuclear test.

The test on Sunday, which North Korea said was a hydrogen bomb, was a huge advance in the North's push for nuclear-tipped missiles capable of hitting the United States. It has also resulted in South Korea boosting its own military capabilities. Washington and Seoul agreed to lift restrictions on South Korean missiles they'd previously agreed upon, according to the South Korean presidential office, allowing Seoul to improve its pre-emptive strike capabilities against the North.

The Korean Peninsula has

been in a technical state of war since the Korean War ended in an armistice in 1953. The near-constant unease has worsened in recent months as North Korea has displayed rapid improvement in its weapons capabilities, testing intercontinental ballistic missiles and a string of other missiles meant to target U.S. forces in Asia and the U.S. mainland.

More launches may be coming. The Defense Ministry said Monday that North Korea appeared to be planning a future missile launch, possibly of an ICBM, to show off its claimed ability to target the United States with nuclear weapons. It was unclear when such a launch might happen, but Sept. 9 is the anniversary of North Korea's founding and past launches have coincided with important national dates.

South Korean ships including a 2,500-ton frigate, a 1,000-ton patrol ship and 400-ton guided-missile vessels participated in the drills aimed at retaliating against

AP PHOTO



In this photo provided by the Defense Ministry, a South Korean navy ship fires during a drill yesterday

potential North Korean provocations, the Defense Ministry said. It plans more naval drills in its southern seas through Saturday. On Monday, Seoul used F-15 fighter jets and land-based ballistic missiles to simulate an attack on North Korea's nuclear test site to "strongly warn" the North over

the recent detonation.

The U.N. Security Council held its second emergency meeting about North Korea in a week on Monday, with U.S. Ambassador Nikki Haley saying the North's actions show that leader Kim Jong Un is "begging for war."

"Enough is enough. War is never something the United States wants. We don't want it now. But our country's patience is not unlimited," Haley said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday condemned North Korea's nuclear test but also warned against using military force against the country, calling it a "road to nowhere" that could lead to a "global catastrophe."

"Whipping up military hysteria makes absolutely no sense in this situation," Putin said in a news conference in China. He stopped short of expressing willingness to impose more sanctions on North Korea, saying Moscow views them as "useless and ineffective."

The heated words from the United States and the military maneuvers in South Korea are becoming familiar responses to North Korea's rapid, as-yet unchecked weapons progress.

South Korea has been seeking to obtain more powerful missiles for a so-called "kill chain" pre-emptive strike capability to cope with North Korea's growing nuclear and missile threat.

Since the late 1970s, South Korean missile development has been limited by a bilateral "guideline" between the United States and Seoul. It was updated in 2012 to allow the South to increase the range of its weapons from 300 kilometers (186 miles) to 800 kilometers (497 miles).

An agreement revealed removes a 500-kilogram (1,100-pound) warhead limit on South Korea's maximum-range missiles, which would allow the South to potentially target the North's un-

derground facilities and shelters.

In addition to expanding its missile arsenal and holding military exercises, South Korea is also strengthening its missile defense, which includes the high-tech Terminal High Altitude Area Defense battery deployed in the southeastern county of Seongju.

North Korea is thought to have a growing arsenal of nuclear bombs and has spent decades trying to perfect a multistage, long-range missile to eventually carry smaller versions of those bombs. Both diplomacy and severe sanctions have failed to check its march to nuclear mastery.

U.S. President Donald Trump, asked in Washington if he would attack North Korea, said, "We'll see." No U.S. military action appeared imminent, and the immediate focus appeared to be on ratcheting up economic penalties, which have had little effect thus far.

In tweets earlier this week, Trump threatened to halt all trade with countries doing business with North Korea, a clear warning to China. Such a move would be radical since the U.S. imports about USD40 billion in goods a month from China. China called that threat unacceptable and unfair.

Sunday's nuclear detonation builds on recent North Korean advances that include test launches in July of two ICBMs, which, when perfected, could target the U.S. mainland. The North also threatened to launch a salvo of Hwasong-12 intermediate range missiles toward the U.S. Pacific island territory of Guam, the home of military facilities the North claims are meant to target it.

The U.S. has about 28,000 troops stationed in South Korea and is obliged by treaty to defend it in the event of war. **AP**

## China has tools to pressure Kim but worries of consequences

**C**HINA has the economic tools to pressure North Korea but fears pushing Kim Jong Un's government so hard it collapses.

Though China has long been the North's main trading partner and diplomatic protector, Kim's nuclear and missile tests have alienated Chinese leaders, who supported last month's U.N. sanctions that slash North Korean revenue by banning sales of coal and iron ore. President Donald Trump and others have called on China to use its leverage to do more to halt the North's nuclear development.

Beijing tried to head off the latest nuclear test, conducted Sunday, by warning Pyongyang that such an event would lead to even more painful penalties.

Still, Chinese leaders worry about instability on the Korean Peninsula if Kim's regime collapses, which would eliminate a buffer between China and South Korea, a heavily armed U.S. ally with American troops on its soil. Some of the options China has used or could and why other options are unlikely:

Beijing stopped importing North Korean coal in February, depriving Kim's government of its biggest single source of revenue to pay for imports. Controls that take effect today under U.N. Security Council sanctions approved Aug. 4 formalize the

AP PHOTO



The Friendship Bridge connecting the Chinese border town of Dandong to the North Korean town of Sinuiju

coal ban and bar imports of iron and lead ores as well as seafood. North Korean companies operating in China also have been banned from launching new ventures that might generate additional revenue.

Oil is Beijing's most powerful potential weapon. China accounts for 90 percent of the North's supplies. Oil shipments were suspended for three days in 2003 to express Chinese anger after a North Korean missile test. "Cutting this flow would likely have an immediate and costly impact on North Korea's economy," said Eurasia Group in a report. However, such a painful step could rupture relations, wiping out any influence Beijing has over Pyongyang, according to Myong-hyun Go of South Korea's Asan Institute. Beijing also has the option of banning imports of North

Korean-made clothing — the biggest remaining source of export revenue. That would hurt Chinese companies that are part of that supply chain and a North Korean export industry that Chinese leaders are eager to see develop as way to make the country more prosperous and stable.

China is the biggest foreign food supplier to North Korea, which has limited farmland and relies on imports to fill the gap. Chinese scholars say Beijing will reject pressure to cut off food supplies for fear of causing widespread hunger and possibly setting off a flood of refugees into China's northeast. The end of Soviet subsidies contributed to a massive famine blamed for hundreds of thousands of deaths in the 1990s, bringing the economy to the brink of collapse. **AP**



# Powerful Category 4 Hurricane Irma aims at Caribbean islands

Danica Coto, San Juan

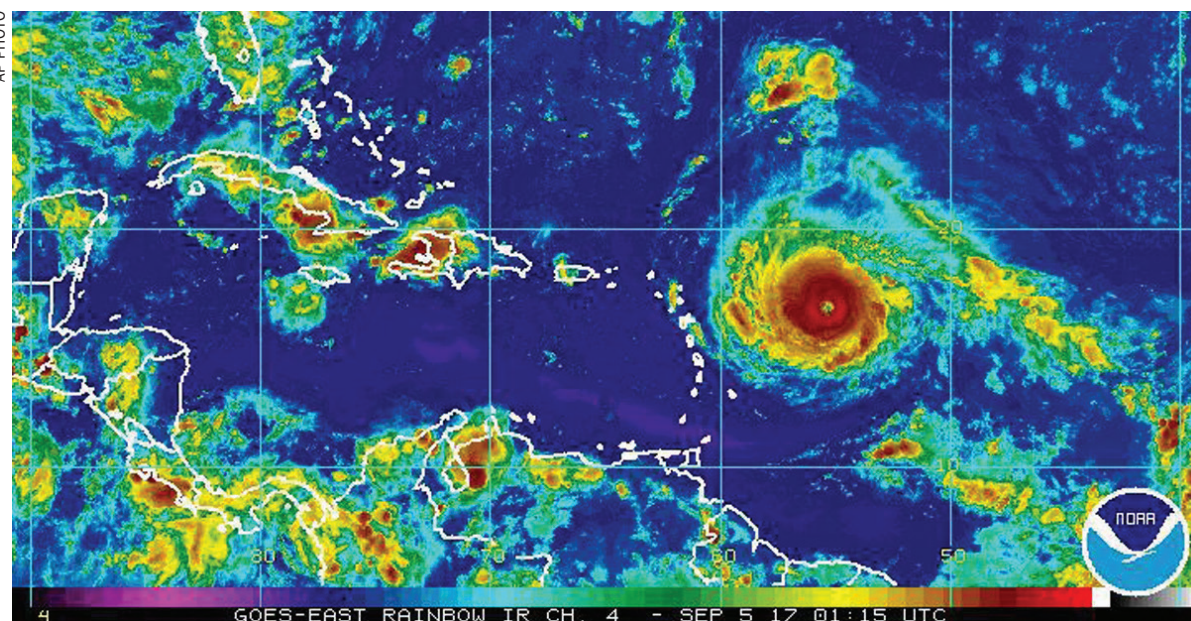
**O**FFICIALS across the northeastern Caribbean canceled airline flights, shuttered schools and urged people to hunker down indoors as Hurricane Irma barreled toward the region as a powerful Category 4 storm expected to strengthen more before nearing land today [Macau time].

States of emergency were declared in Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and all of Florida while people on various Caribbean islands boarded up homes and rushed to find last-minute supplies, forming long lines outside supermarkets and gas stations.

Irma had maximum sustained winds of 220 kph yesterday, the U.S. National Hurricane Center said. It was centered 660 kilometers east of the Leeward Islands and moving west at 20 kph.

Authorities warned that the storm could dump up to 25 centimeters of rain, cause landslides and dangerous flash floods and generate waves of up to 7 meters.

"This is not an opportunity to



go outside and try to have fun with a hurricane," U.S. Virgin Islands Gov. Kenneth Mapp warned. "It's not time to get on a surfboard."

The storm's center was expected to move near or over the northern Leeward Islands today [Macau time], the hurricane center said.

Residents on the U.S. East

Coast were urged to monitor the storm's progress in case it should turn northward toward Florida, Georgia or the Carolinas.

"This hurricane has the potential to be a major event for the East Coast. It also has the potential to significantly strain FEMA and other governmental resources occurring so quickly on the heels of [Hurricane] Harvey,"

Evan Myers, chief operating officer of AccuWeather, said in a statement.

In the Caribbean, hurricane warnings were issued for 12 island groups, including Antigua, where the governor urged people to evacuate the tiny island of Anegada if they could ahead of the storm.

Vivian Wheatley, proprietor of

the Anegada Reef Hotel, planned to stay behind. She said she would stay in one of the hotel rooms and take advantage of the generator since there were no guests

"We know it's a very powerful [storm], and we know it's going to be very close," she said. "Let's hope for the best."

People in the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico braced for electricity outages after the director of the island's power company predicted that storm damage could leave some areas without electricity for four to six months. But "some areas will have power [back] in less than a week," Ricardo Ramos told radio station Notiuno 630 AM. The utility's infrastructure has deteriorated greatly during a decade-long recession, and Puerto Ricans experienced an island wide outage last year.

Both Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands expected 10-20 centimeters of rain and winds of 40-50 mph with gusts of up to 60 mph.

A hurricane warning was posted for Antigua and Barbuda, Anguilla, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Martin, Saba, St. Eustatius, St. Maarten and St. Barts, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. and British Virgin islands. A tropical storm warning was in effect for Guadeloupe and a tropical storm watch for Dominica. **AP**

AD

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Esteban Duarte

SPAIN

**N**OW we find out how far the Catalan separatists are prepared to go.

After more than five years of street demonstrations and propaganda, the movement wants to see legislation for an unconstitutional referendum on independence from Spain before their annual demonstration next week. The regional parliament's board opted not to push forward the bill at its meeting yesterday, though separatist lawmakers could still decide to consider the text at any point in the plenary session due to end Thursday.

"It's time to see real concrete measures," said Jordi Sanchez, head of the Catalan National Assembly, a civic group that has led the campaign for secession. "Unless the Spanish government puts up barriers in front of the parliament, we will have the laws we need."

Approving the legal framework for the contested ballot set for Oct. 1 would pose the biggest challenge to the 1978 constitutional settlement that drew a line under the Franco dictatorship and reinstated an autonomous government in Barcelona, the regional capital.

Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy, whose party has only marginal support in Catalonia, has to act

with enough firmness to appease those in the rest of Spain enraged by the Catalans' maneuvers, but without inflaming the situation further.

The government says it has prepared measures to stop the vote taking place, whatever the Catalans might try.

Few independent observers give the separatists much chance.

Their efforts to rally public support from international institutions have failed; support for their cause has slipped to a five-year low as Spain recovers from the financial crisis; and if push comes to shove, Madrid pays most of the salaries of the Catalan police, who might have to pick sides in the event of a direct confrontation.

"It's hard to see any scenario in which independence happens in the near future," said Nicolas Veron, a senior researcher at Brussels-based Bruegel and the Peterson Institute for International Economics in Washington. "But



A pro-independence flag flies in a street in Girona

you can't say for sure that the Spanish government will enforce the rule of law."

The risk premium on Spain's 10-year government debt has widened by about 13 basis points since the start of August, but the bonds still yielded just 117 points more than similarly dated German bunds on Monday. That

compares with more than 600 points in 2012. Investors have been demanding more yield to hold Italian debt than Spanish debt since the middle of last year.

Hanging over it all is the threat of terrorism. Islamists killed 16 people last month in attacks in Barcelona and a nearby beach resort. The aftermath has seen

politicians and security officials in Madrid and Catalonia exchanging allegations over who was to blame, souring further an already tense atmosphere.

"Just to survive politically, they will have to go beyond what they initially planned due to the anger that has been created in Catalonia since the attacks," said Santiago Espot, a separatist activist facing trial for organized jeering of King Felipe VI at a soccer match in 2015. "This week is going to be an important test of their commitment."

As well as the referendum bill, lawmakers may also consider a second draft law that would provide the legal foundations for new state institutions -- a tax and social-security agency, a supreme court, and a central bank.

Passing either of those laws would probably trigger an immediate response from Madrid, with the government prepared to ask the Constitutional Court to revoke the legislation as a minimum. **Bloomberg**



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## what's ON



WHATEVER YOU MAKE, MAKE IT YOURS - 14TH ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION

TIME: 2pm-7pm

UNTIL: September 23, 2017

VENUE: Creative Macau (G/F Macau Cultural Centre Building)

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2875 3282

GLAMOUR OF THE JAO'S LOTUS - TOURING EXHIBITION OF LOTUS-THEME ARTWORKS BY PROFESSOR JAO TSUNG-I

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

UNTIL: September 17, 2017

VENUE: Handover Gift Museum of Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

JAO TSUNG-I ACADEMY

TIME: 10am-6pm, last admission at 5:30pm (Closed on Mondays, open on public holidays)

ADDRESS: No. 95 C-D, Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2523 & 8399 6699

MACAU ILLUSTRATED - EXHIBITION OF CITY PLANS AND ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS FROM THE MACAU ARCHIVES' COLLECTION

TIME: 10am-6pm (Closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: December 3, 2017

VENUE: Archives of Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2859 2919

EXHIBITION BY WONG NGA PENG

TIME: 11am-6pm (Closed on Mondays and public holidays)

UNTIL: October 8, 2017

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 4582

## Offbeat

## MAN WHO PROPOSED TO GIRLFRIEND BEFORE POPE VISITS PARIS



Venezuelan politician-in-exile and activist Dario Ramirez (left) and Maryangel Espinal

A Venezuelan political exile who proposed to his girlfriend during an audience with the Pope is basking in the wonder of his engagement in a romantic trip to Paris.

Catholic Dario Ramirez strolled through the City of Light this week with his fiancée Maryangel Espinal, reminiscing about the moment last month that thrust the politician-in-exile into the international spotlight.

Ramirez told the Associated Press that the pontiff, his protocol staff and Espinal were shocked when he popped the question. His fiancée thought he was going to ask for a selfie — not her hand in marriage.

A video recorded on Ramirez's iPhone captures cheers from the surrounding people when Espinal said "Yes."

His audience with Pope Francis came as part of a visit with the International Catholic Legislatures Network.

## TV canal macau



12:50	AL elections campaign
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	AL elections campaign
15:00	RTPi Live
19:10	The Brazilians (Repeated)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:25	Camilo Pessanha 150 years
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	AL elections campaign
21:10	New Home
21:45	Miscellaneous
22:10	The Brazilians - Final
22:50	AL elections campaign
23:00	TDM News
23:30	2018 FIFA World Cup qualification - Highlights
23:50	Miscellaneous
00:35	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:10	RTPi Live

## cinema



## CINETEATRO

30 AUG - 6 SEP

## CRAYON SHINCHAN MOVIE 2017

ROOM 1

2:30, 7:30pm

Director: Masakazu Hashimoto

Starring: Tamao Hayashi, Tôru Hotohara, Teiyû Ichiryûsai

Language: Cantonese

Duration: 107min



## THE ADVENTURERS

ROOM 1

4:30, 9:30pm

Director: Stephen Fung

Starring: Andy Lau, Shu Qi, Zhang Jingchu

Language: English

Duration: 131min



## THE DARK TOWER

ROOM 2

2:30, 4:15, 6:00, 9:45pm

Director: Nikolaj Arccl

Starring: Idris Elba, Matthew McConaughey, Tom Taylor

Language: English

Duration: 132min

## A DOG'S PURPOSE

ROOM 2

7:45pm

Director: Lasse Hallstrom

Starring: Josh Gad, Dennis Quaid, Brit Robertson

Language: English

Duration: 95min

## DANGAL

ROOM 3

2:30, 6:00, 9:00pm

Director: Nitesh Tiwari

Starring: Aamir Khan, Sakshi Tanwar, Fatima Sana Shaikh

Language: Hindi (Chinese & English)

Duration: 164min

## this day in history



## 1997 DIANA'S FUNERAL WATCHED BY MILLIONS

Britain and the world have said farewell to Diana, Princess of Wales, at the end of an unprecedented week of mourning.

A four mile procession brought her coffin to Westminster Abbey, where politicians and celebrities joined the Royal Family in a subdued congregation.

Over a million people lined the route of the funeral cortege to the abbey and along her final journey to the Spencer family home in Northamptonshire.

The day began at 0908 BST, when the coffin left Kensington Palace on a gun carriage.

Some of the crowd wept, some applauded quietly, but most watched in silence.

On top of the coffin was a poignant reminder that this woman loved by millions was also a mother - a card to "Mummy" from one of her sons.

The two princes, William and Harry, joined their father, grandfather and the princess's brother walking behind the coffin.

Other members of the Royal Family watched the funeral cortege pass from the gates of Buckingham Palace.

The union jack on top of the palace was lowered to half mast for the first time ever.

Both Diana's sisters read tributes to her at the funeral service and Elton John played his re-worked version of Candle in the Wind.

Her brother, Lord Spencer, made a funeral address in which he described as Diana the "very essence of compassion, of duty, of style, of beauty".

He used the speech to blame the media for her death, calling her the "most hunted person of the modern age".

The grieving earl also pledged to protect William and Harry and prevent them suffering a similar fate.

The sometimes controversial oration was greeted with spontaneous applause.

A very public day of mourning ended with a private ceremony when Diana was finally buried on an island in the heart of her family estate at Althorp.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

Diana's death resulted in an outpouring of grief never before seen in the UK.

It was estimated that a total of 2.5 billion people watched the princess's funeral, a testament to her global celebrity.

Her image remained as iconic in death as it had been in life, and within weeks of her funeral there was worldwide demand for memorabilia of the princess.

The French authorities concluded their investigation into the crash two years later.

It found the driver, Henri Paul, to be three times over the drink-drive limit and breaking the speed limit.

The photographers chasing the car were severely criticised for their behaviour, but no criminal action was taken against them.

An inquest into the princess's death was opened in the UK in 2004. It has been adjourned while the Metropolitan police carry out an investigation into the crash.



YOUR STARS

Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

For the next two days, you'll be in the mood to do whatever it takes to make your dear ones feel special. The more emotionally starved you feel they've been, the more willing you'll be to go out of your way to make them feel better.

Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

You've never been famous for your willpower, self-restraint or frugality - especially when it comes to surprising dear ones. Well, you're planning one of those moments now.

Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

This is a day you won't soon forget. And neither will your lucky companion, who you're determined to spoil beyond belief. The problem is you're after privacy, and they'll want to tell the world what you've done.

Libra

Sep.23-Oct. 22

You're going to be feeling quite extravagant today. Since you've probably spent quite a bit of time lately trying not to indulge in what you love, you may not want to give in.

Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

It's finally time to unwind, and not a moment too soon, either. You've had it with being proper and responsible, and you're about to self-medicate. You're prescribing the only remedy that you know will definitely work.

Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

You're supposed to be making plans with your friends... and keeping them, too. Unfortunately for them, you've been less than dutiful. Well, they may let you slide for one more day.

Taurus

April 20-May 20

A private matter you've been doing your best to keep under control has just shown the first signs of getting away from you. Does that mean you'll be totally unable to keep the situation where you want it to be?

Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Don't even think about bowing out on that wonderful adventure a dear one has offered. You know you've earned this, and you know you want to go and play - and it's about time. So why deny yourself?

Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Oh, go ahead and indulge yourself. Whatever you've been offered just happens to be exactly what you want - and you more than deserve it! Why not have some fun doing exactly what you want to do?

Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

You're not usually this thin-skinned, so even you may be surprised at how easily your feelings are hurt right now - even though you know darned well that those comments weren't meant to be hurtful.

Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

If you're going to be spending any time with that certain someone, you might want to think about it ahead of time. Forget about being the alpha person. Let them know you have a great big heart.

Pisces

Feb.19-Mar. 20

It's not in your nature to go overboard. Just this once, though, you're feeling like nothing would be too extreme if it would get the point across to your sweetheart - the point being that you care an awful lot.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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Easy+

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Medium

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CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Not of the cloth; 5- Corned beef concoction; 9- Neighbor of Sask.; 13- Kett of the comics; 14- Late bloomer; 16- Lumpy fuel; 17- Long time; 18- Grenoble's river; 19- Sheep shelter; 20- Spanish muralist; 21- Hi-\_\_\_ monitor; 22- Main arteries; 24- Puts two and two together; 26- Fr. miss; 27- Bony prefix; 29- 24 hours, for the earth; 33- Attorney-\_\_\_; 34- Take \_\_\_ your leader; 35- Versailles verb; 36- RR stop; 37- Cut off; 38- Tolkien tree creature; 39- Tennis units; 41- Hardware fastener; 42- Floor models; 44- Commentary; 46- Minimal; 47- Currency of Turkey, and formerly of Italy; 48- Listen to; 49- Hindu incarnation; 52- Bentley of "American Beauty"; 53- Bausch & Lomb brand; 57- Sub station?; 58- Paradises; 60- Eye part; 61- Economist Greenspan; 62- Pipe cleaner; 63- Bar \_\_\_; 64- Gds.; 65- Oomph; 66- Departs;

DOWN: 1- Meadows; 2- To \_\_\_ (just so); 3- Like \_\_\_ not; 4- Bach work; 5- Coiffure; 6- Beasts of burden; 7- Fr. holy women; 8- That girl; 9- Grow together; 10- Booty; 11- Cialo; 12- Pub pints; 15- Real-estate dealer; 23- Suffix with pay; 25- Drops on the grass; 26- Choral composition; 27- Furry swimmer; 28- Roofing stone; 29- Variety show; 30- Units; 31- Ready ...; 32- Trawler equipment; 33- Kind of D.A.; 34- Bright bunch; 37- Agitated; 40- Chowder cracker; 42- Narc's employer; 43- Ear ornament; 45- Acapulco aunt; 46- Something to be learned; 48- Reddish brown; 49- Brother of Hoss; 50- South African grassland; 51- Exclamation to express sorrow; 52- Well-being; 54- Switch ending; 55- Baseball team; 56- Functions; 59- Rapping Dr.;

Yesterday's solution											
A	G	R	O		P	I	M	A		T	B
T	R	E	F		A	S	T	A	B		H
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R	O	A	R		A	D	A	R		L	S
E	S				N	A	M	E	D		A
M	I	S	S	A		T	E	T	E		F
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E	T	A	S		E	E	R	I	E		G
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HKD 10.78M  
3 Bedroom Apartment  
Ref: 16095497

Sakura Court  
Ocean Garden, Taipa  
4 Bedroom Apartment  
Amazing Seaview  
HKD 35,000 / 3,700 sq ft  
Ref: 10020165

Hellene Gardens  
Carnation Court, Coloane  
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HKD 8.88M  
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Jim Armstrong, Kyoto

**U**SAIN Bolt is feeling no pressure in retirement, confident his best times can remain world records for decades.

The only sprinter to capture the 100- and 200-meter track titles at three consecutive Olympics, Bolt retired last month after the world championships in London. He holds the world record of 9.58 seconds in the 100 and 19.19 in the 200 — both set in Berlin in 2009.

"I think [they're] going to last a while," Bolt said during a promotional event in Japan yesterday. "I think our era with Yohan Blake, Justin Gatlin and Asafa Powell and all these guys was the best era of athletes. If it was going to be broken, it would have been broken in this era, so I think I have at least 15 to 20 more years."

Bolt's farewell major meet didn't go to plan in London. After a surprising third-place finish in the 100 behind Americans Gatlin and Christian Coleman, Bolt's last race ended in the anguish of an injured hamstring while anchoring Jamaica's 4x100-meter relay team.

Gatlin, often cast as the villain during Bolt's long dominance, said he thinks his rival will be back. But Bolt brushed off that notion.

"I have nothing to prove, that's the main reason I left track and field. After you do everything you want there is no reason to stick around," Bolt said.

Bolt was the life of the party every time he competed, captivating fans with his charisma and smile.

As for the next biggest star in track, Bolt said he doesn't see anyone at the moment who he expects will follow in his footsteps.

"It's hard for me to pick someone," Bolt said. "I think what made me stand out was not only the fast times that I ran but my personality that people really enjoyed and loved."



Usain Bolt of Jamaica gestures with maiko, or an apprentice geisha, during a promotional event in Kyoto

## ATHLETICS

# Bolt predicts his world records could stand for 15-20 years

"If you want to be a star in sports and take over a sport you have to let people know who you are as a person, not just as a track athlete."

Jamaica won only one gold medal at this year's worlds, a disappointing haul given its success in the last decade. Bolt said his country's young athletes will have to step up now that he's gone.

"The biggest thing with Jamaica now is if the youngsters want it," Bolt said. "Over the years, one thing I've learned is you have to want to be great. If you don't want to be great, it won't happen."

Of course, wanting to be great

and doing what it takes to make it happen are two different things, too.

"I've noticed a lot of the young athletes, as soon as they get their first contract and start making money, they really just don't care

**I have nothing to prove, that's the main reason I left track and field.**

USAIN BOLT

as much anymore," Bolt said. "A lot of them are satisfied with getting their first contract, going out and making their first team. If they are satisfied with that, then we're in trouble."

"Hopefully, a few of these young guys are going to be hungry and want to be great and if we get those guys we will be OK but so far, it is not looking good."

The 31-year-old Bolt said he had good people around him from his earliest successes who were also there at the end, helping him make the most of his talent.

"My first two Olympics were easier, I was confident, I was young, I was enjoying the sport," he said.

"But I think my last three years were the toughest years for me because then I had done so much I found myself thinking 'Why am I still doing this? I've accomplished everything. I don't really need to prove anything else.' But the team that I had around me really helped me to push myself to set the bar so high."

As for the future, Bolt says he is interested in playing soccer and possibly settling down and getting married.

"Something I've always wanted to do is play football," said Bolt, a die-hard Manchester United supporter. "My team is working on that but we haven't confirmed anything yet!" **AP**

## FOOTBALL

# New Zealand wins Oceania, advances in World Cup qualifying

**N**EW Zealand won the Oceania qualifying series for the 2018 World Cup when it drew 2-2 with the Solomon Islands yesterday to complete an 8-3 aggregate victory in the home and away series.

After being outclassed 6-1 in the first leg in Auckland last week, the Solomon Islands produced a performance of immense character to rally from 2-0 down for only their second draw

in 12 matches against New Zealand.

A goal to Myer Bevan and an own goal gave New Zealand a 2-0 lead after 20 minutes but the Solomons struck back with penalties to Micah Lea'alafa and Henry Fa'arodo.

New Zealand's bid to qualify for the World Cup finals for the third time moves to the next stage, which is a two-match series in November against the

fifth-place team in South America.

While New Zealand will be disappointed to have drawn yesterday's match, it had to contend with the absence of several leading players — making five changes from the combination which played in Auckland. It also struggled in intense heat at the Lawson Tama Stadium.

Bevan scored his first international goal in 14th

minute, slotting home from close range after Kosta Barbarouses's shot was parried by Solomons keeper Philip Mango. Barbarouses was involved again in the 20th when his cross was deflected into the Solomons' net by defender Nelson Sale.

The Solomon Island began playing with more energy from that point as New Zealand wilted. Lea'alafa, who missed the first match because of a

visa problem, showed his worth when he scored from the penalty spot in the 28th and Fa'arodo equalized in the 77th.

New Zealand was without regular captain Winston Read, the West Ham defender who was forced to miss the series because of injury. Burnley striker Chris Wood, who captained New Zealand and scored a hat trick in Auckland, had been released to rejoin his English Premier League club, as had Ryan Thomas who returned to his Dutch club.

"It was a difficult game today," New Zealand coach Anthony Hudson said. "We had five changes in there in what was a really light

squad for us.

"I was pleased just to get the job done."

Felipe Vega-Arango, the Spanish-born coach of the Solomons, praised his team's spirit after its heavy defeat in Auckland.

"The first thing I'd like to say is to congratulate New Zealand for going into the next stage. I hope they can get a spot in the World Cup and represent Oceania," he said. "I think for us it was a very good score."

"We wanted to win because we were 2-0 down against a professional side. We are a humble team — everybody has a regular job, so it seems like a win to tell the truth." **AP**



opinion

World views

Adam Minter, Bloomberg

ASIA'S TAXI COMPANIES GIVE BANKS  
REAL COMPETITION

In Southeast Asia, mobile banking is taking on a whole new meaning. Last week, Grab, one of the region's top ride-hailing companies, announced that users of its app can start sending credits - used to pay for rides - to each other. By the end of the year, they'll be able to use those credits at more than 1,000 restaurants and retailers. If all goes well, Grab will one day be known as an e-payment platform that just happens to offer a taxi service.

That's a radical evolution, but hardly illogical. As many as 2 billion people lack access to traditional financial services worldwide. Most are concentrated in developing countries with cash-based economies, where banks have long resisted offering services such as loans, checking accounts and credit cards. As incomes in these countries rise, technology is helping entrepreneurs leapfrog old ways of doing business. In particular, mobile phones have enabled a parallel financial system to evolve, with some intriguing results.

The trend began in Kenya. In 2007, Safaricom Ltd. introduced M-Pesa, a service that allowed users to move money via text message. In short order, M-Pesa evolved into a full-fledged payment-and-banking system that runs on the region's dominant feature phones. In 2016, M-Pesa processed 6 billion transactions for 30 million customers in 10 countries. Africa now has more "mobile money" accounts than it has bank accounts.

In Asia, the transformation has been just as dramatic. China's leading e-commerce and social-media services - Alibaba and WeChat - have created payment platforms that are so ubiquitous that cash has all but disappeared in some places. In 2016, people in China made about USD5.5 trillion in e-payments. In India, about a fifth of the population now uses such payments, mostly through startups such as Paytm E-commerce Pvt.

Southeast Asia is the next frontier, and in some ways the most interesting. With 640 million people, and growing access to the internet and mobile phones, it's certainly fertile ground for financial startups. Over the past three years, they've started to emerge from a surprising source: the innovative local ride-hailing industry. That'd be an unusual business model in places where credit cards and bank accounts are common - Uber Technologies Inc., for one, would have little incentive to try something similar in the U.S.

But in countries such as Indonesia, where only 36 percent of people have a bank account, and fewer than 5 percent have a credit card, it's a great way to lure users and lock them into a convenient payments platform. The more than 200,000 drivers who work for Go-Jek, Indonesia's leading ride-sharing service, can use their e-wallets to store their earnings or spend them on other services. Customers can use the wallets to pay for everything from food delivery to massages to house-cleaning.

In more affluent Singapore, Grab has much the same idea, expanding the use of its e-wallet to small businesses such as coffee shops, hawkers and wet markets. By allowing vendors to accept money without the hassle or expense of renting a payment terminal, and giving customers the convenience of paying with an app they're already comfortable with, it may have a significant advantage. Its ability to collect vast amounts of data from users - combining location and traveling habits with purchase histories, say - could become a game-changer. It's no surprise that the company wants to move into insurance and lending.

Taxi companies going to war with banks for the chance to offer e-payments would've sounded implausible just a few years ago. Today, it's great news for consumers, particularly those left out of the traditional financial-services market. Competition should reduce the cost of joining the digital economy, make tasks like paying bills easier, force banks to pay attention to lower-income customers, and put pressure on credit card companies to lower fees and penalties. In Singapore and elsewhere, banks are rallying to set up their own e-payments standards. They may be in for a wild ride.

THE UK: 4 ARMY MEMBERS LINKED  
TO NEO-NAZI GROUP ARRESTED

Britain's Ministry of Defense has confirmed that four men arrested on suspicion of being members of a banned far-right group were serving members of the army.

The four men are alleged to be members of the neo-Nazi group National Action. The group is banned in the U.K., and membership or inviting support for the organization is a criminal offence carrying a sentence of up to 10 years imprisonment.

The West Midlands Counterterrorism Unit said yesterday it had arrested four people on suspicion of preparing terrorism acts. The force said the men were detained as part of a "pre-planned and intelligence-led" operation and there was "no threat to the public's safety."

The defense ministry then confirmed the men were army members.

Several properties were raided in connection with the arrests.

TWO BIG BRICS

Xi, Modi seek stable ties  
after worst border spat  
since 1962



Xi Jinping

Louise Watt, Xiamen

CHINESE President Xi Jinping and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi agreed yesterday their countries need to make more efforts to improve mutual trust and that peace in their border areas was paramount for a positive future relationship, India's foreign secretary said.

S. Jaishankar told reporters that a more-than-hour-long meeting between the leaders was "constructive about where the relationship should be going and will be going."

It was "a very strong affirmation at the leadership level that it is really in the interests of both countries to keep this relationship forward and on an upward trajectory," Jaishankar said.

India last week agreed to pull back troops from the disputed Doklam Plateau high in the Himalayas, where Chinese troops had started constructing a road. The 10-week standoff was the two nations' most protracted in decades, and added to their longstanding strategic rivalry.

The plateau is claimed by

both China and the tiny kingdom of Bhutan, whose external security is handled by India.

It is "natural that between neighbors and large powers that there would be areas of difference, but where there is an area of difference it should be handled with mutual respect and efforts should be made to find common ground in addressing those areas," Jaishankar said.

The two sides agreed that Chinese and Indian defense and security personnel "must maintain strong contacts and cooperation and ensure that the sort of situations which happened recently do not re-occur," he said.

"One of the important points which was made during the meeting was that peace and tranquility in the border areas was a prerequisite for the further development of our relationship and that there should be more effort made to really enhance and strengthen the level of mutual trust between the two sides," Jaishankar said.

China's official Xinhua News Agency reported that



Narendra Modi

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	15-35 Good	
High Density Residential Area	20-40 Moderate	
Ambient	25-45 Moderate	

SOURCE: DSSMG

WORLD BRIEFS



**SYRIA** Troops and allied forces reached the eastern city of Deir el-Zour yesterday, breaching a three-year-old Islamic State siege on parts of the contested city near the Iraqi border.

**ITALY**'s health ministry has ordered an investigation into the death of a 4-year-old girl from malaria after checks determined she hadn't traveled to any country at risk for the disease.



**SPAIN** The pro-independence ruling coalition in Catalonia is submitting a bill to the regional parliament that aims to serve as a transitional constitution should a controversial vote to secede from Spain succeed. [More on p15](#)

**CARIBBEAN** Hurricane Irma grew into a dangerous Category 5 storm, the most powerful seen in the Atlantic in over a decade, and roared toward islands in the northeast Caribbean yesterday on a path that could eventually take it to the United States. [More on p15](#)



**FRANCE-VENEZUELA** French President Emmanuel Macron met with Venezuela opposition leaders to discuss the embattled nation's humanitarian and political crisis, two days after a leading activist was barred from leaving the country in order to attend the Paris meeting.

**BRAZIL** Federal police searched the house of the president of the Brazilian Olympic committee yesterday and issued a warrant forcing him to testify in an investigation into bribery surrounding the awarding of the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Games.