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# Times

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**WORLD BRIEFS**



**CHINA-ICELAND** In a remote valley near the Arctic Circle where the wind whips the coarse yellow grass, China and Iceland are preparing to look to the sky — and a shared future. Construction workers are building a research facility to study the Northern Lights, whose spectacular streaks of color light up Iceland's winter skies. *More on p10*

**CHINA-NORTH KOREA** Chinese websites are censoring "Kim Fatty the Third," a nickname widely used to disparage North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, after officials from his country reportedly conveyed their displeasure in a meeting with their Chinese counterparts. *More on p11*

**SOUTH KOREA** Prosecutors question a former vice sports minister over an explosive political scandal that's threatening Park Geun-hye's presidency and could spill over to preparations for the 2018 Winter Olympics.



**INDONESIA** Police name the Christian governor of the Indonesian capital as a suspect in a blasphemy investigation in a major test of the Muslim-majority nation's reputation for religious tolerance. Earlier this month, Jakarta was rocked by a massive protest by conservative Muslims against the governor. *More on p13*

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**POLICY ADDRESS**

# Ng walks out protesting stall on universal suffrage

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## Adelsons & Wynn summoned by Trump for inauguration party

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GP SUPPLEMENT INSIDE



Renato Marques

WITH extensive work which includes a PhD on Anglo-Portuguese Studies, the academic and Professor from the FCSH, Nova University of Lisbon, Rogério Puga, has gained an encyclopedic knowledge when it comes to the British and American presence in Macau during the 18th and 19th centuries.

The Times spoke to the former University of Macau Professor to learn more about the daily life and the importance of the American presence in the city.

**Macau Daily Times (MDT) – Is the English speaking community a third way to revisit Macau history after the Chinese and Portuguese ways?**

**Rogério Puga (RP)** – There are as many ways [to address Macau history] as there are communities that passed through here. Nevertheless there are many empty spaces and gaps between the narratives from the reports of one nation which are clarified by the [reports of] others. Those differences between the way different people tell the same story help to fill in the blank spaces created by the other stories, so in that sense they are all complementary.

**MDT – How can the study of the journals of American women contribute to a better knowledge of Macau history?**

**RP** - In the paper I recently presented on a 19th century Protestant look into Macau, we can see that this person [Caroline H Butler Laing] finds in Macau two odd “living beings” that are the Chinese and the Catholic Portuguese with which she had never had previous contact. As I mentioned, the Catholic processions were, for a Protestant American in the 19th century, as weird as a Chinese procession, and in this sense, the journals of women that spent all year long in Macau and used their journals as a religious [form of] soul-searching are very important. They describe [everything] from the dogs barking to the design of the curtains, being in this way very rich sources to study the everyday life of Macau history in this century, much more so than the official Portuguese sources that were mostly addressing [...] administration issues.

**Q&A** **ROGÉRIO PUGA**  
ACADEMIC, MACAU STUDIES EXPERT

## ‘The journals of American women are richer than the official Portuguese sources’



In these sources [journals] we find a very personal story that merges with the history of Macau and that allows us to precisely retrieve the story of the daily life of Macau and its human landscapes, its traditions and the specific nature of the American community in Macau.

**MDT – Can we say that this American community was living in a kind of ghetto?**

**RP** – I think we can say this: From the Journal of Caroline H Butler Laing we can learn that they lived very isolated lives

from the other communities. From the Portuguese they related with the governor only, and from the Chinese they knew only their business partners and few of their staff. There is an American study that calls it the “Golden Ghetto” because the Americans would make a fortune or further the wealth they had when they came to Macau.

For example, the Forbes [family and] the great-great-grandfather of the former American President Roosevelt also have very interesting journals written [from their time] in Macau

and there are for sure a few hundreds of other [journals] in the U.S. that are unstudied and unpublished.

**MDT – In this (never-ending) research work, do we still find many surprises?**

**RP** – Yes, we definitely do! For example from these sources I found out that the first museum that opened its doors in China was in fact in Macau and not Shanghai as we all thought until 2012. These journals in English language allowed me to realize that there was a “silence” on the

Portuguese sources about this museum that was inaugurated in 1828, as it was an initiative of North American and English nationals. But it is clearly stated in these journals in lines like “I went to the British Museum of Macau,” or “They brought a new piece from China, they labeled it and put it in

“**The Catholic processions were, for a Protestant American in the 19th Century, as weird as a Chinese procession.**”

ROGÉRIO PUGA

the Museum.”

This explains why the Portuguese historians never came to this conclusion before, as they were studying only the official sources. So in this research I found this. I also learned that the first library of English language books was also located in Macau and started to be established around 1806, although it ended with the end of the monopoly of the East Indian Company around 1834/1835. But Macau and Guangzhou share the status of being pioneers in terms of the English language library, since these merchants would bring books that would accumulate at the headquarters of the East Indian Company that they would take back and forth to Guangzhou (Canton). It was a kind of travelling library. This is just a small sample, I’m sure there is much more to discover!

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Sixtus Leung wears a banner that reads "Hong Kong Is Not China" during the Oct 12 oath-taking ceremony in the chamber of the Legislative Council in Hong Kong

# Chui: NPC interpretation same weight as Basic Law

The Chief Executive Chui Sai On has claimed that the interpretation by the National People's Congress (NPC) regarding the controversy over the newly elected Hong Kong legislators, Yau Wai-ching and Sixtus Leung, serves as an important reference point to successfully implementing Macau's Basic Law. During a press conference following the presentation of the Policy Address, Chui as-

essed that interpretations by the Standing Committee of the NPC "enjoy the same legal status as provisions in the Basic Law." It is not yet clear what Chui meant in stressing this point. Article 143 of Macau's Basic Law - "The power of interpretation of this Law shall be vested in the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress" - is already a provision of the document.

Sociologist and Macau academic Larry So told the Times that interpretations made in accordance with the article would for all intents and purposes operate as "unofficial articles" in their own right, "even if they are not formally written." Such interpretations could be made in areas outside of Beijing's traditional influence - mostly in defense and foreign policy - but also for

those areas conventionally within the autonomy of the SARs, such as economy and society. "Typically [the NPC] makes an interpretation upon request from the courts [of the SARs], but with the power to interpret anything, they are able to without the request from the local authorities," added So. "The interpretations can act just as if they were already in Macau's Basic law." "The legal interpretation made by the Standing Committee of the NPC has indisputable constitutional authority," noted a Government Information Bureau statement, citing the message of Chui. "The power of interpretation by the Standing Committee of the NPC is one of the powers stated in the Constitution of the People's Republic of China and stipulated also in Hong Kong's Basic Law and Macau's Basic Law." The statements, made during a press conference following his session at the Legislative Assembly on Tuesday, continued by emphasizing China's sovereignty, national integrity and security, and reminding the public that these principles remain core interests in Macau and the greater China region.

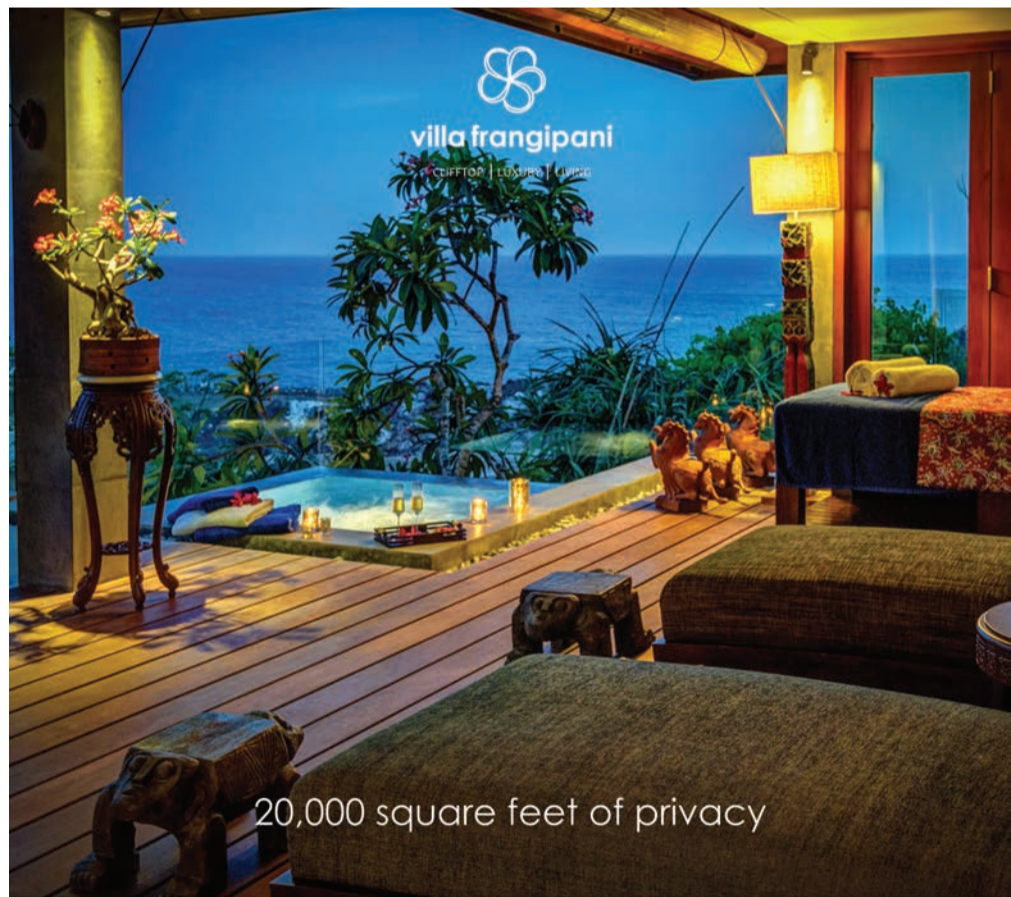
# Work accident leads to power blackout, two injured



Two workers accidentally damaged an electric cable in the construction site of a shopping mall in the Nam Van area. Both men involved are non resident workers and suffered multiple injuries which left one of them unconscious. Following a malfunction in a nearby power substation, buildings surrounding the area were affected by a power blackout which lasted few minutes.

# Boats collide in mainland sea area

Two boats crashed into each other in the vicinity of Ponte de Sai Van in the early evening on Tuesday. According to a report by Jornal Cheng Pou, the accident occurred in an area under mainland China's administration. One of the boats was carrying sand while the cargo of the other is unknown as it left the scene after the accident. Macao Customs Services and Macau's Marine and Water Bureau received reports after the accident and sent staff to rescue two sailors who fell into the water. No injuries or deaths have been reported. Zhuhai water authority is now dealing with the aftermath of the accident.



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### Foreign exchange reserves dip

The preliminary estimate of Macau's foreign exchange reserves amounted to MOP154.4 billion (USD19.33 billion) at the end of October 2016, according to data released by the Monetary Authority of Macao. The reserves at the end of October had decreased by 0.3 percent month-to-month from the revised value of MOP154.9 billion in September. The ratio of foreign exchange reserves to circulating currency at the end of October remained virtually unchanged, at 12 times the currency in circulation. Also announced in yesterday's data was the trade-weighted effective exchange rate for the pataca, which rose 1.15 points compared with September and 1.52 points year-on-year to 106.91. Overall, this implies that the exchange rate of the pataca advanced against the currencies of Macau's major trading partners.

### First week of street performance scheme with positive results

A total of 35 people were given approval from the Cultural Affairs Bureau's (IC) street performance scheme to showcase their talent at Fortaleza do Monte, at Anim'Arte Nam Van and at Casas-Museu da Taipa, according to a notice published by the IC. The 35 applications involved 31 performances, six visual-arts displays, and four handcrafts displays; some of the applicants applied for more than one category. During last Friday, Saturday and Sunday, five people performed at Casas-Museu da Taipa. IC claims that the scheme has shown positive effects in the first week, and that both the artists and the audiences applauded the scheme.

## Local filmmakers to showcase nominated short films

**CINEMA** Alegria and Association Audio-Visual CUT will co-present a 'Local Young Filmmakers Showcase and Sharing' on November 23, screening three short films from Macau, which are "Come, The Light," "Tricycle Thief," and "Crash."

The upcoming local film screening will also allow local filmmakers to exchange experiences in film production and about participation in overseas film festivals.

Local director, Hong Heng Fai will present his new short film "Crash," which was nominated for the Best Short Film in the 53rd Taipei Golden Horse Awards to be held on November 26. "Crash" was also nominated in the coming 32nd International Short Film Festival Berlin which will be held from November 14 to 20.

"It's good timing to show this film," said a representative of Association Au-



Short film Crash



'Tricycle Thief'

dio-Visual CUT Rita Wong to the Times. "I think the development of Macau movies is maturing, especially [among the] young filmmakers. They try to make different kinds of productions," she explained.

Meanwhile, another short film 'Come, The Light,' directed by Chao Koi-Wang, was awarded The Best Short Film at the 9th First International Film Festival, Xining, and at the 8th Annual Bushwick Film Festival hosted in New York.

Macau/Hong Kong based director, Maxim Bessmertny, had entered Toronto International Film Festival

(Tiff) Official Selection with his narrative short film, 'Tricycle Thief' and won the 2015 Kodak Gold Award for the Best Short Film.

The organizers said the development of local short films is becoming more dynamic in terms of creation and production. Hence, the recognition of film festivals outside the region would further encourage the local film scene.

According to Wong, the film screening aims to encourage aspiring filmmakers in the region. She claims that Macau has been recently active in promoting and supporting young

filmmakers.

Wong also stressed that different subsidies and schemes that the local public entities provide to emerging local filmmakers has made the territory a suitable platform for these talents to develop.

"Local filmmakers also think [Macau] is an important platform. They provide a lot of support to them as [some] organizations also have short film courses, workshops and collective work [projects]."

The short film screening will be held at Cinema Alegria Theatre 2 on November 23 at 8 p.m. **LV**

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GAMING

## HK's John Ho says Macau poised for recovery

**H**ONG Kong investor and founder of investment firm Janchor Partners, John Ho, said during last week's "Sohn Hearts and Minds Conference" in Sydney that the gaming sector in Macau is poised for a steady recovery. "Macau is great value for long term investors," Ho said, as cited by The Australian.

The investor assessed that Macau had transitioned through a significant boom and bust cycle and concluded that market fundamentals now indicate a steady recovery is on the way.

His comments come after three months of positive gross gaming revenue growth, the first of their kind after more than two years of decline.

Attributing much of the gaming decline between 2014 and 2016 to increased regulatory controls at the behest of the Central Government, as well as the weakening economy of mainland China in recent years, Ho forecast that the changing landscape of Macau's tourism sector would promote growth in coming years.

According to The Australian, the investor said that the focus of Macau's tourism is now shifting to "experience and lifestyle" and the future image of the city would be one of fancy hotels, nice restaurants and good shopping.

Commenting on China's demographics, Ho also said that the mainland Chinese market was now approaching a level of sophistication to appreciate this type of tourism entertainment.

However, Ho avoided referencing the recent Crown Resorts employees who were arrested in China last month for suspected "gambling crimes" during a promotional visit. On Sunday it was announced that one of the 18 individuals arrested had been released from detention.

ECONOMY

## IMF praise city's medium-term outlook

**T**HE International Monetary Fund (IMF) Mission has completed a preliminary report on its assessment of Macau's macroeconomic status, following a 12-day visit to Macau that ended on November 14.

Praising the local government's attempts to diversify the economy "toward an economic model with less volatile and more sustainable sources of income," the IMF preliminary report concluded that the city's "medium-term outlook remains strong" and that it is "well positioned to have stable and sustainable growth in the low- to mid-single digits."

According to a statement from the Monetary Authority of Macau (AMCM), the IMF Mission "welcomed the SAR



government's plan, based on the 'Five-Year Development Plan', to set up a 'sovereign wealth fund' [...] for enhancing its fiscal reserve management." The team, which was research-

ing in Macau between November 3 and 14, was led by Geoff Gottlieb, who in turn conducted various meetings with senior government officials, the AMCM, private sector representatives and academics.

"The Macau SAR economy has started an important transition. Developments in mainland China have triggered a large and likely permanent reduction in external demand from high-net worth visitors," wrote Gottlieb in a statement issued after concluding his team's visit.

"Fortunately, policy choices taken during the boom have allowed Macau SAR to enter this transition from a position of strength: large fiscal buffers, a liquid and well-capitalized

banking sector, and a credible nominal anchor in the exchange rate peg. Going forward, the challenge will be to deploy these strengths in a way that maximizes support for both steady, inclusive long-term growth," he added in the statement.

The IMF analysts also emphasized the importance of the pataca's peg to the Hong Kong dollar – as aforementioned terming it a "credible nominal anchor." The report stated that the success of the peg has been supported by a "steady application of the necessary supportive policies by the authorities including adequate foreign exchange coverage."

A more detailed report will be published in conjunction with Macau SAR authorities within three months. **DB**

## Beaujolais Day party tonight at Sofitel rooftop

**A** Beaujolais Day party will be held on the rooftop of Sofitel hotel at Ponte 16 from 7:30 p.m. tonight, where guests will have the chance to taste the first wine of the season from the French region of Beaujolais, north of Lyon.

Held annually on the third Thursday of November, the wine is fermented for just a few weeks before being released – unusual for France, where "Beaujolais nouveau" has a reputation for being of low quality.

The day has nevertheless been transformed into a cultural event through its annual commemoration since the Second World War.

Brought to Macau by the Alliance Française of Macao (AF) – as in previous years – the Beaujolais Day party invites guests "to sample the wine, enjoy good food and listen to live music," in the words of the AF director Xavier Garnier.

The live music tonight will be provided by Dalian-based band FD5 (or Chinese name Fu Lei De Yue Dui), composed of five members from France, Russia and Turkey.

Having achieved some popularity in China after adapting a cross-cultural approach to their composition, the band covers Cantonese songs, and writes in Mandarin and French. FD5 shot up the rankings of Baidu foreign bands after the video for their hit single, "A force de t'aimer", was watched more than 12 million times within China alone.

Although the set list had not been finalized yesterday when the Times interviewed FD5, band members indicated that they will perform in multiple languages, including Mandarin, Cantonese, French, Spanish and Italian. Some joked that they might sing in their native language of Russian if they have consumed enough wine.

Speaking to the Times yesterday the five band members were in agreement that, despite the fact that none of them are Chinese, performing in Mandarin made their music far more accessible to the local market and had helped drive their success.

"If I made just what I want, nobody would [consume] it... it wouldn't sell," said front man Frederick. "Some bands will tell



French Singer Frederick (left) is pictured with AF's director Xavier Garnier

you that they are only making the music they want but it follows [the same pop structure] that sells."

"We are just being honest," he added.

AF director Garnier affirmed that the celebration is not only a chance for the local French community to get together, but also an opportunity to propagate French culture in the MSAR, as per the principal mission of his organization.

Around 300 people are expected to attend, according to Garnier who adds that it is "one of the most popular events in our calendar."

Tickets can be purchased at the door for MOP300. **DB**

### corporate bits

#### CONRAD RAISES MOP150,000 FOR 'PINK REVOLUTION.'



Conrad Macao, Cotai Central's 2016 'Pink Inspired' campaign has been hailed a success, with the hotel raising MOP150,000 to support Hong Kong Cancer Fund's Pink Revolution.

As a Diamond sponsor of the campaign for the fourth successive year, the hotel offered its guests a series of 'PINK experiences and collectibles' for the entire month of October.

Conrad Macao also acknow-

ledged the support of ARTÉ Madrid, a Spanish jewelry design house. As cited in the resort's press release, the jewelry boutique firm donated an ARTÉ classic White Stones Necklace featuring synthetic white stones that were in a 925 sterling silver rhodium-plated setting as a prize for a lucky draw.

Hotel guests were able to support the 2016 'Pink Inspired' campaign in a variety of ways: by making a MOP10 donation upon check-out, enjoying a 'Pink Inspired Afternoon Tea' experience, opting for pink room upgrades, or purchasing an exclusive Conrad pink bear or rubber duck. The hotel's award-winning signature restaurant Dynasty 8 also featured a special pink menu.

CTM announced that it has revamped its 'Bonus Point Reward Scheme' and launched a new 'E-Card' for its 'No. 1 Club members,' offering user friendly services and more flexibility to customers managing their personal account.

CTM revamped its Bonus Point Reward Scheme, under which, the bonus points generated under the same service category and registered by the same customer's name will be integrated automatically and different expiry dates will be unified.

According to a statement issued by the company, there would also be more channels for customers to earn bonus points through spending on mobile, Internet, and fixed IDD services.

#### CTM REVAMPS BONUS POINTS SCHEME



Meanwhile, the new E-membership for its 'No. 1 Club members' offers a series of birthday gifts and service experience to customers, including 1,380 free bonus points and free service usage.

'CTM No. 1 Club custo-

mers' are entitled to unlimited usage of local voice call and mobile data service on their birthdays, will receive a Data Roaming Passport (1 day's service in Hong Kong) for free, in addition to several other benefits.



Renato Marques

**F**OLLOWING the presentation on Tuesday of the government policy address for 2017 by the Chief Executive (CE) Chui Sai On at the Legislative Assembly (AL), yesterday the CE was once more at the plenary to answer questions posed by lawmakers.

The session was marred by the walk-out of lawmaker Ng Kuok Cheong in protest following the reply of the CE to his question regarding the development of the political system of Macau and the proposal of universal suffrage voting for the CE in 2019.

In his reply to the question, the CE remarked that according to the law such a decision "is depending on a decision of the Central government [of the People's Republic of China]," stating "we should maintain this system unaltered and follow the Basic Law and the decisions of the Central government [on the topic]."

Chui took the opportunity to remark, "We are in an adjustment phase. Our first priority is to maintain life quality and social stability," adding that regarding the development of the political system "we are going to follow gradually the four measures for the development of the political system."

In protest, lawmaker Ng stood from his chair and placed on his stand a poster with the message [protest against the stalling of political reform] (in Chinese) leaving the plenary room immediately after.

The incident caused some perplexity in the room with the president of the AL trying to conduct the meeting normally.

Other topics of discussion were mainly regarding public and private housing as well as education and training of the so-called "local talents" for the new challenges set during the recent visit of the Premier Li Keqiang.

On housing, lawmaker Si Ka Lon started by questioning the CE regarding the lack of a permanent mechanism in the application process for public housing as well as delays in the construction of new projects in addition to the poor quality of those already built and currently in use.

Legislator Lon also remarked that in the private market there are also problems, giving the example of the Pearl Horizon where in his opinion "the rights of the residents are not being protected."

Chui admitted that "public housing policies are a matter of general concern," adding that "the government has been undertaking all efforts to solve that problem."

In order to finally tackle the issue, the CE remarked on the need for a "study regarding the



POLICY ADDRESS

## Ng abandons plenary room protesting stall on universal suffrage

Our first priority is to maintain life quality and social stability.

CHUI SAI ON

demand," highlighting that the government has been able to take back some lands where "more public housing [could be built]."

Addressing specifically the Pearl Horizon development situation the CE remarked that "there isn't yet a final decision from the courts [on the case] and so the MSAR must wait and continue to follow the laws," reaffirming "we are obviously concerned and we have been having several meetings and gathering with legal advisers on the matter."

Chui remarked that the problem is a serious one since "when a [land] concession expires not even the CE has the right to renew it." He concluded by saying, "before a court ruling the government doesn't have any conditions to negotiate with anyone but this doesn't mean we are not concerned with those buyers."

On the same topic, lawmakers Ella Lei, Ho Ion Sang and Au Kam San also asked several questions with Au criticizing the quality of the developments

already in use, stating several conception and quality problems, giving the example of the "Edificio do Lago" in Taipa.

In his reply, the CE added that that government would continue to work in this field in order to create good housing conditions, promising to address the problems mentioned by the lawmaker through "planning and conception." Specifically, working on the materials and conditions as well as increasing inspections to improve on quality and construction deadlines.

The CE also affirmed "if there will be problems in which the contractor is accountable, he will be liable."

Regarding education and training Mak Soi Kun questioned the plans for the training of "bilingual talents" as well as expressing concern over the insufficiency of translators, accountants and finance sector staff.

Kun also commented on how the government needs to "unify" the knowledge and information regarding the subject of history taught in the schools of the territory.

The CE's reply noted that the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) has already reached a consensus with mainland authorities for "the production of uniformed materials for the subject of history," stating that the government is creating conditions for the implementation of this solution.

On the bilingual workfor-

ce the CE said "it is needed to create conditions for the people to submit to these training sessions," adding "Macau gathers all the conditions for it [training bilingual staff]." He noted that the process might take from three to five years at the base level and a little more on the leadership levels.

On the same topic, questions arose from other lawmakers like Kwan Tsui Hang, Dominic Sio and the vice president of the

AL, Lam Heong Sang, but they all received a similar reply from the CE.

The debate over the Policy address for 2017 will continue from Tuesday next week (November 22) at the sectorial level with the presence of the Secretaries.

The first to go before the AL to explain in more detail the measures of its secretariat will be the Secretary for Administration and Justice, Sonia Chan.

PEARL HORIZON BUYERS PROTEST AT AL DOOR



**A DEMONSTRATION** from a group of buyers from the development "Pearl Horizon" continued for the second consecutive day at the doorsteps of the Legislative Assembly (AL). The noisy group continued to voice their complaints in pursuit of their goal- to gain the attention of both lawmakers and the CE. Although the group apparently

remained peacefully in the side area fenced by the police, there were moments of security reinforcement by the police. At various points during the afternoon and evening, officers practically surrounded all the area occupied by the protesters with a number of police officers that was roughly equal to the number of protesters present.



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## Sustainable Architecture 可持續發展建築設計 Arquitectura Sustentável



**Professor Patrick Lau**  
Honorary Professor of the Department of Architecture, the University of Hong Kong

**Date**  
November 19th, 2016 (Saturday)

**Time**  
15:00

**Language**  
English

**Venue**  
Hall D1- Albergue SCM  
Calçada da Igreja de São Lázaro No.8, Macau

**Free Admission**

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**T**HE yuan plunged to an eight-year low, with banks slashing their forecasts for China's exchange rate amid concern an imminent Federal Reserve interest-rate increase will accelerate capital outflows.

The currency fell to 6.8729 against the greenback, the weakest level since December 2008 and beyond a Bloomberg survey's year-end median estimate of 6.8. A gauge of dollar strength posted the biggest four-day rally in seven years following Donald Trump's surprise win in last week's presidential election. The Republican has promised to label China a currency manipulator and slap tariffs on the nation's exports.

Standard Chartered Plc yesterday joined at least four other banks in lowering its forecasts for the yuan, predicting a year-end level of 6.9, compared with 6.75 earlier. The odds of Fed tightening this year have shot up to 94 percent amid speculation the U.S. monetary authority will move to cap inflation as a Trump-led administration steps up spending. This would reduce the allure of emerging-market assets.

"The pressure for the yuan to decline could be stronger next year as Trump's policies could lead to a dollar rally and amid concerns about China-U.S. trade relations," said Harrison Hu, chief greater China economist at Royal Bank of Scotland Group Plc in Singapore. "The People's Bank of China can curb high volatility with stronger fixings and intervention, but it won't do so unless outflows surge, as such measures could add great pressures to the foreign reserves."

# Yuan tumbles to eight-year low as banks weaken forecasts

**The pressure for the yuan to decline could be stronger next year as Trump's policies could lead to a dollar rally.**

HARRISON HU  
ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND

A record USD44.7 billion left China in September in yuan payments, while the nation's foreign-exchange stockpile shrank the most since January last month. Chinese officials have taken a series of steps to plug capital control loopholes, such as a potential plan to curb transactions that use the bitcoin digital currency to take funds out of the country. UnionPay Co. late last month limited mainlanders from using its cards to buy insurance in Hong Kong.

HSBC Holdings Plc, UBS Group AG and Australia & New Zealand Banking Group Ltd. lowered their yuan forecasts on Tuesday, predicting that the



currency will end this year at 6.9 per dollar, compared with earlier estimates of 6.8 for the first two lenders and 6.75 for the third. BMI Research, a unit of Fitch Group, downgraded its year-end forecast to 6.85 from 6.8, while Norddeutsche Landesbank said it has revised its view to 7 from 6.8.

The yuan fell 0.2 percent to 6.8704 per dollar as of 6:18 p.m. in Shanghai, extending a five-day decline to 1.3 percent. The Chinese currency traded in Hong Kong's offshore market weakened as much as 0.17 per-

cent to a record-low 6.8845.

Chinese authorities may allow quicker currency depreciation before the Fed's interest-rate decision in December, UBS head of China economic research Wang Tao wrote in a report Tuesday.

"It is unlikely that Chinese authorities will defend any particular level," said Khoon Goh, Singapore-based head of Asia research at ANZ. "Uncertainty over whether Trump will label China a currency manipulator is weighing on the yuan."

In the money markets, the

PBOC injected a net 55 billion yuan (\$8 billion) in open-market operations yesterday, adding funds for a fourth consecutive day, data compiled by Bloomberg show.

The 10-year sovereign bond yield rose 4 basis point to 2.9 percent, according to National Interbank Funding Center prices. The overnight repurchase rate in Shanghai added 2 basis points to 2.29 percent, while one-year interest-rate swaps climbed 11 basis points to 2.99 percent, the highest since April 2015. **Bloomberg**

## ADELSONS & WYNN NAMED

# For best party ever, Trump calls on his casino industry pals

Christopher Palmeri

**W**ANT to throw a great inauguration party? Call your friends in the casino business.

President-elect Donald Trump, who ran as many as four casinos, named his inauguration committee yesterday [Macau time] and is leaning heavily on billionaires from the industry.

Wynn Resorts Ltd. Chairman Steve Wynn, Las Vegas Sands Corp. Chairman Sheldon Adelson and his wife Miriam are on the 20-member committee that will plan and oversee the inauguration. So is Treasure Island casino owner Phil Ruffin and Gail Icahn, wife



Steve Wynn



Miriam Adelson and Sheldon Adelson

of billionaire Carl Icahn, who controls Tropicana Entertainment Inc.

Tom Barrack, executive chairman of investment firm Colony Capital and a former owner of Hilton casinos in Las Vegas and Atlantic City, New Jersey, will chair the committee,

which is responsible for all events on Inauguration Day. Trump and his running mate, Vice President-elect Mike Pence, are scheduled to be sworn in on Jan. 20. The event includes the traditional ceremony outside the U.S. Capitol, celebrations

on the National Mall and a gala at night.

"Well we got our first casino owner in the White House," said Ron Reese, a spokesman for the Adelsons.

Wynn and Adelson were highly critical of newly inaugurated President Ba-

rack Obama in February 2009, when he warned companies receiving government aid during the financial crisis that they shouldn't "take a trip to Las Vegas or go down to the Super Bowl on the taxpayer's dime." Goldman Sachs Group Inc., Wells Fargo & Co. and Citigroup Inc. canceled events in Vegas as a result.

Trump ran casinos bearing his name in Atlantic City for two decades. As gambling has expanded

to 40 states, the business has increasingly relied on entertainment for growth. Resorts in Las Vegas now get the majority of their revenue from non-gambling sources such as restaurants, shows and night clubs.

For some, the casino connection may recall the 1961 pre-inaugural ball for John F. Kennedy, when Rat Pack members Frank Sinatra and Peter Lawford tapped their Las Vegas friends to perform. The casino CEOs may help Trump attract talent at a time when many entertainers backed Hillary Clinton.

Wynn and Adelson are both billionaires and long-time Republican supporters. In August, Wynn said he hadn't decided whether to vote for Trump. The Las Vegas Review-Journal, owned by the Adelsons, endorsed Trump after previously recommending Florida Senator Marco Rubio in the primary. **Bloomberg**

**Well we got our first casino owner in the White House.**

RON REESE  
SPOKESMAN FOR THE  
ADELSONS



# China's Arctic ambitions take shape in remote Iceland valley

Dorothee Thiesing  
& Jill Lawless, Laugar

**I**N a remote valley near the Arctic Circle where the wind whips the coarse yellow grass, China and Iceland are preparing to look to the sky — and a shared future.

Construction workers are building a research facility to study the Northern Lights, whose spectacular streaks of color light up Iceland's winter skies. Funded by China's Polar Research Institute, the facility will house Chinese, Icelandic and international scientists when it opens next year.

This cement shell is a concrete achievement in the burgeoning relationship between the rising Asian superpower, population 1.37 billion, and this tiny North Atlantic island nation of 330,000 people. It may seem a lopsided friendship, but both countries perceive benefits. Beijing wants an Arctic ally as climate change opens up new sea routes and resource-extraction opportunities, while Iceland seeks heavyweight friends to anchor it against stormy economic waves.

"It is better to be a friend to everyone when you are small than be an enemy to anybody," said Reinhard Reynisson, director of the nonprofit company building the Aurora Observatory.

Reynisson speaks with the confidence of a country that has weathered earthquakes, volcanoes, famine and financial meltdown since it was settled by Vikings in the 9th century. But China's growing interest has also aroused suspicions among some Icelanders, who are wary of big powers trying to grab their resources, whether fish, energy or land.

"We are a very small country, we are only 300,000 people, so we don't look at our independence as an automatic thing," said Asgeir Jonsson, an economist at the University of Iceland. "It's something that you have to protect and look after."

"In our history, we have a long story of fighting with the bigger powers around us over fish and the resources that we have. That has left its mark on the population."

Iceland was nudged in China's direction by financial calamity. When the global credit crunch hit in 2008, Iceland's banks — whose debts had ballooned to more than 10 times the country's GDP — collapsed. Iceland's currency nosedived, unemployment soared, and Iceland was forced to go the International



China's Arctic ambitions take shape at the construction site of the Aurora Observatory, a research facility to study the Northern Lights, in Karholl, Iceland

## China's growing interest has aroused suspicions among some Icelanders, who are wary of big powers trying to grab their resources

Monetary Fund and the European Union for bailouts. It also began looking for new economic partners to help it rebuild — and China was willing.

In 2010, the two countries agreed currency swaps between Iceland's krona and China's yuan, and in 2013 they signed a free trade agreement — the first between China and a European country.

With Iceland's support, China was granted observer status in 2013 at the Arctic Council, whose core members are Canada, Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Russia, the United States and Iceland.

It also attends annual Arctic Circle Assemblies hosted by Iceland — gatherings of politicians, officials, scientists and businesspeople to discuss the future of the region.

"China's got a broad range of

Arctic interests — economic, scientific, political, strategic," said Anne-Marie Brady, editor in chief of the Polar Journal and a global fellow at the Wilson Center in Washington. "But the main thing it wants at the moment would be to make sure it has a seat at any decision-making table and has access to any rights that are up for grabs. So it's great to have a friendly state like Iceland."

Some of the plans discussed by the two countries have been grandly ambitious, such as making a deep-sea port in a northern Iceland fjord to create a major shipping hub on the Northern Sea Route.

It remains unbuilt, but the economic relationship between the two countries is growing steadily.

Iceland has granted the China National Offshore Oil Company permission to explore in Iceland's waters, and Beijing has tapped Icelandic expertise in geothermal power, a major industry in volcanic Iceland and a potential source of clean energy for China.

Last year, Chinese automaker Geely — owner of Volvo — announced it was investing USD45.5 million in Carbon Recycling International, an Icelandic company that operates the world's first renewable methanol plant. Chinese telecoms giant Huawei is working with Icelandic mobile phone firms and a state-owned Chinese firm has signed a deal to fund a new

aluminum smelter in northwest Iceland.

The Chinese Embassy in Reykjavik says bilateral trade, "though still small in terms of volume, is growing rapidly." In the first nine months of 2016, Iceland's imports from China were worth \$330 million and its exports \$77 million, a year-on-year increase of 12.6 percent.

In an email to The Associated Press, the embassy said China could benefit from Iceland's "cutting-edge technologies in renewable energy, life-science [and] carbon-fiber industries," as well as its fresh fish, meat, dairy products and mineral water. In return, China can provide Iceland with a wide range of Chinese-made goods.

**“We are a very small country, we are only 300,000 people, so we don't look at our independence as an automatic thing.”**

ASGEIR JONSSON  
ECONOMIST, UNIVERSITY OF  
ICELAND

Chinese tourists — whose numbers rose from 26,000 in 2014 to an estimated 60,000 this year — are helping to drive a tourism boom that has been the savior of Iceland's economy since the financial crisis.

Cozying up to Beijing also gets tiny Iceland noticed by much larger nations. Brady notes that Iceland's politicians have become adept at "playing the big powers off each other."

"They are getting a lot more attention from the United States in recent years because of their perceived very good relationship with China," she said. "And yet what the ordinary people think about that is often quite different from their government. [...] the population has some misgivings about this close relationship."

Those misgivings reached a peak five years ago, when multimillionaire Chinese businessman Huang Nubo tried to buy a 300 square kilometer (120 square mile) chunk of remote northeast Iceland to build an eco-resort. Strong public opposition led the Icelandic government to block the purchase in 2011 — in part because no foreign buyer had ever bought so much land.

Suspicion lingered when the Aurora Observatory was announced for a sparsely populated region 250 miles (400 kilometers) northeast of Iceland's capital, Reykjavik. Pascal Heyman, a former official at the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, said in 2014 that the Chinese might want to use the equipment to keep an eye on NATO airspace.

Iceland is one of the best places in the world to observe the aurora borealis, or northern lights. The colorful phenomenon is caused when a magnetic solar wind slams into the Earth's magnetic field.

Scientists hope the observatory will help them learn about the interaction between the sun and the Earth's magnetic field, which could help predict space weather.

The observatory is behind schedule — in part due to a shortage of building contractors in booming Iceland — but is due to open next fall. It will include a visitors' center, and local people have begun to capitalize on the upcoming economic opportunities, opening Aurora guesthouses and thermal baths.

Reynisson said the initial local skepticism about China's intentions has faded.

"Now you might hear someone say, 'They will never finish it' — not that they are spying on us or doing something totally different from what is said to be done," he said. "Why build a station here in the valley to spy on us? Much easier to rearrange some of their satellites to spy on us." **AP**



Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

**A** former vice mayor and China's most-wanted fugitive accused of corruption was arrested after returning from the U.S. yesterday in the latest success for President Xi Jinping's battle against graft.

Yang Xiuzhu arrived in Beijing after spending 13 years on the run in countries across Asia, Europe and North America.

A former deputy mayor in the eastern city of Wenzhou, Yang, 70, is wanted in China for allegedly embezzling more than USD40 million. She had sat atop the list of China's 100 most-wanted graft suspects who Beijing has asked Interpol to help apprehend.

Yang was immediately taken into custody after being led off a plane by a pair of policewomen. After passing through immigration, she was led into a room where she heard the charges against her read out by a prosecutor and signed a charge sheet.

The entire process was broadcast live on state television.

The Communist Party's anti-corruption watchdog says it has taken custody of 37 of the 100 most-wanted graft suspects since launching its "Sky Net" campaign to apprehend them in April 2015. They include both Yang and her brother, bu-

# Ex-vice mayor wanted for corruption returns from US



Yang Xiuzhu

businessman Yang Jinjun, who is suspected of graft and bribery and returned to China late last year.

China has also stepped up international law enforcement cooperation to combat possible terrorist threats and fraudsters who target Chinese over the internet and by mobile phone

from countries as far flung as Tanzania and Armenia.

A Chinese police official was elected president of Interpol last week, setting off alarm bells among rights advocates who worry about abuses and a lack of transparency within China's legal system. They're also concerned about the potential mi-

suse of the police organization's resources to attack Beijing's political opponents.

U.S. and Chinese diplomats and law enforcement representatives plan to meet in Beijing next week to discuss fighting transnational crime through the China-U.S. Joint Liaison Group on Law Enforcement Cooperation.

With Chinese investigators closing in, Yang Xiuzhu fled first to Hong Kong in 2003,

then Singapore, France, the Netherlands and Italy, said the party watchdog, the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection. After her asylum requests were turned down, she fled again to the U.S. in 2014 and filed another petition for asylum, it said.

Authorities used law enforcement and diplomatic efforts to keep the pressure on Yang, and also assured her that she would receive relatively lenient treatment if she turned herself in, the commission said.

Eventually, she withdrew her asylum application and returned to China, the commission said. Media reports also said Yang was in declining health and she hoped for better medical care in China.

The U.S. and China have no extradition treaty so officials requested her return through the Joint Liaison Group, providing evidence that aided in her detention in late 2014, and the freezing of her assets, the commission said. **AP**

■ **A former deputy mayor of Wenzhou, Yang Xiuzhu, 70, is wanted for allegedly embezzling more than USD40 million**

## Censors ban 'fatty' Kim Jong Un nickname on websites



**C**HINESE websites care censoring "Kim Fatty the Third," a nickname widely used to disparage North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, after officials from his country reportedly conveyed their displeasure in a meeting with their Chinese counterparts.

Searches for the Chinese words "Jin San Pang" on the search engine Baidu and microblogging platform Weibo returned no results this week.

The nickname pokes fun at Kim's girth and his status as the third generation of the Kim family to rule the world's only hereditary communist dynasty. It's especially popular among young, irreverent

Chinese who tend to look down on their country's would-be ally.

Relations between China and North Korea have been strained by the North's nuclear weapons program, which China has condemned along with South Korea, Japan, the United States and Russia. But Beijing continues to support the Kim regime with limited trade and diplomatic backing.

North Korean officials, fearing that Kim would find out about the nickname, lodged a formal request with China recently to prohibit names disparaging Kim from appearing in the media, according to Hong Kong newspaper reports.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said yesterday that reports of the banning of "Jin San Pang" didn't "comply with facts."

"The Chinese government stays committed to building a healthy and civilized environment of opinions," he added. "We disapprove of referring to the leader of any country with insulting and mocking remarks."

"Kim Fatty the Third" is such a widely used term in China that it is sometimes suggested by auto-complete algorithms on web portals such as Baidu, China's leading search engine. While searches for "Jin San Pang" returned no results this week, Baidu left untouched results for other versions of the nickname, such as "Kim Fat Fat Fat."

Baidu spokeswoman Tracy Hu declined to comment.

The Beijing-based company has typically said that its policy is to provide accurate search results while also complying with Chinese regulations. **AP**

BAD SMOG AHEAD

## Beijing tells students to stay indoors

**A**UTHORITIES in Beijing warned yesterday that heavy pollution will persist this week, urging the suspension of outdoor school activities and construction projects.

The warning comes in the form of an orange alert, the second highest in a four-tier system. The alert signifies there will be three consecutive days of smog starting today at particularly dangerous levels on the Chinese capital's air quality index. A red alert is issued if pollution is forecast to persist for more than three days.

Kindergartens and primary and middle schools were advised to cancel outdoor activities. There was no word on such an advisory for Beijing's high schools, which focus mainly on indoor test preparation.

Construction sites that dot the ever-expanding city were targeted by authorities for the exhaust, dust and other pollution they add to the already toxic mix in the air.

Launched three years ago amid rising public concern, the warning system is one way authorities are attempting to clean up China's dirty air after decades of breakneck economic growth that led to the construction of hundreds of coal-fired power plants and soaring car ownership.

Authorities say they're making progress. Environmental officials in Beijing said earlier this week that a



key indicator of poor air quality — the density of the particulate matter PM2.5 — decreased in the first 10 months year-on-year.

Meanwhile, the environmental campaign group Greenpeace East Asia reported that levels of the heavy metals arsenic, cadmium and lead in the PM2.5 in Beijing had fallen rapidly since 2013. It said the decline was directly linked to the closure of coal-fired power plants around the city.

The Beijing Municipal Environmental Monitoring Center acknowledged that the city's air was likely to worsen as the coal-powered winter heating system kicks in across northern China. **AP**



Tim Sullivan, New Delhi

**T**HE first people showed up at the bank long before dawn, forming a line in the cold and the smog and silently waiting for the chance to withdraw their own money. They left more than seven hours later, each holding the handful of bills, worth USD60 at the very most, that they'd been allowed to take home.

By midday, the lines snaked back and forth across the parking lot outside the Axis Bank branch in central New Delhi. Occasionally, a policeman carrying a long bamboo club would slap someone who stepped out of line. No one complained. In a crowd like this, largely working-class and uneducated, no one talks back to a policeman. Especially not one carrying a club.

"They keep telling us that that this is good, and maybe they're right," said Shahida Parveen, a 36-year-old woman whose family had almost no usable money left. "But I don't see anything good happening."

This is just one bank, in one city, in a country of 1.3 billion people, millions of them increasingly desperate for cash amid a chaotic government effort to crack down on corruption by banning high-denomination currency notes.

Last week, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced in a surprise nighttime TV address that all 500- and 1,000-rupee notes, worth about \$7.50 and \$15, would be withdrawn immediately from circulation, a move designed to fight corruption and target people who have been dodging taxes by holding immense stockpiles of cash, known in India as "black money."

In a nation hobbled by corruption, and where less than 3 percent of people file tax returns, the plan at first earned widespread approval.

But as the days ticked by, it became increasingly clear that the government was ill-prepared for a plan that suddenly pulled 86 percent of the country's money supply out of circulation.

Families began hoarding small-denomination currency, merchants reported plummeting business and salaries went unpaid. Many businesses were refusing to accept the only new note rushed into circulation, worth 2,000 rupees, because they were unable to make change for it. The government says it's also trying to get new 500-rupee bills into circulation, but they remain rarities.

Modi acknowledged the transition to the new currency might be briefly difficult, but said the government "spent long hours trying to figure out how to minimize the inconvenience."

"The poor are now enjoying a sound sleep, while the rich are



A man displays a new Indian currency note of denomination 2000 that he received in exchange for discontinued currency notes outside an Axis Bank branch in central New Delhi

INDIA

## Currency swap sets off endless lines of frustration

running around to buy sleeping pills" because of anxieties over their hoarded money, he said.

But in the parking lot outside the Axis Bank, no one was talking about a sound sleep.

"This is only to harass people like us," said Parveen, a stay-at-home mother whose husband works as a small-time broker for rental properties, but has had no work for the past week. Hundreds of millions of Indians do not have bank accounts and use only cash. Many businesses only accept cash. "The people with all the black money, they'll find a way to manage."

She's right. The price of gold spiked in the hours after Modi's announcement, as the rich looked for ways to get rid of their old currency. Accountants say there has been a surge in questions about laundering cash, with one saying a client had come in admitting he needed to get rid of more than \$5 million in discontinued notes.

Others have used a range of ploys, from buying expensive train tickets that can be refunded later, to getting fake receipts, backdated to before Modi's announcement, to make their black money look legitimate.

"Do you see anyone with black money here?" demanded Chote

Lal, 59, who had taken the day off from his office job to wait in line. "Only the poor are getting hurt. Who else is suffering?"

A New Delhi businessman with connections to underground currency traders said it was still fairly easy to exchange the withdrawn currency — as long as you're willing to pay twice the legitimate exchange rate to get rid of the old notes.

"They can take as much as you need to get rid of," the businessman said, speaking on condition of anonymity to be able to speak freely about illegal transactions.

How are money launderers getting rid of outdated currency? Some are presumably using corrupt bureaucrats or banking officials. Others, however, are getting help from people in line at tens of thousands of banks across India.

Some of those waiting at Axis, like Parveen, were there to exchange their own money. She pulled a wallet from her purple-and-pink purse, revealing two crumpled 100-rupee notes and two 50-rupee notes, worth a total of about \$4.50. It was all her family of five had left to spend, at least until she got to the front of the line and could exchange 4,000 rupees in the old currency.

But it was an open secret that more than a few of those waiting with her were being paid to exchange currency for wealthier people.

"I'm not doing that, but many of these people are exchanging for others," said Sahil Saluja, a young airline employee, gesturing around him. He eventually gave up waiting after more than four hours in line.

The often-shifting regulations allow a one-time swap of 4,000 rupees, or about \$60, in exchange for smaller notes to meet immediate needs. That li-

**Families began hoarding small-denomination currency, merchants reported plummeting business and salaries went unpaid**

mit was raised to 4,500 rupees yesterday. The government insists the system will be back to normal by the end of the year.

Overwhelmed banks had no reliable way to ensure that people didn't line up more than once, so on Tuesday, the government announced that banks would begin using indelible ink to mark the fingers of people swapping scrapped currency notes. India uses the same system during elections, to stop people from voting repeatedly.

Old notes can be deposited into bank accounts before the end of the year, though the government says it will investigate deposits above 250,000 rupees, or about \$3,700. Immense fines will be levied on anyone found to have been illegally avoiding taxes.

But for at least the next week, and perhaps many weeks, hours-long bank lines and strict limits on withdrawals (most people are limited to about \$30 a day), mean lots of frustration ahead.

The government, meanwhile, insisted all was well.

The "public need not be anxious," said a weekend statement from India's national Reserve Bank. "Cash is available when they need it." AP





## PHILIPPINES

## Duterte wants to be friends with Trump, Putin

**T**HE Philippine president, who has been hostile to Barack Obama for criticizing his deadly anti-drug crackdown, has congratulated Donald Trump for a “well-deserved victory” and said he is excited to meet Russian leader Vladimir Putin at an upcoming Asia-Pacific summit.

President Rodrigo Duterte, who has been criticized for his foul language and the drug crackdown, gave upbeat remarks about the president-elect and Putin in a news conference in Manila.

Asked whether his ties with America can improve under Trump, Duterte replied: “I’m sure, we have no quarrel. I can always be a friend to anybody, specially to a [...] president, chief executive of another country.”

Duterte, who has been compared to Trump due to his devil-may-care irreverence to rivals and critics, said the U.S. president-elect was “the chosen leader of the people of the most powerful country in the world.”

“I trust in his judgment,” said Duterte, adding he expected Trump to be fair in dealing with illegal immigrants.

Filipinos make up one of the largest expatriate groups in the U.S.

Duterte, 71, has had a frosty relationship with Obama and the U.S. government since he U.S. spoke out against his anti-drug war that is thought to have left more than 4,000 drug suspects dead since July. At the height of his public outbursts, he told Obama to “go to hell” and announced his “separation” with America, his country’s treaty ally, during a state visit to China last month.

Duterte later walked back on that, saying what he meant was his desire to chart a foreign policy that would not overly lean on America.

But Duterte has publicly vowed to stop joint combat drills with the U.S. military and scale back other security engagements with Washington, although he has also softened up on those threats. Philippine defense officials announced last week that Duterte had agreed to allow a smaller number of joint military exercises, adding that overt assault drills would be discontinued.

The push away from Washington has been accompanied by Duterte reaching out to China and Russia.

Duterte said he wants to meet with Putin, who he adds also loves guns and hunting, at this month’s APEC summit in Peru, and that he wants their countries to have strong ties.

“I will not ask for anything. I want to be friends with him, I just want the two countries to be the best of friends,” he said. **AP**

## INDONESIA

## Police name Jakarta governor as blasphemy suspect

Stephen Wright  
& Niniek Karmini, Jakarta

**P**OLICE yesterday named the Christian governor of the Indonesian capital as a suspect in a blasphemy investigation in a major test of the Muslim-majority nation’s reputation for religious tolerance. Earlier this month, Jakarta was rocked by a massive protest by conservative Muslims against the governor. One person died and dozens were injured in rioting. Hard-liners have threatened more protests if Ahok isn’t arrested.

Police announced at a news conference that the popular governor, Basuki “Ahok” Tjahaja Purnama, cannot leave the country while the investigation is underway.

However, they said he is not being detained because investigators and religious experts were sharply divided over whether the comments at issue were blasphemous.

“After long discussions, we reached a decision that the case should be tried in an open court,” said National Police chief detective Ari Dono.

The accusation of blasphemy against Ahok, an ethnic Chinese and Christian who is an ally of President Joko “Jokowi” Widodo, has galvanized Jokowi’s political opponents in the nation of 250 million where about 90 percent of people are Muslims, but five other religions are also recognized by the state.

Jokowi canceled an official visit to Australia because of the rioting and has spent the past two weeks rallying the political, religious and security establishments behind him.

It has also been a gift to politicians vying against Ahok, who is seeking a second term as Jakarta governor in elections in February. Among them is the son of Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, a former president. Yudhoyono courted controversy by calling for Ahok’s arrest and saying he supported the Nov. 4 protest.

The Islamic Defenders Front, a vigilante group



Jakarta Governor Basuki Tjahaja Purnama

that wants to impose Shariah law, began demanding Ahok’s arrest after a video circulated online in which he joked to an audience about a passage in the Quran that could be interpreted as prohibiting Muslims from accepting non-Muslims as leaders. The governor has apologized for the comment.

Munarman, a spokesman for the Front who goes by one name, said the group is still demanding Ahok’s arrest because he could flee or destroy evidence. “The offense has caused unrest across the country,” he said. “We will continue to stage protests until he is arrested.”

National Police chief Tito Karnavian said that barring Ahok from leaving the country is the appropriate “maximum” step to take at present.

“If there are pressures for his arrest, we need to question if that is because of other motivations,” he said. “Once again, there should be no parties who pressure for his arrest. Let’s think rationally and logically.”

Sumarno, chief of Jakarta’s Election Commission, said Ahok is not barred from competing in the gubernatorial election.

Ahok is the first Christian governor of Jakarta in half a century and the first ethnic Chinese to run the sprawling chaotic city that is one of the world’s 10 largest urban areas.

He is popular with the city’s middle class, but has made enemies from a tough stance against corruption and an urban program that has evicted thousands of the city’s poorest from slums.

Ahok thanked police for

■ **The vulnerability of Indonesia’s tiny Chinese minority remains a raw issue in the country**

dealing with the case in a professional manner.

“We still have chance to take part in the election, therefore, for our supporters, please come to polling stations and cast ballots for our victory in the first round,” he told reporters at his campaign center. “That is what we hope to show, a good democratic process for our nation.”

The anti-Ahok movement, which has attracted moderates as well as hard-line elements as the city election approached, has also overflowed with slurs based on race.

The vulnerability of Indonesia’s tiny Chinese minority remains a raw issue in the country. In the chaos that engulfed Indonesia in May 1998 amid the Asian financial crisis, mobs in Jakarta and other cities targeted Chinese businesses and individuals, killing many.

Blasphemy is a criminal offense in Indonesia. Amnesty International documented 106 convictions between 2004 and 2014 with some individuals imprisoned for up to five years. **AP**





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Elena Becatoros & Josh Lederman,  
Athens

# Obama calls for 'course correction' on globalization

**P**USHING back against the forces of isolationism, President Barack Obama stood at the birthplace of democracy yesterday and declared it's time for a "course correction" to ensure that the benefits of technology and globalization are more broadly shared.

Reducing inequality, he said, creates societies where people are "less likely to turn on each other, less likely to appeal to some of the darker forces" that tear people apart.

With the U.S. presidential election of Republican Donald Trump laying bare frustrations and dissatisfaction in America, Obama said the impulse to "pull back from a globalized world is understandable." But he had this message to leaders and people around the globe: "We can't look backward for answers, we have to look forward."

"We cannot sever the connections that have enabled so much progress," Obama said in a speech to the Greek people as he wrapped up the first leg of his final foreign tour as president. He then headed for Germany.

Obama cited both last week's election of Trump and the June vote by Britain to leave the European Union as evidence of the inclination to pull back.

"The current path of globalization demands a course correction," he said. "In the years and decades ahead, our countries have to make sure that the benefits of an integrated global economy are more broadly shared by more people and that the negative impacts are squarely addressed."

"That's how democracies can deliver the prosperity and hope that our people need," Obama



U.S. President Barack Obama

said.

Before Trump's victory, Obama's speech to the Greeks had been envisioned to be a capstone moment for his presidency, harking back to the origins of democracy as he expected to hand off to fellow Democrat Hillary Clinton. Instead, Obama's legacy is in doubt as Trump prepares to take power and promises to undo much of the president's agenda. Obama spoke out in defense of his agenda: the Iran-nuclear deal, a global climate change pact, establishing relations with Cuba and more.

"The next American president and I could not be more different," Obama said. But, he said, "democracy is bigger than any one person." He renewed his pledge to ensure a peaceful transition despite his differ-

ences with Trump.

Obama's words are being watched closely by world leaders. They see parallels between Trump's ascension and the rise of far-right and populist movements in their own countries amid continued economic anxiety.

Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras won elections last year on what critics say was a populist platform, though one on the left of the political spectrum. He pushed his formerly small radical left party onto the forefront by telling Greeks weary from six years of financial crisis and falling living standards that he would reject austerity measures imposed in return for the country's bailouts.

But after the near collapse of negotiations with Greece's creditors — other European countries using the euro currency,

and the International Monetary Fund — Tsipras performed a political about-face: He signed up to a new bailout and more austerity to prevent his country being forced out of the euro.

Before Obama's speech, he toured Greece's most famous ancient monument, the Acropolis citadel. Obama passed through the Propylaea, the monumental gateway that serves as an entrance to the site, and walked along the Parthenon temple, which is dedicated to the goddess Athena, considered the patron of Athens.

The U.S. president lingered at the base of the Parthenon, gazing at the columns and glancing around at the panoramic view of Athens as he chatted with his guide, Eleni Banou of the Culture Ministry's antiquities division.

The 5th century B.C. temple is surrounded these days by scaffolding as part of a maintenance project. The entire site was closed to the public for the day for Obama's visit, which

**We cannot sever the connections that have enabled so much progress.**

BARACK OBAMA

has taken place amid stringent security measures. Demonstrations were banned in parts of Athens, and road and subway stations were shut down for the first official visit of a sitting U.S. president since Bill Clinton came in 1999.

Greece's government hoped Obama would help persuade some of Greece's more reluctant international creditors to grant debt relief, and pressure other European countries to share more of the burden of the continent's refugee crisis.

Obama was receptive to Greece's woes and repeated his belief that debt relief is necessary. He said Greece must continue putting in place painful reforms it signed up to in return for successive international bailouts. It is questionable how much of this stance will also be adopted by Trump.

Greece is struggling to deal with hundreds of thousands of refugees who have crossed Greece's borders on their way to more prosperous European countries. A reluctance by many other EU countries to host refugees has left more than 60,000 people stranded in Greece. Many are living in poor conditions in massively overcrowded camps.

Obama said the Greeks cannot be expected to bear the bulk of the burden on their own. It demands "a truly collective response by Europe and the world," he said.

Obama's next stop on his final foreign tour is Germany, followed by Peru. **AP**

## EUROPEAN UNION

# Commission warns Italy, several others over 2017 budget plans

**T**HE European Union yesterday warned several countries including Italy that their budget plans for next year might not comply with the rules governing the euro single currency.

The EU's executive Commission singled out Belgium, Cyprus, Finland, Lithuania and Slovenia as countries where "the planned fiscal adjustments fall short, or risk doing so, of what is required." Spain and Portugal, already the subject of EU "excessive debt procedures," were warned that their plans might

not work either.

Under euro rules, the 19 eurozone countries must keep their budget deficits at or below 3 percent of annual GDP.

The Commission says slow growth and increased uncertainty driven by factors including Britain's exit from the EU and the U.S. election of Donald Trump are weighing on European economies.

Only five countries — Germany, Estonia, Luxembourg, Slovakia and the Netherlands — are complying entirely with the rules enshrined in the Stability and Growth Pact.

Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said "those that can afford it need to invest more, while those which have less fiscal space should pursue reforms and growth-friendly fiscal consolidation."

Tensions have been particularly high between Italy and the Commission, which supervises the budget plans of euro countries and can order corrections or take action against states that fail to comply.

Italy's already shaky economy has been rocked by the arrival of tens of thousands of refugees

and a series of devastating earthquakes. Prime Minister Matteo Renzi, whose government's future could be decided in a referendum in a few weeks, has been requesting budget relief.

The EU's top economy official, Pierre Moscovici, acknowledged that Rome is dealing with unusual circumstances.

"We will take that into account," Moscovici told reporters. On refugees, he said that Italy has been bearing a "responsibility that is not just national but collective," for the rest of the EU.



British Prime Minister Theresa May (left), looks down next to European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker (centre) and Lithuanian President Dalia Grybauskaitė

Spain and Portugal were already under excessive deficit procedures for their deficits. But good news came when they were told they would not be denied access to EU structural funds. The funds support economic development by providing money for things like regional development, agriculture or fisheries. Spain's new government

will also be given time to submit an updated budget plan.

While acknowledging the new leeway given to countries, Commission officials denied that the rule book is being thrown out the window.

"We continue to apply the Stability and Growth Pact," said Commission Vice-President Valdis Dombrovskis. **AP**



## what's ON



## THE COLLECTION EXHIBITION OF TAI FUNG TONG ART HOUSE

TIME: 2pm-6pm daily (Except Mondays)

VENUE: Tai Fung Tong Art House, Calçada da Igreja de S. Lázaro 7

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 3537 / 2834 6626

## ABSTRACT PAINTINGS FROM THE MAM COLLECTION

TIME: 10am-7pm (no admittance after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: December 31, 2016

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: MOP5 (Free on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

## FORMER HOME OF REVOLUTIONARY LEADER YE TING

TIME: 10am-6pm daily (Except Wednesdays, open on public holidays)

VENUE: 76, Rua Almirante Costa Cabral

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8399 6699

## MACAU GRAND PRIX MUSEUM &amp; WINE MUSEUM

TIME: 10am-8pm daily (Except Tuesdays)

VENUE: Rua Luis Gonzaga Gomes, 431, basement (Tourism Activities Centre-CAT)

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8798 4108 / 2833 3000

## MACAU ARTS WINDOW 2016: DWELLING ON OBJECTS - FRAGMENTS DRAWN BY YUEN-YI LO

TIME: 10am-7pm (no admission after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: December 4, 2016

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: MOP5 (free on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

## AD LIB- RECENT WORKS BY KONSTANTIN BESSMERTNY

TIME: 10am-7pm (no admission after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: May 28, 2017

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: MOP5 (free on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

## Offbeat

## BUSH FAMILY ANNOUNCES ADOPTION OF RESCUE PUPPY NAMED FREDDY

There's a new member of the Bush family: a rescue puppy. George W. Bush says he and his wife, Laura Bush, visited the Jan Rees-Jones Animal Care Center in Dallas last week just to thank employees for their work, but they ended up leaving with a puppy. The former president wrote on Facebook that they named the puppy Freddy, adding that "even our cats Bob and Bernadette are finding Freddy's charm futile to resist."

Bush spokesman Freddy Ford tells the Dallas Morning News ([bit.ly/2fQSeWR](http://bit.ly/2fQSeWR)) that the puppy is an Australian Shepherd mix. Ford says the puppy is about 12 weeks old and was among several dogs that were abandoned in southern Dallas last month.

The family's most famous pet, a Scottish Terrier named Barney, died in 2013.

## TV canal macau

07:25	Suncity Group Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix - 50th Edition - Practice
08:50	Suncity Group Chinese Racing Cup - Practice
09:35	Suncity Group Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix - FIA F3 World Cup - Practice
10:30	Suncity Group Macau Road Sport Challenge - Practice
11:25	Suncity Group Macau Guia Race 2.0T - Practice
11:55	TDM News (Repeated)
12:30	SJM Macau GT Cup - FIA GT World Cup - Practice
13:20	CTM Macau Touring Car Cup - Practice
14:20	Suncity Group Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix - FIA F3 World Cup - Qualifying
15:45	Suncity Group Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix - 50th Edition - Qualifying
17:40	Criminal Minds S10 (Repeated)
18:20	Precious Pearl (Repeated)
19:10	Non-Daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
19:40	Drama
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Talk Show
21:40	The Toque 12 S2
22:10	Precious Pearl
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:40	RTPi Live

## cinema

## CINETEATRO

17 Nov - 23 Nov

## YOUR NAME

ROOM 1

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Makoto Shinkai

Language: Japanese (English and Cantonese)

Duration: 115min



## FANTASTIC BEASTS &amp; WHERE TO FIND THEM

ROOM 2

2.15, 4.45, 7.15, 9.45 pm

Director: David Yates

Starring: Katherine Waterston, Dan Fogler, Alison Sudol

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 133min



## INFERNO

ROOM 3

2.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Ron Howard

Starring: Tom Hanks, Felicity Jones, Irrfan Khan

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 121min

## FANTASTIC BEASTS &amp; WHERE TO FIND THEM

ROOM 3

4.30, 7.30 pm

Director: David Yates

Starring: Katherine Waterston, Dan Fogler, Alison Sudol

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 133min

## MACAU TOWER

17 Nov - 30 Nov

## FANTASTIC BEASTS &amp; WHERE TO FIND THEM

ROOM 3

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: David Yates

Starring: Katherine Waterston, Dan Fogler, Alison Sudol

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 133min

## this day in history



## 1989 POLICE CRUSH PRAGUE PROTEST RALLY

Riot police in Czechoslovakia have arrested hundreds of people taking part in a protest march.

More than 15,000 people, mostly students, took part in the demonstration, the biggest show of public dissent for two decades.

They called for the resignation of their country's communist government, led by Milos Jakes.

Scores of people were injured, several seriously, as the police forcibly broke up the rally.

Witnesses said the police used clubs to beat marchers and sprayed tear gas indiscriminately.

It comes in the wake of a wave of reform sweeping through other former Soviet bloc states.

In particular, the fall of the Berlin Wall last week in neighbouring East Germany and the disintegration of its hard-line communist regime has heightened expectations of possible change here.

The demonstration began at Charles University, just south of the city's centre.

It started off as an officially-sanctioned march to commemorate Czech student martyr Jan Opletal, who died at the hands of the country's Nazi occupiers 50 years ago.

The fact permission for the march was given at all reflects a growing recognition on the part of the country's communist leaders of the need for change.

It was only the second time a non-government rally had been allowed in Czechoslovakia since the crushing of Alexander Dubcek's reformist government by the Soviet Union 21 years ago.

Mr Dubcek, who has since lived in relative obscurity, was refused permission to travel to Prague to take part in the rally.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The following day rumours began to circulate that a 20-year-old student, Martin Smid, had been beaten to death by riot police during the demonstration.

These reports were hotly disputed by the government but nevertheless thousands of people once again took to the streets on 19 November in protest at the killing.

Throughout November peaceful mass demonstrations and strikes gained momentum.

On 22 November Alexander Dubcek addressed 200,000 people gathered in Prague's Wenceslas Square.

Eventually the Communist party leadership resigned and, in December 1989, was replaced by a government composed mainly of non-communists.

The overthrow of Czechoslovakia's communist regime became known as the "Velvet Revolution".

In 1993 the country split peacefully into two nations - the Czech Republic and Slovakia.



YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Charm is your best friend today, so make sure that you're thinking it all through before you try to get anything from anyone.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Today is all about you! (Well, and also a little about the United States Treasury.) You need to spend some of the day on your own issues, even if it's packed with other activities.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You're feeling thoughtful today and you ought to be able to dream up some great new ideas if you can just get some time to yourself.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Some important deadline or request is much harder to realize than you want it to be. Call in the cavalry and see if you can make things happen with a little help from your friends.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You either make a new friend today or contact one you haven't heard from in a while. It's a great time to build up your social network, even if that phrase offends your sensibilities.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 You feel drawn to something deeper and more meaningful today - so make sure that you're pushing yourself in that new direction. It may be spiritual, romantic or neither, but you should enjoy it.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Your eye for beauty extends to all your senses today, and you should find that you're deep into some work of art (or hot new colleague) before the end of the day.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Something's a little weird today - but you're not sure what to make of it! Just let it ride and see if you can figure it out later.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Today brings news from someone you know, but not well. It may be that you're being approached about a job or that you need to get back in touch with a friend of a friend regarding something important.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Get started on something new - you've got to make sure that you're keeping it fresh or you may find that things start to get really boring really quickly.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 A new cultural experience forces you to see things in a new light - and it's a good one! Try not to worry too much about where it's all headed, as exploration is the name of the game today.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 It's time to go for something new and better - so make sure that you're on the lookout for ways to improve your lot in life. Opportunities are coming your way, so get ready for them!

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION

CHINA

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

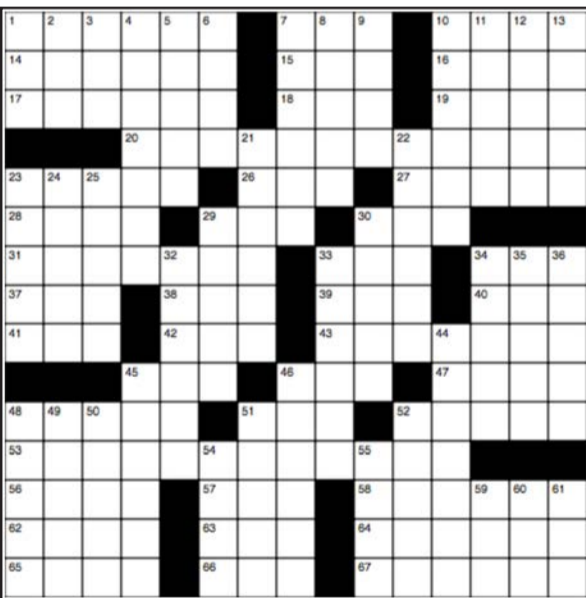
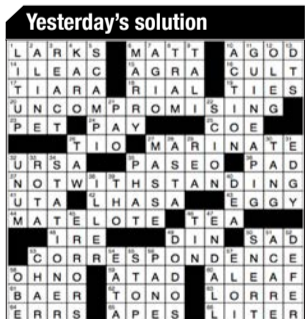
WORLD

Table listing weather conditions for world cities like Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Treeless plain; 7- Donkey; 10- Casino game; 14- Musical ineptitude; 15- College cheer; 16- Actor Estrada; 17- Peace Nobel Sakharov; 18- Pub choice; 19- In \_\_\_ land; 20- Bulbous plant; 23- Started; 26- Outer edge; 27- Some locks; 28- Cabinet dept.; 29- Anatomical pouch; 30- Capp and Capone; 31- Try; 33- From \_\_\_ Z; 34- Poker legend Ungar; 37- French vineyard; 38- Live and breathe; 39- Desire; 40- Devour; 41- With it; 42- Hi-\_\_\_; 43- Least difficult; 45- Canonized Mlle.; 46- Belief; 47- TV's "Nick at \_\_\_"; 48- Instruct; 51- Satisfied sound; 52- Later; 53- Lavish event; 56- Get up; 57- Slip; 58- Small sandpiper; 62- Psychiatrist's response; 63- Foot digit; 64- Obscure; 65- Ollie's pal; 66- Small bill; 67- Panel of special keys;

DOWN: 1- RR stop; 2- Can metal; 3- Terminus; 4- Swear falsely; 5- Song of joy; 6- Rock star Clapton; 7- Semitic language; 8- "The Crucible" setting; 9- Queens stadium; 10- Guys; 11- Thin as \_\_\_; 12- Lunar valley; 13- Green-lights; 21- Speaks publicly; 22- Hose; 23- Expanse of sand; 24- \_\_\_ nous; 25- Costume; 29- Binge; 30- First-stringers; 32- Stewart of home tips; 33- Mohammed's favorite wife; 34- Now you \_\_\_; 35- Sensation provided by buds on the tongue; 36- Pronounce; 44- Babyhood; 45- Coarse sieve; 46- Dittol; 48- Garr and Hatcher; 49- Be; 50- Lost; 51- Home run king Hank; 52- Sky blue; 54- Rejection power; 55- Mont. neighbor; 59- Once around the track; 60- One \_\_\_ million; 61- Actor Beatty;



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Tales Azzoni, Madrid

**S**PAIN is about to get back in the fight against doping.

With political stability finally restored, the country is again in position to become compliant with the World Anti-Doping Agency, nearly eight months after it was suspended because of inadequate doping legislation.

Spanish authorities say they have everything in place to approve the law changes that will allow the nation to abide by WADA's revised global anti-doping code.

WADA declared Spain "non-compliant" this year after the country failed to adapt its legislation because it couldn't form a government following two inconclusive elections that prompted a political deadlock which lasted nearly 10 months.

The country's political parties finally reached an agreement to end the stalemate last month, and yesterday was the first day in which the parliament can start working on new legislation. Officials guarantee that it's only a matter of time before the required changes are approved and the nation regains WADA compliance.

The country's top government sports official, Miguel Cardenal, said that the legislation changes are "ready" and just waiting for approval.

Spain's anti-doping agency said that the negotiations to have the changes made had already been conducted even before the political impasse was resolved, leaving everything in place for a quick approval by the parliament.

"[The changes] are important to assure that our athletes are

# Spain about to restore WADA compliance with new doping laws



Craig Reddie, President of the World Anti-Doping Agency, WADA

subjected to the same rules as any other athlete in the world," said Enrique Gomez Bastida, director of Spain's anti-doping agency. "It's fundamental that there are no differences between the rules in which athletes have to follow in their countries and the ones applied by their respective international federation."

There has been no timetable set by the government, but the new legislation could come into effect in a matter of weeks.

The changes would make a greater number of infractions punishable, allow for harsher sanctions and extend the statute of limitation for violations.

"WADA looks forward to receiving draft legislation from

Spain at the earliest opportunity, so that we can check whether it is in line with the code," WADA spokesman Ben Nichols said. "Once such legislation is deemed to be in line with the code, it has to be adopted and the independent compliance review committee will then be in a position to re-assess the situation and make a recom-

mendation [regarding code compliance] to the foundation board."

Not long after Spain was declared non-compliant in March, WADA also suspended the accreditation of the Madrid drug-testing lab, dealing another blow to the country which has long been under scrutiny because of doping.

Earlier this year, a Spanish court ruled that blood bags that were key evidence in Operation Puerto, one of the nation's worst doping scandals, had to be handed over to authorities for investigation, a major win 10 years after the revelation about the doping network involving some of the world's top cyclists.

Several athletes, including Rafael Nadal, had been criticizing the delay to hand over the bags, saying the lack of closure on the case further damaged the country's image in the fight against doping.

The president of the Spanish Olympic Committee, Alejandro Blanco, criticized local officials earlier this year for not being able to approve the necessary changes needed for Spain to comply with WADA's revised code. He said other countries also endured political problems but were able to make the changes and become compliant.

WADA's anti-doping code was revised in 2015 to give the agency more power in the fight against doping. **AP**

## FOOTBALL

# Russian official faces corruption charges over World Cup

**R**USSIAN investigators are pressing graft charges against a former deputy governor of St. Petersburg linked to the construction of a troubled stadium that is to host World Cup matches in 2018.

The Investigative Committee said in a statement yesterday that Marat Oganessian, the city's deputy governor in 2013-2015, has been detained on suspicion of embezzling 50 million rubles (USD777,000) on a single contract to supply display screens for the new stadium. However, it could be only part of a much larger corruption case.

Investigators said Oganessian arranged for a friendly subcontractor



A worker cleans sewers near the retractable football pitch at the soccer stadium, which is under construction on Krestovsky Island, in St. Petersburg

to win the contract and funneled the money out via shell companies. Investigators said they have filed a motion with a local court to jail Oganessian pending the probe.

One official in the St. Petersburg city hall as well as three employees of the subcontractor are also

under investigation in relation to the 69,000-seat stadium, provisionally called the Zenit Arena.

Current deputy governor Igor Albin said on Twitter that "the total sum of damages at the stadium [...] exceeds 700 million rubles [\$10.7 million]," citing evidence

presented to the city government's construction department.

"No external events will influence the construction of the Zenit Arena now: the budget for the construction is balanced and everything that is needed has been bought," Albin added.

Yesterday's announcement came amid a blitz of corruption-related arrests and investigations in Russia. Late Monday, Economic Development Minister Alexei Ulyukayev was detained over an alleged \$2 million bribe, while Wednesday also saw reports of investigations at a state technology firm and a helicopter manufacturer.

The St. Petersburg sta-

dium has taken almost a decade to build, prompting Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev to publicly call it "disgraceful." The stadium, which is to host a 2018 World Cup semi-final match, is set to cost more than \$600 million. Until the ruble dropped sharply in value in 2014 against the backdrop of international sanctions and a low oil price, the same ruble budget was worth more than \$1 billion, making it one of the most expensive soccer stadiums in history.

The St. Petersburg City Hall in July fired the general contractor over repeated delays and cost overruns, also saying that authorities have gone to the police because it has

allocated \$39 million for the construction which has been unaccounted-for. Later than month President Vladimir Putin issued a special decree, ordering officials in St. Petersburg to speed up the construction.

FIFA expects Zenit Arena to be delivered in December so that it is ready to host the Confederations Cup next year.

There have also been several deaths of workers during construction. In the past 12 months, three have died in accidents, and investigators said a North Korean man working on the stadium had died of an apparent heart attack in a workers' communal area at the stadium. **AP**



opinion

**Girl About Globe**

Linda Kennedy



**FINALLY, A BULLETIN WITHOUT BALLS?**

Men care less about their balls - because of Donald Trump. Damsels, we have a chance for realignment of popular culture. Grab hard!

Football TV viewing figures have dropped, you see. Numbers tuning into the UK's Premier League are way down. The game of two halves now has one fifth less of an audience. The National Football League in the States is also losing viewers.

A defensible immediate assumption is to take this as a judgment on quality. If I were to organize an ironic cheerleading squad to perform at London's Crystal Palace Football Club (they actually still have a real one, the Crystal Girls) it would be a general admonition to the sport: 'nil nil ain't a thrill'. Pom pom flurry, pivot and smile.

The actual reason for the decline is - partly - Donald Trump. Bizarrely, a man who'd be comfortable on a football team bus as, in such company, his views are practically feminist, is responsible for attracting viewers away from the sport.

People were switching on the presidential debates rather than football, it seems. Football fans preferred to watch Hillary Academicals versus Trump of the South, because there were more shots, strikes and own goals.

Clearly that was just a short-term displacement but, in addition to the impact of 'cord-cutters' (people cancelling cable subscriptions in favour of Netflix) and Twitter streams (choosing 140 characters over TV commentary to follow the match), it's raised a new reality: football is vulnerable.

And this, ladies, is where good things start to come our way. Could a Trump presidency, for all its horrors, augur the beginning of the end of the automatic pairing on television of 'news and sport'?

Let's think about this. Why does sport go with news? Sport is what men talk about much of the time. Until there's the 'Women In the Rain With A Fresh Blowdry To Protect 100m sprint', then I don't care. (And I'd probably win it.)

I've been trying for years to persuade TV editors there should be the 'News and Hair Weather - a bulletin without balls.' Hair is women's sport. It's what we talk about. 'How do your curls stay in?' 'A Brazilian blow dry is how much?' I have conversations with my Mum almost entirely about our hair.

The persuasion was to no avail, of course. But if men are starting to lose interest in football, things might change. Finally, the 'News and Hair Weather's got game.

There are other consequences too. If people are following matches on Twitter rather than telly, is this the end of football commentators' cliches?

RIP:

Quality pass

Top player

The new Messi (the Hair Weather might steal that one)

So, let's not forget our manners. Mr President-elect, thank you. A niche thank you. The laws of unintended consequences mean you've perhaps done more for women than you meant.

I won't conclude without highlighting a tiny danger, though: Trump must know sports fans like him. To reward them - or solidify his base for a future run - what if he were to start a football team? Trump United. No need to repaint the political bus, and he could indulge in some serious locker room talk.

(The British footballers talk of 'burdz'. Is this where 'egg on' comes from? Melania might one day be required to say, in the event of anything being recorded with her husband mingling with footballers.)

That all might get football fans back to the television, and the combination of 'news and sport' will seem unassailable again.

Or perhaps I worry too much. Trump should be keen to tune into the Hair Weather.

**THE BUZZ SINGAPORE TO TEST DIGITAL CURRENCY IN LATEST FINTECH INITIATIVE**

The Monetary Authority of Singapore is poised to become the latest central bank to test its own digital currency, which it will use in a trial of a blockchain-driven system for interbank payments.

The "proof-of-concept" project, which also involves the city's stock exchange and eight banks, is aimed at simplifying the payments process and reducing transaction costs, Managing Director Ravi

Menon said in a speech yesterday. It may include cross-border transactions with the participation of another central bank in the future, he said.

"Today, banks have to go through correspondent banks to intermediate these payments. It takes time and adds to cost," Menon said. "This project marks the first step in MAS's exploration of ways to harness the potential of central bank-issued digital currency."

**Prince William urges Vietnam to fight wildlife trade**

AP PHOTO



Britain's Prince William, Duke of Cambridge, talks with pupils during his visit to a local primary school in downtown Hanoi

**BRITAIN'S** Prince William urged Vietnam's leaders yesterday to step up the fight against wildlife trafficking, the main theme of his first visit to the Communist country.

The prince, who is president of United for Wildlife, met Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc and Vice President Dang Thi Ngoc Thinh before the start of a two-day conference on illegal wildlife trade today in Hanoi.

During his call on the prime minister, William "said he was looking forward to hearing what Vietnam was doing to tackle the challenges presented by the illegal wildlife trade," the prince's office said in a statement.

William also toured Hanoi's Old Quarter, where he visited a traditional medicine shop and a primary school. He then joined local celebrities, traditional medicine experts and wildlife activists at a coffee shop for a discussion about changing social attitudes toward the use of illegal wildlife products.

**Prime Minister Phuc told William that Vietnam has paid great attention to raising awareness about wildlife conservation**

"The prince's visit is very important," said Nguyen Phuong Dung, deputy director of the local group Education for Nature Vietnam. "He has already drawn a lot of attention from the public, and his message on protecting wildlife will reach many people."

Vietnam is a major transit point and consumer of trafficked ivory and rhino horns, which people mistakenly believe can be used as a cancer cure. On Saturday, authorities destroyed 2.2 tons of seized elephant ivory and rhino horns.

The official Vietnam News Agency said Prime Minister Phuc told William that Vietnam has paid great attention to raising awareness about wildlife conservation and has handed down severe punishments for violators.

It quoted William as telling Phuc that the fight to protect endangered wildlife is transnational, and the government can play a crucial role in ensuring its success. **AP**

More on p12

Station	Air quality
Roadside	40-60 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	45-65 Moderate
Ambient	55-75 Moderate

SOURCE: DSI/MG

**WORLD BRIEFS**

**PHILIPPINES** Authorities say a tipoff from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration allowed them to arrest a Malaysian man who allegedly tried to smuggle 4.6 kilograms of cocaine into the country.

**NEW ZEALAND** Military leaders say they have almost completed the evacuation of more than 700 tourists and residents from a small coastal town, two days after a powerful earthquake cut off train and vehicle access. The magnitude 7.8 quake left two people dead, triggered a small tsunami, and brought down rocks and mud that swept across highways.



**INDIA** The first people showed up at the bank long before dawn. They left more than 7 hours later, each clutching the USD60 they'd been allowed to withdraw. One line outside one bank offers a glimpse of how India's currency crackdown has caused pain and chaos in the country of 1.3 billion.

More on p12



**AFGHANISTAN** A suicide bomber on a motorbike killed six people in Kabul yesterday in an attack targeting a minibus with security agents working for the government. The Islamic State affiliate in Afghanistan promptly claimed responsibility for the bombing.



**MOROCCO** U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry says an "overwhelming majority" of Americans know that climate change is happening and want the U.S. to honor its commitments under the Paris climate agreement. Speaking at a U.N. climate conference in Marrakech, Kerry praised the Paris deal as a framework that is "built to last." U.S. President-elect Donald Trump has called global warming a "hoax."

**THE DECISIVE MOMENT**

AP Photo/Eugene Hoshiko



Artsy plates. A motorcycle license plate featuring a work of art by world-famous Japanese Ukiyoe woodblock print artist Hokusai is shown at Tokyo's Sumida ward yesterday. Only 2,000 of the plates designed by a local student, are issued as limited edition and available for registered residents or scooter users in Sumida, the hometown of the 18th century Ukiyoe artist.