



'CYBER RISK IS A REAL CHALLENGE'

Interview with Sean Duca, vice president and regional chief security officer of Palo Alto Networks, Asia Pacific

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'MACAU PEOPLE, MACAU LAND'

Ng Kuok Cheong will continue his appeals for the introduction of a "Macau People, Macau Land" policy

P7 AL ELECTION



TRUMP SAID TO VISIT CHINA IN NOVEMBER

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WORLD BRIEFS



PHILIPPINES A tropical depression dumped heavy rain on the Philippines yesterday, flooding metropolitan Manila and nearby provinces and causing landslides and flash floods that killed at least four people. Financial markets, government offices and schools were closed and at least 21 flights were canceled or diverted. **More on p12**

CAMBODIA-US The U.S. ambassador to Cambodia yesterday denied allegations by Prime Minister Hun Sen that Washington is seeking to oust his government, and warned that Cambodia is doing itself damage internationally with its anti-America campaign.



MYANMAR-BANGLADESH The Bangladeshi prime minister demanded yesterday that Myanmar allow the return of hundreds of thousands of Rohingya Muslims who fled recent violence in the Buddhist-majority nation — a crisis she said left her speechless. **More on p12**

ISRAEL-IRAN A top deputy to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the Israeli leader must push President Donald Trump to freeze, change or cancel the international community's nuclear deal with Iran during an upcoming trip to the United States.

More on backpage

Gross distortions in Macau's voting system

P2,3 MDT REPORT



Hong Kong Finance chief warns again of property risk as Fed acts

P8

Daniel Beittler

EVERY vote counts. This oft-repeated mantra is perhaps nowhere truer than in the case of Macau's unusual voting method for the 14 directly elected seats of the Legislative Assembly.

The controversial method, which invariably favors stability of the legislature and an even distribution of seats over the unpredictability of representative democracy, is about to be put to the test again on Sunday.

Three hundred thousand voters are registered to participate in the election, with many of them blissfully unaware of how few votes it can take to elect one lawmaker in lieu of another.

The Times explains why your vote could make the difference, why winning nearly four seats on a single list is practically impossible, and why political associations are taking a gamble by running multiple lists:

HOW THE VOTING WORKS

On Sunday, some 24 lists will compete for just 14 directly elected seats in the legislature, while an additional 12 will be nominated by the functional constituency system. The 14 directly elected seats will be decided through a voting system based on the popular D'Hondt method, but with a local twist.

The D'Hondt method, named after 19th century Belgian mathematician, Victor D'Hondt, is

a form of proportional representation that seeks to allocate seats in as close accordance as possible with the actual distribution of votes. The method is used to elect the legislature in many countries, including Portugal, Spain, and Japan.

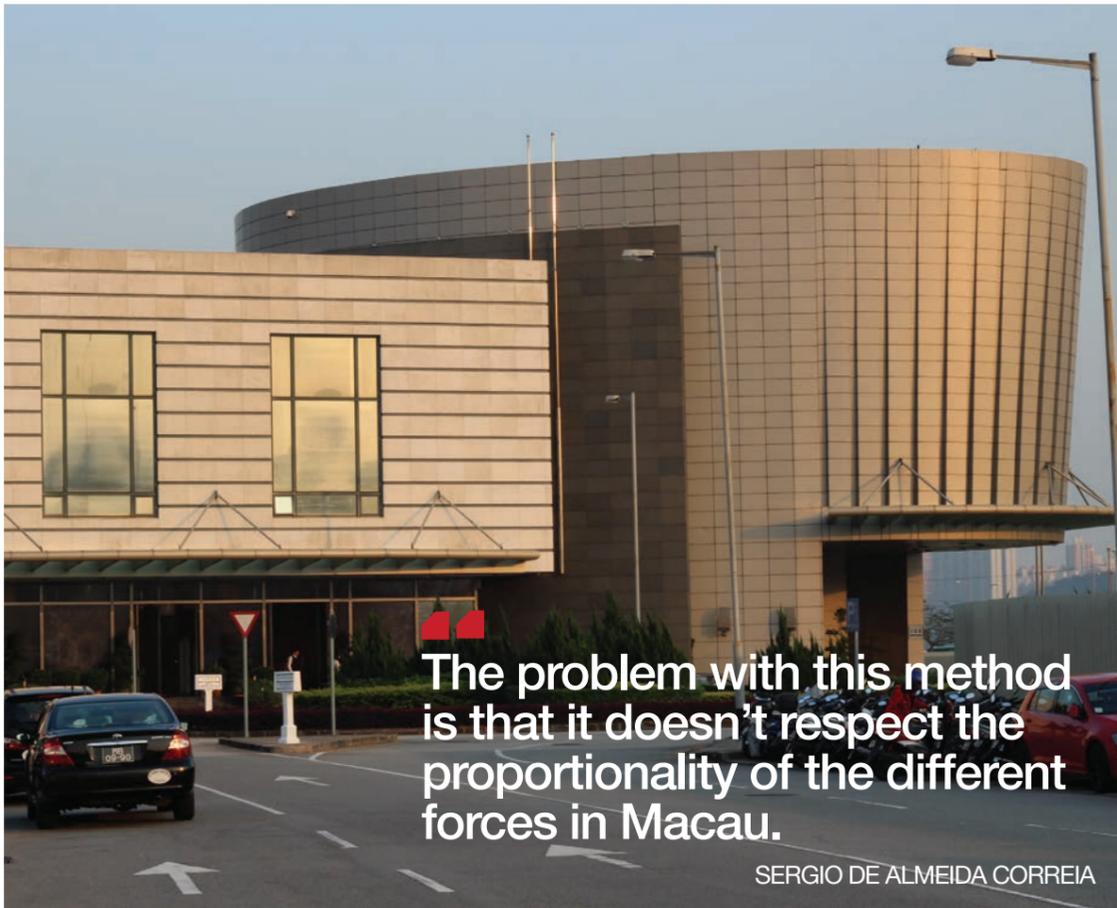
The method dictates that each list is assigned a quotient, calculated by dividing its total number of votes by the number of seats it has already been awarded plus one. The list with the highest quotient figure is awarded the first seat, after which its quotient is reduced and the next seat is contested. Lists that do not win a seat in each round do not have their quotient reduced.

After winning its first seat, a list's quotient becomes exactly half the number of votes it garnered in the election. In order to win a second seat, the new quotient must exceed the remaining, unchanged quotients of all other lists.

Direct elections to the MSAR's Legislative Assembly use a "Macau Modification" method, which decrees that the quotients for lists are not decided locally – that is, by how many seats that particular list has already been awarded – but by a global modifier. The quotient in this system is calculated by dividing the votes for each list by a fixed integer: first one, then two, and then four. A table is compiled (see Figure 1), whereby one seat is awarded to each of the 14 highest quotient numbers, irrespective of 'round' or list.

AL ELECTION

Every vote counts when



The problem with this method is that it doesn't respect the proportionality of the different forces in Macau.

SERGIO DE ALMEIDA CORREIA

THE IMPOSSIBLE FOUR SEATS

The Macau Modification method favors a more even distribution of seats between election contenders than a pure D'Hondt

method, strengthening less popular lists and weakening more popular ones.

Critics say that the method was deliberately designed to keep the political landscape fragmented

and prevent the emergence of a cohesive bloc of directly elected legislators that could challenge the status quo.

Political commentator Eric Sautedé says the system is "un-



LEGAL WISE BY MdME

Tirso Olazábal*

MACAU: THE REAL (E)STATE

Since April this year, we have been seeing a considerable increase in the number of property transactions, such as the sale of three residential buildings, representing around 610 residential units sold and totaling to about HKD8 billion in sales. Last week, the acquisition of plots TN20 and TN24 in Taipa by the mainland developer Jiayuan International Group Limited was successfully completed for the price of HKD3.5 billion.

The hospitality market in Macau has also been active, with the completion of the Lan Kwai Fong hotel deal between two Hong Kong companies. Moreover, other hotels owned by satellite casinos and operators have been targeted by foreign investors, and we are confident that there will be significant movements in 2018.

The power of the Macau property market is not only the result of the economic prin-

ciple of short supply and high demand, but is also related to the growth of the mainland economy, the uncertainty in the Hong Kong property market and, of course, Macau's multibillion-dollar gaming industry. The market attracts the attention of Asian investors, mostly from mainland China and Hong Kong, who see Macau as a valid alternative to local markets that have been stagnant for a while.

After a slight correction of the Hong Kong real estate prices between the end of 2015 and the beginning of 2016, the prices in Hong Kong have resumed their impressive rise and, by the end of March 2017, beat the most recent peak of September 2016 by 4.5%. The average Hong Kong price per square foot is triple that of Macau. Conversely, the prices of Macau's prime real estate have lowered in the past two years, along with the decrease of the casino re-

venues and uncertainty in the sector due to the land concession expiry issues. This cooled down the market in Macau, which in 2014 had reached the highest ever prices per square foot.

Also, the Macau tax system is more advantageous than that of Hong Kong – especially since the implementation of new measures in Hong Kong will cool off the residential property market, which increased the stamp duty for all residential properties to a flat rate of 15%. Likewise, the new measures implemented by the Chinese government for the acquisition of properties in certain regions of China have restricted the number of properties that can be acquired in such regions, which has made it necessary to diversify investment to unrestricted regions like Macau. The only restrictive measure that has recently been implemented in Macau was the loan-to-value ratios for second property acquisitions. However, this has not affected the recent growth of the market, since the majority of investors have the liquidity to overcome higher LTV ratios.

This means that the lowering of the Macau property prices – and the continuous confidence in the growth of Macau gaming revenues and overall economy – make the property market increasingly more attractive to investors aiming to diversify their portfolio.

Finally, the completion of new infrastructure such as the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge and new developments in the reclamation projects will certainly play an important role in the decision to invest in Macau, as prices will be expected to increase in the medium to long term. Moreover, we must also keep in mind that not all recently expired lands will be used for public housing; several are expected to be tendered out by the Government, creating new investment opportunities yet again.

With this positive environment, we are sure that we will see a significant number of deals being closed this last quarter of 2017 and certainly a significant increase in the market in 2018.

*Senior Associate, MdME Lawyers

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DIRECTOR AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF_Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com
MANAGING EDITOR_Paulo Barbosa paulo.barbosa@macaudailytimes.com
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS_Eric Sautedé, Leanda Lee, Severo Portela

NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS_Alberto Martins, Annabel Jackson, Daniel Beittler, Emilie Tran, Grace Yu, Ivo Carneiro de Sousa, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Lao-Phillips, João Palla Martins, Joseph Cheung, Julie Zhu, Juliet Risdon, Lynzy Valles, Renato Marques, Richard Whitfield, Rodrigo de Matos (cartoonist), Viviana Seguí
DESIGNERS_Eva Bucho, Miguel Bandeira | ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS_JML Property, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars, Ruan Du Toit Bester | NEWS AGENCIES_Associated Press, Bloomberg, Financial Times, MacauHub, MacauNews, Xinhua | SECRETARY_Yang Dongxiao army@macaudailytimes.com

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ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

SECRETARY Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

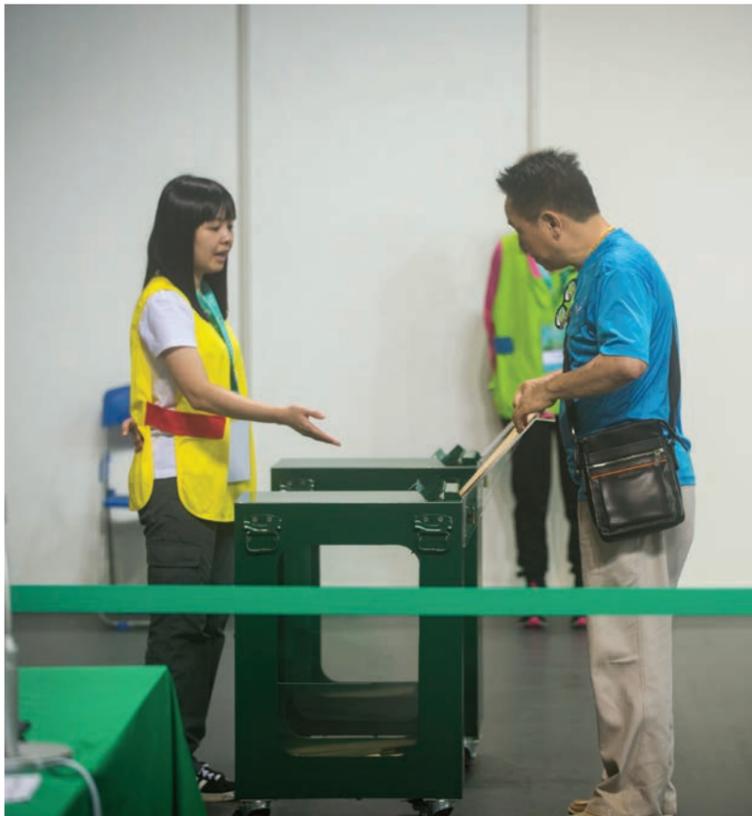
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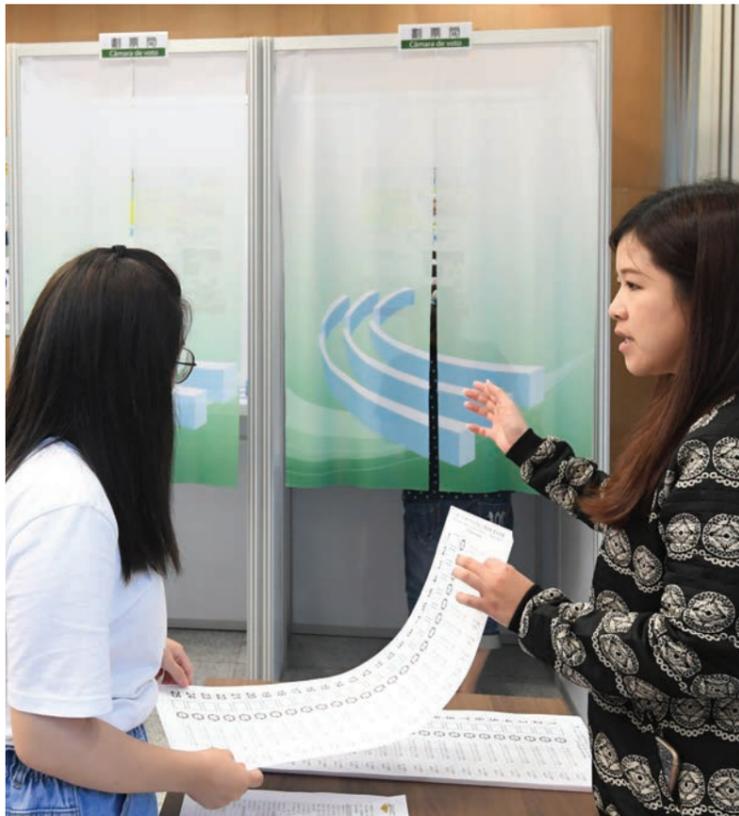
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the system is controversial



A man casts his vote during the 2013 legislative election



Staff demonstrate voting procedures at a mock polling station

fair” because the number of seats awarded to a list does not correlate with the number of votes it attracted.

“Because of the ‘modification’, it is quasi-impossible to get more than three candidates elected on a single list,” he told the Times. “I am all in favor of party-list proportional representation, but it has to be more representative.”

The representation problem stems from the third quotient of the Macau Modification, which unusually divides the number of votes by four instead of three. This means that, after attaining a second seat in the legislature, a list must perform extraordinarily well vis-à-vis its rivals to get a third.

A fourth seat is practically unimaginable because it would require the number of votes for one list to be divided by and still surpass that of its competitors.

“The problem with this method is that it doesn’t respect the proportionality of the different forces in Macau,” said Sergio de Almeida Correia, a lawyer and political scientist. “Because of this, the number of democratic votes is given less importance than it should be in any democratic system [...] and this undermines democracy.”

MORE SEATS MIGHT MAKE IT WORSE

The Times modeled the 2013 Legislative Assembly direct elections using both the Macau Modification method and the D’Hondt method. The two systems contained significant variance in the order in which seats were assigned to the lists, which for the final few seats can

be the difference between election and non-election.

For example, the 10th seat in the 2013 election went to Melinda Chan’s Alliance for Change (MUDAR) with a quotient of 8,755. Under a pure D’Hondt system, this seat would have been awarded to Chan Meng Kam’s United Citizens Association of Macau (UCUM) with a slightly higher quotient of 8,795, while the 11th seat would go to MUDAR.

More importantly however, the two systems produce different election results using the same data.

■ Critics say that the method was deliberately designed to keep the political landscape fragmented

Under the pure D’Hondt method, Chan Meng Kam’s ACUM would have secured four seats, instead of the three that his association managed under the Macau Modification method. The extra seat, belonging to Leong Veng Chai, would have reduced Pereira Coutinho’s New Hope to a single legislator.

The fact that the Macau Modification method tends to distribute seats more evenly between election contenders is not that

obvious in the 2013 election modeling due to the small number of seats up for grabs.

But a hypothetical experiment, using only those lists that were awarded at least one seat in the 2013 Legislative Assembly election, shows that in a 20-seat scenario, Chan Meng Kam would have been awarded five seats under a pure D’Hondt system and four using the Macau Modification method. All nine lists shown in Figure 1 would have been awarded at least two seats under the incumbent system, while MUDAR and the New Macau Democratic Association (ANMD) would have been the only lists of the nine to win just one each under the pure D’Hondt method.

Repeated calls for more directly elected seats – which have been consistently ruled out by the government in recent years – might make the problem worse under the current system. They are likely to result in excruciatingly close election results, with the potential for a seat in the legislature to be decided by just a few votes.

This is because the voting quotients become mathematically tighter after each seat is awarded, which often means that the final ones can go to either unpopular lists seeking to elect their first legislator or popular ones seeking a second or third. It’s anyone’s game.

2,000 VOTES COULD BE DECIDING FACTOR

In 2013, the 14th and final seat in the legislature was decided by just 32 votes, or a difference of 16 in the quotient figures. The seat went to New Hope

(NE), narrowly beating Angela Leong’s New Union for Macau’s Development (NUDM).

Thirty-two votes determining the election of one lawmaker over another is striking in the context of a proportional representation system that claims to have represented some 150,000 voters in 2013.

Sautodé expounds on this as a focal point of his criticism against the system currently used in Macau.

“The fight is really for the last three or four seats, given the type of voting system that we have,” he said. “This time, this could extend to the last six seats, so Au Kam San, Melinda Chan, Zheng Anting, Wong Kit Cheng, Song Pek Kei and Leong Veng Chai are the ones in the hot seats.”

Moreover, “the spread between Au Kam San and Leong Veng Chai is only 2,262 votes... meaning that six seats are attributed within a spread of about 2000 votes.”

To put that in context, more than 10 times that number (about 14.5 percent of ballots

cast) went to lists that failed to elect a single lawmaker in 2013. The proliferation of list-splitting tactics means that these “wasted” votes together constituted the second most popular choice.

THE GAMBLE OF SPLITTING LISTS

Political associations in the territory have adopted list-splitting tactics to benefit from the structural way in which legislature seats are allocated and to increase their chances of winning more than one seat. But it is a fine line to tread.

This was evident in 2013, when the New Macau Liberals, under the leadership of Jason Chao, submitted their own bid to the Legislative Assembly, separate from New Macau veterans Au Kam San and Ng Kuok Cheong.

Hoping to repeat the success of the previous election in 2009, the New Macau gamble did not pay off and cost the political association one seat in the most recent legislative term.

Chan Meng Kam’s ACUM was able to take three seats in 2013 running on a single list. His share of the vote was 18 percent which, in the context of the 14 directly elected seats, corresponds to 2.52 seats.

Nevertheless, on Sunday Chan will seek to replicate New Macau’s 2009 victory by dividing their candidates across several lists with the aim of nabbing an extra seat or two.

Each list will only aim to elect two lawmakers, thereby circumventing the exponential number of votes needed for a third and fourth.

“It is much easier to elect one lawmaker running on his or her own list, than to elect three [lawmakers] from one list,” said Correia.

However, the political maneuvering – seen by some as an exploit of the system – has been criticized for undermining democracy through the use of underhanded tactics and a lack of transparency.

In theory, the more lists there are, the fewer votes needed to take a candidate across the hypothetical threshold. But critics point out that list-splitting is essentially a gamble, and the 2013 case of New Macau shows that it can backfire when the number of lists and the distribution of votes are highly uncertain.

FIGURE 1: 2013 MACAU LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTION RESULTS

Association	Votes	Q1	Q2	Q3	Seats
ACUM	26,385	26385	13193	6596	3
UMG	16,248	16248	8124	4062	2
UPP	15,816	15816	7908	3954	2
NE	13,118	13118	6559	3280	2
NUDM	13,086	13086	6543	3272	1
UPD	11,961	11961	5981	2990	1
APMD	10,986	10986	5493	2747	1
ANMD	8,826	8826	4413	2207	1
MUDAR	8,755	8755	4378	2189	1

Q = Quotient. The first quotient column shows the number of votes divided by one



Macau Squash Open to kick off next Monday

The Macau Squash Open 2017 will be held from September 18 to 24. Squash athletes from 18 countries will gather in Macau for the competition, including last year's champion. Macau is sending three male athletes and one female athlete to attend the competition, while Hong Kong is sending two athletes. Members of the public can watch the first six days of the competition for free. Distribution of complimentary tickets for the final two days began yesterday.

LRT depot construction carried out smoothly

Construction of the Light Rail Transit (LRT) depot is progressing smoothly, according to a TDM report. The Transportation Infrastructure Office (GIT) said large-scale construction is ongoing at the depot and that construction of other LRT sections in Taipa is proceeding as well, putting the system on track for its planned 2019 opening. The government has also adjusted the LRT's payment methods, with 70 percent of the MOP1.07 billion construction costs to be paid within the year.

1,300 children assessed at pediatric center

More than 1,300 children have been assessed at the city's pediatric medical center, the Health Bureau revealed in a TDM radio show yesterday. Before the center was established, children in Macau had to wait one year before having their physical and mental development assessed. With the new center, the wait has been shortened to one month. It currently takes five to nine months for a child to receive occupational therapy, and eight to 11 months to get speech therapy. To better meet the demand, the center has hired three new speech therapists and three new occupational therapists.

Q&A SEAN DUCA
VP, ASIA PACIFIC, PALO ALTO NETWORKS

'Cyber risk is a real challenge'

Lynzy Valles

A Palo Alto Networks survey has shown that Asia Pacific organizations are having difficulty keeping up with cybersecurity technologies, products and solutions.

For such organizations, ensuring a secure cyber environment remains a challenge.

According to the survey, there is a need to change the popular mindset regarding cybersecurity, as there is still a lack of awareness among organizations.

Some 46 percent of respondents admitted to being unable to keep up with evolving cybersecurity solutions, while 65 percent of surveyed organizations agree or strongly agree that they are well prepared to handle hacker attacks.

Among the five key markets, China is the most confident, while Hong Kong is the only market in which respondents are more neutral than confident.

Speaking to the Times, Sean Duca, vice president and regional chief security officer of Palo Alto Networks, Asia Pacific, said the severity of cyber-attacks cannot be downplayed and that everyone is vulnerable.

Macau Daily Times - How has cybersecurity evolved in recent years, along with the opportunities and challenges?

Sean Duca - Every country is definitely doing their part around how they build their cyber capabilities, [including] ensuring that there is [a] skilled workforce around. From the government's standpoint, they have their own sort of capabilities and skill sets [...] but if you look at the private sector [...] definitely you could see a number of different angles. One is that cybersecurity is getting [talked about] at the tables of important rooms. Cyber risk is a real challenge and it should be treated the same way as any business risks inside an organization are treated; that's where security culture [starts]. I think we had some good strides that took place over the course of the past few years [but] I think there's probably more work to be done as well.

MDT - Now that almost everything is conducted online, how can we be assured that we are participating in a secure cyber environment?

SD - It goes back to [...] how we're protecting your crowd. I think every organization should ask themselves the questions of what is truly valuable to us, what is the value to you, the compe-



Sean Duca

titors, and to a cyber adversary. You can make strong decisions on how much risk we're willing to take. But then also how much we're willing to pay for potential risks out there. Those are probably some of the bigger challenges. [...] We've got a part to play in constantly educating and re-educating employees from organizations.

“ About 40 percent of all users would actually click through on a phishing email. **”**

MDT - Some organizations in Macau are still using old and outdated software and hardware. Are these more prone to attacks by cyber criminals?

SD - In general, no. Sometimes it's a little bit hard to say on whether it's based on old or soft hardware. Things change and I think if I sort of [recall] 10 years ago, many organizations really had kind of a handle on preventing a lot of the challenges out there. But the reality was that we would see a cyber adversary attack an organization [...] with automated attack.

With that, we need to not just look at hardware but how to automate our response and prevent cyberattacks in the first place. [...] I think we need to get back to the drawing board and do something different. Because they [cyber culprits] are doing something different; they automate it. We need to orchestrate the way

we prevent them from getting inside our organizations.

MDT - A cyber criminal attacked some 4,000 organizations over the past four months. Is Hong Kong, China or Macau prone to these attacks?

SD - Yes, absolutely. Going back to the survey results we have released - in China, in particular, more than 86 percent of cyberattacks have been more sophisticated, which is the highest in the surveyed five countries. I think there definitely is a lot of sophistication out there, and I think what we've seen in the number of years [is that no] country is really new to it. [...] Everyone is potentially a target for them [cyber culprits] because for them the more reach they have, the more choices they get [...] and the more accounts and information collected. It's time that organizations stop the notion of "well, it doesn't happen to us, it only happens in large organizations." [...] I think everyone needs to step up and realize that inevitably, in this day and age, the trust we're putting in systems out there - we're such a connected world now that some will try and penetrate the organization. I think it's really upon all of us to understand what the threat looks like and what challenges could potentially impact the business.

MDT - So lack of awareness is also a problem?

SD - Yes, definitely. I think that's the constant challenge that we see out there.

About 40 percent of all users would actually click through on a phishing email. So if you think about it, close to half of your employee population would do that [...] Some sort of educational awareness [is needed]. I think

that also starts at the top. We need to look at our leaders in our respective organizations and the need to give [training in] cybersecurity ethics.

MDT - The company's research shows that cybersecurity resources are on the rise. Can you tell us the factors affecting this matter?

SD - We kind of have that inflection point where we can't simply rely on people to try and solve security challenges that we've got. We need to start leveraging automation as much as we possibly can - to try and automate some of those mundane tasks [rather] than simply relying on humans to look at 100 percent of the problems. [...] I think we really need to look at accommodating people in technological processes and make sure we can leverage what we should. We should still invest in people to make sure they understand what their role is, because there's always going to be a human element involved.

MDT - Macau aims to become a smart city. How much of a role does cybersecurity play in this kind of development?

SD - It has a pretty huge part to play. Smart nations are leveraging technology a lot more to become a lot more agile in really servicing the community as whole. There are many new use cases for smart nations - to improve wellbeing, transport, and a number of different things [...] I think cybersecurity at this age touches every single element of our life. For solutions, do they actually contain security by design principles, built with different capabilities? If you don't even have security capabilities [...] it's going to be a big problem for smart nations.

EDUCATION

Parents spend fewer than three hours with children daily



Julie Zhu

THE results of the Association of Sin Meng's latest survey indicate that nearly 65 percent of local parents spend fewer than three hours with their children every day, according to a

report by Radio Macau.

In May and June 2017, the Macao Polytechnic Institute (IPM) handed out questionnaires in 15 kindergartens and nurseries, and interviewed 1,447 young parents, particularly those aged between 26 and 35 years old.

These young parents typically

have one or two children. About 80 percent of interviewees said that they and their spouses had jobs. Most of them said they request days off work because of their children.

Many of the interviewees said they felt that the government is not implementing enough family-friendly policies, and that employers should work with employees to negotiate family holidays.

More than 40 percent of the interviewees said they needed to take care of their own parents and their children. Of this group, more than 50 percent said they had to balance their job with their duties as caregivers.

When asked whether three hours a day are enough for parents to bond with their children, Macau-based psychologist Goreti Lima told the Times that it is not about the duration.

"It is not about the length [of the time] or quality. It is about

what parents do and how fully present they are," explained Goreti, who also believes that "ideally, people have to find a

balance between work and leisure, [which has been a concept] in Europe since the 19th century."

"Negative consequences go for society in general. When there is no balance, it is easier to become weak or stressed."

When asked about what changes parents could make to spend more time with their children, the psychologist said a greater public sense of social responsibility could contribute to a possible solution.

ONE SHOT NEWS



The structure crowning the Macau Cultural Center was partly removed after it sustained severe damage from the impact of Typhoon Hato. According to a statement by the Cultural Affairs Bureau, the center is now undergoing maintenance works and will resume operations "when convenient."

AD



Joint Informal Dinner with Irish Chamber of Commerce of Macau

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Author and journalist Mark O'Neill introduces

IRELAND'S IMPERIAL MANDARIN, the biography of Sir Robert Hart, the most influential foreigner in the Qing Dynasty

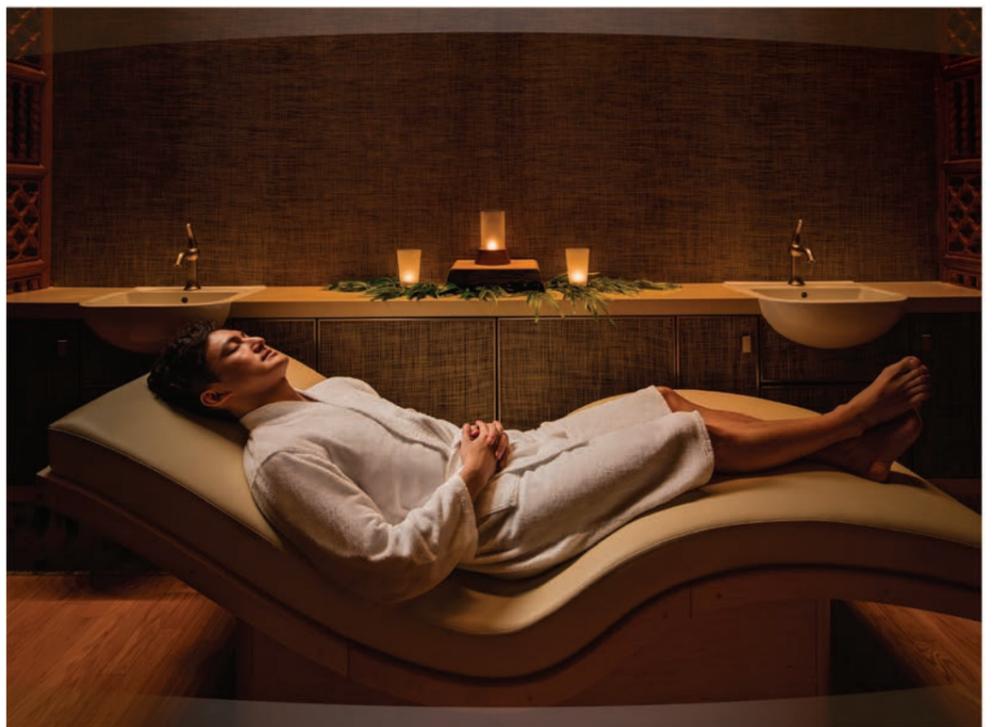
Sir Robert Hart served as the Inspector-General of the Imperial maritime Customs Service of the Qing dynasty from 1863 until his death in 1911. The customs department provided the government with more than 20 per cent of its annual revenue, set up the Chinese Post Office, founded a system of lighthouses along the coast; Hart helped the government buy British warships that were the foundation of the modern Chinese navy and negotiated a peace treaty to end the Sino-French war of 1884-85.

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AL ELECTION

Ng's campaign continues 'Macau People, Macau Land' appeals

Julie Zhu

NG Kuok Cheong, who heads the Associação de Próspero Macau Democrático (APMD) group (number three on Sunday's legislative election ballot) will continue to pursue universal suffrage for both the Chief Executive and the AL elections.

Running again for the AL, Ng told the Times that he wants to monitor the government's progress on some of the city's long discussed topics, including the democratic reform, Macau People and Macau Lands.

"The AL should have the right to deliberate over important governmental expenditures. AL meetings should be fully open to the public, and the lawmakers' right to propose should not be completely restricted," said Ng, who is currently a lawmaker. "One of the important political platforms concerns the defending of Macau People and Macau Lands," he added.

On the difference between his political platform and that of the other candidates, Ng noted that he has a deep insight into public resources management.

Ng confirmed that seeking the universal suffrage for both the CE and AL elections is the path he will continue to devote energy to.

He also noted the importance of educating the public because it



establishes a sound groundwork for a society to implement democratic principles.

When asked whether he is confident about being elected again, Ng told the times, "I hope that both Leong Pok Man and I can be elected, but there is a possibility we will fail, which we will only know after we try."

Leong Pok Man, who is listed as the number two on Ng's list, is running for the AL for a second time.

"This is my second time running for the AL. In 2009, I was No.4 on Mr. Ng's list, and I am the second one this time," said Leong, adding, "I want to help Ng, I think his political platform is great."

"I hope Macau still has development opportunities [...]. In the current society, many politicians advertise themselves as if they are

something. We don't do this. We don't use fancy words to promote ourselves, we hope only to speak honest words and we hope to do well on the policies we have been promoting," declared Leong.

"We should protect Macau's lands to let this generation and the next to have a place where they can live a happy life."

TWO CASES OF ELECTION VIOLATION FORWARDED TO POLICE

THE PUBLIC Security Police Force (PSP) has received two new cases concerning violations of the Legislative Assembly's (AL) election regulations. The PSP had spotted the flags of a specific election candidate group mounted along roads in the Patane district. The candidate

Leong noted that his concern is not only about the land, but also about public resources. His team wants more funds to be invested in retirement pensions.

"We ought to be called gentle in terms of democracy, [...] Macau is monopolized by vested interests, and there are only 14 directly elected lawmakers, while the entire AL is comprised of 33 lawmakers, which is unfair. We insist on two universal suffrages. [...] Our first goal is to allow the number of directly elected lawmakers to exceed half of the total number of lawmakers," said Leong.

Leong is putting his hope in the hands of the people of Macau. "I will try my best, and leave it to the public to decide. [...] Even if I am not elected, or we are not elected, I hope that the Macau public can pay attention to our political platform, and support our democratic stance, and our Macau People and Macau Land policy," said Leong.



Tickets for acrobatic 'Mulan' go on sale

The highlight of the "Performance to Celebrate the 68th National Day of the People's Republic of China" is the spectacular acrobatic show, *Mulan*, which will be performed by the Chongqing Acrobatic Art Troupe. The event is jointly organized by the Cultural Affairs Bureau and the Department of Culture and Education of the Liaison Office. The performance will be held at the Macao Forum at 8 p.m. on September 30 and October 1. The troupe will re-enact the famous story of Chinese folk heroine Hua Mulan by fusing acrobatics with traditional dance, martial arts, shadow play and face-changing (Bian Lian). Tickets are now available at the Macau Ticketing Network.

Master of Public Administration kicks off

The opening ceremony for the Master of Public Administration's 2017 student intake was held at the Macau Polytechnic Institute (IPM) at 10 a.m. on September 9. The program was established in 2009 and is jointly organized by the Chinese Academy of Governance and IPM. Delivered on a part-time basis and aimed at students with full-time jobs, the program is designed to cultivate public administration professionals who can serve in the MSAR government. The Chinese Academy of Governance develops the curriculum, assigns teaching materials and staff, and conducts course assessments and evaluations.

Water drainage to be built along Areia Preta coast

The government has outsourced the contract for designing and building a rain discharge and a drainage pipe to the Companhia de Construção Cheong Kong Limitada, according to a notice published in the Official Gazette. The facilities will be built along the coastal line in Areia Preta. The government is releasing a total of MOP84.64 million for the project, to be paid in three installments: MOP15 million in 2017, MOP50 million in 2018, and MOP19.64 million in 2019. The project is expected to be completed in 400 days.

COOPERATION

Maritime Silk Road Association and IIM promote joint initiative

THE Maritime Silk Road Association (Macau) and the International Institute of Macau (IIM) have signed a cooperation protocol for actions related to the Chinese initiative to promote the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road.

The two institutions agreed to study the production of books, magazines, film and video to raise awareness of the objectives of the New 21st Century Maritime Silk Road and

create conditions for the participation of Portuguese-speaking countries.

The Maritime Silk Road Association (Macau) and the IIM decided to promote the organization of seminars, meetings and lectures in Macau, the People's Republic of China and in Portuguese-speaking countries to promote the same subject.

The cooperation protocol also says that the two institutions will carry

out joint actions to promote field visits to the Portuguese-speaking countries to raise their potential and strengthen economic, cultural and social relations with the People's Republic of China.

The Maritime Silk Road Association (Macau) was established in 2015 to raise awareness in China and Portuguese-speaking countries in order to boost participation in the 21st Century Silk Road. **MDT/Macauhub**

ECONOMY

Mortgage loans surge

NEW approvals of residential mortgage loans (RMLs) and commercial real estate loans (CRELs) both increased in July, according to statistics released yesterday by the Monetary Authority of Macau.

In July, new RMLs approved by local banks rose by 19.1 percent month-to-month to MOP5.8 billion. Of these, new RMLs to residents – which accounted for 66.2 percent of the total – decreased 19.4 percent to MOP3.8 billion. New approvals of RMLs increased by 65 percent year-on-year.

New CRELs rose by 79.5 percent month-to-month to MOP10.9 billion; of which new CRELs to residents, accounting for 99.7 percent

of the total, soared by 82.4 percent to MOP10.9 billion, mainly driven by new loans granted to enterprises for large-scale tourism projects.

In contrast, new CRELs to non-residents fell by 70.8 percent from the previous month to MOP33.9 million. New approvals of CRELs increased by 210.9 percent on an annual basis.

As at end-July, the outstanding value of RMLs was MOP187.9 billion, up by 1.1 percent from a month earlier or 6 percent from a year ago. The resident component made up 93.5 percent of the total. Compared to the previous month, outstanding RMLs to residents and non-residents rose by 0.8 percent and 6.2 percent, respectively.

HK Finance chief warns again of property risk as Fed acts

Fion Li

HONG Kong's Financial Secretary Paul Chan warned potential buyers to be careful buying property in the world's most expensive housing market, as moves by the Federal Reserve to unwind its balance sheet may shrink money supply.

Chan warned in June that Hong Kong's property market is in a "dangerous situation" and vulnerable to a correction. Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam describes housing as citizens' No. 1 concern and recently set up a task force on increasing land supply as she tries to rein in ever-escalating prices.

"One has to be very careful if one really wants to buy a property in Hong Kong," Chan said in an interview on the sidelines of a Belt & Road Forum in Hong Kong on Monday. Buyers need to assess their ability to service mortgages as interest rates normalize, he said.

Hong Kong's home prices, the least affordable in the world, have surged 21 percent in the 12 months through June 30, the second-biggest gain globally after Iceland, according to a report from broker Knight Frank LLP. The boom in global house prices may be coming to



an end as central banks worldwide step away from economic stimulus, with a slowdown in growth already evident in Europe, the broker said.

Expectations for Fed tightening have been scaled back as its preferred inflation gauge has declined for

One has to be very careful if one really wants to buy a property in Hong Kong.

PAUL CHAN

five straight months, sitting below the central bank's 2 percent goal. Even so, Hong Kong's leaders are monitoring the situation closely especially because an unwinding of central bank support could coincide with the addition of a large supply of homes in the city, Chan said. The government estimates 98,000 first-hand housing units will come on the market in the next three or four years.

Past experience indicates that rising U.S. interest rates will "definitely" affect Hong Kong asset prices, Chan said. Combined with the increased supply of homes, "I would not be surprised if there will be a certain adjustment in the market," he said. **Bloomberg**

Wisconsin set to approve USD3b for Foxconn

THE Wisconsin Senate was poised to approve nearly USD3 billion in cash payments for Taiwan-based Foxconn Technology Group, an unprecedented incentive package for the electronics company to locate a flat-screen factory in the state.

The proposed subsidy would be the largest ever from a U.S. state to a foreign company and 10 times bigger than anything Wisconsin has extended to a private business. It would take at least 25 years for Wisconsin to see a return on its investment, the nonpartisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau estimated.

Foxconn would receive \$2.85 billion in cash payments over 15 years if it invests \$10 billion in the state and employs 13,000 people. It could also qualify for \$150 million in sales tax exemptions for construction equipment.

The Assembly, which like the Senate is firmly

in GOP control, takes a final vote Thursday. The bill then goes to Gov. Scott Walker, who led negotiations on the deal and has a deadline to sign a bill by the end of the month. Critics, including Democrats who don't have the votes to stop it, say state taxpayers are giving up too much.

Walker and other supporters say Foxconn is giving the state a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to get a foothold in the world electronics market. Foxconn is the largest contract maker of electronics, best known for making iPhones, but with a long list of customers including Sony Corp., Dell Inc. and BlackBerry Ltd.

The Wisconsin plant would be the first outside of Asia to construct liquid crystal display panels for televisions, computers and other uses. Foxconn wants to open the factory by 2020 and initially employ 3,000 people. **AP**

AD



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Tommaso Ebhardt, Elisabeth Behrmann

Ferrari's entry-level Portofino confronts USD2.5m Mercedes

FERRARI NV is introducing a new "entry-level" supercar, while Mercedes-Benz is testing the segment's upper price limit as the rivals vie for the world's most lucrative customers.

Ferrari is rolling out the 200,000-euro (USD240,000) Portofino, which will replace the Italian brand's California convertible, at the Frankfurt International Motor Show. Mercedes's AMG high-performance sub-brand is highlighting the Project ONE concept, which sports Formula 1 hybrid technology and has a whopping price tag of 2.2 million euros.

The models are crucial to the strategic plans of both automakers. Ferrari is banking on the Portofino to help boost sales to 9,000 cars in 2019 - up from a target of 8,400 this year. For parent Daimler AG, AMG is critical to Chief Executive Officer Dieter Zetsche's effort to show that his electrified offerings will still be upscale and sporty.

Lamborghini is also wrestling with the changing dynamics in the super segment, especially as parent Volkswagen AG embarks on a 20 billion-euro push to electrify its entire lineup. The first sign of that shift for the exotic Italian brand will come later this year with the unveiling of

the Urus, which Lamborghini teased in a video in Frankfurt as the world's first "super sport" utility vehicle. The model will also be the brand's first hybrid.

"The next step for Lamborghini will be for sure hybridization," Stefano Domenicali, the brand's chief, said in a Bloomberg TV interview. "But these iconic cars have to be different from others, so this is really the position we need to keep in order to keep alive the dream."

At AMG, that means ratcheting up the exclusivity factor by making just 275 of the Project One, which has a fin running down the middle and reaches a top speed of 350 kilometers per hour. In line with Mercedes's 10 billion-euro plan for electrified models, the V6 gas engine will be complemented with plug-in hybrid technology. The extra battery boost will also make the two-seater more responsive on initial acceleration, hitting 200 kph in six seconds.

"The objective is forward-looking technology, ultimate performance, the best lap times," Zetsche said Monday night



at the unveiling of the Project One featuring race-car driver Lewis Hamilton. "And all of it road legal."

For Ferrari, spun off from Fiat Chrysler Automobiles NV in 2016, the Portofino is less about technology than expansion as it seeks to gradually increase sales to boost profit, with a goal of eventually pushing past the 10,000 mark for deliveries. The Portofino's sales will amount to about 3,200 cars, 40 percent more than the California's de-

liveries this year, according research company IHS Markit.

Chief Executive Officer Sergio Marchionne is equipping the hard-top convertible with a 600-horsepower engine. The car can accelerate to 100 kph (62 mph) in as little as 3.5 seconds. The car is lighter and its 8-cylinder engine offers 40 horsepower more than its predecessor.

The Maranello-based manufacturer showed off the model to the wider public for the first time yesterday following a

customers-only unveiling last week in the picturesque Italian harbor town of Portofino. The event was part of the 70th anniversary celebration of the carmaker's founding.

While Ferrari's growth effort might risk diluting the brand's exclusive cachet, Marchionne has complemented the strategy by offering exclusive limited-edition models, such as the \$2.1 million LaFerrari Aperta convertible. The 65-year-old CEO is now seeking to sustain earnings with a five-year plan to be rolled out next year aimed at securing Ferrari's independence as the industry grapples with the strains of shifting to electric cars.

The business plan is likely to include adding "utility vehicles" to Ferrari's line-up, according to Marchionne, who avoids using the term SUV. The initial focus would be a roomy four-seat model, part of an expansion beyond the nameplate's traditional supercar niche in a bid to double profit by 2022, people familiar with the matter said in August. **Bloomberg**

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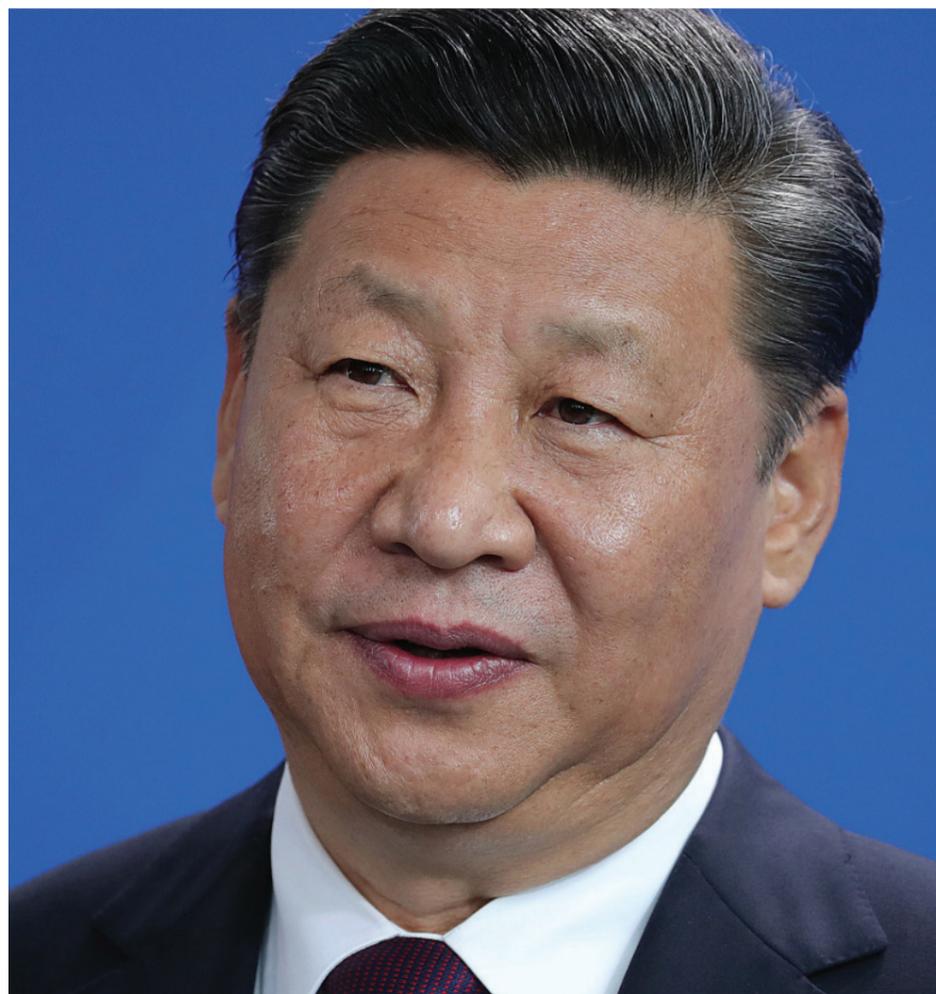


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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"



Trump said to visit China in November amid North Korea spat

Jennifer Jacobs & Toluse Olorunnipa

U.S. President Donald Trump will visit China in November, a person familiar with his plans said, as tensions flare on the Korean peninsula due to Pyongyang's nuclear and missile tests.

White House officials declined to comment. Trump is expected to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation and Association of South East Asian Nations summits in Vietnam and the Philippines in November.

Chinese President Xi Jinping invited Trump to pay a state visit to China when the two leaders met for the first time at Trump's golf

resort in Florida in April. During that meeting, Trump notified Xi that he had authorized air strikes on Syria over allegations of chemical-weapons use.

Trump said he'd taken a liking to the Chinese leader, but in the months since, he's reverted to criticizing China for its trade policies and has accused the country of failing to exert sufficient pressure on North Korea. He regularly calls on China to stop North Korea's nuclear advancement and said in July it could "easily" end the crisis.

Leaders in Beijing see the opposite. While the U.S. and China agree the Korean peninsula should be rid of nuclear weapons, they differ

on how best to achieve that. The sense of urgency is heightened in Washington, as the U.S. suddenly finds itself potentially in range of Kim Jong Un's nuclear weapons,

Trump's trip to China will come more than a year after Obama traveled to the country for the Group of 20 nations summit

whereas China and North Korea's other neighbors have lived with the threat for years.

"I am very disappointed in China," Trump posted on Twitter in July. "Our foolish past leaders have allowed them to make hundreds of billions of dollars a year in trade, yet they do NOTHING for us with North Korea, just talk. We will no longer allow this to continue. China could easily solve this problem!"

Trump's trip to China will come more than a year after former President Barack Obama traveled to the country for the Group of 20 nations summit, a visit that underscored the complicated relationship between the

world's two largest economies.

When Obama landed in Hangzhou, there were no stairs waiting for him to deplane from Air Force One. The mishap was viewed by many as a snub from the Chinese government. Trump, who was campaigning for the presidency, said at the time that Obama should have returned to the U.S. rather than disembark from the plane's lower set of stairs.

During his term, Obama regularly criticized the Chinese government over its handling of a territorial dispute in the South China Sea, practices targeting U.S. intellectual property and human rights issues. **Bloomberg**

A member of a Muslim minority group has been sentenced to two years in a Chinese prison after forming online discussions groups to teach about Islam.

Huang Shike was arrested in 2016 in Xinjiang province, three months after he formed a discussion group about Muslim worship on the messaging app WeChat, according to the official website China Judgments Online.

XINJIANG

Chinese imprisoned for two years after teaching about Islam

Huang, 49, taught about the Quran, Islam's holy book, in another WeChat discussion group. More than 100 people were members of each group, the website said.

The discussion groups

"disturbed normal religious activity" and violated laws about using the internet to discuss religion, the website said.

Chinese authorities have dramatically increased surveillance and po-

lice patrols in Xinjiang, fearing the spread of militant Islam which they believe has infiltrated the region from Central Asia.

Huang is a member of the Hui minority. There are more than 20 million

Muslims in China, mainly among Uighur, Hui and other ethnic minorities. China's 10.6 million Hui — descendants of Muslim settlers and Chinese who converted to Islam — have long endured

strained relations with the Han, who constitute more than 90 percent of China's 1.37 billion people.

Chinese officials have increasingly urged local governments to better assimilate Muslim minorities into Han Chinese culture, as many ethnic policy hard-liners have decried a trend of what they call "Arabization" among Chinese Muslims. **AP**

KOREAN CRISIS

Oil will keep flowing, but UN sanctions hit Beijing's troublesome ally hard

Eric Talmadge, Tokyo

NORTH Korea will be feeling the pain of new United Nations sanctions targeting some of its biggest remaining foreign revenue streams. But the Security Council eased off the biggest target of all: the oil the North needs to stay alive, and to fuel its million-man military.

Though the United States had proposed a complete ban, the sanctions by the U.N. Security Council to punish North Korea for its sixth nuclear test cap Pyongyang's annual imports of crude oil at the same level they have been for the past 12 months: an estimated 4 million barrels. Exports of North Korean textiles are prohibited, and other nations are barred from authorizing new work permits for North Korean workers, putting a squeeze on two key sources of hard currency.

The measures were approved unanimously yesterday [Macau time].

The measures to punish Pyongyang for its Sept. 3 nuclear test also ban the country from importing natural gas liquids and condensates, and limit the import of refined petroleum products to 2 million barrels a year.

That could be a significant restriction.

According to Chinese customs data, North Korea imports nearly 2.2 million barrels a year in petroleum products, but some U.S. officials believe the true number

is much higher: about 4.5 million barrels. So the 2 million barrel cap could be cutting existing imports 10 percent, or slashing them by more than half.

But how much impact the oil and fuel component of the sanctions will actually have — even if strictly enforced, which is always a concern — is an open question.

David von Hippel, an energy expert with the Nautilus Institute think tank who has done extensive research on North Korea, said he doubts that oil sanctions will hit the regime very hard.

“The textile sanctions actually might have more impact, as they are probably a good source of value-added income — value added by people you don't have to pay much — for the regime,” he said. “But I'm not sure that they will really have much effect on the nuclear weapons and missile programs, given the priority that those initiatives must have for the DPRK leadership.”

DPRK is short for North Korea's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Von Hippel co-authored a report for Nautilus earlier this month that found even a major reduction in Chinese oil exports to North Korea would likely have only a muted impact on military activities because Pyongyang can safely be assumed to have significant stockpiles of oil. The report estimated North Korea may have enough in reserve to supply its military for a year of normal operations or a month at a war-time pace.

There have been signs, including reduced supply and skyrocketing prices, that North Korea has already started diverting oil products away from gas stations and other consumer outlets.

Rajiv Biswas, Asia Pacific chief economist for IHS Markit, also said he expects that Pyongyang can weather the import reduction.

“**The North Korean regime is still getting some fuel supplies from China, which can keep its most essential operations functioning.**”

RAJIV BISWAS
ECONOMIST

“The new U.N. sanctions on oil exports to North Korea are relatively moderate in scope compared to the original U.S. proposal regarding oil exports, and would be unlikely to have much impact on the operations of the North Korean military,” he said.

Biswas noted, however, that

the situation with China remains both crucial and complicated.

Chinese gasoline exports to the North fell sharply — to just 120 tons in July, compared to 8,262 tons in June — following a decision by China's state-owned oil company, China National Petroleum Corporation, to cut sales due to concerns that North Korea is too high a credit risk. At the same time, however, Chinese exports of diesel to North Korea increased from 367 tons in June to 1,162 tons in July.

One metric ton is roughly equal to roughly seven barrels of crude oil.

“The North Korean regime is still getting some fuel supplies from China, which can keep its most essential operations functioning,” he said.

North Korea's top envoy to a leading U.N. disarmament body said yesterday his country “categorically” rejects the new sanctions.

Ambassador Han Tae Song also lashed out at the United States during a session of the U.N.'s Conference on Disarmament, saying North Korea denounces Washington's “evil intention” and would “make sure the U.S. pays a due price.”

The new measures are sure to cause North Korea more economic pain. Textiles are one of North Korea's major exports, with a total export value estimated at USD750 million in 2016, and the tens of thousands of North Koreans working overseas send a significant portion of their ear-

nings home to the regime. The measures also clamp down on joint ventures, which could stifle the North's ability to trade and to acquire capital and know-how.

But what Washington failed to get was equally telling.

Along with settling for the compromise on oil, the U.S. unsuccessfully tried to get a travel ban and freezes on the assets of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and Air Koryo, the North's flagship airline. The U.S. proposed slashing projects employing North Korean workers abroad, but instead accepted sanctions aimed at gradually scaling them back.

The weakening of the sanctions reflects the longstanding rift between sanctions hawk Washington, and China and Russia, which advocate direct talks and more efforts to find a resolution through negotiations. The U.S. has rejected proposals from both countries that it stop joint military exercises with South Korea in exchange for a halt to North Korea's nuclear and missile tests.

Both Beijing and Moscow had strong words for Washington.

China's U.N. ambassador urged the council to adopt the freeze-for-freeze proposal and urged the U.S. to pledge not to seek regime change or North Korea's collapse. Russia's envoy said Washington's unwillingness to have U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres try to resolve the dispute “gives rise to very serious questions in our minds.” AP



A soldier stands guard near oil barrels stocked up near the river bank of the North Korean town of Sinuiju, opposite the Chinese border city of Dandong

Bangladesh leader slams Myanmar for 'atrocities' against Rohingya

Al-Emrun Garjon & Tofayel Ahmed, Cox's Bazar

THE Bangladeshi prime minister was traveling yesterday to struggling refugee camps that have absorbed hundreds of thousands of Rohingya fleeing violence in Myanmar in recent weeks — a crisis she said left her speechless.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina lambasted Myanmar for "atrocities" that she said had reached a level beyond description.

"I have no words to condemn Myanmar," she told lawmakers the night before, noting that Bangladesh had long been protesting the persecution of Rohingya Muslims in Buddhist-majority Myanmar.

Regardless, "they are sending Rohingya to Bangladesh afresh," she said, as more continued to stream across the border. "Women are being raped and tortured, children are being killed, and houses are being set on fire" in Myanmar's Rakhine state.

At least 313,000 Rohingya have arrived since Aug. 25, when Rohingya insurgents attacked police posts, prompting Myanmar's military to retaliate with what it called "clearance operations" to root out the rebels.

The crisis has drawn sharp criticism from around the world. The United States said it was deeply troubled by the violence, and Germany halted several aid projects in Myanmar in protest.

■ We don't understand why successive Myanmar regimes carried out such atrocities.

SHEIKH HASINA
PRIME MINISTER

The U.N. human rights chief said violence and injustice faced by the ethnic Rohingya minority in Myanmar — where U.N. rights investigators have been barred from entry — "seems a textbook example of ethnic cleansing."

"The Myanmar government should stop pretending that the Rohingya are setting fire to their own homes and laying waste to their own villages," Zeid Ra'ad

al-Hussein said earlier this week in Geneva, calling it a "complete denial of reality."

Meanwhile, a Rohingya villager in Myanmar said security forces had arrived Monday in the village of Pa Din village, firing guns, setting new fires to homes and driving hundreds of Rohingya to flee.

"People were scared and running out of the village," the villager said, speaking on condition of anonymity out of fear for his safety.

Myanmar police disputed that, saying the houses were burned by terrorists they called Bengalis. That term is used derisively by many in Myanmar to describe the Rohingya, who they say migrated illegally from neighboring Bangladesh, though many Rohingya families have lived in Myanmar for generations.

The Bangladeshi prime minister demanded that Myanmar bring the Rohingya back, while the country's parliament on Monday night urged the U.N. and other countries to pressure Myanmar to ensure their safety and citizenship once they returned.

"We don't understand why successive Myanmar regimes carried out such atrocities on a particular community when the country is comprised of different groups,"



Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina (center) meets with Rohingya Muslims at Kutupalong refugee camp yesterday

Hasina said.

Bangladesh said it would free 810 hectares of land for a new camp in Cox's Bazar district, to help shelter newly arrived Rohingya. The government was also fingerprinting and registering new arrivals.

Two pre-existing Rohingya camps were already beyond capacity. Other new arrivals were staying in schools, or huddling in makeshift settlements with no toilets along roadsides and in open fields.

Basic resources were scarce, including food, clean water and medical aid.

Hasina was expected to visit the Kutupalong refugee camp in Cox's Bazar district on Tuesday. The U.N. refugee agency also said it expected new relief supplies for 20,000 people to arrive by air during the day.

Aid agencies have been overwhelmed by the influx of Rohingya, many of whom are

arriving hungry and traumatized after walking days through jungles or being packed into rickety wooden boats in search of safety in Bangladesh.

Many tell similar stories — of Myanmar soldiers firing indiscriminately on their villages, burning their homes and warning them to leave or to die. Some say they were attacked by Buddhist mobs.

In the last two weeks, the government hospital in Cox's Bazar has been overwhelmed by Rohingya patients, with 80 arriving in the last two weeks suffering gunshot wounds as well as bad infections.

At least three have been wounded in land mine blasts, and dozens have drowned when boats capsized during sea crossings.

Myanmar's authorities said more than a week ago that some 400 Rohingya — mostly insurgents — had died in clashes with troops, but it has offered no updated death toll since. **AP**

PHILIPPINES

Four dead, six missing in floods and landslides

Atropical depression dumped heavy rain on the Philippines yesterday, flooding metropolitan Manila and nearby provinces and causing landslides and flash floods that killed at least four people.

Six others were missing, including five residents of Laguna province, where floods swept away a house next to a swollen river, disaster relief officials said. The other missing person was reported in nearby Cavite province, where several areas were submerged.

Financial markets, government offices and schools were closed and at least 21 flights were canceled or diverted.

The weather bureau said Tropical Depression Maring made landfall in eastern Quezon province yesterday morning and

was moving northwest with winds of 60 kilometers per hour and gusts of up to 100 kilometers per hour. It warned that continued moderate to heavy rain in Manila and nearby provinces along the storm's path could trigger more floods and landslides.

Disaster response official Elmer Espiritu said two brothers aged 14 and 17 died when a landslide covered their home at the foot of a hill before dawn in Taytay town near Manila. Officials ordered mandatory evacuations in risky areas after some residents refused to leave, he added.

In Quezon province, a 2-month-old girl was killed and seven others were injured when a concrete wall around a hospital collapsed on three houses in Lucena city after heavy

rain soaked the soil at the wall's base, officials said.

Police also reported that a 12-year-old girl drowned in metropolitan Manila's Pasay city while bathing in a river during the heavy downpour.

Twenty-two passengers on a bus stranded in floodwaters were rescued in Quezon province, officials said.

■ A stronger storm, Talim, located 865km east of Luzon [...] is due to make landfall in Taiwan late today

A stronger storm, Talim, was located 865 kilometers east of the Philippines' northern tip and was moving toward Taiwan and eastern China.

Talim is due to make landfall in Taiwan late today and officials there were especially concerned about mudslides in mountainous parts of the island. Taiwan's government was contacting the heads of mountain villages, arranging free evacuations to shelters, and monitoring rivers and mudslide-prone areas.

Talim was expected to hit China's southeastern coast either tomorrow or Friday, China's official Xinhua News Agency reported. Coastal Zhejiang province ordered local governments and emergency services to prepare for the storm and possible



A man seen in flood waters in Manila, yesterday

flooding, China National Radio said.

Taiwan is hit by typhoons nearly every year. But it has become much more aggressive about preparations since Typhoon Morakot battered the island in 2009, killing roughly 700 people — most in mudslides.

Residents of the island are also taking warnings more seriously, officials say.

"For Taiwan, the most serious chance of a di-

saster is heavy rain causing a sudden mudslide. Before Morakot, people were taking chances, sort of like gambling," said Li Wei-sen, secretary-general with the government's National Science and Technology Center for Disaster Reduction.

Taiwan's 23 million people are used to typhoons, but the island's size and its competitive media environment ensures nearly everyone knows what to expect. **MDT/AP**



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CARIBBEAN

'Worst ever seen': European leaders view Irma-hit islands

Nicolas Garriga & Sylvie Corbet,
Pointe-A-Pitre

FRANCE'S president, Britain's foreign secretary and the Dutch king were visiting Caribbean territories yesterday that have been hammered by Hurricane Irma, trying to quell accusations by residents that European governments were slow to prepare, slow to react and sometimes even racist in their responses to the devastation.

French President Emmanuel Macron's plane brought water, food and tons of medicines and emergency equipment. His first stop was Guadeloupe, an overseas department of France, where he landed yesterday.

Macron was eventually heading to the French-Dutch island of St. Martin, where 10 people were killed on the French side and four on the Dutch, to meet with residents. He will finish off his trip on the nearby island of St. Barts.

The president is also being accompanied by doctors and experts who will be in charge of evaluating the damage.

About 1,500 French troops, police and emergency workers are already on the ground to help islanders, and 500 others were expected to arrive in the coming days, according to French authorities. But residents on the island have spoken of hunger, homelessness, a lack of water and a



AP PHOTO

feeling of abandonment after the hurricane pummeled the region on Wednesday. Some felt the French government spend more efforts rescuing white tourists than black or mixed-race islanders.

Irma left entire islands and tens of thousands of people in the Caribbean without water or electricity and reduced many homes to splinters. The French, British and Dutch governments sent warships, planes and security forces to keep order and deliver aid but some of that was slowed down fur-

ther by Hurricane Jose, which passed north of the region over the weekend.

A medical center was being set up in the stadium of Marigot, a port on St. Martin, and a French military ship will provide additional medical facilities in coming days, French Prime Minister Edouard Philippe said.

He told reporters that air and sea connections with the French Caribbean islands should gradually return to normal by the end of the week, allowing up to 2,500 people a day to

leave the island.

Dutch King Willem-Alexander arrived on St. Martin earlier and said the scenes of devastation are the worst he has ever seen. The island is shared between a French territory and the former Dutch colony of St. Maarten, a largely autonomous part of the Dutch kingdom with a population of around 40,000.

"I've never experienced anything like this before and I've seen a lot of natural disasters in my life. I've seen a lot of war zones in my life. but I've

never seen anything like this," Willem-Alexander said on the Dutch national network NOS.

Willem-Alexander said he was encouraged to see residents already working together to rebuild the shattered capital of Philipsburg.

"It's been very useful to see for myself what terrible damage this storm has done and in this way to also show the population of St. Martin and the governor and prime minister that we stand together here as a kingdom and that we will solve this together," he told reporters on the island.

Willem-Alexander was to fly to the nearby Dutch islands of Saba and St. Eustatius, which also were hit by Irma, but suffered less damage than St. Martin.

British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson will be visiting the British Virgin Islands and Anguilla to see the relief effort firsthand. Earlier this week, Johnson defended the government's response amid claims it was slow to help the British overseas territories, saying there had been an "unprecedented" effort to deal with the aftermath of the storm. At least five people died in the British territories.

Dutch Foreign Minister Bert Koenders said he believes the European Union should send relief funds to both the French and the Dutch sides of the island, despite their differing relationships to their former colonial powers.

"We believe in any case that everybody should benefit from that money," he told reporters after a Cabinet meeting called to discuss the fallout from Hurricane Irma.

Koenders said he also would appeal for help from the United Nations for the islands. AP

ZIMBABWE

First lady denies assault, says she was attacked

REPRESENTATIVES of Zimbabwe's first lady say a young woman who accused her of assault was the actual aggressor, allegedly attacking Grace Mugabe with a knife while drunk, according to a court document filed in South Africa.

The court papers denying any wrongdoing by Mugabe were submitted Aug. 17 by Zimbabwean diplomats on behalf of Mugabe, who was granted diplomatic immunity by South Africa despite calls for her prosecution in the alleged attack on the woman in a Johannesburg hotel on Aug. 13. She returned to Zimbabwe a week after the alleged assault with Presi-

dent Robert Mugabe, who had attended a summit of southern African leaders in Pretoria.

The Associated Press obtained a copy of the court document yesterday from AfriForum, a group representing 20-year-old Gabriella Engels, who said she suffered head wounds while being whipped with an extension cord by 52-year-old Grace Mugabe. AfriForum has said it will challenge the South African government over the immunity issue in an

attempt to complicate any effort by the first lady to return to South Africa.

Grace Mugabe went to see her sons in a hotel suite because they were "in trouble with a drunken young woman," says the court document filed by Zimbabwean diplomats.

"Upon her arrival Ms. Engels, who was intoxicated, and unhinged, attacked Dr. Grace Mugabe with a knife after she was asked to leave the hotel room. Security was left with no other option but

to remove Ms. Engels from the hotel suite," according to the court filing.

Mugabe "reserves the right to press charges of attempted murder" against Engels, the document says.

Engels has said she was in a hotel room with mutual friends of Mugabe's two sons, who live in Johannesburg, when the first lady burst into the room and assaulted her. Photos posted on social media show a bloody gash to Engels' forehead that she claims was a result of the encounter.

In 2009, a photographer accused Mugabe of beating him up in Hong Kong. While the Zimbabwean president's outspoken wife



Zimbabwean First Lady Grace Mugabe travels with President Robert Mugabe in the back of a vintage Rolls Royce

has been criticized for a fiery temper and lavish shopping expeditions, her rising political profile has some asking whether she is maneuvering to succeed her husband. She recently said that Zimbabwe's ru-

ling party should restore a constitutional provision stating one of the party's vice presidents should be a woman, and has publicly challenged her 93-year-old husband to name a successor. AP

■ In 2009, a photographer accused Mugabe of beating him up in Hong Kong

Christopher Sherman, Juchitan

THE death toll from Mexico's 8.1 magnitude earthquake rose to 96 yesterday [Macau time] as more victims were confirmed in the hard-hit southern states of Oaxaca and Chiapas and residents worked to repair shattered homes and small businesses.

The Foreign Relations Department said 95 people had died nationwide in last week's quake. Then Chiapas state civil defense director Luis Manuel Garcia Moreno said the number of deaths there had risen from 15 to 16.

Oaxaca Gov. Alejandro Murat said in a statement that the toll in his state increased to 76, and officials have reported that four people were killed in the Gulf coast state of Tabasco.

As funerals continued for the disaster's victims, teams of soldiers and federal police with shovels and sledgehammers fanned out to help demolish damaged buildings across the southern city of Juchitan, which was hit particularly hard.

Volunteers, many of them teens from religious or community groups in surrounding towns that came through in better shape, turned out in force to distribute water and clothing or lend a hand.

At a leafy technological school

AP PHOTO



Mourners grieve at a funeral service for 90-year-old Hermilo Martinez

MEXICO

Death toll from big earthquake rises to 96

turned into a shelter, a couple hundred people have been sleeping in classrooms or on thin mattresses laid out under trees since the quake last week.

Everyone cited fear of aftershocks as their reason for staying, including those whose homes were

still standing. But Juchitan awoke Monday after its first night without an aftershock, and that was enough for some to contemplate going home.

The military served them a breakfast of eggs and beans before most set off to work on repair-

ing their homes or make sure their belongings weren't being stolen.

Later in the day at least one more tremor was felt.

The previous day in Ixtaltepec, about 20 minutes north of Juchitan, residents directed heavy ma-

chinery operators clearing rubble while others did what they could with pry bars and rope.

Benito Chinas' house and the small store he ran out front were leveled by the quake, and his daughter traveled from her home in Veracruz to help out. She was organizing what little remained of her father's possessions — a few bottles of cooking oil — under a tarp to protect it from rain.

"Everything that I worked so long for is gone," said Chinas, 83. "I don't have the strength anymore, and at my age how am I going to start over?"

Mexico's Foreign Relations Department said the quake and Hurricane Katia, which struck the Gulf coast state of Veracruz on Friday, have forced the country to withdraw an offer of aid for Houston after it was hit by Hurricane Harvey in August. At least two deaths were blamed on Katia.

The U.S. had thanked Mexico for the offer and said only logistical aid was needed. The Mexican Red Cross said 33 of its volunteers were helping out in Houston.

Mexico said it would now dedicate relief efforts to its own disasters.

About 5,000 homes in Chiapas were destroyed by the quake, and Murat said about 11,000 homes were damaged or destroyed in Oaxaca. AP

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what's ON



THE BEGINNER'S MIND - AFA FOUNDER EXHIBITION

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

UNTIL: September 27, 2017

VENUE: 4th Floor, Macau Art Garden, No. 265, Av.

Dr. Rodrigo Rodrigues

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6064

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

TIME: 2pm-7pm

UNTIL: September 23, 2017

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ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2875 3282

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

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Ferreira de Almeida

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

UNTIL: December 3, 2017

VENUE: Archives of Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2859 2919

EXHIBITION BY WONG NGA PENG

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

UNTIL: October 8, 2017

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 4582

CONSTELLATION - WORKS BY NICOLAS DELAROCHE

UNTIL: October 8, 2017

TIME: 10am-9pm (Open on public holidays)

VENUE: Tap Seac Gallery, No.95, Av. do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

Offbeat

COMPLAINTS ABOUT FESTIVAL'S COLD PIZZA PROMPT STATE INQUIRY

Some New York City foodies say a neighborhood pizza festival has left them with a bad taste in their mouths.

Prosecutors are looking into the New York City Pizza Festival after attendees fumed they paid USD75 each to eat cold slivers of pizza in a parking lot in Brooklyn on Saturday.

The festival was promoted as a celebration of pizza. Attendees say on Facebook they instead got cold slices of pizza "smaller than a sample size," served with glasses of warm wine.

WNBC-TV reports Democratic state Attorney General Eric Schneiderman is urging attendees to file complaints on his website. A spokesman says prosecutors opened an investigation this week.

Festival organizer Ishmael Osekre says event producer Hangry Garden delayed the event. The event producer contends it was misled by the organizer and wasn't paid.

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
17:40	Champions League: Benfica - CSKA (Repeated)
19:25	The Cariocas (Repeated)
19:50	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	AL Elections Campaign
21:45	Miscellaneous
22:10	The Cariocas
22:50	AL Elections Campaign
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Champions League Highlights
00:40	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:15	RTPi Live
02:45	Champions League: Benfica - CSKA (Live)
04:50	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



1993 RABIN AND ARAFAT SHAKE ON PEACE DEAL

The Prime Minister of Israel, Yitzhak Rabin, and the PLO leader, Yasser Arafat, have shaken hands before cheering crowds on the White House lawn in Washington.

The handshake - the first ever in public between the two former arch enemies - marked the signing of a Declaration of Principles for peace between the Arabs and Israelis.

Under the terms of the deal, Israel has agreed to withdraw its troops from Gaza Strip and West Bank by April 1994. Elections will be held in the territories to allow the Palestinians some form of self-government.

A deadline for a final settlement has been set for February 1999.

The deal has only been made possible by talks brokered by the Norwegians earlier in the year - and by the election of Mr Rabin's Labour government which includes the pro-peace campaigners Shimon Peres and Yossi Beilin.

President Bill Clinton introduced the two leaders to the crowd of invited guests in front of the White House. By his side, were former Presidents Jimmy Carter and George Bush who had vigorously campaigned for peace during their terms in office.

Mr Clinton said: "The peace of the brave is within our reach. Throughout the Middle East there is a great yearning for the quiet miracle of a normal life.

"We know a difficult road lies ahead. Every peace has its enemies."

The leaders did not sign the declaration themselves. Instead, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and his Palestinian counterpart did the signing.

Mr Rabin then addressed the crowd: "We who have fought against you the Palestinians, we say to you today in a loud and clear voice, enough of blood and tears, enough."

Mr Arafat said: "The difficult decision we reached together was one that required great courage."

The BBC's correspondent John Simpson said Mr Arafat had undoubtedly put his life on the line for this agreement.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The Declaration of Principles paved the way for Israel's first withdrawals from occupied territory and Yasser Arafat's triumphant return to Palestinian territory in July 1994.

He was elected president of the Palestinian National Authority in 1996. Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated by a Jewish extremist wanting to prevent further Israeli withdrawals on 4 November 1995.

Binyamin Netanyahu of Likud won Israeli elections in 1996. He agreed to a withdrawal from Hebron in the West Bank but talks on further peace moves with the Palestinians stalled.

His successor Ehud Barak was equally unsuccessful and in the impasse veteran right-winger Ariel Sharon toured the al Aqsa mosque/Temple Mount complex in what was seen as a provocative move by the Palestinians.

Demonstrations soon turned into another uprising or intifada.

Yasser Arafat died of natural causes on November 11, 2004 at the age of 75.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Your family members have a big surprise in store for you - a very big surprise. Does that mean you should worry about what's coming or head for the hills? Certainly not.

Taurus April 20-May 20 You've been thinking about it for a while, and you're just about sure this is what you want to do. You're ready to forget your job and abandon your routine. You're done, you're over it.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Getting you into the car for a long-distance trip - or on a bus, a plane or a space shuttle, for that matter - has never been much of a challenge. But once you've set down roots, you hate to move.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 After days of wondering what to do - while pretending you have everything under strict control - you're suddenly ready to admit you don't quite know what to do. Should you let go and buy what you want?!

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You've been worried that you offended someone recently with your verbal enthusiasm. Don't give it a second thought. In fact, expect some crazy energy that will entice you to speak bolder and more directly.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 A productive kind of energy will bring money and possessions to the very front of your mind today. You may need to make a serious decision as a result, but it's one you've seen coming for a while, so not to worry.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Get ready for some major changes in your career. But don't worry - they won't be negative changes, not after all the effort you've put into that department of your life lately. Keep your chin up and see what happens.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Fasten your seatbelt and put your tray-table in the upright position. Some serious turbulence is en route, and bracing yourself before it happens is the only way to get through it.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 The universe has decided it's time to connect with a whole new peer group - and they're going to be real kindred spirits. So even if going out and meeting them doesn't actually happen today, the invitation will.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You'd think they would know you well enough to understand that these tactics don't work well on you - and if they keep it up, you'll only become more determined to have your way.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You have every right to use all of your skills - not just your intelligence - when working toward a goal. Today's the day to pull out your secret weapon: your brilliant charm!

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You've been thinking privately about quitting your job and moving on - literally, as well - for some time now. Today's events may seem like the straw that breaks the camel's back.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

10x10 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Easy+

10x10 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Medium

10x10 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Hard

10x10 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

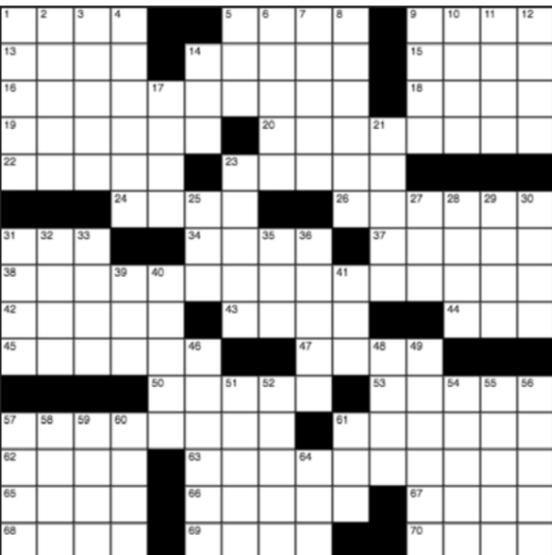
WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Old MacDonald's place; 5- Soviet news agency; 9- Actress Thompson; 13- "Tosca" tune; 14- Rich cake; 15- Queue before Q; 16- Dispute; 18- Lofty poems; 19- Christian festival; 20- Gyroplane; 22- Woody inhabitants of forests; 23- Blender brand; 24- Tiny particle; 26- Verdi title bandit; 31- CIA predecessor; 34- Scottish refusals; 37- Ancient region of Asia Minor; 38- In spite of; 42- Cream-filled cookies; 43- Sailing; 44- Asian language; 45- Distant; 47- Granny; 50- Cow catcher; 53- Paella pots; 57- Decorative design; 61- Aptitude; 62- Auction site; 63- Bulldozer; 65- Ready for picking; 66- Knot again; 67- Actress Garr; 68- Mgr.'s helper; 69- Narrow strip of wood; 70- High-five, for one;

DOWN: 1- Aspect; 2- Bellowing; 3- Wash lightly; 4- Country singer Kathy; 5- Mazel ___; 6- Specific geographical places; 7- Swagger; 8- Parlor piece; 9- Air pollution; 10- The King ___; 11- Person of action; 12- Lhasa ___; 14- Craggy hill; 17- Take a break; 21- Senator Hatch; 23- D-Day beach; 25- Toronto's prov.; 27- Tacit assent; 28- Blue dye source; 29- 1492 vessel; 30- Othello villain; 31- ___ about (approximately); 32- Open infection, painful; 33- Stalk; 35- Pothook shape; 36- Pad user; 39- Court; 40- Cordage fiber; 41- Bond rating; 46- Diners; 48- Linguist Chomsky; 49- Parcels out; 51- Madame de ___; 52- Sealy rival; 54- Horizontal; 55- End of ___; 56- Divest; 57- Aloe ___; 58- Wading bird; 59- Openings; 60- Russian refusal; 61- Definite article; 64- ___ for tat;



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THE AFRICAN BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Unique and entertaining competition

Ken Maguire, Dakar, Senegal

THE African basketball championship may lack star power — even electrical power on occasion. But with national pride at stake, it almost always entertains.

AfroBasket, which tipped off last week in Senegal and Tunisia, can't be compared to a glitzy event like the NCAA tournament. Senegal's aging national stadium in the capital Dakar, for example, has no air conditioning. A recent women's AfroBasket game in Mali was paused because of a power cut.

International basketball federation FIBA turned to Senegal and Tunisia as emergency co-hosts of this men's championship just two months ago because Republic of Congo backed out, as did replacement host Angola. The 16-team tournament was pushed back to September, too close to training camps for many Africans who play in the NBA.

Tunisia hosted in August 2015, two months after 38 people were killed in a terrorist attack at a beach resort. As a precaution, games were moved to Rades, outside the

capital Tunis.

The tournament still carries on, as it has done since 1962.

"They always end up finding a way, and it always ends up being a great tournament, so we must find a way to improve it, to get more out of it," said Masai Ujiri, a Nigerian who is president of the NBA's Toronto Raptors. "I've played in that tournament. I've coached in it. It's an unbelievable feeling. There's a remarkable atmosphere. I wish more people knew about it."

Arenas are abuzz with drumming, dancing, and flag waving. Boisterous Senegalese supporters packed Marius Ndiaye Stadium on Friday hours before their team took the floor, a floor that was freshly painted just three days earlier.

Even referees seem to feel it. In a March qualifier, a Malian player sank a game-tying 3-pointer at the buzzer against Senegal, pulled off his jersey and sprinted toward fans as if he had scored a goal at the soccer World Cup. No technical foul.

Wearing national colors is serious business for players, some of whom have grandparents who

lived under colonial oppression.

"I take pride in it," said Senegal's Maurice Ndour, who played for the New York Knicks last season. "It will be my first time playing in Senegal in front of the home crowd. It's huge."

Wearing national colors is serious business for players, [their] grandparents lived under colonial oppression

Senegal, with Minnesota Timberwolves big man Gorgui Dieng on board, will be under pressure to win the title, something it hasn't done since 1997. Angola is the 11-time African champion and hasn't missed the final since 1997. Nige-



ria captured its first title at the last AfroBasket in 2015.

Tunisia won in 2011 but will play without Dallas Mavericks center Salah Mejri, who said that the Mavericks preferred he rest a sore knee. Tunisia hosts the knockout phase after this weekend's flurry of games in Dakar and Rades. AfroBasket also provides a qualification path to FIBA's world championship in 2019 and the 2020 Olympics.

Top players sometimes opt out because of scheduling conflicts and, especially, their national federations' unwillingness to pay for insurance. Other NBA players not coming are Cameroonians Joel Embiid, Luc Mbah a Moute, and

Pascal Siakam, as well as Congo's Bismack Biyombo and Emmanuel Mudiay.

Still, NBA and other scouts are expected, so players like 25-year-old Ndour, now a free agent, can help themselves as they help their teams. Carlos Morais of Angola was invited to the Raptors' training camp after earning MVP honors at the 2013 African championship.

Silvio De Sousa, who has committed to Kansas for 2018, is suiting up for Angola.

Joe Lopez, president of the SEED Academy, said many participants play professionally, "but you have two or three that will be discovered." **AP**

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FOOTBALL

Champions League returns with Real Madrid the team to beat

THE Champions League group stage kicked-off today with Real Madrid looking to win Europe's top club competition for a third straight year, a feat not achieved since Bayern Munich in the 1970s.

Here's a look at the eight groups:

AP PHOTOS



GROUP A

BENFICA, MANCHESTER UNITED, BASEL, CSKA MOSCOW

Jose Mourinho can be happy with how Manchester United's return after a one-year absence is shaping up, along with his own quest to be the first person to coach three different clubs to European glory. Benfica is a consistent performer in the second tier of Europe's elite; Basel has been weakened by persistent sales of top players since eliminating United in the 2011 groups; and CSKA Moscow finished last in its group in each of the last four seasons — including one that contained United in 2015. After starting the English Premier League with 10 points from a possible 12, the three-time European champion will begin as group favorite.

TO QUALIFY: MAN UTD (1.08), BENFICA (1.62), CSKA MOSCOW (4), BASEL (5)



GROUP B

BAYERN MUNICH, PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN, ANDERLECHT, CELTIC

Neymar made it his big goal to win the Champions League with Paris Saint-Germain after securing his world-record transfer from Barcelona for 222 million euros (USD262 million) in July. Advancing to the knockout stage should be a formality for his new team, which also includes teenage striker Kylian Mbappe in a new-look and exciting forward line. Neymar's first European campaign with PSG will take him to five-time champion Bayern, whose coach Carlo Ancelotti used to manage the French club. Celtic is never an easy team to visit, but the Scottish champions are likely to be fighting it out with Anderlecht for third place.

TO QUALIFY: BAYERN MUNICH (1.05), PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN (1.06), CELTIC (13), ANDERLECHT (21)



GROUP C

CHELSEA, ATLETICO MADRID, ROMA, QARABAG

Qarabag is the first Azerbaijani team to reach this stage and its reward is one of the most competitive groups. Atletico Madrid has reached the final twice in the past three years, losing both times to Real Madrid, while Chelsea — the 2012 European champion — is the current En-

glish champion and has recovered after an uncomfortable start to the Premier League. Chelsea and Atletico could be in negotiations over the next few months regarding the sale of Diego Costa, the Chelsea striker who has been estranged in his native Brazil for much of the summer and wants to join former club Atletico.

TO QUALIFY: CHELSEA (1.33), ATLETICO MADRID (1.36), ROMA (2.25), FK KARABAKH (41)



GROUP D

JUVENTUS, BARCELONA, OLYMPIAKOS, SPORTING

It will be a major surprise if Juventus and Barcelona, European champions a combined seven times, fail to qualify from the group. They met in the 2015 final, with Barca's prolific front three of Neymar, Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez inspiring a 3-1 win in Berlin. Neymar, of course, is no longer around for Barca, with new signing Ousmane Dembele replacing him. Juventus lost last season's final to Real Madrid and hasn't won the Champions League since 1996. Olympiakos and Sporting are regular qualifiers but rarely advance, with Sporting weakened by the recent sale of midfielder Adrien Silva to Leicester.

TO QUALIFY: BARCELONA (1.06), JUVENTUS (1.13), SPORTING LISBON (10.5), OLYMPIAKOS (21)



GROUP E

SPARTAK MOSCOW, SEVILLA, LIVERPOOL, MARIBOR

Five-time European champion Liverpool came through the playoffs and gets a chance to avenge its loss to Sevilla in the 2016 Europa League final, which denied the English team a place in last season's Champions League. Spartak, which won the Russian Premier League, is in the group stage for the first time since 2012-13, while Slovenian team Maribor is the big outsider in its third attempt to reach the knockout stage. This will likely be considered the weakest of the eight groups.

TO QUALIFY: LIVERPOOL (1.13), SEVILLA (1.29), SPARTAK MOSCOW (3.3), MARIBOR (21)



GROUP F

SHAKHTAR DONETSK, MANCHESTER CITY, NAPOLI, FEYENOORD

Pep Guardiola's Manchester City avoided tougher options by being drawn into top-seeded Shakhtar's group. The Ukrainian champion is always fighting against the disadvantage of not playing a real home game in three years due to the conflict involving pro-Russian separatists around its home city. Still, Napoli was one of the more difficult opponents for City from the third-seeded teams

and eased past Nice in the playoffs round. Feyenoord returns to the group stage after a 15-year absence and is likely to face a steep learning curve.

TO QUALIFY: MAN CITY (1.12), NAPOLI (1.4), SHAKHTAR DONETSK (4.2), FEYENOORD (6)



GROUP G

MONACO, PORTO, BESIKTAS, LEIPZIG

Monaco, last season's surprise semifinalist, is the top seed but has been hurt by the departure of key players like Kylian Mbappe, Bernardo Silva and Benjamin Mendy this summer. The French team comes up against Porto in a rematch of the 2004 final won by the Portuguese team. Leipzig didn't even exist then — the club was created in 2009 — and is a newcomer at this level. But the Bundesliga runner-up was the team from the fourth seeds that most of the continent's heavyweights wanted to avoid. Monaco won its group as a fourth-seeded team last season.

TO QUALIFY: MONACO (1.57), RB LEIPZIG (1.75), PORTO (2), BESIKTAS (3.85)



GROUP H

REAL MADRID, BORUSSIA DORTMUND, TOTTENHAM, APOEL

Real Madrid has won the Champions League three times in the past four years, and is looking to become the first team since Bayern Munich (1974-76) to be European champion in three straight years. Madrid's path to the knockout stage may have been smoothed by its fierce rival Barcelona, which weakened Borussia Dortmund by signing Ousmane Dembele. Tottenham will be hoping for better results at its temporary home of Wembley Stadium, where the English team lost two of its three group games last season and hasn't won either of its Premier League games there this season. APOEL famously reached the quarterfinals in 2012 against the odds.

TO QUALIFY: REAL MADRID (1.08), BORUSSIA DORTMUND (1.73), TOTTENHAM (1.91), APOEL NICOSIA (51)



opinion

Macau Matters

Richard Whitfield



IMPROVING CONSTRUCTION PRODUCTIVITY

A recent article in The Economist points out the low productivity and poor performance of the global construction industry. It identifies several things that governments and others can do to reduce this major drag on world growth and thus improve the lives of almost everybody.

The article notes that construction accounts for around 13% of annual world output, but it is highly cyclical. Moreover, around 90% of global infrastructure projects finish late (if at all) and over budget - and we have seen this again and again in Macau government projects. Additionally, the construction industry has been plagued by low productivity growth for decades; e.g. it now achieves only 1/4 of the productivity growth of manufacturing. Tragically, construction productivity has been flat or even fallen in the developed world in recent times, and astonishingly, construction productivity in the USA is now only 1/2 what it was in the 1960's! My own observations, and extensive discussions with expatriate experts indicates that construction labor productivity in Macau is much lower than in the developed world, and lower than labor productivity in China.

In many industries, consolidation of smaller businesses leading to economies of scale and investment in production equipment is an important driver of productivity growth. But globally, the construction industry is still very fragmented, with many, many subcontractors. (Globally, only 5% of construction companies directly employ more than 10,000 workers, whereas 25% of manufacturing companies are at least this large.) It is also very labor intensive. Unfortunately, the many small subcontractors compete with each other driving down overall profits and they cope with business downturns by sacking workers. When the next boom comes they hire the workers again but resist equipment investments because these will lead to major losses in the next downturn.

Another major problem in the construction industry identified in the article is widely varying building codes which means that nothing can be standardized. For example, in the USA there are 93,000 municipalities, each with their own (different) construction rules, and many of these rules limit or prohibit new, innovative building design and construction methods.

The article suggests several ways that governments can improve construction industry productivity growth and innovation, any many of these are applicable in Macau. It focuses on government, because 20-30% of global construction is done by governments.

Firstly, construction regulations can be harmonized and simplified and made more flexible to encourage innovation. This can certainly be done in Macau, where many construction rules are very peculiar and different from international standards.

Secondly, governments can publish their longer term construction project plans so that construction companies can know what the future holds for them. Governments should also spend more during construction downturns and less during construction booms to help minimize the cyclic nature of the industry. A regular, recurring complaint about the Macau government is its lack of long term planning and transparency.

Government construction projects should also mandate the use of important technologies and methods to encourage the industry to improve. For example, many years ago the Hong Kong government mandated that only ISO-9000 quality management certified construction companies could bid for government projects, which significantly improved construction quality there.

Governments can also write construction contracts that encourage subcontractors to invest in technologies that speed up their work and reduce costs and giving them bonuses for early completion.

The problems are well known and clear, and several ways to improve the situation are known, it is well past time for the Macau government to push the local construction industry to get to world standards of productivity. It is a big industry here and construction management skills and expertise can be readily exported to diversify the local economy.

THE BUZZ MERKEL: HUNGARY CAN'T IGNORE EU REFUGEE RULING

German Chancellor Angela Merkel says it's unacceptable for Hungary to ignore a ruling by the European Union's top court that it must accept refugees under an EU-wide plan. But she's not specifying any consequences.

Hungary's prime minister has said that while he "took note" of the European Court of Justice's ruling last week, he'd continue to oppose the plans.

Merkel told yesterday's edition of the daily Ber-

liner Zeitung: "That one government says it isn't interested in a verdict by the European Court of Justice cannot be accepted."

Asked whether that means Hungary must leave the EU, she replied: "It means that a very fundamental European question is affected, because for me Europe is a place governed by laws." Merkel said an EU summit in October must discuss the issue.

Syrian refugee camp in Jordan gets full-size football pitch

Fares Akram, Zaatari Refugee Camp

THE head of European football governing body and Jordan's Prince Ali inaugurated a full-size soccer pitch yesterday in the kingdom's largest camp for Syrian refugees, part of efforts to bring a sense of normalcy to those faced with open-ended exile.

UEFA President Aleksander Ceferin kicked a ball around with Syrian children who joyfully ran onto the facility's artificial grass after the ribbon-cutting.

"I love football because it helps us fill our spare time," said Marah Khalil, a 14-year-old girl from southern Syria's Daraa province. "It's better to take our negative energy out with something positive like football."

About 80,000 Syrians live in caravans in northeast Jordan's Zaatari camp which was established in 2012, a year after the outbreak of the Syria conflict. With Syria's civil war in its seventh year and many areas of the country devastated by fighting, refugees don't know when they might be able to go home.

In the meantime, Zaatari's infrastructure has



evolved. A job center opened last month and a solar power plant is under construction.

The pitch was funded in part by UEFA's Foundation for Children and Jordan's Asian Football Development Project, but organizers did not say how much it cost.

The playing field is regulation size, but the facility lacks the other attributes of a stadium, such as a roof and seats for spectators. About 4,500 children and young men and women are benefiting from the field,

officials said.

Ceferin said the pitch is evidence that soccer "can help change the world."

Former French national team player Christian Karembeu said after the ceremony that "with sports we can at least try to eradicate some trauma" of Syria's civil war.

The top representative of the U.N. refugee agency in Jordan, Stefano Severe, said new installations in the camp are meant to ease the lives of the refugees, "but also prepare them for eventual return to Syria. AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

MDT/Paulo Coutinho



An old building façade in the Inner Harbor area resisted Hato untouched. Like old trees, solid constructions die standing.

Station	Air quality	Icon
Roadside	125-155 Moderate	☹️
High Density Residential Area	125-155 Moderate	☹️
Ambient	125-155 Moderate	☹️

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS



SYRIA Opposition activists and witnesses said yesterday that several thousand Syrians stranded on the border with Jordan have fled one makeshift camp for another, running from shelling and nearby fighting between Syrian rebels and government forces.

TURKEY's state-run news agency says authorities have issued detention warrants for 63 people, mostly ex-intelligence agency workers, for alleged ties to the U.S.-based Muslim cleric accused of masterminding last year's failed coup attempt.



FRANCE Eiffel Tower employees planned a walkout, angry carnival workers snarled traffic around Paris' Arc de Triomphe, and Paris police girded for potential violence as unions and others held nationwide protests yesterday against changes to labor laws they fear corrode job security.

ZIMBABWE Representatives of Zimbabwe's first lady say a young woman who accused her of assault was the actual aggressor, allegedly attacking Grace Mugabe with a knife while drunk, according to a court document filed in South Africa. More on p14



MEXICO The death toll from Mexico's 8.1 magnitude earthquake has risen to 96 as more victims were confirmed in the hard-hit southern states of Oaxaca and Chiapas. More on p15

PERU's government has declared North Korea's ambassador persona non grata and given him five days to leave the nation in retaliation for the Asian country's recent nuclear test blast. More on p10,11