



RABBIT LANTERNS ARE BACK

Albergue SCM will be marking the Mid-Autumn Festival with a new rabbit lantern exhibition

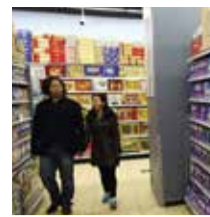
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'HEALTH QIGONG' GAINING FOLLOWERS

Athletes from the Macau Health Qigong General Association won several gold medals in the World Championship

P6 MDT REPORT



FOOD IMPORT CONTROLS POSTPONED

China has delayed enforcing sweeping new controls on food imports following complaints by several trading partners

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WORLD BRIEFS



IRAQ The Arab League is calling on Iraqis to renounce their differences and open comprehensive dialogue to avoid clashes following a controversial independence referendum held by the country's Kurds. While the referendum is not binding and not expected to immediately lead to independence, it has shaken the region, eliciting condemnations from Iraq's neighbors as well as the United States and the United Nations.

CHINA It is no secret that the bulk of Ivanka Trump's merchandise comes from China. But just which Chinese companies manufacture and export her handbags, shoes and clothes is more secret than ever, an Associated Press investigation has found. More on p10.



US-NORTH KOREA The U.S.'s top military officer said yesterday that he's not seen any shifts in North Korea's military posture despite the reclusive nation's threats to shoot down U.S. warplanes amid the "charged political environment" between Washington and Pyongyang. More on p13

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Regulator to ban dealers from gambling

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RENATO MARQUES



WhatsApp service disrupted in China as censorship tightens

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'Broken Tooth' makes Hong Kong appearance prior to initial coin offering

MACAU'S most notorious former gang boss, "Broken Tooth" (Wan Kuok Koi), is allegedly involved in a cryptocurrency offering by a Macau junket operator, reported the South China Morning Post yesterday, citing authenticated photographs shared with the media outlet.

The photographs show Wan Kuok Koi and senior executives of joint venture partners Macau Dragon Group and Thailand-based Wi Holding Company at a signing ceremony for an initial coin offering (ICO).

The ICO hopes to raise some USD500 million in Hong Kong, making it the largest such offer to date.

The nature and extent of Broken Tooth's involvement in the deal remains unknown, however his reputation is likely to disturb authorities.

A spokesperson for the Hong Kong Monetary Authority told the SCMP that they would not comment on individual cases, but warned of the risks associated with cryptocurrency tra-



Wan Kuok Koi walks out of Coloane Prison, Dec. 1, 2012

ding, as it is often unregulated.

The ICO next month comes at an inauspicious time for mainland authorities, which only this month banned the creation and distribution of new digital currencies and cracked down on existing exchanges on speculation that they were fueling capital flight and money laundering.

Offerings can still be held in the semi-autonomous Hong Kong SAR, because that is where the tokens will be issued. However, it is believed that mainland authorities will be able to track the trans-

sactions through digital monitoring services.

The sexagenarian former triad boss was the leader of the notorious 14K group in Macau until he was arrested for several charges including money laundering. The time of his arrest came shortly after the bombing of a car belonging to a former chief police inspector, who was not injured in the attack.

Broken Tooth served 14 years behind bars before being released in 2012. Upon his release, the former gangster promised that his triad days were over.

PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING COUNTRIES

Lusophone exhibition to become standalone event

AFTER two years of preparation, the 2017 Portuguese-Speaking Countries Products and Services Exhibition (Macau), also referred to as PLPEX, will be hosted by the Macau Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) as a standalone event for the first time in its history.

The exhibition will be held concurrently with the 22nd Macau International Trade and Investment Fair (MIF), from October 19 to 21 at The Venetian Macao.

Seeking to capitalize on projections for trade growth between mainland China and Portuguese-speaking countries, some organizations are trying to develop the city into a "business co-operation service platform" to facilitate this growth.

One way in which this goal is being realized is through a professional convention and exhibition platform for showcasing the products and services of Portuguese-speaking countries to consumers and investors in mainland China.

PLPEX principally aims to assist enterprises from China and Portuguese-speaking countries in exploring mutual business opportunities.

According to a statement from IPIM, there has been a continual annual increase in the number of participating governmental insti-

tutions and representatives from enterprises in Portuguese-speaking countries. Last year, PLPEX attracted more than 140 enterprises and business units as participants.

IPIM said the exhibition's growth warrants its staging as a standalone event. The exhibition will cover a total area of more than 300 square meters.

The Institute expects attendance from more than 200 enterprises from Macau, mainland China and eight Portuguese-speaking countries – namely Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal, Sao Tome and Principe and East Timor.

Sectors covered in the exhibition are mainly food and beverage, tourism, e-commerce, healthcare and general investment.

In addition, PLPEX will feature several seminars and forums for special topics, including a fashion show, a gourmet experience and a cultural exhibition, aimed at Portuguese-speaking countries.

PLPEX and MIF will also co-host a session titled, "China and Portuguese-Speaking Countries SMEs Investment and Trade Matching Session", whereby participants can utilize an online business-matching services platform to seek cooperation and business transactions among attending enterprises.

LEGAL WISE BY MdME

Tiago Vilhena*

CONSUMER PROTECTION IN CONVERGING ENVIRONMENTS

The advantages brought by one of the most significant breakthroughs in human history – the internet – expands to more than just a channel for information and cross-border communication.

In pursuit of diversifying its economy, the Government has been encouraging enterprises to seize business opportunities brought about by e-commerce. In 2010, the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) launched the "E-Commerce Promotion Incentive Measures" to assist businesses in making use of e-commerce to enhance their competitiveness and explore business. With this program, eligible enterprises who make use of designated services provided by IPIM-eligible operators or websites are given certain subsidies and guidance.

However, with all the aid provided to traders, is it really safe to say that Macau is ready to switch to this digital phenomenon in terms of consumer protec-

tion?

In 2005, research on the adoption of e-commerce in Macau showed that trust and willingness are directly proportional to the consumer's view on the adoption of e-commerce.

With this, given the lack of consumer-centered legislation on e-commerce, it is understandable that only 15% of internet users in Macau shopped online during 2016.

More so, the prevailing regulations related to consumer protection mostly pertain to product safety and are exclusive for specific industries. Furthermore, while Law No. 12/88/M has established the Consumer Council to promote the protection of consumers' interests, the powers given to the Council are very limited.

Under the Law, and its (long past) subsequent amendments (i.e. Laws No. 4/95/M and 1/98/M), the duties of the Council revolve mainly around educating

consumers and coordinating with associations for industry regulations.

On top of these, the Council does not have power to impose administrative sanctions to non-complying market players and can only act as a mediator amid disputes between consumers and traders.

To better protect the interests of consumers, a new Consumer Protection Bill, which provides stricter regulations and more supervisory powers to the Council, will be (hopefully) presented in next year's Legislative Assembly.

With the main objective of preventing market manipulation and promote transparency among traders, the Bill requires traders to provide necessary information, pricing labels, and proof of purchase to consumers. It will also allow the Council to not only act as mediator, but also impose penalties for unfair business operations where necessary.

In terms of e-commerce, the Bill is proposing to include online shops and allow consumers to enjoy cancellation of online business transactions within seven days from the date of the purchase. For cases involving online shops based overseas, the Council will refer the case to allied

associations outside the Territory related to consumer rights (e.g. the Consumer Council recently signed several consumer protection protocols with provinces and cities in Mainland China).

Around the world, in countries like Malta, Ireland, England and the USA, a few legislative instruments have been enacted relating to e-commerce, in order to protect consumers from misleading and incomplete information, invalid transactions, among others.

Macau need not look further as some of its Asian neighbors have also taken legislative measures on e-commerce.

Originally, consumer protection had been envisaged at a national level. Today, economic globalization increases the need to have universal standards to protect consumers both nationally and internationally and consumer law requires incorporating the international dimension. In this respect, the Territory has a long way to go in terms of consumer protection, and, more so, e-commerce. However, little by little, we are hopeful that it will be able to catch up with the constant innovations in technology and the fast-paced lifestyle of today's society.

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Royal Dragon with no license to operate



Paulo Martins Chan

Renato Marques

THE Royal Dragon Casino is scheduled for its inauguration today but does not yet have a license to operate. The director of the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ), Paulo Martins Chan, confirmed that he was still studying whether to approve the license yesterday at the sidelines of the

press conference. "We are now studying every single aspect of the application, including a venue inspection and some paperwork," he said.

The new property is owned by Chan Meng Kam, a businessman and former lawmaker. Paulo Martins Chan said that, "the last time [Friday] that I spoke about this we haven't received any request for licensing, since then, I can confirm

that we already received [yesterday] that request and that the process is now following its normal steps. I still didn't get the approval." The DICJ chief clarified that the paperwork was still being processed.

Located at a renovated commercial building in the ZAPE area, the casino is reportedly planned to open today under a SJM Holdings license.

The DICJ chief also noted

that it was certain that no new tables would be approved for such development. "When it opens, it is a must to resort to transfer of tables allocated previously to other properties," Chan stated.

Regarding media reports that a gaming company in Macau was prepared to integrate digital currencies into the local gaming industry (see more on page 2), Chan said that "none

of the companies mentioned are gaming-related companies or companies responsible for the production of slot machines, and for the time being, it is not possible for these to be related any of the companies in the Macau gaming sector." Regarding the use of Bitcoins to play online games, he said that "Macau never authorized any form of online gaming, so any of the forms of gaming are illegal."

We are now studying every single aspect of the application, including a venue inspection.

PAULO MARTINS CHAN

Chan also noted that such media reports raised the possibility of investors in cryptocurrency possibly becoming "partners" in local gaming concessions, but noted that the "criteria to be partners in gaming concessions are very strict, it is not that simple."

THE government, through the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ), is proposing changes to the law that limit access to casinos. Director of the DICJ, Paulo Martins Chan, presented the proposal yesterday in a press conference, highlighting three major aspects where changes take place.

During the presentation speech, Chan said, "we found out that the current law has flaws and we also think that now is the right time to proceed with a revision [of the law approved in 2012]."

Focusing on the three main points of the revision, Chan said that the proposal aims to add protection to the gaming industry's frontline workers against gambling addictions, simplify the sanctioning procedures for gamblers under the legal age of 21, and introduce a new mechanism that prevents both casinos and illegal gamblers from profiting from the illegal activity. The overarching aim

Regulator proposes new limits on casino access

is to create "more responsible gaming."

"We want the gaming [industry] to have a less negative influence on society," the director of DICJ noted.

Regarding the first aim, Chan said, "the current law does not protect the workers of this field, taking note of the special situation of their job," adding, "we know that many frontline workers, in result of their work experience and dealing with the games, they think they have a better condition 'and know the tricks' to win in the casino games." This situation often leads to gaming addictions, according to the reports of the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS).

In that sense, the proposal aims to establish limitations to all "frontline" casino workers by preventing them from entering the gaming floors when they are not

on duty. An exception is made for the first three days of the Chinese New Year, in a system similar to that which is in force for local civil servants.

The proposal would prevent all off-duty frontline casino workers from entering gaming floors

In the event of a breach, the proposal establishes a penalty of a fine ranging between MOP1,000 to MOP10,000.

On the definition of

"frontline casino worker," Chan said that the document clearly establishes which professionals are and are not included in such rules, noting that the criteria was based on "the proximity and contact with the gaming tables."

Professionals who are proposed to be covered by the new rules include the croupiers, pit managers, casino tellers, dealers, public relations staff and other groups that come into direct contact with gaming tables and gaming floors. Excluded from the rules are administration staff, food and beverage employees, as well as security staff and show performers.

As for the new prohibition of people under the age of 21 into casinos, DICJ's chief noted that the current law leads to the complex and time-consuming processes in which the offenders are, in the large majority of cases,

tourists. "It is often hard to notify these people after they leave the region as sometimes they give a fake or incomplete address. Most of time, it is not possible to apply any penalty which makes all the processes ineffective," he said.

Under the proposed change, DICJ inspectors can immediately punish underage casino attendees with a fine of MOP1,000, to be paid within 15 days.

After payment, the sanction procedure would immediately end.

Related to the first two rules is a final procedure to govern gambling earnings won by illegal players who are either underage or prohibited from playing. Under the current law, illegal earnings should be deposited in a casino treasury account with the cooperation of the player.

In the proposed alte-

ration, not only it is "demanded" that the player delivers all his earnings, but the casino is also prevented from keeping any earnings from such players.

"The casinos also need to give back the earning resulting from losses from these players; they can't keep any profits either," explained Chan. All chips and others benefits from illegal gaming will revert in favor of the MSAR.

The proposal, from today enters into public consultation for a period of 30 days (until October 26), and is expected to reach its final stage. It is expected to be delivered to the Legislative Assembly (AL) by the start of 2018, said Chan. However, he noted that, "the time that will be needed for its discussion and approval within the AL is out of our control," but, "we hope that can be as short as possible."



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The CE attends the conference in Hunan

CE visits Hunan Province for Pan-Pearl River Delta meeting

CHIEF Executive (CE), Chui Sai On, paid a two-day visit to Changsha Prefecture in Hunan Province for the 2017 Pan-Pearl River Delta Regional Cooperation Chief Executive Joint Conference.

Chui delivered a speech during the conference on Monday, stating that the MSAR intends to play a more active role in regional cooperation and contribute to "the development of the city cluster in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area." The CE pledged to assist places in the Greater Bay Area and those in the Pan-Pearl River Delta region to explore business opportunities in Portuguese-speaking countries regarding financial services, economic matters and trade.

According to a statement issued by the Government Information Bureau, all conference

members signed two cooperation agreements covering matters concerning checkpoint clearance and the formulation of a tourism federation.

The Joint Conference is a platform that was launched in 2004 for regional cooperation between the nine provinces and two Special Administrative Regions (SARs), collectively known as the "9+2", that are located in the Pan-Pearl River Delta region. The "9+2" consist of Fujian, Jiangxi, Hunan, Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan, Sichuan, Guizhou, Yunnan, the Hong Kong SAR, and the MSAR.

After arriving in Changsha on Sunday, Chui met with the Secretary of the Communist Party of China of Hunan Province, Du Jiahao, the Governor of Fujian Province, Yu Weiguo, and the Governor of Jiangxi Province, Liu Qi.

Albergue to hold Mid-Autumn Festival party next week

ALBERGUE SCM will be holding a Mid-Autumn Festival celebration on Wednesday, October 4 in its outdoor courtyard, to coincide with the opening of the "Little Rabbit Lanterns" exhibition.

The exhibition will be on display at Albergue SCM until December 6, and is the 13th edition by local architect Carlos Marreiros and his co-creators. This year's tagline is "Celebration of the 68th Anniversary of the People's Republic of China," likely due to the proximity of the Mid-Autumn Festival to the National Day holidays.

Twenty-six rabbit lanterns will be showcased in line with the works produced in previous years. The lanterns have been created and designed by artists and designers from various fields across the globe.

Works by students of the Macau Creative Lantern Workshop will also be exhibited.

The celebration will feature musical performances, festive



food and drinks (including traditional Chinese sweet dumplings), a lantern riddle solving game, Chinese calligraphy demonstration, traditional rabbit lanterns and "bunny balloon twisting" for children. Two outdoor live music performances will be staged by Macau band, Tuna Macanese, at this year's exhibition.

According to a statement from

Albergue SCM, the organization has also prepared some 300 snack boxes with a traditional festive selection in line with previous years. Number tags for the snack boxes will distributed from 6 p.m., with one tag limited for a person to redeem a single box. Snack boxes can be collected between 7:15 p.m. and 8:15 p.m. The event is free of charge.

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Renato Marques

THE Macau Health Qigong General Association recently obtained the best results the territory has ever achieved in a World Championship held in the Netherlands. Comprised of eight athletes and two judges, the Macau delegation, which was divided into two teams, brought home a total of five gold medals, in addition to several other awards.

According to Nikola Maricic, one of the athletes representing Macau, "the results show the great development that Macau has been doing in the activity." In the previous World Championship held in Portugal, the local team only got two gold medals. The local Qigong association was created in 2005.

The "Qigong" is a millenary activity with roots that go back at least to Song Dynasty (960-1279 AD). The word "qigong" results from a combination of "qi," which means energy, and "gong," with means exercise.

Starting as a traditional meditation exercise with numerous forms, it has more recently been organized into five new practice forms, each of them with a relation to Chinese medical principles (Yi Jin Jing, Wu Qin Xi, Liu Zi Jue, Ba Duan Jin and Shi'er Duan Jin).

The essential theory behind health qigong is the unification of body movements, rhythms of breathing, and mental state in order to exercise and regulate body functions and, above all, the mind.

Born in Croatia, Maricic has lived in Macau for the past five years, having practiced "Qigong" for 32 years now, first self-taught, then receiving instruction from several courses in areas of Martial arts, meditation, and Tai Chi.

At the 7th World Health Qigong Tournament and Exchange, held in The Hague, Holland, Maricic was awarded one of the gold medals and surpassed his previous record: "It was my first time scoring over [the barrier of] 9 poin-

Macau's 'Health Qigong' gaining followers and achieving international recognition



Nikola Maricic



The medal won by Maricic in the Netherlands

ts. Which is a great achievement as often non-Chinese can't score over that barrier, staying usually over 8.5 to 8.7 points. This time I managed to score 9.05, which is my personal best."

According to Maricic, who is also the coach of the Macau team, there are many Macau citizens practicing Health Qigong on a daily basis, although it is difficult to calculate a total figure, as "many do not frequent organized classes or events and just practice by themselves at home." Maricic suggested that the total number should be around 500.

Maricic, who is also a member of Macau's Team in Taekwondo, said he uses "Qigong" in two ways: a personal aspect in order to promote a state that favors "self-healing" or relief from various physical conditions which he has had for a long time, and secondly to promote the wellbeing and "inner strength" of his trainees to "overcome their own restriction

and go beyond."

The method is often confused as "just meditation" or even more, as "Tai Chi", but according to Maricic, it is beyond all those forms, and can be a way "to generate and canalize energy towards a goal that can be anything. [It] can be related to sport, to a sickness or physical condition or even to intellectual activity."

As he explained to the Times, "everything generates energy..."

'Health Qigong' helps channel inner energy in a positive way towards our goals, Maricic claims

fear, anxiety, pain, stress... are all forms of surging energy which we need to learn to channel in a positive way towards our goals," he explained, "otherwise they will accumulate and cause physical as well as mental conditions."

Besides coaching the Macau athletes and teaching Health Qigong classes under the "Sports for all" activities organized by the Sport Bureau, Maricic uses the method in martial arts classes such as Taekwondo and Karaté, which he is also teaching currently to the young generation in the D José da Costa Nunes Kindergarten as well as another school institution at the same level.

"I use it as a form of mental training and awareness. It's very good as warm-up to prepare the body and mind for the class [of Martial Arts]," he noted explaining that everyone can do "Qigong", including people with severe physical conditions as

everything starts with the mind and mental awareness.

"Even people that can't move [their arms and legs] they can imagine the movements, they can mentally follow and direct their energy to those movements," he said, further remarking that there is clear evidence in many medical studies of condition improvements that have resulted from this activity.

As for upcoming events, Maricic said the next competition or gathering (as he prefers to call it) will take place next door in Zhuhai on October 22, where Macau association members will join their Zhuhai counterparts for an exchange and joint event.

As for the upcoming World Championship, it is not yet clear where it will take place, but Maricic said the current well-positioned bidders are either in Australia or London, UK, expressing a personal wish for the first possibility.

corporate bits

SANDS CHINA DONATES MOP970,000 TO LOCAL INSTITUTIONS



Sands China Ltd. has continued its annual tradition of supporting higher education in Macau with a MOP 970,000 donation to six Macau tertiary institutions for scholarships and fellowships. The gaming operator rei-

terated its support of local students at a cheque presentation ceremony at its company offices recently, and acknowledged the importance of higher education in nurturing Macau's talent.

Dr. Wilfred Wong, president of Sands China Ltd., as cited in a statement issued by Sands China, said: "As a company, Sands China remains committed to the importance of investing in talent development – not only for our own team members, but for Macau as a whole."

With this donation, the total contribution of the gaming operator toward scholarships and fellowships since 2006 now stands at MOP8.43 million, which has benefitted over 1,000 students to date.

The cheques will be distributed among 97 students in support of their studies for the current academic year.

The cheque recipients were chosen based on their academic performance and financial status during the previous academic year.

MACAU-JOHOR BAHRU FLIGHTS START NOV. 28



Low-cost carrier AirAsia has clarified that direct flights between Macau and Malaysian city, Johor Bahru, will commence from November 28. Promotional offers are available for bookings made

before October 1 for a one-year travel period beginning November 28, 2017 and ending November 21, 2018.

"We are pleased to introduce the new Macau-Johor Bahru route to further boost

the tourism into Macau from Malaysia, and with the convenient cross-border service from Johor Bahru-Singapore, we are able to target guests from Singapore as well to visit Macau via Johor Bahru," said Celia Lao, CEO of AirAsia for Hong Kong and Macau.

The flight, which is just under four hours in length, will be flown on a daily basis, the company said. An executive at the company told the Malay Mail Online last week that the route was part of the company's long-term plan to develop Johor Bahru as a regional aviation hub for business travelers and Chinese investors. Johor Bahru is across the border from Singapore and about three hours' drive from the popular destination Malacca.



Misty Stewart

Tria Spa expands offerings to clients

TRIA Spa at MGM Macau has presented new offerings to its clients, in line with the upcoming opening of the operator's second property, MGM Cotai. With the slogan 'wellness, beauty and vitality,' MGM's spa targets the various spa needs of its clients.

At an event held recently by the spa, director Misty Stewart expressed that the rebranded spa intends to expand its offerings to better meet customers' needs. In contrast, the previous spa only offered a limited range of organic and natural products. During the event, the spa launched the mineral make-up line Jane Iredale, and introduced

GHD into its salon's hair equipment range. Tria Spa currently offers massage and body treatments, facials, salon treatments and physical fitness classes. Speaking to the Times, Stewart implied that the spa is distinctive from other spas in the region as it offers new technology and results-driven

treatments to its clients. "What we really try to have is something for everyone. We know that everybody has different reasons why they go to the spa," she said. Stewart also revealed that the spa at MGM Cotai features new facilities and is decorated with hints of Portuguese colors and elements. "The idea behind the spa at MGM is that you have this Portuguese lady who has traveled the world and brought back all these different components. So, when you first enter the spa, it's like you're entering a Portuguese garden," Stewart explained. "We try to bring in different pieces from all over the world. The different product lines that we carry and spa treatments that we have all have little influences from all over," she added.

Stewart also said that the group has recruited therapists from Bali, Thailand and China, and the spa is able to provide treatments from these regions to its clients. Tria Spa also recently launched a pilot program of fitness classes called 'bogafit' and 'surfset,' which are offered at the MGM outdoor pool. These are full body workouts that focus on building core strength and lean muscle, burning fat and improving balance. **LV**



Patane Library reopens today

The facilities, electrical system and air conditioning equipment of the Patane Library of the Cultural Affairs Bureau were severely damaged by the impact of Typhoon Hato last month. The repair, maintenance and inspection works are now concluded and the Library will reopen to the public today. The Patane Library covers an area of around 1,130 square meters over three floors, providing approximately 150 reading seats. The Library is open from 2 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. on Mondays, and 9.30 a.m. to 8.30 p.m. from Tuesdays to Sundays, except on public holidays.

Fireworks to mark National Day

In celebration of the 68th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China, the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) will present a fireworks display above the sea in front of the Macau Tower. The National Day fireworks display will start at 9 p.m. on October 1 and last for approximately 15 minutes.

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China postpones food import controls after global outcry

Joe McDonald

CHINA has delayed enforcing sweeping new controls on food imports following complaints by the United States, Europe and other trading partners that they would disrupt billions of dollars in trade.

Rules requiring each food shipment to have an inspection certificate from a foreign government were due to take effect Sunday. But Beijing has decided to grant a transitional period of two years following comments by other governments, according to a document submitted to the World Trade Organization on Monday and seen by The Associated Press.

It gave no details, but the delay might help avert concerns that shipments of meat, fruit, dairy and other products could be disrupted, hurting thousands of farmers and food processors who look to China as a key growth market.

The dispute added to trade tensions with the United States and Europe, which complain that low-priced exports of Chinese steel and aluminum are hurting foreign competitors and threaten-



A delivery worker stands next to card-loaded boxes of dried foods near a sushi restaurant in Beijing

ning jobs.

The food rules prompted unusually broad opposition. Governments said little in public, but a coalition including the United States, European Union, Japan, Australia and Argentina lobbied Beijing to scale back the requirement. They urged China to follow global practice and apply it only to high-risk food.

Some officials suggested Beijing was trying to restrict imports in violation of its market-opening promises. Foreign suppliers complain Beijing already uses safety rules in ways that hamper access for beef and other goods.

"According to the complaints and application received, we hereby decide to provide a transitional period of 2 years," said the

document submitted to the WTO by the Administration for Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of China.

AQSIQ, the main Chinese product quality agency, did not respond to questions submitted by fax and email about what would happen during the transitional period.

■ Governments said little in public, but a coalition of countries lobbied Beijing to scale back the requirement

The inspection rules follow an avalanche of scandals over Chinese suppliers caught selling tainted milk and other shoddy or counterfeit food. Western officials said they appeared to be meant to shift responsibility away from AQSIQ, which Chinese consumers often

blame for safety failures.

This month, Beijing banned imports of soft cheese such as brie and camembert that it said contained the wrong types of bacteria. European officials complained the ban was unfair because the regulators permitted sales of similar cheeses produced in China using the same bacteria.

The dispute added to complaints that Beijing is reducing market access for goods ranging from medical technology to farm-related biotech.

Beijing made concessions including allowing governments to certify food as fit for human consumption instead of confirming it met Chinese quality standards. Still, the latest draft submitted to the WTO said the rules would apply to items including dried fruit, cocoa and spices that foreign officials said don't require such intensive inspection.

The depth of U.S. concern was reflected in Washington's decision to take part at a time when President Donald Trump had downplayed trade disputes to gain Beijing's support in dealing with North Korea. U.S. officials have since stepped up criticism of Chinese trade policy.

European officials complained the regulations appeared to be intended to shield Chinese suppliers from competition and allow Beijing to block imports from individual countries if it chose. **AP**

Alibaba takes control of loss-making delivery business

ALIBABA Group Holding will buy control of unprofitable delivery business Cainiao for 5.3 billion yuan (USD800 million) and spend billions of dollars more to expand a shipping network that spans the world's largest e-commerce market.

China's largest web

marketplace agreed to increase its stake in Cainiao Smart Logistics Network Ltd. to 51 percent. Under the deal, Alibaba plans to consolidate Cainiao's financials into its own books, eroding Alibaba's bottom line, and will get an additional seat on Cainiao's board, taking its re-

presentation to four out of seven seats, the company said in a statement Tuesday.

The company co-founded by Jack Ma is taking control of a little-known but rapidly growing business run with partners that sits at the heart of Alibaba's expansion - both

in China and abroad. It oversees a coterie of more than a dozen shipping partners, orchestrating deliveries carried out by about 2 million people across more than 600 cities. Cainiao's operation had enabled Alibaba to maintain what it called an asset-light model that eschewed expensive warehouse construction.

Now that Alibaba's taking control, it plans to consolidate Cainiao's financials under its own books and is committing to spend another 100 billion yuan over the next five years to further expand the network. That will help address U.S. regulators' questions about why Cainiao, of which Alibaba owned 47 percent, wasn't previously included. But it also takes Alibaba deeper into the business of setting up and controlling its own infrastructure, much like Amazon.com Inc. The unit made a net loss of 2.2 billion yuan in calendar



2016, tripling from 2015. Revenue however also tripled, to 9.4 billion yuan.

"They're realizing that it's much more capital-intensive than they expected to build this out," said Christopher Balding, an associate professor at the HSBC School of Business at Peking University in Shenzhen. "Right now they are essentially obligating themselves to report profit and loss on the income statement every quarter, which they probably should have been doing."

Alibaba created Cainiao with the department-store chain Intime Retail Group Co. and industrial conglomerate Fosun In-

ternational Ltd. The trio led an initial investment of 100 billion yuan into the company to build out its logistics network.

The company has since managed a delicate relationship with its delivery partners, as players jostled for business and valuable user data. This year, billionaire Wang Wei's SF Holding Co. accused Cainiao of removing the company as a shipping option and blocking access to vital data. Cainiao fired back by saying it was SF that first walled off information it needed to get parcels to customers. The spat was eventually resolved. **Bloomberg**

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Nestle plans USD10 billion revamp as activist Loeb takes aim

NESTLE SA plans to switch in or out of businesses with combined sales of almost 10 billion francs (USD10 billion) as Chief Executive Officer Mark Schneider focuses on coffee, bottled water and pet care to prioritize profitability over scale.

Selective acquisitions and divestments could affect about 10 percent of total revenue, Schneider said as he unveiled his new strategy to investors at a conference in London yesterday. Nestle is already trying to sell its U.S. chocolate business, its first major retreat from sugary snacks, as it embarks on its biggest revamp in at least a decade.

"We'll need to trade out of some product areas and into others," Schneider said. "We'll act decisively, and the U.S. confectionery is a good example of that."

For the first time, the Swiss owner of Nespresso coffee and Perrier water set a fixed profitability target, aiming for an underlying trading margin in 2020 that's as much as 2.5 percentage points higher than what it achieved last year. That's still shy of the level sought by activist investor Dan Loeb, whose hedge fund firm Third Point bought a \$3.5 billion stake in Nestle earlier this year.

"The target is certainly attainable," said Jean-Philippe Bertschy, an analyst at Bank Vontobel AG. "While it will please some investors, others - like Loeb - may be a bit disappointed."

The adoption of a profit target by Nestle, which has about 90 billion francs in sales, marks a broader shift among the world's biggest food companies. With many mass-market brands facing skepticism from consumers seeking healthier and hipper alternatives, sales growth is slowing and consumer-goods giants are under pressure from investors to cut costs and to move into more profitable niches.

The CEO already announced a share buyback worth as much as 20 billion francs (USD21 billion),

the planned disposal of Nestle's U.S. confectionery unit and acquisitions of coffee and fresh-food businesses. The company has also been cutting jobs at its skincare unit.

Loeb's hedge fund firm Third Point bought a USD3.5 billion stake in Nestle earlier this year



BLOOMBERG

Schneider said Nestle isn't immediately changing its stance on its stake in French cosmetics maker L'Oreal SA, which he described as a "fabulous" investment, contributing 9 percent of the Swiss company's earnings per share over the past decade. The death of L'Oreal heiress Liliane Bettencourt last

week prompted speculation about the future of Nestle's 23 percent holding in the French cosmetics company.

Nestle plans to keep its U.S. frozen unit, and the ailing skin-health business has a strategic fit, according to the CEO. He also said the company is trying to revamp its Gerber baby nutrition division in the U.S. and Yinlu food in China.

Nestle has faced calls for a shakeup from Third Point, whose stake is equal to about 1 percent, while rival Unilever fended off a

takeover bid earlier this year from Kraft Heinz Co., backed by buyout firm 3G Capital Partners.

Unilever is targeting an underlying operating margin of 20 percent by 2020, while Danone aims to exceed 16 percent that year. That compares with Nestle's new goal for an underlying trading margin of 17.5 percent to 18.5 percent by 2020.

Last year Nestle announced plans to improve its margin by at least 2 percentage points by 2019 or 2020 through cost savings. The Nescafe maker's unadjusted trading operating margin has hovered between 15 percent and 15.3 percent during the past six years.

In July, Schneider said Nestle may expand restructuring beyond its original plan. The company, which had 328,000 employees in 2016, has forecast reorganization costs will rise about 67 percent to 500 million francs this year.

"Virtually all of you underestimate the will to win at this company," Schneider said. "It's hell-bent on not losing its leadership position." **Bloomberg**

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EXCLUSIVE

Ivanka Trump's business ties shrouded in secrecy in China

Erika Kinetz, Shanghai

IT is no secret that the bulk of Ivanka Trump's merchandise comes from China. But just which Chinese companies manufacture and export her handbags, shoes and clothes is more secret than ever, an Associated Press investigation has found.

In the months since she took her White House role, public information about the companies importing Ivanka Trump goods to the U.S. has become harder to find. Information that once routinely appeared in private trade tracking data has vanished, leaving the identities of companies involved in 90 percent of shipments unknown. Even less is known about her manufacturers. Trump's brand, which is still owned by the first daughter and presidential adviser, declined to disclose the information.

The deepening secrecy means it's unclear who Ivanka Trump's company is doing business with in China, even as she and her husband, Jared Kushner, have emerged as important conduits for top Chinese officials in Washington. The lack of disclosure makes it difficult to understand whether foreign governments could use business ties with her brand to try to influence the White House — and whether her company stands to profit from foreign government subsidies that can destroy American jobs. Such questions are especially pronounced in China, where state-owned and state-subsidized companies dominate large swaths of commercial activity.

"There should be more transparency, but right now we do not have the legal mechanism to enforce transparency unless Congress requests information through a subpoena," said Richard Painter, who served as chief White House ethics lawyer for George W. Bush, and is part of a lawsuit against President Donald Trump for alleged constitutional violations. "I don't know how much money she's making on this and why it's worth it. I think it's putting our trade policy in a very awkward situation."

An AP review of the records that are available about Ivanka Trump's supply chain found two potential red flags. In one case, a province in eastern China announced the award of export subsidies to a company that shipped thousands of Ivanka Trump handbags between March 2016 and February of this year, Chinese public records show — a possible violation by China of global fair trade rules, trade experts said.

The AP also found that tons of Ivanka Trump clothing were ex-



President Donald Trump (right) and his daughter, Ivanka

ported from 2013 to 2015 by a company owned by the Chinese government, according to public records and trade data. It is unclear whether the brand is still working with that company, or other state-owned entities. Her brand has pledged to avoid business with state-owned companies now that she's a White House adviser, but contends that its supply chains are not its direct responsibility.

Ivanka Trump's brand doesn't actually make its products directly. Instead, it contracts with licensees who oversee production of her merchandise. In exchange, those licensees pay the brand royalties. The AP asked Ivanka Trump's brand for a list of its suppliers. The company declined to disclose them. The clothing, footwear and handbag licensees contacted by AP also declined to reveal source factories.

Abigail Klem, president of IT Operations LLC, which manages Ivanka Trump's brand, said the company does not contract with foreign state-owned companies or benefit from Chinese government subsidies. However, she acknowledged that its licensees might.

"We license the rights to our brand name to licensing companies that have their own supply chains and distribution networks," Klem said in an email. "The brand receives royalties on sales to wholesalers and would not benefit if a licensee increased its profit margin by obtaining goods at a lower cost," she added.

But Michael Stone, chairman of Beanstalk, a global brand licensing agency, said lower production costs for licensees would ultimately benefit Ivanka Trump by freeing up money for marketing or lower retail prices, both of which drive sales.

"It gives her a competitive advantage and an indirect benefit to her financially," Stone said. "The

more successful the licensee is the more successful Ivanka Trump is going to be."

The AP identified companies that sent Ivanka Trump products to the United States by looking at shipment data maintained by ImportGenius and Panjiva Inc., private companies that independently track global trade. Panjiva's records show that 85 percent of shipments of her goods to the U.S. this year originated in China and Hong Kong, but beyond that, it's becoming more difficult to map the brand's global footprint.

The companies that shipped Ivanka Trump merchandise to the U.S. are listed for just five of 57 shipments logged by Panjiva from the end of March, when she officially became a presidential adviser, through mid-September. Panjiva collects data from U.S. Customs and Border Protection, which did not immediately release the missing data to AP.

■ Tons of Ivanka Trump clothing were exported from 2013 to 2015 by a company owned by the Chinese government

While in many cases the manufacturer ships goods directly, merchandise can also be made by one company and shipped by another trading or consolidation company.

There used to be more visibility. Last year, 27 percent of the companies that exported Ivanka Trump merchandise to the U.S. were identified in Panjiva's re-

ports, and back in 2014 a full 95 percent were named. For two of Ivanka Trump's licensees — G-III Apparel Group Ltd. and Marc Fisher Footwear — the number of shipments appears to plunge in 2015, likely because they "requested to hide" their shipment activity, according to Panjiva records. Neither company responded to AP's questions.

The brand declined to comment on the growing murkiness of its supply chain.

Chris Rogers, an analyst at Panjiva, said any company can ask customs authorities to redact its information for any reason. About a quarter of companies request anonymity, he said, but the majority don't mind disclosing who they're doing business with.

"A lot of companies have said, 'yes there might be a commercial disadvantage, but we want to be transparent about our supply chain,'" he explained. "Why would we want to cover up the fact that we're working with this particular company?"

While ethics lawyers may see disclosure as the best antidote to conflict of interest, many brands see it as a tool to keep supply chains scandal-free. Public outcry over sweatshop conditions and worker suicides prompted companies like Nike Inc. and Apple Inc. to disclose the names and addresses of their manufacturers, and a growing number, including Gap Inc., the H&M Group, New Balance Athletics Inc., Adidas AG and Levi Strauss & Co., publicly identify their suppliers.

Ivanka Trump should do the same, said Allen Adamson, founder and CEO of BrandSimple Consulting. "It's a missed opportunity to lead by example."

What shipping records do show is that a company called Zhejiang Tongxiang Foreign Trade Group Co. Ltd., a sprawling conglomerate once majority-owned by the Chinese state, sent at least 30 tons

of Ivanka Trump handbags to the U.S. between March 2016 and February.

Zhejiang province's commerce department said in June 2014 that it would help lower export costs for that same company, along with nine other local enterprises, through a special three-year trade promotion program. Among the measures outlined were export insurance subsidies and funding for online trading platforms and international marketing, as well as special funds earmarked for foreign trade companies with large-scale, fast-growing exports.

The value of the subsidies is unclear, as are details about how the directives were implemented, but using subsidies to reduce the price of exports is considered so destructive to fair trade that the World Trade Organization generally bans the practice. Chinese government subsidies hurt American workers but can lower costs for U.S. companies that import made-in-China merchandise, potentially boosting their profits. President Donald Trump has called companies that benefit from foreign government subsidies "cheaters."

The AP spoke with four trade experts in the United States and China who said the Zhejiang measures appeared to violate World Trade Organization rules. "These are clearly export subsidies," said Gary Hufbauer, a trade expert at the Peterson Institute for International Economics in Washington.

Zhejiang province's Department of Commerce and the Zhejiang Tongxiang Foreign Trade Group declined comment.

The AP also found that from Oct. 2013 to Jan. 2015, Jiangsu High Hope International Group Corp., a conglomerate majority-owned by the Jiangsu provincial government, shipped 45 tons of Ivanka Trump clothing to the U.S., according to records from ImportGenius and Panjiva.

High Hope told AP it had "a small number of business dealings" with Ivanka Trump licensee G-III Apparel, but declined to answer questions about whether the relationship is ongoing.

G-III, which is based in New York City, declined to respond to specific questions but said in a statement that it is "committed to legal compliance and ethical business practices in all of our operations worldwide." Ivanka Trump licensee Mondani Handbags & Accessories Inc., also headquartered in New York, did not respond to requests for comment.

Ivanka Trump's brand said it was in the process of reviewing its supply chains with the help of "independent experts whose mission it is to advance human rights" and emphasized that all licensees, manufacturers, subcontractors and suppliers are required to abide by the law, as well as ethical practices set forth in a vendor code of conduct.

The AP asked to see the code of conduct, but the brand declined to share it. AP

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

SECURITY

Beijing hosts Interpol meeting amid concerns over abuse

INTERPOL opened its main international annual meeting in China yesterday amid concerns that Beijing is using its growing influence over the police network to pursue political foes overseas.

President Xi Jinping said in a speech to the Interpol General Assembly that China wants to work with other countries and organizations to achieve "global security governance."

However, New York-based Human Rights Watch said Interpol needs to address what it called China's misuse of the organization's "red notice" system to seek the arrest and extradition of wanted people.

The election of Chinese Vice Public Security Minister Meng Hongwei as Interpol's president last year alarmed rights advocates who cite abuses, opacity and political manipulation within China's legal system.

China has used red notices to demand the return of scores of former officials and private business people it accuses of financial crimes, part of Xi's sweeping crackdown on corruption at all levels.

Yet, it has also used the system to flag cases bearing a decided political taint, making the individuals involved vulnerable to law enforcement action by foreign government bodies.

Human Rights Watch raised the case of Dolkun Isa, an activist in Germany for the Turkic-Muslim Uighur ethnic group native to China's far-western Xinjiang region. It said Isa has had trouble traveling internationally since a red notice was issued against him more than a decade ago.



China routinely accuses overseas Uighur advocates of supporting terrorism while providing little evidence to back up their claims.

The group also mentioned U.S.-based activist Wang Zaigang, whom it said appeared to have been targeted with a red notice in response to his activities promoting Chinese democracy.

Those served with red notices

risk torture and other forms of ill-treatment given China's record of abuse, Human Rights Watch said.

"Interpol claims to operate according to international human rights standards, but China has already shown a willingness to manipulate the system," Sophie Richardson, the group's China director, was quoted as saying

in a news release. "And with China's vice-minister of public security [...] as president, Interpol's credibility is on the line," Richardson said.

The Ministry of Public Security is China's main police agency, charged not only with preventing crime but with silencing and detaining critics of the ruling Communist Party, often outside the

letter of the law.

Chinese politics expert Willy Lam said China has been using its economic heft to influence groups such as Interpol to further the party's foreign and domestic policy aims.

Lam pointed to cases where the line has blurred between accusations of corruption and apparent attempts to retaliate against those who make allegations against members of the communist leadership, such as outspoken businessman Guo Wengui.

Pressure on Guo has been building since April when a red notice was issued seeking his arrest on corruption-related charges. Chinese authorities sentenced several of his employees for fraud in June and have also opened an investigation into rape charges against Guo brought by a former assistant.

In recent months, Guo has become a widely followed social media presence by serving up sensational, if mostly unverifiable, tales of corruption and scandal within the Communist Party's innermost sanctum, including among Xi's closest allies.

"China has turned Interpol into another venue for projecting its power," Lam said. "They've put a lot of investment into pursuing fugitives abroad, including those wanted for political reasons." AP

WhatsApp service disrupted in mainland as censorship tightens

THE encrypted messaging service WhatsApp suffered intermittent disruptions in China yesterday as communist authorities tightened censorship ahead of a major ruling party meeting.

Attempts to set up new WhatsApp accounts on some cellphones were met with network error messages. Others reported difficulty sending images and video on the service, which is owned by Facebook and offers more privacy than government-monitored Chinese social media.

Chinese authorities are tightening controls on social media ahead of the party congress next month at which President Xi Jinping is due to be appointed to a second five-year term as leader.

The ruling party encourages internet use for education and business but tries to block access to material that calls for political change or is deemed to encourage protests.

Since coming to power in 2012, Xi has promoted the notion of "internet sovereignty," or the right of Bei-

Private sector operators of Chinese social media are required to delete banned material

jing and other governments to dictate what their publics can do and see online.

Private sector operators of Chinese social media are required to delete banned material. China has the world's biggest population of internet users, with some 730 million people online.

The agency that enforces online censorship, the Cyberspace Administration of China, didn't respond to questions sent by fax about whether Chinese regulators were causing the WhatsApp disruption.

Facebook declined to comment. WhatsApp is one of the world's most popular messaging services, with over 1.2 billion users.

Earlier this week, the internet agency announced it was fining the parent of the popular Chinese messaging

service WeChat, Tencent Ltd., and two other social media services for failing to fully enforce censorship.

The agency said WeChat, Sina Corp.'s microblog service Sina Weibo and search giant Baidu Inc.'s Tieba allowed users to post false rumors and material that was pornographic or threatened national security. The agency gave no figure for a penalty but cited a law under which violators can be fined up to 500,000 yuan (USD75,000) or closed in the event they fail to correct a violation.

Also this month, regulators announced that organizers of messaging groups would be held responsible for managing their content.

Meanwhile, Beijing is cracking down on the use of virtual private networks



— technology that creates encrypted links between computers and can be used to see blocked websites abroad.

Regulators say only government-approved VPNs are allowed and how they can be used will be restricted, potentially cutting off millions of Chinese entrepreneurs and other individual users.

Users of WhatsApp in China reported similar disruptions in July, prompting fears authorities were blocking access.

Chinese filters block access to other global social media including Twitter, Facebook and YouTube without a VPN. Officials argue that such services operating beyond their control pose a threat to national security.

Chinese authorities increasingly pay attention to encrypted messaging apps. Users in China switched to WhatsApp after authorities blocked access to another encrypted service, Telegraph, following a 2015 crackdown on lawyers and human rights activists. AP

Mari Yamaguchi, Tokyo

JAPAN | FAQ

Why Prime Minister Abe is calling an election

JAPAN'S Prime Minister Shinzo Abe says he will dissolve the lower house of parliament tomorrow to call a snap election on Oct. 22, more than a year before required by law. It's widely seen as a bid to reconsolidate his grip on power in the ruling Liberal-Democratic Party, increasing his chances of extending his premiership next year by winning a third three-year term as party leader. A look at why he's doing it now, and what's at stake:

Q: The four-year term for the more powerful 475-member lower house ends in December 2018. Why call an election now?

A: Several factors make the timing relatively good, and Abe has apparently concluded that the risks of waiting outweigh the risks of an election. His support rating, which plunged below 30 percent in the summer after a series of scandals and missteps, has rebounded to the 50 percent range. He has been helped by a three-month parliamentary recess, which means he hasn't faced daily questioning about the scandals. He also reshuffled his Cabinet, moving out some unpopular figures including the former defense minister. Fi-

nally, the public supports his firm stance on security as the North Korean missile threat intensifies. Dissolving the lower house on the day it reconvenes has another advantage: It denies the opposition an opportunity to renew questioning him in public. The leading opposition party, the Democrats, is in even more disarray than usual after its leader resigned in late July. And a quick election deprives the new Hope Party, launched this week by popular Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike, time to organize and line up candidates. Yu Uchiyama, a University of Tokyo politics professor, says Abe is taking advantage of the unprepared opposition as he seeks to prolong his leadership.

Q: What are Abe's prospects of winning the election, and then extending his leadership next year?

A: The ruling party is all but certain to retain a majority, but



it could lose some seats and the two-thirds majority it holds with its coalition partner, the smaller Komei party. Still, a solid victory would bolster Abe's chances of a third term as president of the LDP in the next leadership election in September 2018. "Mr. Abe simply wants to win. He wants to maintain a comfortable majority ahead

of the party leadership election next year," said political analyst Tsuneo Watanabe, a senior research fellow at the Sasakawa Peace Foundation. A third term seemed assured early this year, but the plunge in his popularity this summer chipped away at his once rock-solid position. A big-enough election win would

help him keep at bay potential challengers, such as former Cabinet members Fumio Kishida and Shigeru Ishiba.

Q: What's at stake?

A: If he wins another three-year term as party leader, he could continue as prime minister through the Summer Olympics in Tokyo in 2020. That would give him more time to pursue his long-time goal of revising Japan's postwar, U.S.-drafted pacifist Constitution, a contentious issue that requires approval by two-thirds of parliament and a public referendum. The election, if it follows previous ones, will largely focus on the economy. Abe on Monday pledged more government spending on education and child care by using part of the revenue from a planned 2019 consumption tax hike from the current 8 percent to 10 percent. Abe said he is seeking a mandate for the proposal, and for his defense policy toward North Korea's escalating missile and nuclear threat, saying the situation is tantamount to a national crisis. He is also expected to propose bolstering missile defense against the North. Experts say he may keep constitutional revision under the carpet during the campaign to avoid shooing away voters, and only start pushing it after the election. **AP**

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MONGOLIA

Ruling party chooses replacement for dismissed PM

MONGOLIA'S ruling People's Party early yesterday chose a replacement for the prime minister dismissed earlier this month over allegations of corruption and incompetence, as the resource-rich Asian nation struggles with an economic crisis and political infighting.

After an all-night party conference session, acting Deputy Prime Minister Khurelsukh Ukhnaa prevailed from among the three candidates with 64 percent of the vote. He is expected to be approved as prime minister when the Great Hural, Mongolia's parliament, resumes its session next week. The MPP has an absolute majority in the body with 65 of the 76 seats.

In a speech to the party gathering, party chairman and parliament Speaker Enkhbold Mieygombo called for an end to cronyism in filling government positions.

Earlier this month, lawmakers passed a

motion demanding the resignation of the prime minister and his 14-month-old Cabinet over the signing of government contracts worth USD328 million with companies linked to three Cabinet members. The three have construction and mining ties, and the contracts are for roads and power transmission equipment, including substations for the mining industry.

Mongolia, a vast landlocked country of 3 million squeezed between China and Russia, boasts vast mineral wealth but has struggled to court foreign investment amid plunging commodity prices and disputes between the government and large investors such as mining giant Rio Tinto.

The government has also been weighed down by a national debt of about USD23 billion, or twice the country's annual economic output, and recently obtained a \$5.5 billion bailout led by

the International Monetary Fund that imposes strict curbs on expenditure and seeks to boost hard currency reserves. The IMF governing board has temporarily suspended the program in order to evaluate the new government's willingness to implement it.

Among his previous posts, Khurelsukh has served as emergency management minister and party general secretary. He is considered a charismatic leader with influence over younger politicians who have clashed with the MPP establishment. Most of the initial 30 lawmakers who started the parliamentary motion to dismiss the government were his supporters and close associates.

In July, populist business tycoon and ex-judo champion Khaltmaa Battulga of the Democratic Party was elected president, edging out the establishment MPP candidate in a runoff. **AP**

EXPERTS

North Korea lacks ability, intent to attack US planes

Kim Tong-Hyung, Seoul

MILITARY analysts say North Korea doesn't have either the capability or the intent to attack U.S. bombers and fighter jets, despite the country's top diplomat saying it has every right to do so.

They view the remark by North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho and a recent propaganda video simulating such an attack as tit-for-tat responses to fiery rhetoric by U.S. President Donald Trump and his hardening stance against the North's nuclear weapons program.

By highlighting the possibility of a potential military clash on the Korean Peninsula, North Korea may be trying to create a distraction as it works behind the scenes to advance its nuclear weapons development, said Du Hyeogn Cha, a visiting scholar at Seoul's Asan Institute for Policy Studies. Another possibility is that North Korea is trying to win space to save face as it contemplates whether to de-escalate its standoff with Washington, he said yesterday.

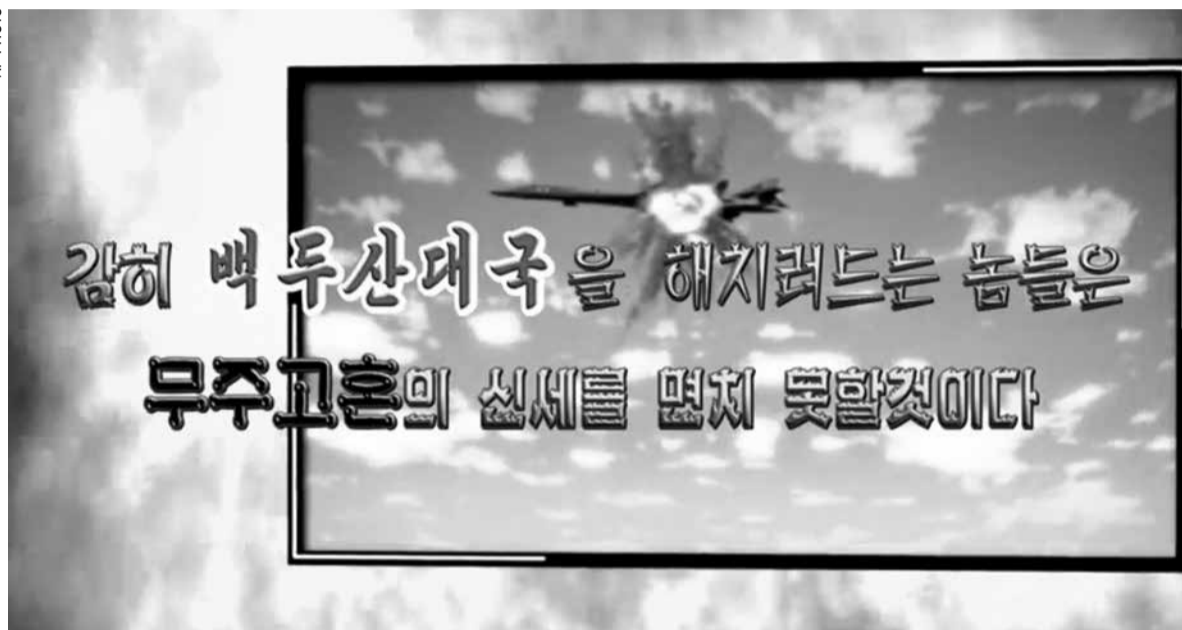
Speaking to reporters before leaving a U.N. meeting in New York, Ri said Trump had "declared war" on his country by tweeting that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un "won't be around much longer." Ri said North Korea has "every right" to take countermeasures, including shooting down U.S. strategic bombers, even when they're not in North Korean airspace.

The U.S. frequently sends advanced warplanes to the Korean Peninsula for patrols or drills during times of animosity. Last weekend, U.S. bombers and fighter escorts flew in international airspace east of North Korea to the farthest point north of the border between North and South Korea that they have in this century, according to the Pentagon.

Hours after the flights Sunday, a North Korean government propaganda website posted a video portraying U.S. warplanes and an aircraft carrier being destroyed by attacks. The video on DPRK Today, which was patched together from photos and crude computer-generated animation, also included footage of North Korean solid-fuel missiles being fired from land mobile launchers and a submarine. The North was clearly trying to claim it has the ability to conduct retaliatory strikes against U.S. attacks, said Hong Min, an analyst at Seoul's Korea Institute for National Unification.

Moon Seong Mook, a former South Korean military official and current senior analyst for the

AP PHOTO



This image made yesterday, from a propaganda video released by North Korea, shows a B-1B bomber hit by a missile

Seoul-based Korea Research Institute for National Strategy, said it's highly unlikely North Korea has the real-world capability to match Ri's words. North Korea's aging MiG fighters won't stand a chance against much more powerful U.S. fighters escorting long-range bombers. And while North Korea touted in May that it's ready to deploy new surface-to-air missiles that analysts say could potentially hit targets as far as 150 kilometers away, it's questionable how much of a threat the unproven system could pose to U.S. aircraft operating far off the country's coast, Moon said.

North Korea's aging MiG fighters won't stand a chance against US fighters escorting long-range bombers

It's also unclear whether North Korea would be able to even see the advanced U.S. warplanes when they come. South Korea's National Intelligence Service told lawmakers in a closed-door briefing yesterday that the North's inadequate radar systems failed to detect the B-1B bombers as they flew east of North Korea.

The last time North Korea fired on a U.S. aircraft was in 1994 when it shot down a U.S. Army helicopter around the heavily armed inter-Korean border, killing one of the pilots and capturing the other. The surviving pilot said after his release he was pressured by North Korean officials to confess that the helicopter had cross-

ed into North Korea. In 1969, a North Korean fighter jet shot down an unarmed U.S. reconnaissance plane and killed all 31 crewmembers on board.

It's highly unlikely North Korea would attempt a similar attack

now, experts say. Amid tension created by the North's nuclear weapons tests and threat to detonate a thermonuclear missile over the Pacific Ocean, such an attack would pretty much guarantee retaliation from the United States

INDIA

Mattis: US wants to resolve Korean standoff diplomatically

U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said yesterday that the United States wants to resolve the standoff with North Korea diplomatically and is focused on denuclearizing Pyongyang's nuclear weapons program.

"We maintain the capability to deter North Korea's most dangerous threats, but we also will back up our diplomats in a manner to keep this as long as possible in the diplomatic realm," Mattis told reporters in New Delhi, following talks with his Indian counterpart.

"Our goal is to solve this diplomatically," he said.

Mattis' comments come amid escalating rhetoric between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

The Trump administration clarified this week that it is not seeking to overthrow North Korea's government after Trump tweeted over the weekend that Kim "won't be around much longer." Pyongyang interpreted the tweet as a declaration of war.

Mattis arrived in the Indian capital early yesterday [Macau time], marking the first visit to the country by a Cabinet-level official from Trump's administration.

In meetings with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and

AP PHOTO



other officials, Mattis was expected to focus on deepening defense cooperation between the two countries and discuss how India could contribute to U.S. efforts in Afghanistan.

The talks with Indian Defense Minister Nirmala Sitharaman covered ways to enhance and complement efforts to restore security in Afghanistan as Washington steps up its own military campaign against Taliban insurgents who have gained ground.

Last month, while outlining his new strategy for Afghanistan, Trump urged India to assist security efforts in Afghanistan.

Sitharaman said India would continue its efforts to reconstruct Afghanistan's infrastructure, but she ruled out sending Indian troops to the country.

So far, New Delhi has contributed around USD3 billion toward building highways, power transmission lines and dams, as well

that could lead to war, Cha said.

"The most obvious reason Ri made those comments was because North Korea simply can't tolerate such high-profile insults to its supreme leadership," Cha said. It's also possible that the North is trying to fan concerns about a potential military clash in the region now so that it can win room to save face later when it tries to de-escalate, he said.

"If Kim Jong Un ever offers a moratorium on his missile tests or makes whatever other compromise, he could say made a big-picture decision to reduce military tension in the Korean Peninsula," Cha said. He said Ri's comments also allow China and Russian to restate their calls for a "dual suspension" of North Korean weapons tests and displays of military capability by the U.S. and South Korea.

The U.S. administration's stance on North Korea has been hardening in recent months.

Trump in a speech at the United Nations General Assembly last week said the United States would "totally destroy" North Korea if provoked, which prompted Kim to pledge to take the "highest-level" action against the United States. Ri then said North Korea might conduct the "most powerful" atmospheric hydrogen bomb test in the Pacific Ocean, but added that no one knew what Kim would decide. AP

as to aid public health and education in the war-ravaged country.

New Delhi will also enhance its efforts to train Afghan soldiers in counterterrorism and help build its police forces, Sitharaman said.

The two defense ministers also discussed defense deals with India, one of the world's biggest defense equipment buyers. The talks focused on deals that involve the transfer of technology, with New Delhi pressing Washington to share technology and wanting to manufacture its own fighter jets.

Mattis said the talks covered ways to further enhance defense trade and technology collaboration between defense industries.

"We look forward to sharing some of our most advanced defense technologies through the defense technology and trade initiative," he said, add that this would improve the capabilities of both militaries. AP

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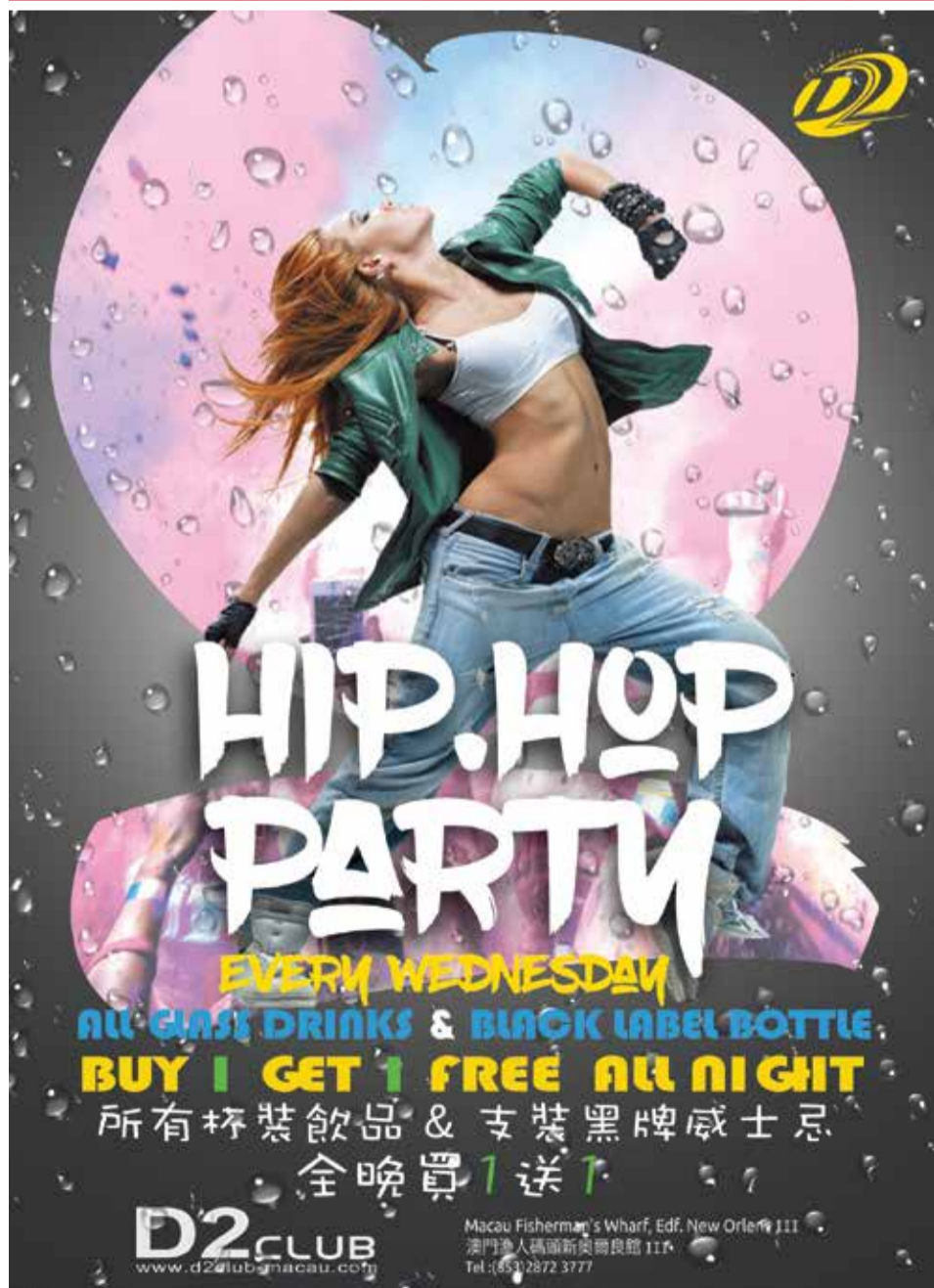
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Aron Heller, Jerusalem

MIDDLE EAST

Palestinian kills three Israelis in settlement near Jerusalem

A Palestinian attacker opened fire yesterday at the entrance to a settlement outside Jerusalem, killing three Israeli security men and critically wounding a fourth, Israeli police and medical services said, in one of the deadliest attacks in a two-year spate of violence.

Israeli officials said the attacker was a 37-year-old Palestinian father of four, with a valid work permit in Israel and a troubled personal life who appeared to have acted alone.

The attack comes at a tense period amid the Jewish high holidays and is likely to complicate the mediation efforts of U.S. peace envoy Jason Greenblatt who just arrived in the region for meetings with Israeli and Palestinian leaders.

Speaking at his weekly Cabinet meeting, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the attack was partially a result of systematic Palestinian incitement and said he expected Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to "condemn this attack and not try to justify it."

Police spokeswoman Luba Samri said the attacker approached the back gate entrance of the Har Adar settlement, hiding among dozens of Palestinian day laborers who were being checked by security forces.

The man aroused police suspicions and was asked to stop, Samri said. At that point, he pulled out a weapon and began opening fire at the forces from close range. The attacker was then shot dead by other forces at the scene.

The casualties were identified as Solomon Gavria, a 20-year-old policeman, and two private security guards — Yousef Othman and Or Arish, who were both 25 years old. The Magen David Adom medical service said that in addition to the three killed, a fourth Israeli man, aged 32, was evacuated to hospital



In this image made from video, an Israeli security officer mans the scene where a Palestinian attacker opened fire, in Jerusalem yesterday

in critical condition.

Har Adar is an upscale community west of Jerusalem, straddling the seam line between the West Bank and Israel proper and known for its good relations with its Arab neighbors — an unusual target in the wave of violence that Israel has been coping with over the past two years.

Shay Retter, the head of Har Adar's security committee, said between 100 and 150 Palestinian laborers typically enter the community every day for work. Local residents said they knew the attacker from previous work he had carried out in the community and were shocked to hear what he had done. The military imposed a closure on the nearby Palestinian village of Beit Surik, the home of the attacker.

Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman said he saw no diffe-

rence between Palestinian terrorism and radical Islamic terrorism targeting sites in Europe and elsewhere.

"Before talking about any kind of negotiations, the world must demand of the Palestinian Authority to stop its incitement and encouragement of terror," he said, alluding to Greenblatt's visit and his goal of securing concessions for Palestinians.

Minister of Intelligence Israel Katz was even blunter.

"The attack is also a message to special U.S. envoy Greenblatt," he said. "Israel's security was and yet remains the supreme consideration in the government's policy, and is above any other consideration of improving and easing the lives of the Palestinians."

Netanyahu pledged that as a punitive measure, the attacker's home would be demolished and working permits of his extended

family would be revoked.

However, Israel's internal Shin Bet security service downplayed ideology as a motive, saying the attacker was plagued with personal issues.

The attacker was identified as Nimr Mahmoud Ahmed Jamal and the Shin Bet said its preliminary investigation indicated there was significant violence in his family. His wife had recently fled to Jordan to escape his abuse and left him with their four children, it said.

In a message to his estranged wife that he asked her to share on Facebook, Jamal praised her and called himself a bad husband.

"I was very jealous and I've done terrible things in the community," he wrote. "I ask you to forgive me and take care of the kids."

Since September 2015, Palestinians have killed 51 Israelis, two

visiting Americans and a British tourist in stabbings, shooting and car-ramming attacks. Several of these attacks were carried out by individuals struggling with domestic and emotional issues whose acts were subsequently cloaked in nationalism.

During that same time, Israeli forces have killed over 255 Palestinians. Israel says most of them were attackers and others died in clashes with Israeli forces. Most of the attacks have been stabbings against security forces, primarily in the West Bank.

Israel blames the violence on incitement by Palestinian religious and political leaders compounded on social media sites that glorify violence and encourage attacks. Palestinians say the attacks stem from anger and frustration at decades of Israeli rule in territories they claim for a state.

The frequency and intensity of attacks has lessened of late but such an incident, coming amid the Jewish high holiday, threatened to ignite them anew.

Gaza's Islamic Hamas rulers praised the attack but stopped short of taking responsibility for it. In a statement, the group called the assault a "heroic operation" that was a "natural response" to Israeli aggression against Palestinians and proved that the Palestinian uprising was still alive.

Israeli President Reuven Rivlin said "the cruel terror attack proves once again the daily front that our security forces face in the most important mission — protecting and defending the safety of the citizens of Israel." AP

GERMANY

Prominent nationalist to leave AfD party

ONE of the most prominent figures in the nationalist Alternative for Germany party said yesterday she plans to leave it — a move that displayed tensions as other lawmakers from the anti-migrant party gathered for their first meeting after a strong showing at the polls.

Alternative for Germany, or AfD, won 12.6 percent of the vote in Sunday's election to win seats in the national parliament for the first time. Frauke Petry, its co-chairwoman since 2015, announced Monday that she wouldn't join its par-

liamentary group — and other leaders urged her to leave the party altogether.

"It is clear that this step will follow," Petry said Tuesday in the eastern city of Dresden, the dpa news agency reported.

Petry's husband, Marcus Pretzell, the party leader in the western state of North Rhine-Westphalia and a regional lawmaker there, told The Associated Press that he is also leaving AfD.

AfD won 94 of the 709 seats in the new German parliament, including Petry's. It wasn't immediately clear whether any others would follow



Frauke Petry, co-chairwoman of the Alternative for Germany, AfD before leaving a press conference of the Alternative for Germany, AfD

Petry, who moved AfD's focus from opposing eurozone bailouts to migration after she took over in 2015 but has been increasingly sidelined in recent months. Petry has said she was

aiming to make the AfD ready for government in 2021, and urged her party earlier this year to exclude members who expressed extremist views. She said Monday that "an anarchic party" can be successful in opposition but can't eye a place in government, before storming out of a press conference and leaving other party leaders momentarily speechless.

Fellow AfD members appeared relatively unconcerned by Petry's departure as they gathered in Berlin.

Asked whether other lawmakers will follow

Petry, co-leader Alexander Gauland said: "I hope not, but I can't look into people's heads."

Sunday's election left Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservative bloc weakened but still easily the biggest group in parliament. Merkel now faces a complicated task in forming a coalition — most likely with the pro-business Free Democrats and the traditionally left-leaning Greens.

Her partners in the outgoing government, the center-left Social Democrats, say they will go into opposition after they lost substantial support in the vote.

Merkel also faces calls from her own allies for a more robust conservative image. AP

what's ON



MOMOKO SOLO EXHIBITION

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

UNTIL: September 27, 2017

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 4582

IN SEARCH OF THOSE JOURNEYS - A

RETROSPECTIVE EXHIBITION OF THE FERRY

TRANSPORT BETWEEN MACAU AND THE ISLANDS

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

UNTIL: October 5, 2017

VENUE: Nostalgic House of Taipa Houses

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: 8988 4000

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

DISCOVER MACAU: MUSEUM OF TAIPA AND

COLOANE HISTORY

TIME: 10am-6pm daily (last admission at 5:30pm;

Closed on Mondays)

ADDRESS: Rua Correia da Silva, Taipa

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000; 2882 5631

REPRESENTING WOMEN THROUGH MAM

COLLECTION - 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY

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

UNTIL: December 10, 2017

VENUE: Macao Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, NAPE

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

MACAO ARTS WINDOW 2017 - HUNDRED

SPECIES - WORKS OF PEGGY CHAN

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

UNTIL: October 8, 2017

VENUE: Macao Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, NAPE

ADMISSION: Free

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Offbeat

GERMAN POLICE ARREST WANTED MAN AFTER HE TRIES TO VOTE DRUNK

A drunk German man who insisted on voting in Sunday's election despite lacking the necessary documents has landed in jail - after police discovered he was wanted for arrest.

The unidentified 46-year-old tried to cast his ballot in the eastern town of Guben, but was turned away by election officials.

The inebriated would-be voter caused a scene, prompting officials to call police.

German daily Potsdamer Neueste Nachrichten reported earlier this week that officers checked the man's identity, found that he had a seven-month sentence to serve and promptly arrested him.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Families
16:14	Zig Zag
17:10	Champions League: Monaco - Porto (Repeated)
18:50	Brzilian Mini Serie (Repeated)
19:15	TDM Interview (Repeated)
19:50	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Non-daily Portuguese News
21:40	Miscellaneous
22:10	Brazilian Mini Serie
22:40	Miscellaneous
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Champions League Highlights
00:35	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
02:45	Champions League: Sporting - Barcelona (Live)

Cinema



CINETEATRO

21 SEP - 27 SEP



KINGSMAN: THE GOLDEN CIRCLE

(2D) ROOM 1

2:15, 4:45, 7:15 pm

(3D) ROOM 1

7:15 pm

Director: Mathew Vaughn

Starring: Colin Firth, Julianne Moore, Halle Berry

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 141min



IT

ROOM 2

2:15, 4:45, 7:15 9:45pm

Director: Andres Muschietti

Starring: Bill Skarsgård, Jaeden Lieberher, Finn Wolfhard

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 135min



A TAXI DRIVER

ROOM 3

2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45pm

Director: Jang Hoon

Starring: Song Kang-ho, Thomas Krestchmann, Yoo Hai-jin

Language: Korean(Chinese & English)

Duration: 137min

this day in history



1968 MUSICAL HAIR OPENS AS CENSORS WITHDRAW

The American hippy musical "Hair" has opened in London - one day after the abolition of theatre censorship.

Until yesterday, some of the scenes in the musical, written by out-of-work actors Jerome Ragni and James Rado, would have been considered too outrageous to be shown on a stage in Britain.

The show, billed as an American tribal love-rock musical, first opened in New York on 2 December last year.

Many were angered by scenes containing nudity and drug-taking as well as a strong anti-war message at the height of the Vietnam conflict and the desecration of the American flag on stage.

The show's transfer to London's West End would not have been possible before the new Theatres Act which ended the Lord Chamberlain's powers of censorship dating back to 1737.

Prime Minister Sir Robert Walpole introduced play censorship to silence shows like The Beggars' Opera which contained biting anti-government satire.

The new Theatres Act does not give playwrights a completely free hand. Strong language and obscenity will still be liable for criminal prosecution.

Hair does contain some blasphemous and sexually explicit language.

But the scene that has aroused most controversy in the musical so far is where the cast appears on stage in the nude, emerging from beneath a vast sheet.

The director of the London production of Hair, Tom O'Horgan, said: "I think that the famed nude scene has been greatly over-emphasised."

"It has very little importance in the show itself and much of the publicity has obscured the important aspects of the play, which are also perhaps shocking to people because they deal with things as they are. We tell it the way it is."

Asked whether the timing of the opening was significant, he said: "We couldn't have done the play the way we're doing it prior to this time without drastic modifications."

The cast of the West End production appeared on Eamonn Andrews Independent Television show last night but decided against performing the nude scene. Mr O'Horgan said it would have given the wrong impression of the show.

Hair had a shaky start in New York. Its first two runs were cut short before producer Michael Butler became involved. He brought in Tom O'Horgan as director.

It took three months to re-vamp the musical - and when it finally appeared at the Biltmore on Broadway it had 19 songs in the first act compared with just nine in the original production.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Hair ran on Broadway until 1 July 1972, when it closed after 1,742 performances.

It played to mixed reviews across the United States and was the subject of at least two prominent court battles, in Boston, Massachusetts in 1970 and Chattanooga, Tennessee in 1975.

In Britain, the play also opened to mixed reviews.

Drama critic Irving Wardle writing in The Times said: "Nothing else remotely like it has yet struck the West End. Its honesty and passion give it the quality of a true theatrical celebration - the joyous sound of a group of people telling the world exactly what they feel."

Another critic writing in The Telegraph said the "taboo-flouting seemed too defiant".

The actor Oliver Tobias starred in the West End production. He subsequently took the show to Israel and Holland.

Despite the initial controversy, there have been numerous revivals of Hair.

In 1979, celebrated filmmaker Miloš Forman produced and directed "Hair" a musical war drama film adaptation of the 1968 Broadway musical "Hair: An American Tribal Love-Rock Musical."

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Most people probably wouldn't believe it, and your secret is definitely safe here, but you actually become quite emotional sometimes - which is happening today, by the way.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Well, if there's any way you can, you really should take some time off from anyone and everyone you don't feel like being around. You'll only be cranky with them if you force yourself, and what would that accomplish?

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 As if you hadn't had enough from your dear one, now your friends are complaining. They want to see you and they haven't, and they're starting to whine about it. At length. Oh well. At least they care...

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 The current celestial movement is setting off a very powerful meeting of astral influences, which can't help but inspire you to open your mouth and let your thoughts and emotions pour out.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You're bored, and things get ugly fast when that happens, don't they? Well, if you hadn't already thought of it, consider that the problem might be you aren't as enthusiastic as you used to be about your work.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 You're hitting it off splendidly. It's going so well, in fact, you're thinking of asking your new flame to do an instant replay of tonight - tomorrow night. Oh, go ahead.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 You might be feeling emotional, wistful, nostalgic - and extremely romantic. That's no coincidence, and it's not going to change. This time out, you're also going to be full of energy.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Life has been smooth lately because you've put in your time and worked hard to make it so. The least you can do is spread a bit of the wealth around. Take a dear one out for a special, memorable evening.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You're totally distracted and unable to think about anything but a certain someone. Yes, they have you good. It's even interfering with your work, which doesn't usually happen since you're the foremost expert on multitasking.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 The current astral alignment inspires romance and you'll be very receptive to this energy. This one will be especially amorous for you and might even inspire you to say or do something that will leave you passionately connected.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Unfortunately for them, you only want to spend your time with one particular person. Don't try to be generous, and don't think about going on any charity dates. Be with the person you want to be with. Period.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Been thinking lately about a whole new career? Or maybe about turning your hobby into a part-time source of cash? Well, today's astral alignment will be only too happy to help you get the show on the road.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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7 4 3
6 3 7 8
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3 6 5 4
9 8 4
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6 7 5
9 5 6

Easy+

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6 9 7
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6 7 3 8

Medium

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6 8 9
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Hard

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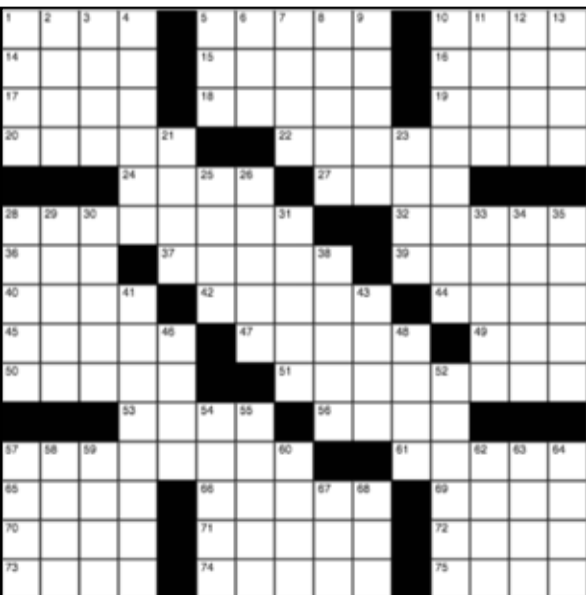
WEATHER

Table with columns: CHINA, MIN, MAX, CONDITION. Rows include Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, Urumqi, Xi'an, Lhasa, Chengdu, Chongqing, Kunming, Nanjing, Shanghai, Wuhan, Hangzhou, Taipei, Guangzhou, Hong Kong, Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Part of QED; 5- Renter's sign; 10- Sports figure?; 14- Jacob's first wife; 15- Green shade; 16- Vow; 17- Cowardly Lion portrayer; 18- Art supporter; 19- Corker; 20- ___ salts; 22- Lively; 24- Wine valley; 27- Shool; 28- Maturity; 32- Japanese-American; 36- Attorney's org.; 37- Birth-related; 39- Klondike territory; 40- Ward (off); 42- Actress Zellweger; 44- Soup with sushi; 45- Verbal flourishes; 47- "The Taming of the Shrew" locale; 49- Ich bin ___ Berliner; 50- Stylish; 51- Aloft; 53- Frat party purchases; 56- Denials; 57- In the ___; interim; 61- Chew the scenery; 65- I cannot tell ___; 66- Be a guest; 69- Put a lid ___; 70- IRS IDs; 71- Borden cow; 72- Nair competitor; 73- Panama and bowler; 74- Now you ___; 75- Arp art;

DOWN: 1- Vogue rival; 2- Gather, harvest; 3- Sounds of relief; 4- Seat occupied by a sovereign; 5- Digit of the foot; 6- Pay stub?; 7- Actress Kudrow; 8- Not odds; 9- Tending to a definite end; 10- Recompense for loss; 11- Lacking slack; 12- Salt tree; 13- Dull sound; 21- Jazz flutist Herbie; 23- Numerous; 25- Fleshy fruit; 26- ___ in the right direction; 28- Floating platforms; 29- Steel girder; 30- White-and-black bearlike mammal; 31- Capital of Yemen; 33- One on slopes; 34- Red fluorescent dye; 35- Combined; 38- Ushered; 41- Absence of light; 43- Schilling replacement; 46- Keep it, to an editor; 48- Have ___ in one's bonnet; 52- Donny or Marie; 54- Donates; 55- Look happy; 57- Pulverize potatoes; 58- "Born Free" lion; 59- ___ Misbehavin'; 60- Latin being; 62- Draft status; 63- Headed for overtime; 64- Blues singer James; 67- "Rocky ___" (1982); 68- Hanoi holiday;



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Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
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ATLETICO Madrid will try to extend its successful home streak when it makes its Champions League debut at the new Wanda Metropolitano Stadium tomorrow [Thursday, 2:45am] against Chelsea.

It will be Atletico's third match at the venue which replaced the Vicente Calderon Stadium, where Atletico was unbeaten in its last 11 games in the European competition.

Thursday, 2:45am
Atletico v Chelsea
H 2.18, D 3.3, A 4

Atletico has won both of its matches at the Wanda Metropolitano — 1-0 against Malaga and 2-0 against Sevilla, both in the Spanish league.

"The Metropolitano has the feel of a Roman circus," Atletico coach Diego Simeone said.

Barcelona travels to Portugal to face Sporting Lisbon tomorrow, riding a seven-game winning streak that includes the emphatic 3-0 win over Juventus in its Champions League opener.

Sporting, off to a great start in the Portuguese league, can make it two wins in a row to start its Group D campaign.

Early today, Sevilla will host Maribor, which is coming off its first loss of the season against Atletico Madrid.

Thursday, 2:45am
CSKA v Manchester United
H 6, D 3.9, A 1.7

The Champions League provides Russian authorities with a key test of their World Cup readiness this week, and a glimpse at the welcome fans can expect next year. Two of England's fiercest rivals, Liverpool and Manchester Uni-



Chelsea's Alvaro Morata

FOOTBALL | CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Atletico puts new stadium to the test against Chelsea

ted, play on consecutive nights in Moscow.

Liverpool is first up against Spartak Moscow, and CSKA Moscow plays United the following night. There isn't typically disorder when the teams — separated by about 48 kilometers in northwest England — meet on home soil. But since England fans were attacked by Russians at the 2016 European Championship in Marseille, con-

cerns have heightened about hooliganism in the 2018 World Cup host nation. United and Liverpool fans have been advised by the British government not to wear club colors on the streets of Moscow and to avoid walking alone.

On the pitch, United and CSKA both won their opening games in Group A. Liverpool and Spartak are chasing their first wins after starting Group E with draws.

Thursday, 2:45am
Paris St. Germain v Bayern
H 2.05, D 4, A 3.75

A bust-up between Edinson Cavani and Neymar combined with a goalless draw at Montpellier have generated a sense of trouble at Paris Saint-Germain ahead of Bayern Munich's visit tomorrow.

Cavani and Neymar have reportedly made peace after arguing on the pitch, but PSG dro-

pped its first points this season following a dismal performance at Montpellier that raised concerns about the side's dependence on its Brazilian star.

Neymar sat out Saturday's game because of a toe injury and his absence was obvious. Facing a very defensive side which closed spaces efficiently, PSG did not find a way to break the deadlock in a 4-3-3 system that lacked rhythm and creativity.

"We need to push more in order to score goals," PSG coach Unai Emery said. "This match leaves us with a lot of things to analyze in order to continue our progression."

Neymar is expected to return for the Bayern game in Group B.

Thursday, 2:45am
FK Karabakh v Roma
H 8.2, D 4.75, A 1.46

Roma will be hopeful of ending a woeful away record in the Champions League when it travels to Azerbaijan for the first time, to play Qarabag tomorrow.

Including qualifying, Roma has won only one of its past 13 matches on its travels in Europe's elite competition, with that sole victory coming against Basel in 2009.

But coach Eusebio Di Francesco will be hopeful of success against Qarabag, which lost 6-0 at Chelsea in the last round.

He will again look to an in-form Edin Dzeko, who netted his fifth goal in three matches in Saturday's 3-1 win over Udinese.

Stephan El Shaarawy scored twice in that match and Di Francesco has described him as "the ideal attacker" for his preferred 4-3-3 formation, which he hopes will boost Roma in Europe as well as domestically.

AP/ oddschecker.com

FOOTBALL

Mourinho hopes Fellaini recovers in two weeks

MANCHESTER United manager Jose Mourinho hopes Marouane Fellaini will be out for only about two weeks.

Fellaini was hurt by a hard tackle from Southampton's Shane Long during United's 1-0 win on Saturday in the English Premier League.

With Paul Pogba also injured, Fellaini's absence has left a hole in the midfield heading into the Champions League game against CSKA Moscow tomorrow (Macau time).

"Fellaini was lucky, it could be a much worse situation but in a moment

where we don't have Pogba and [Michael] Carrick, Marouane becomes even more important than he always is," Mourinho said yesterday. "The solutions are not many.

"It's a difficult situation for us, but I expect Fellaini not to be out for a long time."

With Fellaini's Belgium team already qualified for the World Cup, Mourinho hopes Fellaini will be rested during the international break next week.

Mourinho said: "He's not under pressure in a big match for Belgium so

I hope he'll be back with us."

Fellaini will miss the Premier League game against Crystal Palace on Saturday, but could be ready two weeks after that for the league game against Liverpool.

In CSKA, United faces a team which is fourth in the Russian league and trying to bounce back from defeat in the Russian Cup on Wednesday. Both United and CSKA won their opening Champions League games in Group A, Mourinho's men beating Basel 3-0, while CSKA won at Benfica 2-1. AP



SENT off for misbehaving in cricket? You can be now.

The International Cricket Council has introduced new rules and rule changes for the centuries-old game that will come into effect on tomorrow. One of them is to give umpires the power to send a player off for the rest of the match for serious misconduct.

Players can be sent off for level four offenses, the most serious under the ICC's code of conduct. Those offenses include assaulting or threatening to assault another player, an umpire, the match referee or a spectator, or any act of violence on the field of play. Any act that is "contrary to the spirit of the game" or "brings the game into disrepute" can also be labeled a level four offense.

Previously, all misconduct was dealt with by umpires and the match referee after the game with fines and bans. Less serious offenses will still be dealt with in this way.

The new rules also say a bowler who bowls a deliberate front-foot no ball is guilty of "unfair play" and isn't allowed to bowl again for the rest of the innings.

The ICC has introduced new limits to the size of bats, will allow the decision review system to be used in Twenty20 games, and changed a law so that batsmen will be given out if they are cau-

CRICKET

New rules: Players can be sent off

ght after the ball strikes a wicketkeeper's or fielder's helmet.

The new rules will be in use for the first time tomorrow in the first test between South Africa and Bangladesh, the first test between Pakistan and Sri Lanka, and the fourth one-day international between India and Australia.

Some of the important rule changes are:

— The thickness of bats has now been restricted. The edge of the bat can be no thicker than 40 millimeters (1.5 inches) and the overall depth of the bat no more than 67mm (2.6 inches). Restrictions on the length and width of bats were already in force and remain unchanged. Umpires will be given a "new bat gauge" to check if a bat is legal, the ICC said.

— "Tethered bails." The bails can now be tethered to the stumps, restricting how far they fly off the stumps. The ICC said this is in response to injuries sustained by wicketkeepers. In 2012, South Africa wicketkeeper Mark Boucher's career was ended by a serious eye injury when

AP PHOTO



a bail flew off the stumps and hit him in the eye. Host countries have been left with the decision whether or not to use tethered bails.

— If a ball bowled bounces more than once before it gets to the batsman, it will be called a no ball. It used to be a no ball if it bounced more than twice.

— "Bouncing bats" in run outs and stumpings: If a batsman makes contact with the ground with his bat beyond the crease, and it then bounces up when the wickets are broken, he is not out. Previously, batsmen could be out if the bat was in the air — even if in his crease. The same change applies to stumpings.

— A batsman is now out if he hits the ball and it is caught after it strikes the helmet of a wicketkeeper or fielder. Previously he couldn't be caught off a wicketkeeper's or fielder's helmet. A batsman can also be stumped or run out after the ball hits a helmet worn by a member of the fielding side. AP

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opinion

Macau Matters

Richard Whitfield



THE IMPORTANCE OF LIFECYCLE COSTING

My last article talked about problems in the construction industry, globally and in Macau, and identified some ways for governments to improve the situation. Now I want to address one crucial issue that was not considered last time, and which I believe must be understood if we want to improve construction industry productivity and quality.

I am convinced that there is a very important and fundamental misalignment of interests between the owners of newly developed buildings and the companies that design and build them. Building owners aim to minimize cost of ownership over the whole lifecycle - from initial design, through construction to ongoing operation and maintenance to the eventual demolition or sale of the structure. By contrast, architects and construction companies aim to minimize the costs and risks of completing the initial building construction and have no subsequent involvement in its ongoing operations.

Buildings have long lifespans so that, generally, in the overall cost equation, operating costs are often as important as initial construction costs. To give a simple example, consider the orientation of a building on its site and the envelope or "skin" of the building. These have a major impact on the amount of heat a building absorbs during the year, which in turn has a major impact on air-conditioning costs - a poorly designed and oriented building may need double the air-conditioning of a well designed and oriented building. This can all be readily predicted by proper thermal modeling, but if the architect and construction company do this modeling it increases their workload and can delay construction and thus reduce their profits.

All of my construction industry friends happily tell me that they will never consider using new, unproven technologies when constructing buildings. The downside risk of something not working or going wrong (leading to a cost blowout or construction delays) is just too high. Moreover, the building owner gets all the the upside benefit if the new innovation works and the architect/construction company get nothing from it.

In many industries such lifecycle costing and innovation issues dominate the selling process. Airlines always look at operating cost per passenger mile when choosing new commercial aircraft to buy. Similarly, taxi companies (and most private users) closely compare vehicle technology, mileage, insurance and maintenance costs before buying new cars. And when buying phones, computers and other equipment, technology and cost of ownership issues are often as important as the buying price. But in construction, technology and lifecycle issues are rarely considered - construction cost and the time needed to complete the building is nearly always the main (and often only) focus.

If I was building myself a new home, I would very happily pay a 10%-20% premium in the construction if it halved my utility and maintenance bills for the next 30 years. Also, in principle, there is little difficulty in estimating these potential costs and savings as long as materials and product suppliers have done the necessary research (which most have already done). A 5-10 year payback period for investments to improve the operating efficiency of a building with a 50-year operating life is a "no brainer" in my book.

There are several things that governments can do to encourage the construction industry to focus on lifecycle costing, e.g. mandate the adoption of green building standards for new buildings as they do in Hong Kong and elsewhere. Similarly, banks and insurance companies could be required to consider these issues when writing mortgage and insurance contracts. This is yet another area, where Macau has an opportunity to take the lead in the region, improve quality of life here and develop expertise that can be exported to diversify the local economy. Like always, what is holding us back?

THE ROBERT PLANT RELEASES NEW TRACK, ANNOUNCES 2018 TOUR

Robert Plant is going on tour in North America next year to support his upcoming album, "Carry Fire." The former Led Zeppelin frontman announced yesterday that his 2018 tour will begin Feb. 9 in Raleigh, North Carolina. He'll also visit New York, Boston, Toronto, Chicago and Los Angeles, among other cities. More dates will be announced later.

Plant will be joined on the tour by his backing band, the Sensational Shape Shifters. Plant has also released a cover of Ersel Hickey's "Bluebirds Over the Mountain" as the first track from "Carry Fire." The album is set to hit music stores and begin streaming on Oct. 13.

May meets EU leader in hopes to restart Brexit talks



European Council President Donald Tusk met British PM Theresa May at 10 Downing Street in London yesterday

PRIME Minister Theresa May and European Council president Donald Tusk met yesterday as Britain seeks to kick start deadlocked negotiations on leaving the European Union.

Tusk met May at her office at 10 Downing Street as negotiators for the two sides held a fourth round of Brexit talks in Brussels.

The meeting comes days after May proposed a two-year transition period to smooth Britain's departure from the bloc.

May hopes her proposal - which would see Britain abide by EU rules and pay into its coffers for two years after Brexit in March 2019 - will help persuade EU officials to move talks past terms of the divorce and onto future trade and security relationships.

The EU says more detail is needed. Chief negotiator Michel Barnier said this week he

was "keen and eager" to understand how May's speech will be turned into a negotiating strategy.

The EU says it won't discuss future relationships until it has guarantees on Britain's outstanding financial commitments, the rights of EU and British citizens affected by Brexit and the status of the Irish border.

EU leaders are scheduled

Boris Johnson tried to reassure eastern Europeans that they will remain welcome after Brexit

to assess at an Oct. 19-20 meeting whether Britain has made "sufficient progress" on the divorce arrangements for negotiations to move on.

Meanwhile, British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson tried to reassure eastern Europeans that they will remain welcome after Brexit. When Britain leaves the bloc it will end the automatic right of EU nationals to live and work in the U.K., and that has left many worried for their futures.

Johnson told Romania's Agerpres news agency that some 500,000 Romanians currently in Britain are "highly valued members of our society."

"We would be crazy to let them go back to Romania, we want to ensure [...] their rights are protected," said Johnson, who is on a visit to the Czech Republic, Romania and Slovakia. AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



Underwater diving enthusiasts play with a whale shark at Chimelong Ocean Kingdom in Hengqin. Starting this month, twenty people at most are allowed to dive with whale sharks at the aquarium, which is one of the largest in the world.

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

WORLD BRIEFS

MONGOLIA's ruling People's Party yesterday chose a replacement for the prime minister dismissed earlier this month over allegations of corruption and incompetence, as the resource-rich Asian nation struggles with an economic crisis and political infighting. More on p12

VANUATU An erupting volcano has forced 6,000 people to flee their homes on an island in the Pacific nation of Vanuatu. The Manaro volcano on Ambae island has been active since 2005, but a recent increase in activity has raised fears of a major eruption.



ISRAEL A Palestinian gunman yesterday killed three Israeli security men and critically wounded a fourth outside a West Bank settlement before being shot dead, in one of the deadliest attacks of a two-year spate of violence. More on p15

POLAND's president and defense minister are visiting Polish and other NATO members' troops as they perform major defense exercises in the country's northwest. For the first time, the biannual drill is being joined by Poland's new Territorial Defense Forces, which train civilian volunteers to support regular troops.



EUROPEAN UNION French president Macron has proposed a shared European military intervention force and defense budget as part of his vision for the future of the European Union.

VENEZUELA's top diplomat has accused U.S. President Donald Trump of acting like "the world's emperor," batting back Trump's biting rebukes of Venezuela on the global stage of the U.N. General Assembly.