



**SLIGHT GROWTH IN NON TERTIARY STUDENTS**

▲ P2 EDUCATION



**PROTECTION OF CITY'S VULNERABLE GROUPS**

Agnes Lam wants better housing and transport systems, as well as more protection for vulnerable groups

▲ P2 AL ELECTION



**CHINA MAY PUT TAIWAN ACTIVIST ON TRIAL**

A Taiwanese pro-democracy activist who disappeared after flying to Macau may soon be put on trial

▲ P5

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# Times

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**WORLD BRIEFS**



**NORTH KOREA** The NATO military alliance is calling for international pressure to be ratcheted up against North Korea following its latest nuclear test. The 29-nation U.S.-led alliance expressed full solidarity with Japan and South Korea, and urged more efforts to pressure Pyongyang to abandon what they called its “current threatening and destabilizing path.” No mention was made of other retaliatory measures, such as the possible use of force. More on p10,12,13

**HONG KONG** Cathay Pacific, Asia's biggest international carrier, is in talks with its pilots over compensation as it seeks to cut costs after reporting its worst half-half loss in at least two decades.

**PHILIPPINES** Assistance was offered to some 10,000 Filipinos who may be deported after the U.S. administration decided to rescind a program that allows undocumented immigrant children to stay legally in the United States.



**MYANMAR** A trawler carrying Rohingya Muslims fleeing violence in Myanmar capsized, killing at least five people, as the country's leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, blamed a misinformation campaign for fueling a crisis that the U.N. says has now pushed more than 125,000 refugees into Bangladesh.

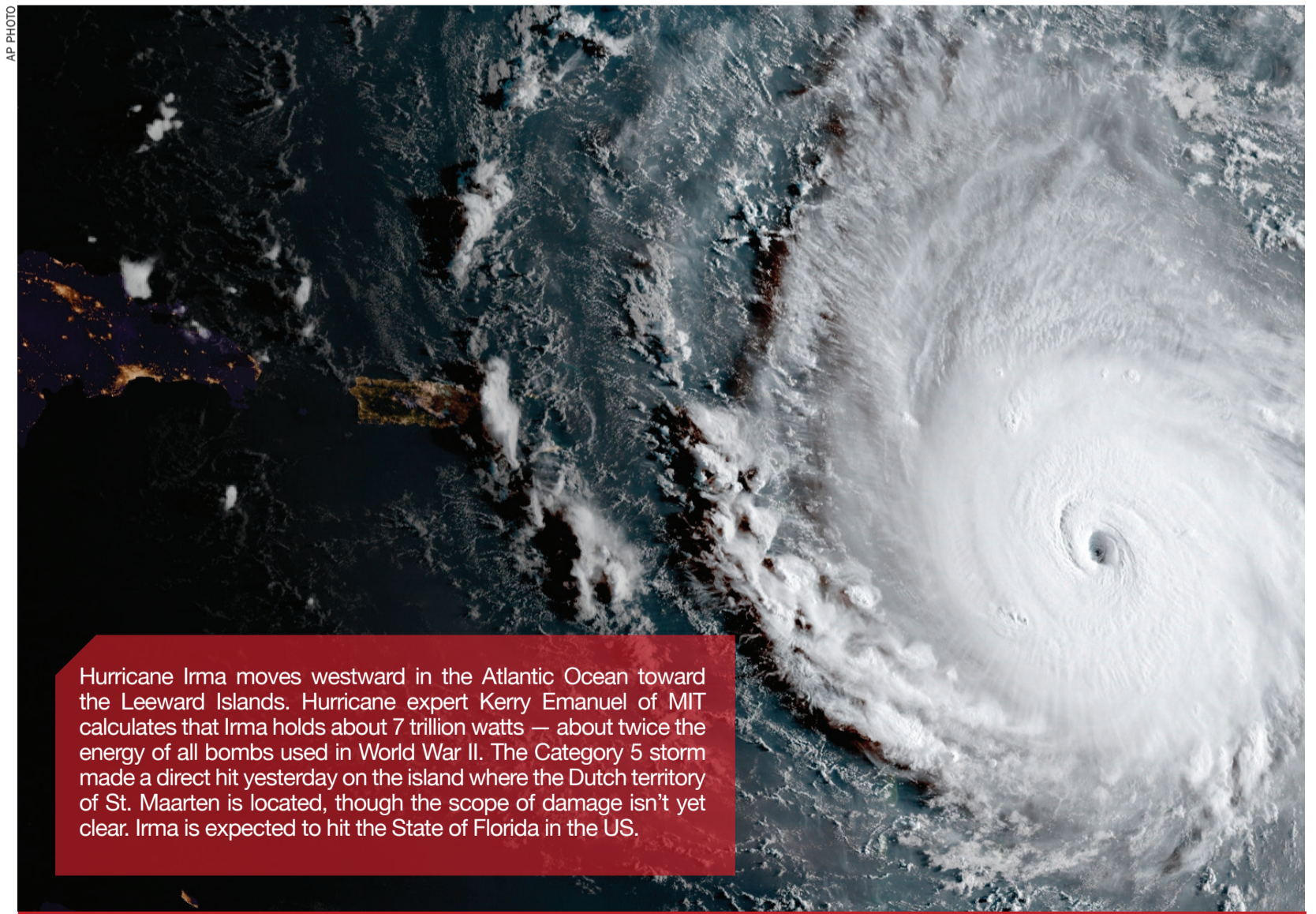
More on backpage

**UN CHIEF CLAIMS**

# Natural disasters have quadrupled since 1970

▲ Hato damage estimated at MOP11.5 billion

▲ P4 MACAU  
▲ P14,15 SEVERE WEATHER

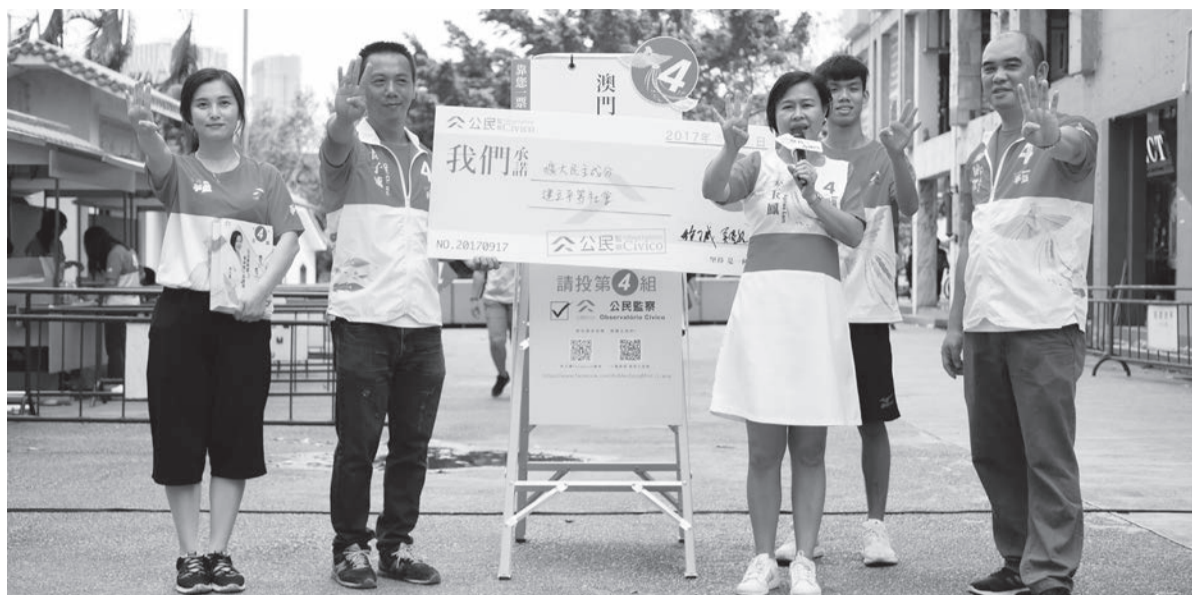


Hurricane Irma moves westward in the Atlantic Ocean toward the Leeward Islands. Hurricane expert Kerry Emanuel of MIT calculates that Irma holds about 7 trillion watts — about twice the energy of all bombs used in World War II. The Category 5 storm made a direct hit yesterday on the island where the Dutch territory of St. Maarten is located, though the scope of damage isn't yet clear. Irma is expected to hit the State of Florida in the US.

# Planes capable of flying ultra-long distances may revolutionize aviation

▲ P7 MDT REPORT





Agnes Lam (3rd from right) with fellow candidates

## AL ELECTION

# Civic Watch calls for protection of city's vulnerable groups

Lynzy Valles

**C**IVIC Watch, led by university professor and social critic Agnes Lam, is again running for the Legislative Assembly election, aiming to secure a seat with their political platform.

Yet this time, in addition to calling for a better housing and transport system, the group is addressing other issues affecting the region's most vulnerable groups.

Better public housing schemes, transport systems and medical care have each been highly discussed issues by several candidates in this year's election, along with calls for concrete urban planning

decisions and the optimization of education and culture.

However, Lam's group is also calling for a revision of the disability pension scheme – so that subsidies will be calculated on an individual basis – and the addition of enhanced poverty alleviation measures. Civic Watch is also advocating for anti-discrimination legislation to be introduced, and for same-sex partners to be under the protective umbrella of domestic violence legislation.

Speaking to the Times, Lam said that the need to represent vulnerable groups is one of the reasons Civic Watch is running again, along with the need to protect the rights

of non-residents in the city.

Listed as No. 4, Civic Watch is calling for a body to monitor whether domestic helpers are living in decent conditions.

"They are big enough to be seen, and we need to help them. When it comes to foreign laborers, no one takes care of them and they are here in the city, so their rights should be protected. I think we're the only list that has this [goal]," explained Lam.

"That's why we want a more diversified assembly so [lawmakers] can really represent different sectors of society," Lam added.

Meanwhile, Civic Watch is also proposing the idea of "Macau

People, Macau Space," a principle similar to "Macau People, Macau Land."

"Macau People, Macau Land" is an idea in which the government pledges to ensure that the region's reclamation lands will be used for Macau people, specifically for permanent residents.

Regarding the several groups that are proposing that permanent residents should permanently acquire land, Lam suggested such a move would be problematic, as the Basic Law states that land only belongs to the region, connoting that a revision of the law would be required otherwise.

"[There] will be a lot of legal concepts that we need to deal with. What we propose is "Macau People, Macau Space," said Lam, explaining that both residents and the government can own development projects, with the government developing their share for public facilities.

**When it comes to foreign laborers, no one takes care of them and they are here in the city, so their rights should be protected.**

AGNES LAM

The candidate believed that such a scheme was practiced during the Portuguese administration in the territory.

With a few political platforms similar to other party lists, Lam is confident that Civic Watch is

able to provide more solutions and suggest feasible legislative reforms.

The group's list is composed of professionals from the education, medical and creative sectors.

"We have more professionals in our team. So then I think what we provide will be easier and [we provide] more doable solutions," the candidate added.

The first candidate is also calling for the introduction of a youth housing scheme by combining personal saving and the Central Provident Fund, adding that there should be a 10-year target for public housing constructions, and a regular registration system for such housing.

Improving the standard of medical care is also one of the priorities of the group, which is urging the government to formalize guidelines for medical procedures.

The party list also calls for improvements to existing mixed education systems, along with ensuring that students with special education needs are provided for.

Civic Watch also suggested that the government review the subsidization scheme for teaching aid purchases, promoting inclusive education.

In regards to the employment sector, the group is also pushing to facilitate the social mobility of local residents, especially in larger enterprises.

"It's not about the jobs now, it's about their promotion and mobility. [The] unemployment rate is very low. Locals need to be promoted, and for the non-locals, their basic rights need to be protected and cannot be abused," the candidate stressed.

With election day approaching, Lam added that the group has been able to appeal to different populations due to its diverse candidates this year.

Questioned what the group is aiming for in the AL, the candidate replied, "we have to have one seat."

## EDUCATION

# Non-tertiary student population grows 2.7 percent

**T**HE total number of non-tertiary education students in the new academic year has reached almost 79,100, up by 2.7 percent compared with 77,000 last year, marking the fourth consecutive year of growth in the number of students in the MSAR.

According to data released yesterday by the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau

(DSEJ), the latest estimate for kindergarten students in the 2017/18 school year is about 19,000, representing an increase of 6.6 percent compared with the previous year.

At the same time, around 30,700 primary school students are accounted for in the new school year, up by 5.5 percent year-on-year, while 28,500 secondary

students are expected, down by 2.8 percent.

According to the DSEJ, the increase in the number of kindergarten and primary school students has warranted an increase in the demand for teachers at this education level. Conversely, the opposite has been observed in the area of secondary school education. The total number

of teaching staff is 7,600 for the school year ahead, marking an increase of 3.6 percent compared with September last year.

The estimated average class sizes for kindergartens, primary schools and secondary schools are 29.5 students, 29.6 students and 27.7 students respectively, marking progress along the government's

goal to seek smaller class sizes.

At the start of the new academic year, there are 77 schools and 122 school units in Macau. The number of school units that have joined the free education school system have increased from 96 last year to 105, indicating that the coverage of the free education system has increa-

sed from 89 percent to 94 percent. The number of students covered is almost 70,000.

The DSEJ noted that Portuguese courses will continue to be listed as a "priority funded item" in education. Schools are subsidized through the School Development Fund to employ qualified teachers to teach Portuguese.

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# Police contact Facebook regarding AL election violation



CAEAL set up a mock polling station at the Election Information Centre

Julie Zhu

**T**HE city's police authority contacted Facebook's Asia division regarding an alleged Legislative Assembly (AL) election violation involving the social network service provider, according to the president of the Electoral Affairs Commission (CAEAL), Tong Hio Fong.

Yesterday, during a CAEAL press conference, Tong stated that four or five election candidates were issued a warning notice because they had been found to be paying Facebook for election propaganda services.

The propaganda commercials have

already been removed from Facebook. During the press conference, Tong revealed that the committee received reports from residents about the commercials on Facebook. According to the city's regulations, the social media business organization must pay a fine for violating election rules.

Tong reported that some election propaganda posters fell off the objects they were attached to, although he noted these incidents were later found to be unintentional.

"PSP carried out investigations at the sites, [finding that] most of the posters fell due to the weather [rain]. [...] No

man-made behaviors were spotted," confirmed Tong, who pointed out that it was the police who took the initiative to inspect the sites.

CAEAL received no complaints about their posters having been deliberately taken down. Until now, the commission recorded 64 cases of election violation reports, with around 20 cases having already been forwarded to the police authority.

With respect to instances of candidate defamation, Tong stated that, "basically, the situation is good," with only one or two reports listed.

The CAEAL president reminded the candidates to conduct their election campaigns according to the law. He repeated that some candidates have been spotted partaking in various violations, and that so far, PSP has only issued warnings to the candidates. He emphasized that from yesterday onwards, the authority will enforce the law strictly.

Except for one polling station (which is currently under maintenance but will be ready for polling on September 15), all the other polling stations are ready for the election.

Tong reminded the candidates that they can only attach publicity materials at the designated places, which include 23 fixed spots specially made for the candidates to exhibit their publicity posters.

The candidates can also use their advertisements at the other 19 official election events coming up, but they are not allowed to do so along random streets.

# Coutinho and Song scuffle in televised debate

**LAWMAKERS** Song Pek Kei and Pereira Coutinho broke into an argument during a televised election debate broadcast yesterday on TDM, after Song launched a scathing attack on Coutinho, accusing him of being unable to handle family affairs.

Song, who heads List 8 in the Legislative Assembly election, was referring to the two sons of Coutinho who were arrested in December on suspicion of trafficking cannabis into the territory.

"If one can't handle family affairs, then how can one lead so many people in the whole of society?" said Song. "When they [your children] were in trouble, what did you say to support them? If I were your child, I would be heartbroken."

The lawmaker then pressed Coutinho to answer whether he thought heavier punishments for drug trafficking was warranted. Coutinho, who is the first

candidate of List 6, in turn accused Song of using Cultural Revolution-style attacks in her condemnation.

"Are we living in the era of the Cultural Revolution, where three generations have to be held accountable [for a crime]?" he retorted. "We are living in Macau now; we are not cultural revolutionaries [and] we are not Red Guard."

The Cultural Revolution was a socio-political purge that took place on the mainland from 1966 to 1976 to eradicate traditional elements from Chinese culture and society.

Later yesterday, Rita Santos, a representative of List 6, criticized TDM for not intervening even though Song's comments violated the rules of the debate, which prohibit personal attacks. Santos sent a letter to the Electoral Affairs Commission (CAEAL) demanding its intervention.

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## News At Hand



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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"



Renato Marques

**TYPHOON** Hato's passage through Macau on August 23, has potentially caused damage amounting to MOP11.5 billion, the Secretary for Economy and Finance Lionel Leong revealed yesterday. A press conference organized by the "Commission for Reviewing and Monitoring the Improvements of the Response Mechanism to Major Disasters," which is chaired by Chief Executive Chui Sai On, was held to discuss the review of the mechanism of response to major disasters and follow up and improvement committee.

Leong spoke to the press regarding an evaluation of the completed clean-up works and also discussed the main priorities for the secretariat that he heads. According to figures based on an initial estimation by the Statistics and Census Service, "there are many indirect losses related to the suspension of activity, operations and break in sales that will be impossible to calculate at this time," said Leong.

Further clarifying the figure, Lionel Leong said that of the MOP11.47b loss forecasted currently, a total of MOP8.31b is related to direct losses while MOP3.16b is related to indirect losses.

Although he acknowledged that there is still much work to be done for a full recovery, Leong reaffirmed that it is expected the damage will not put the region's economic performance in a critical condition.

"We estimate that the Macau [economy] in general terms [should] continue to keep its recovery with a tendency of a stable growth of one digit through all this year," the secretary said.

Reviewing the current status

# Gov't advances first forecast on Hato damages, MOP11.5 billion

There are many indirect losses related to the suspension of activity, operations and break on sales that will be impossible to calculate at this time.

LIONEL LEONG

of the government subsidies to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), Leong said that until September 5 there were, registered at the Fund for Industrial Development and Commercialization (FDIC), a total of 10,544 applications regarding support measures to SMEs. Of these, a total of 3,146 were already approved, involving subsidies totaling MOP157.3 million. Additionally, Leong noted that these applications for support measures disclosed that affected SMEs and professionals reported a total of MOP3.6 billion dollars in damage, an average of MOP344,000 per company.

Leong also noted that the Monetary Authority of Macao has established a hotline for support with insurance

RENATO MARQUES



Chui Sai On (left) and Lionel Leong (right)

claim processing. According to Leong, a total of 1,284 insurance claim requests had been lodged by September 4, and it was expected that these claims would equate to a total of MOP2.42 billion in compensation.

The Economy and Finance Chief also noted the insurance

sector has already announced several claims which resulted in compensation amounting to MOP11.26 million for two death cases and 25 cases of accidents and property damage.

Questioned by the media on the possibility of implementing a law to suspend casino employees from working when the typhoon level 8 signal is hoisted, Leong noted, "the law says that the operation of the casinos is 24 hours. Nevertheless it's possible to make a request to the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau regarding these situations." He added that the government will "analyze the

case" and observe "what is done in other jurisdictions." On such a topic, the CE also added that in the eventuality of the establishment of a new law, "we would have to define several levels [with which to match] mandatory measures," Chui said.

As for the recent proposal to introduce a tax reduction for the replacement of vehicles damaged by flood, Leong noted that such a measure "needs a formal approval from the Legislative Assembly," adding that the submission of such a proposal needs to be done as soon as the AL resumes its activities after the elections.

## Gov't invited mainland committee to evaluate response mechanism

**THE** government invited the China National Committee for Disaster Reduction to evaluate and review the response mechanism of the territory regarding the consequences of Typhoon Hato, the Commissioner-general of the Unitary Police Service (SPU) Ma Io Kun informed yesterday during the press conference organized by the Chief Executive.

Ma explained in 13 points how the mainland Committee would contribute specialists in order to help the region find solutions for the weaknesses unearthed by the passage of the typhoon on August 23.

According to the information presented to the media, the Committee will provide specialists in the areas of disaster prevention and reduction, weather, construction and hydrological fields, electrical engineering, telecommunications and search and rescue, among others.

The Committee will also conduct an evaluation of Macau's response mecha-

nism and submit a proposal for the city's mid- and long-term strategy for the prevention and reduction of disasters. The CE specified yesterday that the plan was not to be restricted to natural catastrophes but also covers other kinds of disasters.

The work of the Committee will be conducted in three phases. In the first, which will commence immediately and last until the end of this month, the specialists will come to Macau and help the local government to finalize the preliminary report on the typhoon.

As for the second phase, which will start right after the first and is expected to last until the end of the year, the Committee will work on the creation and improvement of the crisis management mechanism on unpredictable incidents in Macau.

To close, the Committee will, in 2018, conclude the mid- and long-term plan (2018-2028) for the prevention and reduction of disasters in Macau.

### NEW CIVIL PROTECTION BUREAU TO BE SET UP

**THE GOVERNMENT** is planning to create a new, permanent bureau responsible for working on civil protection matters. Titled the "Civil Protection and Emergency Coordination Bureau", the bureau will be under the authority of the Secretariat for Security, headed by Wong Sio Chak, and will seek to "enhance the basic infrastructure for countering the risks of emergencies." Among the responsibilities of the bureau are "specialized prevention and response to natural catastrophes or security incidents."

The DPCCC will be also responsible for directly commanding the activities of the Civil Protection Operations Center, which will in turn be renamed the Civil Protection and Contingency Operations Center. The new bureau is just one of the measures that announced by Wong yesterday. He also pledged to boost "smart policing" and establish a "Crisis Management Information System," that might include among its tasks the "inspection of communication groups of mobile apps that [are used to] broadcast rumors."



## July: Increase in deposits and loans

**CURRENCY** in circulation increased in July by 1.6 percent month-to-month whereas demand deposits dropped by 1.8 percent, according to statistics released this week by the Monetary Authority of Macau (AMCM). Resident deposits rose 2.1 percent from the preceding month to MOP554 billion while non-resident deposits grew by 5.6 percent to MOP271.8 billion. On the other hand, public sector deposits in the banking sector decreased by 1.4 percent to MOP187.3 billion. As a result, total deposits within the banking sector rose 2.4 percent from a month earlier to MOP1,013.2 billion. The shares of MOP, HKD, RMB and

USD in total deposits were 20.4 percent, 50.9 percent, 3.9 percent and 22 percent respectively.

Regarding loans, domestic loans to the private sector increased by 0.4 percent over the month to MOP434.8 billion. Within those loans, MOP130.4 billion was MOP-denominated, MOP280.8 billion was denominated in HKD, MOP1.4 billion was denominated in RMB and MOP19.7 billion was denominated in USD.

At the end of July, the loan-to-deposit ratio for the resident sector dropped to 58.6 percent from 59.1 percent at the end of June. The non-performing loan ratio stayed at the low level of 0.3 percent.

## Wife: China may soon put detained Taiwan activist on trial

**CHINESE** authorities may soon put on trial a Taiwanese pro-democracy activist detained since March and accused of endangering national security, his wife said yesterday.

Lee Ching-yu told reporters she received a call yesterday from a man who described himself as her husband Lee Ming-che's lawyer, saying the activist's case was set to go on trial at a court in central Hunan province.

Calls to the court in the city of Yueyang and the lawyer, Zhang Zhongwei, rang unanswered yesterday.

This was the first word Lee Ching-yu directly received news about her husband's case since he disappeared 172 days ago into Chinese detention, she said, adding that she planned to apply for a travel permit to go to the mainland.

"No matter how much heartache and sadness I've been feeling, there's finally a ray of light in being able to see Lee Ming-che again since he was disappeared," she said in a statement. "I must still embrace a glimmer of hope for human nature."

Lee Ming-che, 42, cleared immigration in Macau on March 19 and never showed up for a planned meeting later that day with a friend in the mainland Chinese city of Zhuhai. He had previously conducted online lectures on



Lee Ching-yu (third from right) holds up a photo of her missing husband, Taiwanese pro-democracy activist Lee Ming-che

Taiwan's democratization and managed a fund for families of political prisoners in China.

In April, Lee's wife was prevented

from flying to Beijing to seek a meeting with her husband because China canceled her travel permit. China, which claims Taiwan as its own territory, doesn't recognize Taiwanese passports and requires islanders to use to a Beijing-issued document called a Taiwan Compatriots Pass to visit the mainland.

Cross-strait relations have been near an all-time low since the election of Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen, whose Democratic Progressive Party has advocated for Taiwan's formal independence. China cut off contacts with Taiwan's government in June, five months after Tsai was elected. **AP**

## Lee cleared immigration in Macau on March 19 and never showed up for a planned meeting later that day

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## No specific reason behind growth of gastroenteritis cases

The Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) has not yet identified the cause of the large number of gastroenteritis cases recorded recently. In the immediate days following Typhoon Hato, more than 200 people were diagnosed with gastroenteritis each day. In particular, on September 4, a total of 250 people were diagnosed with the condition, with the highest number recorded in a day being 280 cases. Relevant government departments have not found anything specific which could explain the cause behind the outbreak. IACM also noted that no water quality problems have been observed in the water supply system.

## Overcharging remains top taxi infraction

The Public Security Police Force (PSP) recorded 590 taxi infractions during the month of August, according to a statement released by PSP. The infractions include 372 cases (63.1 percent) of over-charging and 156 cases (26.4 percent) of taxi drivers who refused to accept passengers. Six infractions were related to taxi drivers who accepted passengers who had not queued up. During the same period, the police recorded 32 cases of unauthorized taxis, none of which related to mobile taxi hailing services. Fifty-six cases involved other types of infractions.

## GOLF

# Pavit returns to defend Macao Open title

**T**HAILAND'S rising star, Pavit Tangkamolprasert, will return to the territory to defend his Macao Open title next month. The tournament will return to Macau between October 19 to 22 as part of the Asian Tour schedule.

Pavit, who won his first Asian Tour title at the Macao Open last year after defeating India's Anirban Lahiri on the first play-off hole, will return to the place of his victory at the Macau Golf and Country Club. A total of 144 players will battle it out for the title. Now in its 19th year, the tournament is one of the longest running international sports events in Macau.

For 28-year-old Pavit, the Macao Open was the biggest victory of his career and propelled him to finish in a career high 10th place on the 2016 Asian Tour Order of Merit.

"I am delighted to return to Macau next month to defend my title. The Macao



Pavit Tangkamolprasert

Open is the biggest win of my career so far, and I will never forget the finish last year when Lahiri birdied seven in a row to force that play-off. He was playing so well, but I remember telling myself to stay calm, that I had nothing to lose," said Pavit. "I was so thrilled to have come through, espe-

cially against one of the best players on the Asian Tour who also has the experience of winning the Order of Merit and Macao Open."

The four-day tournament will continue to be jointly organized by Sports Bureau and the Golf Association of Macau. It is sanctioned by both the Asian Tour and the

Golf Association of Macau, and promoted by IMG.

Pun Weng Kun, the president of the Sports Bureau, said: "We are delighted to welcome Pavit back to Macau, who impressed us all with his skills and nerves of steel last year. The Macao Open provides Asia's rising stars a unique platform to compete against some of the best in the world, and it was such a thrill to see Pavit take full advantage of the opportunity and showed the magnitude of his talent."

According to the CEO of the Asian Tour, Josh Burack, "the Macao Open is one of the most popular tournaments among our players and fans. Through the years, we've witnessed great duels between Scott Hend and Anirban Lahiri, while Pavit Tangkamolprasert claimed a thrilling victory in a play-off against Lahiri last year."

Sixteen players from nine nations have won the Macao Open, and Pavit will look to join China golf pioneer Zhang Lian-Wei and 14-time tour winner Scott Hend from Australia as the only two-time winners of the Macao Open.

Entry to the 2017 Macao Open, which carries a total prize purse of USD500,000, is free.

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Daniel Beitler

NEW airplanes capable of flying ultra-long distances could come into operation at key Asian airports within five years, as major plane manufacturers say they are confident their jetliners can link even the most distant continents.

Spanning distances of around 18,000 kilometers – or about half the circumference of the planet – direct flights between these two landmasses represent the next frontier in commercial aviation, and will seek to satisfy the travel demand of a rapidly growing middle class in the world's most populous continent.

The establishment of ultra-long-haul flights – possibly in nearby airport hubs, such as Hong Kong, Shenzhen and Guangzhou – has implications for trans-Pacific connectivity as well as the Macau government's strategic aim of becoming a platform for trade between China and Portuguese-speaking countries.

While the Macau International Airport (MIA) is likely to remain regional in its capacity, serving destinations in East Asia, Southeast Asia and possibly South Asia, neighboring Hong Kong is a logical testing ground for ultra-long-haul connections.

In this sense, Macau is expected to continue using Hong Kong air infrastructure as a medium for long-haul imports and tourism; a relationship that will be strengthened by the opening of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge later this year.

The world's most reputable commercial jet manufacturers, Boeing and Airbus, say that their latest planes are able to handle distances of 18,000 kilometers, carrying passengers for up to 20 hours straight. This would allow Hong Kong to offer direct connections with some of Latin America's largest cities, such as Rio de Janeiro and Mexico City.

Direct air connections are regarded as important levers in driving economic growth, and imports and exports activity.

According to PWC, the aviation industry was responsible for ge-



A plane prepares to land in Hong Kong

ULTRA-LONG-HAUL FLIGHTS

# A Brazil-HK route could be good news for 'Macau platform'

nerating some USD2.4 trillion (amounting to 3.4 percent of global GDP) in 2012, with around USD600 billion comprising indirect benefits through increased economic activity of international suppliers. Better transport links also enable a freer flow of human capital between borders.

A direct link from Brazil to Hong Kong would, for all intents and purposes, mean a direct link between Brazil and Macau and a major step in establishing the city as a platform for trade between China and Portuguese-speaking countries.

In the first quarter of this year, trade between China and Portuguese-speaking countries was tracked 40 percent higher than in the same period in 2016, totaling more than USD34 billion. However, the proportion of this trade channeled through the MSAR amounted to less than 1 percent.

The Macau Airport Company (CAM) told the Times it is intent on exploring its own "potential airlines to operate direct long-haul routes to Macau," but would not comment on specific routes to Latin America or Portuguese-speaking countries.

"Our company's marketing department has been trying all [manner of] ways to introduce new airlines to MIA," noted a representative of CAM, but "an airline of a foreign country may have many considerations before entering into a new market."

So-called "long-haul" routes in Macau will not be on the same scale or distance as those currently operating out of Asia's major airport hubs, nor the ultra-long-haul flights expected in the near future.

Currently, the Macau International Airport's furthest regular destination is Jakarta, launched

last month by Indonesia AirAsia, at around 3,200 kilometers – or five hours – away.

## At the moment, the Macau International Airport's furthest regular destination is Jakarta

Growing demand for air travel, particularly in Asia, is making new, longer routes profitable and possible, through the offering of multiple travel options priced differently. With direct flights suited for business travelers, and stopo-

ver alternatives catering to price-sensitive tourists, the more people who fly, the more routes that are needed to support global connectivity.

According to aviation experts, ultra-long-haul flights can be financially viable provided that oil prices do not exceed the USD70 per barrel mark.

Fuel prices, which usually account for around one-third of an airline's expenditure, are crucial to determining the profitability of routes and how fast commercial planes should fly.

Previous ultra-long-haul flights have come and gone, with airlines deeming them unprofitable when oil hits unsustainable highs, as it did in mid-2008 when oil broke through the USD130 ceiling. Oil is currently trading at around USD50 per barrel and aviation experts say that new ultra-long-haul flights can be viable at this price.

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Nick Turner, Matt Townsend

RETAIL

# Kohl's enlists Amazon as ally in bid to drive store traffic

**I**N a sign of the times, Kohl's Corp. and Home Depot Inc. are the latest traditional retailers to embrace online giants.

Kohl's aims to turn an e-commerce threat into an ally by offering Amazon.com Inc. products in some of its stores. Home Depot, meanwhile, will sell goods online via voice commands through Google Home and the Google Express website and mobile app. Wal-Mart Stores Inc. announced a similar pact with Google last month.

In the Kohl's deal, the department-store chain will open 1,000-square-foot Amazon areas in 10 of its locations, offering gadgets like the Echo voice-activated device and the Fire tablet. The new store-in-store concept, dubbed the Amazon Smart Home Experience, will begin appearing next month.

The partnership lets Kohl's ride Amazon's coattails and provides another way to drive traffic to its brick-and-mortar locations. The broader department-store industry



try has struggled to maintain sales, and the specter of customers defecting to Amazon is seen as a major threat. Same-store sales - a

closely watched measure - dropped 0.4 percent at Kohl's last quarter.

Home Depot faces less pressure

from the online realm. It's been one of the best-performing retailers for several years - fueled by rising home values that have encouraged customers to spend more on renovations. But the deal with Alphabet Inc.'s Google, which takes effect later this year, may give it a way to pick up some additional sales.

The dueling announcements are part of the jockeying by Amazon and Google to gain share in voice-controlled devices. Up until now, Google has struggled to compete with Amazon in this category. To increase its appeal, the search-engine giant recently dropped a USD10 monthly membership fee for the service.

More than 35 million Americans will speak to internet-connected devices at least once a month this year, more than double the number in 2016, according to a May report from research firm EMarketer Inc. About 71 percent will use Echo devices, with the Google Home speaker trailing at 24 percent.

For Amazon, the Kohl's deal offers another distribution channel to support its rapid expansion. The e-commerce giant just completed its purchase of Whole Foods last month, marking its biggest push yet into the brick-and-mortar world. It also is building out a chain of physical bookstores. **Bloomberg**

# Flight attendant wins discrimination case against Aeroflot

Nataliya Vasilyeva, Moscow

**A**Moscow court on yesterday ruled in favor of a flight attendant who claimed Russia's flagship airline stopped assigning her to work long-haul international flights because of her looks.

The Moscow City Court overturned a ruling by a district court that had rejected Yevgeniya Magurina's claim that she was sidelined as part of Aeroflot's drive to make its cabin crews younger and more physically attractive.

The flight attendant's lawsuit put a spotlight on how women in modern Russia still often are judged by their looks.

Magurina submitted pay slips showing that she stopped receiving bonus pay that had comprised roughly 20 percent of her income after she asked for a larger-sized uniform. She says she also no longer was assigned the role of senior steward.

Magurina had requested 500,000 rubles (USD8,700) in damages

and for the court to rule the company's regulations on clothing sizes discriminatory. The court on Wednesday upheld her discrimination claim, but awarded the flight attendant just 5,000 rubles (\$87) in damages.

Her attorney welcomed the ruling, calling it "definitely a victory."

"We were not suing for money. We wanted the court to acknowledge that you cannot treat people like that," lawyer Ksenia Michaylichenko said.

Aeroflot's press office

did not have immediate comment.

Magurina claimed her experience was part of a broader move that affected hundreds of other flight attendants who faced pay cuts and were taken off the prestigious long-haul flights. An appeal by another Aeroflot flight attendant who came forward with a similar claim is expected to be heard later this month.

Magurina said a sympathetic manager leaked her documents showing that some 600 of Aeroflot's 7,000 cabin crew



Aeroflot flight attendant Yevgeniya Magurina shows her uniform

employees, most of them women, were reassigned to shorter flights without bonus pay because they were considered too "old, fat and ugly."

Aeroflot denied the claims of discrimination in court, arguing that the company had no obligation to pay bonuses.

But it acknowledged its preference for slimmer cabin crews, arguing that there were objective reasons for it. Aeroflot insisted that overweight attendants could pose a safety risk by blocking emergency exits and require more costly fuel to transport. **AP**

## corporate bits

### MGM LAUNCHES RELIEF PROGRAM FOR SMES



MGM has initiated a SME Relief Program to help local businesses affected by the typhoon to get back on track and recover from the consequent damage.

The gaming operator said in a statement that MGM conducted a survey to help assess the impact of the

typhoon on their businesses.

The survey covered over 220 of MGM's SME vendors, all under the categories of micro SMEs, young entrepreneurs and Made-in-Macau. These groups were surveyed as they are most susceptible to losses

inflicted by the typhoon.

MGM's SME Committee held a meeting to review the survey results and formulate the MGM SME Relief Program, which aims to provide continuous support and reduce the operating pressure on those affected.

The program consists of comprehensive measures that address short, mid and long-term needs of SMEs. The initiative includes expedited payments processing and upfront payment to alleviate cash flow needs, logistical support and assistance with minor to major damage.

Data shows that over 60 percent of its SME vendors encountered significant damage, and thus it will utilize its collective pledge as additional support since the rebuilding will take time.

### DAIMLER BACKS CAR-SHARING STARTUP UNDER PRESSURE FROM HERTZ



Automotive giant Daimler AG and South Korean conglomerate SK Holdings Co. led a USD92 million investment in Turo Inc., a startup that lets people rent out their personal cars. The funding could help the young business withstand incursions from traditional car-rental companies.

More than 4 million people use Turo's marketplace to swap

cars for a daily fee. Owners list their vehicles on the site for renters hunting for a discount or a specific model to drive. Once there's a match, the users pick a time and meeting place to exchange keys. The San Francisco-based company takes a 25 percent cut of transactions.

The new funds will go toward growth in Germany, where Turo

will take control of Daimler's struggling Mercedes auto-sharing service Croove, and throughout Asia. The investment values the nine-year-old company at about \$700 million, nearly double the last round, said Chief Executive Officer Andre Haddad.

Traditional car-rental companies have Turo and its competitors, Drivy and Getaround, in their sights. They believe car-sharing services are illegal because the businesses skirt tourism taxes. The American Car Rental Association, a lobbying group for Enterprise Holdings Inc., Hertz Global Holdings Inc. and other industry giants, is pushing lawmakers to eliminate what it sees as an unfair loophole. "Car sharing is a car-rental business model and thus, should pay all appropriate taxes," said Sharon Faulkner, executive director at the trade group.



## ECONOMY

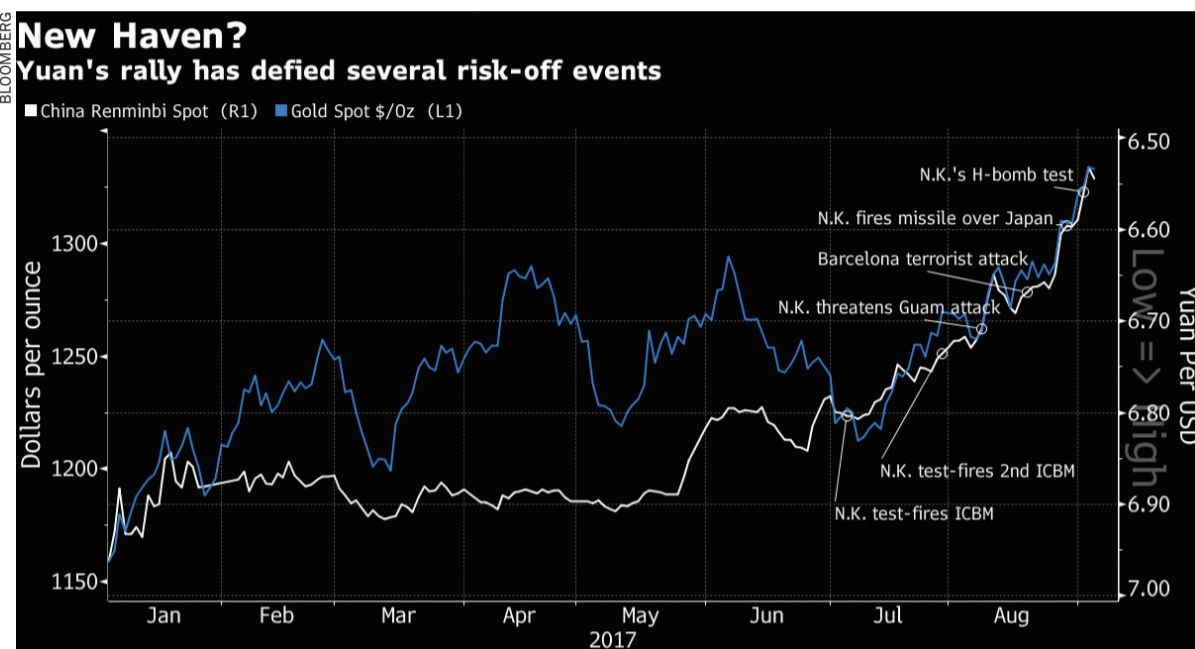
# Pyongyang threats, weak dollar turn yuan into surprise haven

**T**WO years after Chinese policy makers devalued the yuan, an act that torpedoed global markets, traders are starting to view the currency as a sure bet.

The yuan has surged 3.9 percent to be the best performer in Asia this quarter, while momentum indicators are near the highest since 2005. Typical risk-off events seem only to heighten demand for the exchange rate, making it act like a haven. North Korea firing a missile? Buy the yuan. Dysfunction in the White House? Buy the yuan.

The currency's recent favor among traders is being helped by several factors, most notably the slumping dollar. Japan's vulnerability to North Korean missiles is also prompting a search for an alternative haven to the yen. Domestically, capital controls have curbed outflows, lessening pressure on the yuan to depreciate, while a buoyant stock market is luring inflows. There is also a perception that officials will keep the currency elevated before a Communist Party meeting next month.

Risks remain for the currency, which has blown past analyst targets for this year. Its rally has yet to be tested by a sustained rebound in the greenback, with the Bloomberg Dollar Spot Index trading near its lowest level since early 2015. Betting on China's powers of financial market



levitation hasn't always worked out well in the past, while the country's position as North Korea's ally means it's at risk of sanctions.

"There's talk of the yuan as a safe haven because investors have come around to the view that the People's Bank won't let it slide," said Mark Williams, chief Asia economist at Capital Economics Ltd. in London. "But the picture could change if President Trump introduced wide-ranging trade sanctions on China or if something caused the U.S. dollar to strengthen abruptly."

For now, at least, the yuan has a number of things going for it.

The People's Bank of China has tightened funding conditions this year while the Federal Reserve has signaled a cautious approach to further rate hikes, contributing to China's widening yield advantage. Then there's the reversal in the so-called Trump trade as investors unwound bets on an ambitious growth agenda centered around major tax reforms and infrastructure spending.

"The yuan has found support from an unexpected source: President Donald Trump," Bloomberg Intelligence analysts Fielding Chen and Tom Orlik wrote in a note. "Political turmoil in the U.S. has dented the dollar."

China's economic data have also held steady, and the People's Bank of China's fixings have signaled a preference for a stronger exchange rate ahead of next month's Party Congress. And while Donald Trump outlined plans for new sanctions that could target China, investors remain unconvinced he will actually take action.

If the U.S. restricts trade with China, "all that's really going to happen is for those products which you can't substitute locally, the prices are going to go up, so it's going to be inflationary for the consumers inside the U.S.," said Hayden Briscoe, head

of Asia Pacific fixed income at UBS Asset Management in Hong Kong.

Of course, because of China's massive current-account surplus, foreign-exchange reserves and capital controls, the yuan has always been steadier than most emerging-market currencies. Still, tight state control is a double-edged sword: the yuan is far from being a haven in the classic sense, as it's much easier to put your money in freely-traded haven currencies like the yen.

"The yuan may be less vulnerable than some other emerging market currencies at times of heightened global risks," Louis Kuijs, head of Asia economics at Oxford Economics in Hong Kong, wrote in an email. "However, I do not have the impression that the yuan is a 'haven' currency like the Japanese yen."

Markets are starting to show jitters over the yuan's outlook as well. One-month implied volatility, which is used to price options, jumped to the highest since February on Tuesday, while the offshore yuan snapped a record 14-day run of appreciation. The onshore rate fluctuated between gains and losses Wednesday. It was up 0.1 percent as of 5:49 p.m. in Shanghai.

While it remains to be seen whether the yuan can hold this quarter's gain, its strength has forced banks including Standard Chartered Plc, Credit Agricole CIB and Mizuho Bank Ltd. to increase their forecasts for its 2017 performance.

"The renminbi is strong because of the strong Chinese economy and a weaker dollar," said Shen Jianguang, chief Asia economist at Mizuho Securities Asia Ltd. **Bloomberg**

## HONG KONG

## Independence banners on university campus renew tensions

**B**ANNERS supporting independence for Chinese-controlled Hong Kong have appeared on a university campus at the start of classes, rekindling tensions over free speech in the semiautonomous city.

The black banners declaring "Hong Kong Independence" in English and Chinese were put up around the Chinese University of Hong Kong's campus (CUHK) earlier this week.

The school quickly took them down but more were put up a day later, according to local media reports.

One remained strung up over a busy central yesterday. Posters on a nearby wall said, "Fight for our

homeland. Fight for Hong Kong independence."

It's unclear who was responsible but student leaders have been wrangling with the university administration to keep them up.

University officials say the banners are illegal while the student union says they should be allowed to discuss current issues.

Hong Kong, a former British colony, maintains civil liberties unseen on mainland China including freedom of speech following its 1997 handover, but many residents fear Beijing is tightening its grip.

Some young activists start promoting the once-unthinkable notion of independence from main-



Students walk beneath a black banner reading "Hong Kong Independence" in Chinese put up at the CUHK campus yesterday

land China after massive pro-democracy protests ended without resolution in 2014. There's almost no chance of success but their ideas have alarmed China's Communist leaders in Beijing.

Hong Kong's Beijing-

backed government has clamped down on such sentiment, including using the courts to get two newly elected pro-independence lawmakers disqualified from office last year for making improper oaths of office. **AP**

## UN human rights experts urge Beijing to free prominent lawyer

**F**OUR U.N. human rights experts are urging China to release a prominent lawyer and rights defender who may have been forced into making a televised "confession" that he sought the overthrow of China's political system.

The experts say Jiang Tianyong's so-called confession on Aug. 22 amounts to "a worrying sign of China's disregard for due process and the rule of law."

They said they were "gravely concerned

that his confession may have been coerced by the use of torture" in practices that would violate international standards and China's own laws.

Jiang was arrested in November. The experts say he has been kept at an unknown location for at least nine months.

They said yesterday his alleged crime "apparently included communications with foreign entities," possibly including U.N. agencies and the media. **AP**



Muneeza Naqvi & Julhas Alam,  
Kutupalong

## BANGLADESH

# Boat with Rohingya refugees capsizes, killing five as more flee

A trawler carrying Rohingya Muslims fleeing violence in Myanmar capsized, drowning at least five people, as the country's leader Aung San Suu Kyi blamed a misinformation campaign for fueling a crisis that the U.N. says has now pushed more than 125,000 refugees into Bangladesh.

Residents of Shah Porir Dwip fishing village recovered five bodies from the Bay of Bengal yesterday, hours after the boat capsized around midnight, said police official Yakub Ali.

It was not immediately clear where the boat began its journey, or if the passengers had been among some 450 detained by Bangladeshi border guards and ordered to return to Myanmar.

While some border guards were letting refugees across the borders, others were sending them back.

Faced with a mounting crisis and a lack of space and basic supplies, Bangladesh said it will set up a new camp to accommodate Rohingya refugees who have arrived from Myanmar since Aug. 25, many walking for days and crossing jungles and rivers to reach safety.

Shah Kamal of the Ministry of Disaster Management did not say



A Rohingya family reaches the Bangladesh border after crossing a creek of the Naf river on the border with Myanmar

when the new camp would be ready. He said yesterday it would be established in Tyingkhali, south of Cox's Bazar district and near the established camp in Balukhali where more than 50,000 Rohingya have been sheltering since October.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has asked officials to prepare a database with fingerprints for the new arrivals.

The number of Rohingya fleeing western Rakhine state has reached more than 125,000, 80 percent of whom are women and children, said UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake.

"Many more children in need of support and protection remain in the areas of northern Rakhine state that have been wracked by violence," he said in a statement, adding that the U.N. refugee

agency had no access to Rakhine trouble spots.

"We are unable to reach the 28,000 children to whom we were previously providing psychosocial care or the more than 4,000 children who were treated for malnutrition in Buthidaung and Maungdaw" in Rakhine, he said. "Our clean water and sanitation work has been suspended, as have school repairs that were under way."

The violence and civilian suffering have prompted international condemnation and resonated particularly in many Muslim countries.

Suu Kyi complained to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in a phone call that Turkey's deputy prime minister was a victim of fake news when he posted photos purportedly showing dead Rohingya that were not related to the crisis. The photos on Mehmet Simsek's Twitter account had been taken down.

According to her office, Suu Kyi said that such misinformation

helps promote the interests of "terrorists," a reference to Rohingya insurgents whose deadly attacks on Myanmar security posts Aug. 25 triggered the latest military crackdown and streams of refugees.

The military has said nearly 400 people, most of them insurgents, have died in clashes. Security forces responded to the attacks with days of "clearance operations" the government says were aimed at rooting out insurgents it accuses of setting fire to Rohingya villages.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said it was crucial that Myanmar's government immediately give Rohingya either nationality or legal status so they can lead normal lives and freely move, find jobs, and get an education.

Guterres cited the longstanding history of "discrimination, hopelessness and extreme poverty" against Rohingya and warned about possible ethnic cleansing. **AP**

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## ANALYSIS

# How can US stop North Korea nukes? Three experts have ideas

IF the U.S. attacks North Korea, the world could see another nuclear war. Yet negotiations won't work — leader Kim Jong Un won't live up to his promises even if he were to make any. And China — if only it would help more!

Those are the sentiments that have produced a collective shrug from many as they watch the North make rapid strides toward developing nuclear missiles capable of striking anywhere in the United States.

But Washington hasn't tried everything yet.

Below, three experts offer ideas on how the U.S. might get out of its policy box on North Korea.

And none of them require firing a shot.

**DETERRENCE**

Deterrence is about making sure your opponent has no good military moves. Kim Jong Un has proven to be pretty good at it.

Vipin Narang, a nuclear strategy and nonproliferation expert at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, believes U.S. policymakers need to let that sink in.

"Saying that this nuclear program has not augmented or improved North Korea's ability to deter particular actions, especially regime change or invasion or disarmament, is simply denying reality and putting our head in the sand," he said.

The good news is deterrence is a game the United States has played before.

"We know how to do this," he said. "We did it with China and the Soviet Union and managed to reassure West Germany and Europe during the Cold War. There is no logical reason we cannot do it with North Korea. Kim is not crazy or irrational and responds to strategic and domestic incentives."

Upping the game will require two things Narang believes are now lacking: a coherent and unified message to Pyongyang from President Donald Trump's administration, and strong, believable reassurances to America's regional allies.

Along with preventing a U.S. attack, North Korea's nuclear weapons and missile tests are intended to create discord among the U.S., Japan and South Korea — and, though it's not an American ally — China. If America's ability to handle North Korea is in doubt, there is more pressure for South Korea and Japan to pursue independent strategies and even consider developing nuclear weapons of their own.

Moreover, the different messages coming from the



White House, State Department and Department of Defense — ranging from Trump threatening "fire and fury" to the more conciliatory tone of Secretary of State Rex Tillerson — Pyongyang has more incentive to push ahead quickly to either take advantage of what it sees as weakness or bolster its capabilities ahead of what it fears to be a looming invasion.

"So long as this incoherence persists, it becomes very difficult to craft deterrent positions clearly and effectively," Narang said. "At this point, the way forward it seems to me is to always keep the channel for negotiations open while simultaneously practicing deterrence and reassurance to our allies."

And maybe one more thing. Tone down the tweets.

"When President Trump tweets the day after the alleged H-bomb test that South Korea should stop 'appeasement' of North Korea, Pyongyang can be nothing short of delighted at its strategy working," Narang said.

**NOT CHINA'S JOB**

Previous efforts to get North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons have leaned heavily on Beijing, and to a lesser extent Moscow, to enforce sanctions and apply political pressure. It's an approach

Trump seems to support wholeheartedly. Right after the North's nuclear test Sunday, he tweeted that Pyongyang has become "a great threat and embarrassment to China, which is trying to help but with little success."

But China's and Russia's national interests aren't the same as Washington's. Shifting the onus to them for a solution diminishes U.S. leadership and control, said Joel Wit, a senior fellow at the Johns Hopkins' School of Advanced International Studies and a former State Department official who developed strategies to deal with the crisis over North Korea's weapons program in the 1990s.

"Under the best of circumstances, China can play a supporting role, both in supporting limited pressure on the North and in supporting diplomatic outreach to Pyongyang," he said. "But it has not and will not do what Washington wants — solve this problem for the United States by creating overwhelming pressure."

Even if Beijing went along, Wit said it still wouldn't work: "The North Koreans are not going to roll over and play dead when faced with an existential threat to their regime. They will lash out."

Wit also said the Trump ad-

ministration will have "virtually no prospect of securing Chinese cooperation" if it insists that reining in North Korea is mainly a Chinese problem. He believes North Korea is already taking advantage of the growing split between Washington and Beijing to "sprint to the WMD [weapons of mass destruction] finish line."

He said that instead of pointing fingers, Washington needs to accept that the core problem is between the U.S. and North Korea and firmly take the wheel.

"The idea that this is the land of no good options leads everyone to move on," he said. "Almost every foreign policy challenge facing the U.S. could be called the same thing. But this fatalistic attitude has permeated U.S. policy for over a decade and has led us to where we are today."

**THE ART OF THE DEAL**

If the U.S. is going to get what it wants, it has to know what it wants. And it will probably need to give up something to get it.

John Delury, an associate professor of Chinese studies at Yonsei University in Seoul, believes the most realistic path forward involves three steps: "dialogue, negotiation, settlement."

"Without talking to Kim

Jong Un or his senior advisers, we just don't know who we are dealing with, what their positions are, what we can give them that they really want, and what we can get in return. That moves us into the negotiation, for short-term steps that reduce risks, decrease hostility, even build a little confidence."

Washington's focus should be clear and specific. Negotiators should push for a missile and nuclear test moratorium, a freeze on the production of nuclear weapons, the return of nuclear inspectors and increased transparency. There must also be nonproliferation commitments.

Delury stresses there must also be some give and take.

"For these things, things that are in U.S. interests, the Trump administration, in close consultation with Seoul and Tokyo, will have to consider what it is willing to do, or forego," he said.

Pyongyang says it wants some sort of security guarantee and the removal of the U.S. nuclear threat from the Korean Peninsula. Neither would seem to be a good starter topic, but another item on Pyongyang's list — scaling back or canceling the U.S. military's annual wargames with the South — might be an area the two could at least talk about.

In the longer term, Delury says, the U.S. must directly address "the true heart of the matter, which is working on a political settlement" that fundamentally transforms the U.S.-North Korea relationship.

"Let's call those 'peace talks,' for lack of a better phrase," he said.

Technically, the countries have remained at war since 1953, when an armistice rather than a peace treaty ended fighting in the Korean War.

Delury said negotiations "should also involve a heavy dose of economic cooperation, since the only alternative to the status quo that might appeal to Kim Jong Un is a North Korea that is not only secure, but also prosperous."

The hope is that more political and economic engagement would over time prompt the North to ease its authoritarian controls. But the negotiation process would undoubtedly be fraught with ambivalence and resistance on both sides. **AP**



MDT EXPLAINS

## What is a hydrogen bomb

**N**ORTH Korea says it successfully detonated a hydrogen bomb in its latest nuclear test Sunday. Outside experts haven't been able to verify that claim, but say it's plausible. If true, it would represent a major step forward in North Korea's effort to develop a nuclear weapon capable of reaching the United States.

### MORE POWERFUL THAN AN A-BOMB

A hydrogen bomb can be far more powerful than the atomic bombs the U.S. dropped on Japan in World War II. The U.S. conducted the first successful tests of hydrogen bombs in the 1950s. Their yields of 10,000 kilotons and more were several hundred times larger than the bombs that leveled Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Experts believe the yield of North Korea's latest test was at least 140 kilotons, which would make it some seven to eight times as powerful as Hiroshima (15 kilotons) and Nagasaki (about 20).

### USES THE POWER OF THE SUN

Atomic bombs rely on fission, or the splitting of the nucleus of an atom, just as nuclear power plants do. The hydrogen bomb uses both fission and fusion — the fusing together of atomic nuclei — to produce more explosive energy. It's the same process that keeps the sun and other stars burning. H-bombs are also known as thermonuclear bombs, because of the extremely high temperature needed to induce fusion. A typical hydrogen bomb is two-stage: First, an atomic fission bomb detonates, and that in turn starts the fusion of a hydrogen isotope in a second section.

### SMALL ENOUGH TO FIT ON A MISSILE

The atomic bombs that hit Japan were huge and had to be dropped from planes flying overhead. With its higher power, a hydrogen bomb can be made small enough to fit on the head of an intercontinental missile. The hydrogen bomb is the standard for the five nations with the greatest nuclear weapons capability: Russia, the U.S., France, China and the U.K. Other nations may either have it or be working on it, despite a worldwide effort to contain such proliferation.

MDT/AP



This April 27, 1956, file photo shows the area in which the United States hydrogen bomb tests will take place in the Pacific Ocean



Russian President Vladimir Putin (right) and South Korean President Moon Jae-in during a meeting at the Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok

KOREAN CRISIS

# Putin urges talks, says sanctions not working

Kim Tong-Hyung, Seoul

**W**HILE condemning North Korea over its latest nuclear test, the leaders of Russia and South Korea seemed far apart on the issue of stepping up sanctions against the country after a meeting yesterday in the Russian port city of Vladivostok.

Speaking after the meeting with South Korean President Moon Jae-in, Russian President Vladimir Putin called for talks with North Korea, saying sanctions are not a solution to the country's nuclear and missile development.

Moon had urged Moscow to support stronger sanctions against North Korea, which conducted its sixth nuclear test on Sunday in what it claimed was a detonation of a thermonuclear weapon built for missiles capable of reaching the U.S. mainland.

"We should not give in to emotions and push Pyongyang into a corner," Putin said in a news conference after the meeting, held on the sidelines of a conference on economic development of Russia's Far East. "As never before everyone should show

restraint and refrain from steps leading to escalation and tensions."

Moon said the leaders agreed that reducing regional tension and "quickly solving" the security challenges posed by North Korea's nuclear and missile program were critical. Ahead of his meeting with Putin, Moon said the situation could get out of hand if North Korea's missile and nuclear tests aren't stopped.

**“We should not give in to emotions and push Pyongyang into a corner.”**

VLADIMIR PUTIN

Moon urged Russia to back stronger sanctions including the cutting off of oil supplies, but Putin expressed concern that such moves would hurt regular North Koreans, said Yoon Young-chan, Moon's chief press secretary.

"Myself and President Putin share a view that North Korea has gone the

wrong way with its nuclear and missile program and that easing tension on the Korean Peninsula is an urgent issue," Moon said during the news conference. He complimented Putin and the Russian government over what he said were a variety of efforts to find diplomatic solutions to the North Korean problem.

In a telephone conversation with Putin on Monday before his trip to Russia, Moon also called for a ban on overseas North Korean workers, who are seen as a key foreign currency source for the North. Putin told Moon that the North Korean problem should be solved diplomatically, according to Seoul's presidential office.

Moon, a liberal who took office in May, had initially showed a preference for a diplomatic approach on North Korea, but his government has since taken a harder stance as the North continued its torrid pace in weapons tests. In an interview with the Russian news agency TASS on Tuesday, Moon said he believes now is not the time for talks and that it is important for the international community to strengthen pressure against North Korea.

Seoul's Defense Ministry yesterday said the U.S. military will begin adding more launchers to a contentious high-tech U.S. missile defense system in South Korea on Thursday to better cope with North Korean threats. The deployment of the Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense system has angered not only North Korea, but also China and Russia, which see the system's powerful radars as a security threat.

A THAAD battery normally consists of six launchers that can fire up to 48 interceptor missiles, but only two launchers have been operational so far at the site in rural Seongju.

Putin, speaking in China on Tuesday, condemned North Korea's nuclear test as provocative, but said Russia views sanctions as "useless and ineffective."

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who will meet Putin in Vladivostok on Thursday, said before his departure from Japan that "we must make North Korea understand there is no bright future for the country if it pursues the current path."

Moon and Abe are also expected to meet in Vladivostok on today. **AP**



## CLIMATE CHANGE

# UN chief Guterres says natural disasters have quadrupled since 1970

Edith M. Lederer, United Nations

**N**ATURAL disasters have nearly quadrupled in number since 1970 and the United States has experienced the most disasters since 1995, followed by China and India, the United Nations chief said yesterday [Macau time].

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told reporters that in recent days the world has seen the “dramatic aggravation” of climate change with “unprecedented events” caused by storms and flooding from Texas to Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sierra Leone.

Before the current floods, he said, preliminary reports registered 2,087 deaths this year from natural disasters. With the latest floods, that number will at least double.

In the last two months, more than 1,000 people have been killed in flooding events across India, southern Nepal and northern Bangladesh and some 40 million have seen their homes,

businesses or crops destroyed. Last month, more than 1,000 people died from a mudslide and flood that hit Sierra Leone’s capital Freetown. And last week, Hurricane Harvey dumped almost a year’s worth of rainfall on Houston, America’s fourth-largest city. It destroyed some 7,000 homes and damaged more than 37,000 others in Texas and

“**[Scientists] are equally clear that extreme weather is what their models predict will be the new normal of a warming world.**”

ANTÓNIO GUTERRES

is blamed for at least 60 deaths.

Guterres said last year 24.2 million people were displaced by sudden disasters — “three times as many as by conflict and violence.”

He noted that scientists caution about linking any single weather event with climate change. “But they are equally clear that such extreme weather is precisely what their models predict will be the new normal of a warming world,” Guterres said.

The secretary-general was asked whether he would try to persuade President Donald Trump to keep the United States in the Paris climate agreement when they meet during the U.N. General Assembly’s annual ministerial meeting that starts Sept. 19.

“We are totally committed to the Paris agreement,” Guterres said. “We hope that all countries will understand that it’s not only the right thing to do it’s also the smart thing to do because the green economy is the economy of the future.” AP



UN Secretary-General António Guterres

## TEXAS

## Engineers 20 years ago warned of flooding risk

**A** report released two decades ago on the Harris County reservoir system predicted with alarming accuracy the catastrophic flooding that would besiege the Houston area if changes weren’t made in the face of rapid development.

The report released in 1996 by engineers with the Harris County Flood Control District said the Addicks and Barker reservoirs were adequate when built in the 1940s. But it noted that as entire neighborhoods sprouted over the years around the reservoirs in western Harris County, as many as 25,000 homes and businesses at the time were exposed to the kind of flooding Harvey has now brought.

In the report obtained by The Dallas Morning News, engineers proposed a USD400 million solution that involved building a massive underground conduit that would more quickly carry water out of the reservoirs and into the Houston



Houston: Many residents returned to work yesterday in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey

Ship Channel. The conceptual plan envisioned a conduit consisting of eight channels to carry water out of the reservoirs and safely past developed areas downstream.

“The primary flood threat facing the citizens of west Harris County and west Houston comes from the inability to drain the Addicks and Barker reservoirs in an efficient manner,” the report said.

When asked about the report, Harris County flood control officials said they could not immediately locate a copy and were unfamiliar with the details.

“What I recall is, and I haven’t read the report since back then, was that it was going to be very difficult to do physically,” said Steve Fitzgerald, the flood control district’s longtime chief engineer.

But the timing in 1996 was right, the engineers noted. The Texas Department of Transportation was launching a reconstruction of the Katy Freeway, a portion of Interstate 10 west of downtown Houston that leads directly from the two reservoirs to the downtown section, and it would have been a suitable route for the drainage channel,

they said

Other solutions were offered, such as digging the reservoirs deeper, buying out properties at risk of flooding and imposing new regulations on development.

“Do nothing and accept risk of flooding,” the report warned.

The report was filed away without action, then last week Harvey struck. The usually dry Addicks and Barker reservoirs quickly filled until, on Aug. 28, they were nearly full and water had spread to their surrounding neighborhoods. The Army Corps of Engineers

opened the floodgates to let a controlled amount escape. But instead of the normal 4,000 cubic feet per second, Corps officials opened the gates wide enough to release more than 13,000 cubic feet per second to keep the rising reservoir levels from overtopping the dams. They did so knowing it would flood neighborhoods downstream.

And just as the 1996 report predicted, water in many of the flooded homes would not drain for days or even weeks.

Who gets the blame? The Corps said with no federal money appropriated, there was no federal project, although Harris County is “welcome to do that if they can work with whatever partners they need to do that, and we would encourage it to happen,” said Richard Long, supervisory natural resources manager for the Houston Project Office of the Corps’ Galveston District.

Harris County Com-

missioner Steve Radack, whose precinct includes the reservoirs, blames Congress, which never allocated the money and credited the Corps with “an outstanding job of managing this reservoir, outstanding.”

The issue is moot for Aaron Voges, whose family home is in a neighborhood located inside a flooded reservoir.

“For some stupid reason I thought that levee that I see on my way home, I thought that protected me,” he said. “I had no idea that there were plans in place to flood me to protect other people, which blows my mind.”

This week, a Houston lawyer whose home was among those flooded filed a federal lawsuit against the Corps. Bryant Banes said the class-action suit seeks compensation from the federal government for what was effectively condemnation of their west Houston properties when water released from the reservoirs flooded Buffalo Bayou. AP



**T**HE most powerful Atlantic Ocean hurricane in recorded history made its first landfall in the islands of the northeast Caribbean yesterday [Macau time], roaring along a path pointing to Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Cuba before possibly heading for Florida over the weekend.

The eye of Hurricane Irma passed over Barbuda around 1:47 a.m., the U.S. National Weather Service said. Residents said over local radio that phone lines went down. Heavy rain and howling winds raked the neighboring island of Antigua, sending debris flying as people huddled in their homes or government shelters.

Officials warned people to seek protection from Irma's "onslaught" in a statement that closed with: "May God protect us all."

In Barbuda, the storm ripped the roof off the island's police station forcing officers to seek refuge in the nearby fire station and at the community center that served as an official shelter. The Category 5 storm also knocked out communication between islands. Midcie Francis of the National Office of Disaster Services confirmed there was damage to several homes, but said it was too early to assess the extent of damage.

The storm had maximum sus-

STATES OF EMERGENCY

# Powerful Hurricane Irma hits first Caribbean islands

tained winds of 295 kph, according to the Hurricane Center. It said winds would likely fluctuate slightly, but the storm would remain at Category 4 or 5 strength for the next day or two. The most dangerous winds, usually nearest to the eye, were forecast to pass near the northern Virgin Islands and near or just north of Puerto Rico on Wednesday.

"I hear it's a Cat 5 now and I'm terrified," Antigua resident Carol Joseph said as she finished her last trip to the supermarket before seeking shelter. "I had to come back for more batteries because I don't know how long the current will be off."

On the 280-square-kilometer island, people who live in low-lying areas were staying with friends and relatives on higher ground or sleeping in churches, schools and community facilities built to withstand hurricanes. None of the shelters had yet been tested by Category 5 winds, however.



Streets of Carolina, Puerto Rico

Many homes in Antigua and Barbuda are not built on concrete foundations or have poorly constructed wooden roofs.

President Donald Trump declared emergencies in Florida, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, and authorities in the Bahamas said they would evacuate six southern islands.

Warm water is fuel for hurricanes and Irma was moving over water that was 1 degree Celsius warmer than normal. The 26 Celsius water that hurricanes need

went about 80 meters deep, said Jeff Masters, meteorology director of the private forecasting service Weather Underground.

Four other storms have had winds as strong in the overall Atlantic region, but they were in the Caribbean Sea or the Gulf of Mexico, which usually have warmer waters. Hurricane Allen hit 190 mph in 1980, while 2005's Wilma, 1988's Gilbert and a 1935 great Florida Keys storm all had 185 mph winds.

Bahamas Prime Minister Hu-

bert Minnis said his government was evacuating six islands in the south because authorities would not be able to help anyone caught in the "potentially catastrophic" wind, flooding and storm surge. People there would be flown to Nassau in what he called the largest storm evacuation in the country's history.

"The price you may pay for not evacuating is your life or serious physical harm," Minnis said.

The U.S. National Weather Service said Puerto Rico had not seen a hurricane of Irma's magnitude since Hurricane San Felipe in 1928, which killed a total of 2,748 people in Guadeloupe, Puerto Rico and Florida.

The eye of the storm was expected to rip westward on a path taking it a little north of Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Cuba.

The storm seemed almost certain to hit the United States by early next week. **AP**

AD

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## what's ON



**IN SEARCH OF THOSE JOURNEYS - A RETROSPECTIVE EXHIBITION OF THE FERRY TRANSPORT BETWEEN MACAU AND THE ISLANDS**  
**TIME:** 10am-7pm (Last admission at 6:30pm, closed on Mondays)  
**UNTIL:** October 5, 2017  
**VENUE:** Nostalgic House of Taipa Houses  
**ADMISSION:** Free  
**ENQUIRIES:** 8988 4000

**REPRESENTING WOMEN THROUGH THE MAM COLLECTION - 19TH AND 20TH CENTURIES**  
**TIME:** 10am-7pm (Last admission at 6:30pm, closed on Mondays)  
**UNTIL:** December 10, 2017  
**VENUE:** Macau Art Museum  
**ADMISSION:** Free  
**ORGANIZER:** Cultural Affairs Bureau  
**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 8791 9814

**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

**DEBRIS - WORKS BY ALEXANDRE FARTO AKA VHILS**  
**TIME:** 10am-7pm (Closed on Mondays)  
**UNTIL:** November 5, 2017  
**VENUE:** Navy Yard No.1, Rua de S. Tiago da Barra  
**ADMISSION:** Free  
**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 8988 4000

**BALLADE - ANIMAMIX CONTEMPORARY ART**  
**TIME:** 10am-7pm (Last admission at 6:30pm, closed on Mondays, open on public holidays)  
**UNTIL:** October 15, 2017  
**VENUE:** Macau Museum of Art  
**ADMISSION:** Free  
**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 8791 9814

**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

## Offbeat

## POLICE 'TERRIFIED' BY RED 'IT' BALLOONS TIED TO SEWER GRATES

Police officers in a small Pennsylvania town are evidently afraid of a certain homicidal clown.

The Lititz police department yesterday posted photos of red balloons a prankster tied to a pair of sewer grates.

A red balloon is the calling card of Pennywise, the sewer-dwelling, child-eating clown in Stephen King's horror novel "It." The hotly anticipated movie version opens in theaters Friday.

In a playful Facebook post, police write they admire the prankster's creativity but were "completely terrified" while removing the balloons and "respectfully request they do not do that again."

Police also suggest people watch previews of the movie with the lights turned on and the volume turned low.

The police department's post ends with a famous line from the book: "You'll float too."

The film will be reviewed tomorrow in our Extra Times supplement.

## 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	Miscellaneous
21:40	Yes Chef!
22:10	The Cariocas - Premier
22:50	AL elections campaign
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:20	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:55	RTPi Live

## cinema



## CINETEATRO

7 SEP - 13 SEP



## OBERDRIVE

ROOM 1  
2:30, 4:30pm  
ROOM 2  
7:30pm

**Director:** Antonio Negret**Starring:** Scott Eastwood, Freddie Thorp, Ana de Armas**Language:** English (Chinese)**Duration:** 93min

## WOLF WARRIOR II

ROOM 1  
7:15, 9:30pm

**Director:** Jason Wu**Starring:** Jason Wu, Qian Yu, Nan Yu**Language:** Putonghua (Chinese & English)**Duration:** 126min

## IT

ROOM 2  
2:15, 4:45, 9:30pm

**Director:** Andres Muschietti**Starring:** Bill Skarsgård, Jaeden Lieberher, Finn Wolfhard**Language:** English (Chinese)**Duration:** 135min

## 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



## 1940 LONDON BLITZED BY GERMAN BOMBERS

The German air force has unleashed a wave of heavy bombing raids on London, killing hundreds of civilians and injuring many more.

The Ministry of Home Security said the scale of the attacks was the largest the Germans had yet attempted. "Our defences have actively engaged the enemy at all points," said a communiqué issued this evening.

"The civil defence services are responding admirably to all calls that are being made upon them."

The first raids came towards the end of the afternoon, and were concentrated on the densely populated East End, along the river by London's docks.

About 300 bombers attacked the city for over an hour and a half. The entire docklands area seemed to be ablaze as hundreds of fires lit up the sky.

Once darkness fell, the fires could be seen more than 10 miles away, and it is believed that the light guided a second wave of German bombers which began coming over at about 2030 BST (1930 GMT).

The night bombing lasted over eight hours, shaking the city with the deafening noise of hundreds of bombs falling so close together there was hardly a pause between them.

One bomb exploded on a crowded air raid shelter in an East London district.

In what was described as "a million to one chance", the bomb fell directly on the 3ft (90cm) by 1ft (30cm) ventilation shaft - the only vulnerable place in a strongly-protected underground shelter which could accommodate over 1,000 people.

About 14 people are believed to have been killed and 40 injured, including children.

Civil defence workers worked through the night, often in the face of heavy bombing, to take people out of the range of fire and find them temporary shelter and food.

An official paid tribute to staff at one London hospital which was hit, saying, "They showed marvellous bravery, keeping on until bomb detonations and gunfire made it absolutely impossible."

In the air, a series of ferocious dogfights developed as the German aircraft flew up the Thames Estuary.

The Air Ministry says at least 15 enemy aircraft crashed into the estuary, and in all, the Ministry said, 88 German aircraft were shot down, against 22 RAF planes lost.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The attacks were Britain's first taste of strategic bombing, when air forces aimed at civilian morale and industrial production rather than purely military targets.

The start of what came to be called the London Blitz - from Blitzkrieg, or "lightning war" - marked a change of strategy by the German leader, Adolf Hitler.

His attempt to invade Britain had already been frustrated by the Luftwaffe's failure to gain air superiority despite a month of trying. Now, Hitler was going to try to crush the British people instead.

The RAF had in fact been brought almost to its knees by the relentless attacks of the Luftwaffe, but the change of plan gave it a desperately-needed breathing space.

By contrast, the Blitz raids were disastrous for the Luftwaffe, which lost almost all its experienced aircrew and hundreds of aircraft.

About 43,000 civilians died during the Blitz. Almost 140,000 more were injured, and more than a million homes damaged or destroyed.



YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You've finally decided it's time to stop thinking and start acting...

Taurus April 20-May 20 You've never been fond of meaningless small talk - that's something everyone knows about you...

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Working with facts and figures has never been on your top-ten list of favorite things...

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 The good news is there's no way the conversation can turn out anything but well...

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You're not famous for being cautious - in fact, you've often made light of loved ones who take too long making a decision...

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Now that you've had the chance to decide what's important and what's not - and now that you've come up with a list you're sure about - you'll want to make the results known to one and all...

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 From the moment your eyes open this morning, you'll be ready and willing to remove those rose-colored glasses you've been wearing for the past few days - even if it's just for a little while...

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Think of this as a vacation day. Whether or not you have to work won't matter. Just this once, you'll have some actual help...

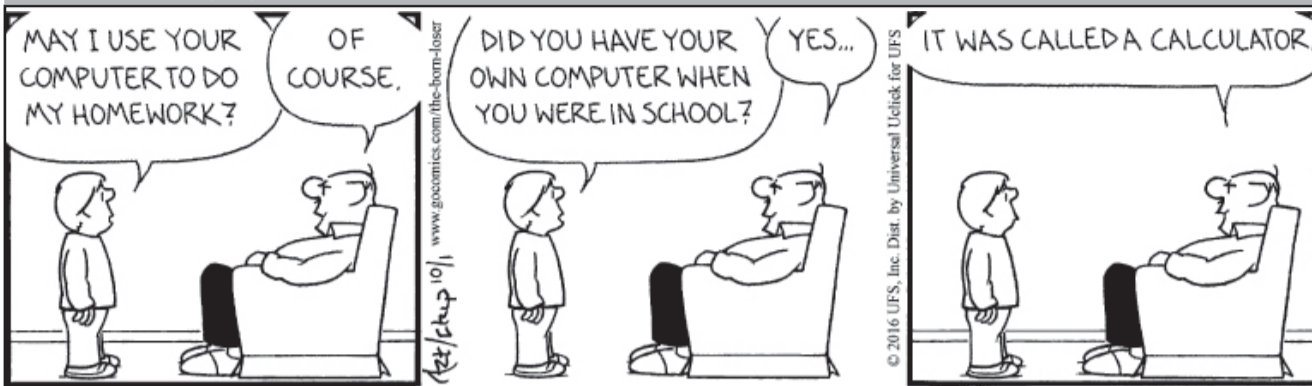
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 For the first time in a while, you woke up with the urge to wipe the sleep out of your eyes - instead of closing them again and blocking out everything but the thought of the one you love, that is...

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You're feeling especially industrious at the moment, which means you'll be totally unable to sit still. Sure, you can pop in that movie and sit down next to your best bud on the couch while it's on...

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You have a lot to think about, and you need to do it before you speak to your boss - especially if they've been trying to get you to make a decision about taking that raise, promotion or bonus...

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 If there's anything you love, it's knowing where you stand, and knowing who's standing there with you. So today's astrological buffet will more than delight you - it will make you feel grounded, safe and solid...

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION

CHINA

Table listing weather conditions for various Chinese cities like Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, etc.

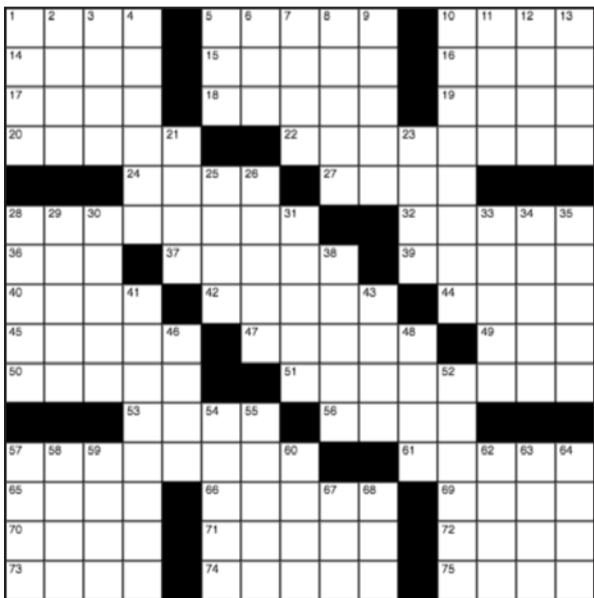
WORLD

Table listing weather conditions for various world cities like Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, etc.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Cut-price retail event; 5- Outsider; 10- Smell foul; 14- Actor Ken; 15- Paris subway; 16- Gaelic language of Ireland or Scotland; 17- Highway; 18- Sharp end; 19- Tass (Russian news agency); 20- Skylit lobbies; 22- Feudal lord; 24- Henpecks; 27- Dirty Harry's org.; 28- Ring-shaped cake; 32- Eagle's nest; 36- West ender?; 37- "Peter and the Wolf" bird; 39- Singes; 40- Scottish boys; 42- Interval of time; 44- Some DVD players; 45- Actress Verdugo; 47- Inactive; 49- Sorority letter; 50- Caravansary; 51- One of the Channel Islands; 53- Story line; 56- yellow ribbon...; 57- Cutting instrument for paper; 61- Basic monetary unit of Sweden; 65- Impetuous; 66- Congo, formerly; 69- Crowd sound; 70- Woody's boy; 71- Borders; 72- Put a lid on; 73- Editor's mark; 74- Dispatches; 75- Bloody conflicts;

DOWN: 1- Marsh bird; 2- Very much; 3- Tale teller; 4- Termination; 5- Roadie's load; 6- The fifth sign of the zodiac; 7- How sweet; 8- Sea eagles; 9- I can help it; 10- Caribou; 11- Harper's Bazaar illustrator; 12- Son of Rebekah; 13- Actress Deborah; 21- Sounds of relief; 23- Transcript figs.; 25- Chew on; 26- Japanese dish; 28- Strikes out; 29- Papal garment; 30- Below; 31- Inanimate object; 33- Speed contests; 34- Fit to be tied; 35- Sontag composition; 38- Aboriginal Alaskan; 41- Photograph; 43- saw Elba; 46- Feels off; 48- Tough trip; 52- Of little width; 54- Seeps; 55- Commerce; 57- Ladies of Sp.; 58- Wagon; 59- Wight or Man; 60- Indication; 62- A Chaplin; 63- Neet rival; 64- Some are liberal; 67- Blushing; 68- Tricky curve;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
IACM 28 387 333
Tourism 28 333 000
Airport 59 888 88



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# The New Tiguan2. All grown-up



Active Info Display



1.4TSI with 150HP



5 star NCAP



LED Headlight



3D LED Taillight

The Tiguan 2 is a great all-grown-up SUV with distinctive styling which redefines its class and confidently points the way to the future. The new generation Tiguan is the first sport utility vehicle to be based on the modular transverse matrix (MQB), and it sets new standards in design, comfort and functionality. In doing so it of course remains capable of off-road, with a rugged all-wheel drive system that includes premium class technology for use on and off the highway. The Tiguan 2 is, then, both more SUV and more than an SUV.



**Volkswagen**

PS : 1) The pictures are for reference only.

2) In the event of any dispute, Volkswagen Hong Kong reserves the right to make the final decision.

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RIO 2016

# IOC can't escape Rio; top organizer Nuzman held in dawn raid

Stephen Wade &  
Peter Prengaman, Rio De Janeiro

**I**NTERNATIONAL Olympic Committee just can't get away from the Rio de Janeiro Olympics.

The IOC is ready to put a rubber-stamp approval this month on bids from Paris and Los Angeles for the 2024 and 2028 Olympics, respectively, yet Olympic officials are once again answering questions about corruption in the bidding process, this time from 2009, when Rio surprisingly got more votes than Madrid, Chicago and Tokyo.

The 2016 Rio Games were already marred by trails of corruption, and billions of public money spent and several useless white-elephant venues spread around the city. Things got worse this week when police raided the home of Brazilian Olympic Committee President Carlos Nuzman, questioning him over his role in what French and Brazilian authorities say was a vote-buying scheme to land the Olympics.

Police took suitcases, documents and a computer, and they displayed detention warrants to question Nuzman.

"The Olympic Games were used as a big trampoline for acts of corruption," federal prosecutor Fabiana Schneider told reporters.

The IOC will meet next week in Lima, Peru, and is expected to award two Summer Olympics at once. The bid process was changed in part to reduce the opportunity for fraud. The IOC won't have



Carlos Nuzman, president of the Brazilian Olympic committee, arrives at Federal Police headquarters in Rio de Janeiro

to worry about another Summer Games bid until 2025, when it would award the 2032 Games.

"Although the IOC has tightened rules and looked to rid itself of the mavericks and the crooks in its midst, it is hardly a surprise that a top-level organizer of the Rio 2016 Games is suspected of buying votes," Alan Tomlinson, an Olympic historian at the University of Brighton, told The Associated Press.

**The Olympic Games were used as a big trampoline for acts of corruption.**

FABIANA SCHNEIDER  
FEDERAL PROSECUTOR

Tomlinson said world-wide sports federations "remain an uncontrollable behemoth in global sports governance."

Investigators said Nuzman — an IOC member at the time, head of the organizing committee, and now an honorary member — was a central player in buying votes for Rio's Olympic bid.

Nuzman's lawyer, Sergio Mazzillo, said his client would cooperate but "did not commit any irregularity."

French and Brazilian authorities said Nuzman brought together businessman Arthur Cesar de Menezes Soares Filho, and Lamine Diack, the former head of track and field's governing body who at the time was an IOC voting member. Soares Filho's company, Matlock Capital Group, allegedly paid Diack USD2 million into a Caribbean account held by his son, Papa Massata Diack.

Authorities said Lamine Diack, an influential African member from Senegal, was instrumental

in organizing the African bloc of votes.

In a statement, the IOC said it was cooperating with French and Brazilian authorities. It said Papa Massata Diack was never an IOC member, and said his father lost his honorary IOC membership in 2015.

"It remains in the highest interest of the IOC to protect the integrity of the candidature process and to address and sanction any infringements," the IOC said.

The 75-year-old Nuzman was an IOC member for 12 years and one of the most prominent figures in bringing the games to Rio. The vote was held in 2009 in Copenhagen, Denmark, with Rio defeating Madrid 66-32.

Chicago, the early favorite, was eliminated in the first round of voting, despite personal lobbying from the United States by President Barack Obama.

"This is quite damaging" to the IOC, said Andrew Zimbalist, an economist who recently edited a book on fallout from the Rio Olympics. "The IOC tried to say goodbye to Rio in August 2016, but the issues arising from the \$20 billion plus extravaganza won't go away."

Soon after the Rio Games, IOC President Thomas Bach awarded Nuzman the "Olympic Order," given to those who have made extraordinary contributions to the Olympics.

Bach lauded Rio and Nuzman at the closing ceremony a year ago.

"These Olympic Games are leaving a unique legacy for ge-

nerations to come," Bach said. "History will talk about a Rio de Janeiro before, and a much better Rio de Janeiro after the Olympic Games."

In France, a 2-year-old investigation into corruption in sports first came to light with the arrest in November 2015 of Diack. The French have been looking into allegations that Diack, his son, and others were involved in blackmailing athletes and covering up failed drug tests.

The French Financial Prosecutors' Office, which has been leading the inquiries, said its investigations have "uncovered the existence of a system of large-scale corruption organized around Papa Massata Diack." It also said its evidence indicates votes by members of the IOC and the ruling track body were "negotiated against payment to obtain city hosting rights for the biggest global sports competitions."

There has been a steady stream of accusations surrounding the awarding of building projects since the games ended a year ago.

Former Rio de Janeiro Mayor Eduardo Paes is being investigated for allegedly accepting at least 15 million reais (\$5 million) in payments to facilitate construction projects tied to the games.

Paes, who has denied wrongdoing, is one of dozens of top politicians implicated in a sweeping judicial corruption investigation in which construction giant Odebrecht illegally paid billions to help win contracts. **AP**

TENNIS

## Anderson edges Querrey at Open to reach first Slam semifinal

**K**EVIN Anderson moved into his first Grand Slam semifinal at age 31, emerging from a back-and-forth showdown between big servers to beat Sam Querrey 7-6 (5), 6-7 (9), 6-3, 7-6 (7) at the U.S. Open.

"I've put in a lot of work, so it feels good to reach a milestone I haven't before," said the 28th-seeded Anderson, a South African appearing in his 34th major tournament.

His victory against the 17th-seeded Querrey concluded yesterday [Macau time] in front of a spar-

se crowd at Arthur Ashe Stadium — and it did not come easily.

"Getting through — it just feels absolutely fantastic," Anderson said.

The 2.03-meter Anderson finished with 22 aces; the 1.98-meter Querrey hit 20.

Anderson trailed 5-2 in the opening tiebreaker before collecting the next five points to claim it. He fought back from a 6-1 deficit in the second tiebreaker to move within a point of winning it himself at 8-7, before eventually succumbing on Querrey's

eighth set point.

"That," Anderson said, "was really tough."

The third set was more straightforward with Anderson breaking to go ahead 4-2, then serving it out, closing with a down-the-line forehand winner. But there was more drama in the fourth, when Querrey fought off a match point at 6-5, then held a set point at 7-6 with a chance to send it to a fifth.

But Querrey wouldn't win another point, with Anderson reeling off the last three to end the match after nearly 3 1/2 hours.

"Against him, it's just a couple of points here or there," Anderson said about Querrey, who beat him at Wimbledon in July. "Tonight was my night."

Querrey was attempting to become the first American man to reach the final four at Flushing Meadows since Andy Roddick was the runner-up in 2006.

Querrey, a 29-year-old from California, had never been a semifinalist at a major until his 42nd appearance, at Wimbledon in July. That set a record for most attempts by



Kevin Anderson of South Africa

a man before getting that far in the Open era, which began in 1968.

In tomorrow's semifinals, Anderson will take on 12th-seeded Pablo Carreno Busta of Spain. The winner of that match will reach his first Grand Slam final.

Carreno Busta advanced Tuesday with a 6-4, 6-4, 6-2 victory over No. 29 Diego Schwartzman of Argentina.

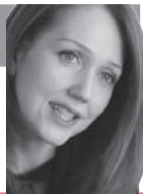
"This is new ground for both of us," Anderson said. "There will be adjustments we'll both have to make." **AP**



opinion

Girl About Globe

Linda Kennedy



PAYING UP PRONTO IN EUROPE

Compassion for British Prime Minister Theresa May and Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson? How is this possible? Paying up in Europe, that's how. They face Brexit bills, but the exit charges I encountered were preceded by comparable debate, hot air and inconsistent retraction.

All was well at first, wending through Italy in the Fiat 500 we'd hired at Pisa airport for a family trip. The road to Florence had sufficient ruts and pits to justify comparison to British roads, and the GPS was enunciating Italian street names as though it had taken a greedy bite of brioche. Grumbles and giggles, equally satisfying, filled the car.

After 45 minutes, it was time to get on the 'autostrada'. We needed a ticket to mark our entry point and the 'biglietto' sign was displayed above machines which would issue the right documentation. As I pulled up alongside, I realised I didn't know how to lower the window on the hire car. But the roads were empty so I stopped, opened the door, jumped out and collected the ticket from the machine. No one saw.

'We must study the manual when we stop for lunch, so I know how to get the window down,' I said. It was already past midday so lunch was imminent.

Soon, though, the GPS spoke: 'Take the ramp right towards SomethingItalianSoundingEndingInAnO'.

Panic sat in, pronto. In the five minutes that had elapsed, there had been no lunch stop and therefore no time for manual consultation. We followed the ramp as directed, and found ourselves at more toll booths, where exit fees required to be paid. Queues of cars, five-lanes wide, confronted us.

Evidently Sod's Law was EU legislation, as our queue started moving fastest, which never happens when you want it to. I had three cars worth of time to finesse the transparency issue. A tight timescale.

First step was to pray the toll booth operative would be chatty (I never pray, but when near Rome...) and the second was to survey potential window-releasing options. In the door panel, beside the driver's seat, was an array of buttons.

I pressed the closest. The rear window on the opposite side slid down. A misplaced Mistral whipped through the car.

The vehicles in front were being processed through the toll gate quickly. Our European financial deadline was nigh. I bore down on all the buttons with a splayed palm, causing different pressure to be applied on each. One window plunged like a cataract. Its neighbour glided a few centimetres and settled. The back window went up, hitting the uppermost part of its frame with a clank. As we drew up at the toll booth, I applied a bright smile as though this asymmetric arrival was on-purpose. Who needed uniform-distributed air-conditioning?

My Dad had different sums of money looked out in readiness to pay whatever our autostrada bill turned out to be. The final reckoning was 0.7 of a Euro. A bargain. We were happy to pay, just less able than willing as my window had only journeyed south a wrist-width. Sure, I could have pushed the buttons a second time but what if the window went up? What if the Mistral came back and the ticket fluttered away? What if my wrist got trapped? I fed through the cash, not without anguish, in a scene which seemed to pre-empt a future headline: 'Brits bruised by Euro payments'.

All this allowed one noise to be heard: the spin of wheels as Italian drivers accelerated off towards other toll gates. Brits in Europe, they were doubtless thinking. They can't exit anything in style.

THE BUZZ GERMAN POLICE INVESTIGATING AFTER TOMATOES THROWN AT MERKEL

German police say they're investigating who threw two tomatoes at Chancellor Angela Merkel during an election campaign event in the southwestern city of Heidelberg.

Police spokesman David Faulhaber told AP yesterday the tomatoes came from a group of hecklers on the sidelines. Witnesses Tuesday said they had been yelling things like "hypocrite" and "traitor to the people" in apparent criticism of Merkel's migrant policies.

The dpa news agency reported one tomato glanced off Merkel's hip, while one slightly splattered the moderator standing next to her. Merkel reacted calmly, offering the moderator a tissue. Faulhaber says police are now investigating against persons unknown on suspicion of attempted bodily harm and attempted property damage.

Merkel appeared later in the day at a Stuttgart campaign event wearing the same red jacket.

EU court rejects Hungary, Slovakia appeal in refugee case

THE European Union's top court yesterday rejected legal action by Hungary and Slovakia to avoid accepting refugees under an EU scheme, a decision seen as a victory for countries bearing the greatest burden of Europe's migrant wave.

In a long-awaited ruling, the European Court of Justice said that it had "dismissed in its entirety the actions brought by Slovakia and Hungary."

EU countries agreed in September 2015 to relocate 160,000 refugees from Greece and Italy over two years, but only around 27,700 people have been moved so far. Hungary and Slovakia were seeking to have the legally binding move annulled.

Hungary and Poland have refused to take part in the scheme, while so far Slovakia has accepted only a handful of refugees from Greece.

The refugee scheme was adopted by the EU's "qualified majority" vote — around two thirds — and the ECJ held that this was appropriate, saying the EU "was not required to act unanimously" on this decision.

The court also noted that the small number of relocations so far is due to a series of factors that the EU could not really have foreseen, including "the lack of cooperation



A Hungarian police officer stands guard at Serbia's fenced border with Hungary

on the part of certain member states."

Slovakian Prime Minister Robert Fico said he respected the court decision, but that his government still does not like the relocation scheme, which some see as a system of quotas imposed on countries by unelected EU bureaucrats in Brussels.

Fico said the scheme was a temporary solution. He says he believes his country doesn't face any sanctions from the EU over its stance. EU officials say the relocation of eligible asylum-seekers in Greece and Italy will continue even after the scheme ends.

Germany's foreign minister welcomed the ruling. Sigmar Gabriel said he expects all EU countries to implement the decision "without further hesitation." He said "solidarity is not a one-way street."

Human rights group Amnesty International welcomed the ruling, saying Hungary

and Slovakia had been trying to turn their countries into "refugee-free zones."

The Hungarian Helsinki Committee, an advocate for asylum-seekers, urged Hungary to give refugees an opportunity to make their case for asylum.

"The lesson of the verdict is that helping people fleeing war and terror is truly a common responsibility for Europe," the group said. "Hungary needs to respect the decision of the EU court."

Hungary's position is that only its elected leaders should be able to decide who is allowed into the country. Orban has said that the large influx of mainly Muslim immigrants threatens Europe's and Hungary's cultural identity.

From mid-September 2015, Hungary closed off its southern border first with Serbia and later with Croatia, with a fence protected by razor wire. AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



Mission impossible. Pope Francis waves as he boards the plane for his five-day trip to Colombia, at Rome's Leonardo da Vinci airport, yesterday, to try to help heal the wounds of Latin America's longest-running conflict.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	30-50 Good
High Density Residential Area	35-55 Good
Ambient	35-55 Good

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS

**INDIA** The killing of an Indian journalist provoked outrage and anguish across the country yesterday, with thousands protesting what they saw as an effort to silence a critic of India's ruling Hindu nationalist party.

**AFGHANISTAN** A U.S. commander yesterday apologized for leaflets dropped in Afghanistan that were deemed offensive to Islam. The deputy governor of Parwan province, north of Kabul, said that demonstrations were expected across the province.

**EGYPT**'s privately-owned media are increasingly dominated by businessmen linked to the government and its intelligence agencies, a rights group said this week. Reporters Without Borders said that "the regime's domination of the media continues to grow and is even affecting pro-government media."



**MONTENEGRO** Two alleged Russian secret service operatives were described as the main organizers of a foiled bid to overthrow Montenegro's government last year as the trial of 14 suspected coup plotters opened in the small Balkan country yesterday.



**FRANCE** The Paris prosecutor's office says two people have been detained after a possible explosives laboratory was discovered in a suburb south of Paris.

**BRAZIL**'s top prosecutor accused former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva of leading a criminal organization, along with several of his political allies, in order to extract millions of dollars in bribes.