



**INDIA CHALLENGE**  
Macau's football team is slated to play against India in the AFC Asian Cup 2019 Qualifier today

■ P2 SPORTS



**MORE CASH HANDOUTS**  
New Hope presented its political platform yesterday, calling for a second cash handout this year

■ P3 AL ELECTION

**BRICS COUNTRIES URGE UN REFORM**



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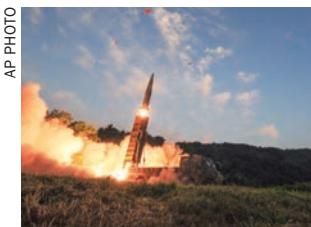
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# Analysts: **Silver lining** for casinos hit by typhoon

■ P3

**WORLD BRIEFS**



**KOREA** Following U.S. warnings to North Korea of a "massive military response," South Korea fired missiles into the sea to simulate an attack on the North's main nuclear test site yesterday, a day after North Korea detonated its largest-ever nuclear test explosion. Meanwhile, the UN Security Council held its second emergency meeting about North Korea in a week, with U.N. political chief Jeffrey Feltman describing the test as profoundly destabilizing for the region.  
More on p10,13,14

**INDONESIA's** corruption court yesterday sentenced one of the country's top judges to eight years in prison for taking bribes, the second time a Constitutional Court judge has been imprisoned for bribery since 2014.

**CAMBODIA** The Cambodia Daily, a newspaper that has helped pioneer press freedom and train generations of journalists in Cambodia since it was founded in 1993, is the latest victim of a determined push by the government of Prime Minister Hun Sen to silence critics in the run-up to 2018 elections.

More on backpage



# Hong Kong replaces 24-hour BBC World Service radio channel

■ P2



## FOOTBALL

## Macau to play India for AFC 2019

MACAU is slated to play against India in the AFC Asian Cup 2019 Qualifier today at the Macau Olympic Complex.

Although today's match will be the first time Macau faces India in a senior game, India's U-16 team trashed Macau 33 years ago with a 13-0 final score.

In the latest FIFA rankings, India is 86 places ahead of Macau, standing at 97th, while the city's team stands at 183rd.

The Indian team, known as the Blue Tigers, has been unbeaten since June 2016, and is anticipated to win the third round qualifying phase of the tournament.

If India wins today's match, and consolidates this win with three more points next month when Macau, known as The



Greens, plays them away in Bengaluru, the team could secure a top-two spot and qualification for their fourth AFC

Asian Cup.

The Blue Tigers won the 2017 Hero Tri-Nations Series, a three-team tournament that

saw them defeat Mauritius and draw with Saint Kitts and Nevis, before coming to Macau for today's match.

Macau was scheduled for a friendly match with Malaysia, however due to the recent deadly typhoon Hato, the match was cancelled. Macau played their most recent match against Hong Kong on Saturday for the 73rd edition of the Inter-Port game, which they lost 4-0.

The local team took part in the inaugural AFC Challenge Cup in 2006, meant for 'emerging nations,' but they had been missing from this competition until last year, when they qualified for the AFC Solidarity Cup, a replacement competition to the Challenge Cup, which was held in Malaysia for the first time.

Macau is grouped along with India, the Kyrgyz Republic, and Myanmar as aspiring teams to qualify for the 2019 AFC Asian Cup.

Technical director of the Macau Football Association, Chan Hiu Ming, is taking the additional responsibility of serving as the head coach of the team.

## MEDIA

## RTHK replaces BBC World with Chinese radio

THE 24-hour BBC World Service channel of Hong Kong's RTHK was replaced with a state radio broadcast from China at midnight on Sunday. This is a move that was criticized by listeners.

Nearly 1,000 Hong Kong residents signed an online petition titled "RTHK: Give us back our BBC World Service," with hopes of keeping the broadcast of the British channel.

However the SAR's main public broadcaster continued in the move to reprogram the round-the-clock broadcast with China National Radio, a station that contains no sensitive or critical reporting on China.

The state-run broadcasts are mostly in Mandarin rather than Cantonese.

Although BBC World Service broadcasts will still run, the English broadcast channel will



only be broadcast from 11 p.m. until 7 a.m. on weekdays, and occasionally on weekends.

Amen Ng, a spokeswoman for RTHK, told Reuters earlier there were no political considerations in the decision and the Chinese broadcaster would enhance cultural exchanges.

Some listeners argued that the move could hurt the public's confidence in Hong Kong's public broadcaster, which

le others said that the move was in line with a gradual "mainlandization" of Hong Kong, which has seen Beijing's influence increase in the city's many sectors.

As cited in a Reuters report, some RTHK staff said the move was made without broader consultation.

"Nobody knew anything about it. We were told in a meeting just before it was announced," said a senior RTHK

editorial employee who declined to be identified. "People see it as a negative thing. The BBC is generally regarded as independent, and [Chinese] state media is not," he added.

Another said that there had been several incidents in which the RTHK's editorial independence was pressured, including staff being heckled by pro-Beijing voices on radio talk-shows and public forums.

## SEVERE WEATHER

## Rainstorm causes floods in several areas

THE rainstorm that occurred early yesterday morning led to a large number of floods across the city, according to information released by the Civil Protection Center.

In Taipa, areas at the Cotai strip, the Macau International Airport, and some nearby Coloane sectors registered floods. Specifically, in Cotai, about 11 districts were affected by floods, including Rotunda do Istmo, Av. Do Aeroporto, and Estr. de Pac On. In particular, in an area close to Hac Sa Beach's barbecue area, a landslide happened.

Police and firefighters have already been dispatched to the location to inspect the situation, and the Land and Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT) is also following the case.

The road is temporarily closed.

The R. Central de T'oi San and R. da Missão de Fátima were also closed due to floods.

The Estr. Alm. Magalhães Correia towards Estr. Cel. Nicolau de Mesquita was only accessible to bus and private cars, while motorbikes were not allowed in the area and could only get access to Avenida Padre Tomas Pereira.

Typhoon signal one was hoisted yesterday when the rainstorm hit the city, and tropical storm Mawar was approaching the proximity of Macau [in Shantou, Guangdong].

The Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) also issued a rainstorm warning. In turn, the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) issued a school suspension at 6.20 a.m. Nurseries, primary schools, and special education facilities were called to suspend classes for the whole day, although secondary education still proceeded.

Mawar arrived at Shantou late on Sunday night, having brought the rainstorm to Macau.

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**M**ACAU'S pumpling by typhoons makes it unlikely China's government will adopt a tougher stance toward the city, according to Goldman Sachs Group Inc.

While investors are likely speculating about political implications from China's forthcoming Communist Party congress, there is "little likelihood for drastic policy change targeted at Macau" while the city is still clearing up, Goldman analysts led by Simon Cheung wrote in a note, reiterating a buy rating on some casino stocks.

Concern over a deeper crackdown on corruption and curbs on capital outflows have weighed on the equities in recent years.

Credit Suisse Group AG also reiterated its bullish view of Macau, helping ensure casino stocks were among the few gainers on Hong Kong's benchmark yesterday.

# Goldman sees silver lining for casinos hit by typhoon

Officials said Typhoon Hato was the strongest storm to hit Macau in 53 years. It lashed the city with heavy winds and rain that flooded large parts of the city, knocked out power and water supplies and left more than 240 people injured and 10 deaths. Casinos were forced to run on backup generators.

In an unprecedented move, the Chief Executive, Chui Sai On, asked troops from China's People's Liberation Army, who normally don't leave their garrison to help with cleanup efforts. The troops, along with cleanup crews and volunteers, collected 7,300 metric tons of trash left behind by the storm. **MDT/Agencies**



Troops from China's People's Liberation Army helped with cleanup efforts

There is little likelihood for drastic policy change targeted at Macau.

GOLDMAN SACHS

## AL ELECTION

# New Hope urges gov't to double Wealth Partaking Scheme this year

Renato Marques

**T**HE New Hope (Nova Esperança) candidacy to the Legislative Assembly (AL) elections, headed by lawmaker José Pereira Coutinho, urged the government to distribute a second share of the Wealth Partaking Scheme within this year.

Coutinho was speaking at a press conference organized by the list so that candidates can present their political programs, at the headquarters of the Macau Civil Servants Association (ATFPM). He noted that more than just words are needed to solve people's problems.

"It is not enough for the Chief Executive [CE] to come and address an open letter to the civil servants and to the citizens. It is not enough to come every year to say that the civil servants are the most valuable elements [in the government's workforce]. It's needed to give concrete things and that is why we ask the CE [...] to concede another compensation, under the Wealth Partaking Scheme, [in the amount] of MOP9,000 to all Macau citizens including the civil servants," Coutinho said. "This Weal-



Pereira Coutinho (center)

th Partaking Scheme share should be raised to [MOP] 12,000 next year," he proposed as one of the measures that comprise the list's political program for the upcoming legislature.

Among other highlighted demands, New Hope requests the construction of 80,000 affordable housing units "in order to solve the housing problems of citizens." According to Coutinho, these houses are not being properly constructed, in line with concerns from civil servants that there are "absolutely no house[s] being built or given to them," in the past legislature.

Another of the government subsidies that New Hope proposes to fight for at the AL elections is in relation to

the healthcare voucher scheme. Coutinho proposed raising it from the current MOP600 to MOP1,000, an amount that he argues should be further increased to MOP3,000 in the cases of senior citizens (65+).

Besides housing and government subsidies, labor issues was ano-

ther highlighted topic during the press conference. Coutinho mentioned several measures in New Hope's political program, starting from maternity leave, which he proposes to be raised from the current 56

to 90 days, in order to have a uniform system between the public and private sector.

Another of the policies proposed by Coutinho and Leong Veng Chai regarding labor is the extinction of the legal clause "termination without just cause," as well as continuing to fight for a trade union law and "the right of workers to organize themselves and to negotiate [with the employers] in a collective way."

Addressing the civil servants' problems, New Hope proposes to end the limit of 300 hours per year of paid overtime to drivers and other government employees, while promoting the merging of the index categories of several civil servant careers (195 with 260, and 350 with 430), as well as the increase of risk subsidies, pensions and other life guarantees to the workers from the Se-

curity Forces.

As an example, Coutinho mentioned the recent case of a diver from the Customs Services (SA) who was allegedly frightened by the working conditions and poor guarantees during the rescue operations of Typhoon Hato.

According to Coutinho, the recent typhoon is proof that "while we don't have great calamities or deaths, this government doesn't move."

Coutinho also mentioned that most of the measures proposed on his political program in campaigning for the AL are recurrent and even repeated from previous legislatures. He continued saying that the "AL can't really take care of these topics," and although they have been addressed many times by New Hope, they do not really appear on the agendas of other groups.

## 'Some lists are confusing roles,' Coutinho accuses

**C**ANDIDATE and list head for the New Hope list, José Pereira Coutinho, says he has been analyzing some other list's materials and apparently some of them are confusing roles.

"I have realized that many lists have been presenting political platforms which restrict themselves to policies of 'opposition party,'" he said, noting, "well, we are not running here [in this election] to the government, we are running for a lawmaker seat in the Legislative Assembly, and I believe that [some] people have no idea what it means to be a lawmaker." Coutinho

added, "to be a lawmaker is in the first place to realize what the Basic Law allows us and obliges us."

Coutinho reminded that the two main roles of a lawmaker are to propose bills and to inspect the government's work.

The candidate also recalled there are significant differences between the Hong Kong SAR and Macau municipal bodies, noting that the neighboring region has "district council members" which address the specific problems of each district, a situation that does not happen in Macau and might be confused on some of the lists.

While we don't have great calamities or deaths, this government doesn't move.

PEREIRA COUTINHO



## CRIME

# Police looking for man responsible for two scams

Julie Zhu

**A**UTHORITIES are looking for a suspect possibly responsible for two scams from which he obtained a total of HKD50,000, the Judiciary Police (PJ) reported in a press conference yesterday.

The PJ reported two fraud cases, with the victims of each independently stating a suspect of the same name, leading investigators to believe that the same individual might be responsible for both crimes. Both victims are local residents.

Regarding the first case, the victim, while searching online for an apartment to rent, met the suspect on an online social network on August 27. The suspect claimed that his sister had an apartment available, and that he could rent the apartment for MOP12,000, including a parking space.

After paying a visit to the apartment, the victim decided to rent it, having reached an agreement with the suspect.

The suspect then said that the victim should pay four months of rent in advance, with a first installment of MOP15,000. The victim verbally agreed to this, prior to signing any agreement.

On September 1, the victim wanted to sign the contract with the suspect, but the suspect informed

him that the house had already been given to a real estate agency.

Afterwards, the victim contacted the quoted agency, only to find out that what the suspect had said was not true. Later, upon losing contact with the suspect, the victim reported the incident to the police.

The second case took place in March, and was reported to the police this month.

The second victim got to know the suspect through a mutual friend. The suspect claimed he could arrange a hotel banquet discount for the victim.

The victim then proceeded to give MOP35,000 to the suspect in order to book such a banquet. At the beginning of June, when the victim was preparing for his wedding, he contacted the hotel only to realize that the suspect had not paid for the hotel at all.

The victim then sent the suspect a request for a refund, but contact with the suspect had already been lost.

When this second victim reported the incident to the police, the police realized that the suspect shared the same name with the suspect in the first reported case.

## Criminal fakes public servants' identity

**T**HE Judiciary Police has reported two cases of criminals pretending to be civil servants from public departments in order to carry out fraudulent activities.

In one case, the suspect claimed to be responsible for recruiting people for a government department in addition to being responsible for collecting fingerprints from job applicants.

A victim who wanted to apply for a job at the suspect's department, paid RMB2,850 to the suspect in application fees.

In another case, the PJ found an online article calling for volunteers to help the Macau government clear trash on the streets resulting from the typhoons.

The article wrote that a government department would pay RMB550 for eight hours of work, and an extra RMB90 for every additional hour of work.

## MICE sector posts strong results

**T**HE Meetings, Incentives, Conventions and Exhibitions (MICE) tourism segment posted strong results in the first half of 2017, the latest data from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) shows. This means that the sector has outperformed the rise in visitors on package tours, which in the first six months of the year, grew by more than 10 percent year-on-year.

The tourism industry in Macau remains predominantly casino-orientated but the latest data is reflective of the promotional effort that has gone into diversifying the sector.

In the first half-year of 2017, a total of 699 MICE events were hosted in the city, inviting some 627,000 participants. Significant growth in the number of events and participants in some of the MICE categories was recorded, though the economic weight of the sector remains comparatively small against other tourism-based offerings.

Analyzed by category, the strongest results were recorded in meetings and conferences.

A total of 652 meetings and con-



ferences were recorded in the first half of the year, 66 more than in the comparative period of the previous year. Participants at these events surged by more than 60 percent to 99,000, according to DSEC.

Almost 80 percent of these visitors (79,000) attended meetings and conferences lasting four hours or more, nearly double the number in the first half of 2016.

Meanwhile, the number of large exhibitions in the city decreased by 4 year-on-year to a total of 18, however the number of attendees (514,000) remained roughly the same. The number of attendees for the 17 non-government exhibitions decreased by 1.4 percent year-on-year.

Incentives fared less well in the first half of 2017. While the number of such events increased by 9 year-on-year to 29, the number of participants dropped by about 48 percent.

According to DSEC, revenue and expenditure of all MICE events in the first half of the year amounted to around MOP83 million and MOP62 million respectively.

The net revenue of the 17 non-government exhibitions held during the first half of the year reached MOP38.55 million after deducting the expenditure and financial support from the government, representing an upsurge of 158.3 percent from the MOP14.92 million recorded in the first half of 2016. **DB**



Li Gang

## Former Liaison Office director under investigation

**A** report issued by the National People's Congress (NPC) of China stated that the former director of the Liaison Office in Macau, Li Gang, has been under investigation for violation of the party's discipline.

The report announced that Li has also been removed from his position as an NPC member for being suspected of having severely violated the party's disciplinary guidelines.

On August 22, China's State Council removed Li Gang from his former position as deputy director of the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office. However, no reasons were given regarding Li's removal.

Li Gang, born in 1955, first become involved in SAR affairs in 1998. From 1998 to 2001, Li was a secretary responsible for

Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan cultural affairs.

Between 2001 and 2003, Li was the deputy director of the news office of the State Council. From 2003 to 2012, Li was the deputy director of the Liaison Office in Hong Kong.

In 2012, he was assigned to Macau to become the deputy director of the Liaison Office in Macau, and two years after, in 2014, he was promoted to director of the Macau Liaison Office.

According to a report by the Hong Kong 01 news service, Li's move from the Macau Liaison Office to the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office already triggered the outsiders' assumptions concerning Li's political life, as the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office is often regarded as a department which has less work than the Liaison Office.

## Rodrigo Brum takes office at Forum Macau

**E**conomist Rodrigo Brum took on the role of Deputy Secretary-General of the Permanent Secretariat of Forum Macau, appointed by the Portuguese-speaking countries, on September 1. He replaced Mozambique's Vicente de Jesus Manuel who had been in the role since 2013.

Brum, a Portuguese national, in the 1990s was the chief of staff of Macau's then Deputy Secretary for Economy and Finance, Vítor Pessoa, under the administration of Rocha Vieira, and chairman of the management council of the Industrial Park of Concordia (SPIC).

The new Deputy Secretary-General of the Permanent Secretariat of Forum Macau has a degree in Business Manage-

ment from the Higher Institute of Economics at the Technical University of Lisbon.

Macau Forum is headed by Secretary-General Xu Yinzhen of the Ministry of Commerce of China and has three deputy secretaries-general: Ding Tian nominated by China, Rodrigo Brum nominated by the eight Portuguese-speaking countries represented in the Forum, and Echo Chan nominated by the Macau Government.

Forum Macau was created in October 2003 by China under the Chinese Ministry of Commerce, with the aim of making the territory a platform for strengthening economic and trade cooperation with the Portuguese-speaking countries. **MDT/Macauhub**



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Honda Macau





# Macau can integrate Chinese and Western digital marketing, expert says

Julie Zhu

**A**T an industry event organized by the France Macau Business Association last Friday, Wild At Heart founder Lug Giroud said that Macau's digital marketing is very different from the rest of the world.

"Usually, you don't have such a big number of people that are going to use all the western tools and such a big proportion of people that are going to use all the Chinese tools," said Giroud, a digital marketing expert.

"This is [usually] going to be the main difference: if you are in Europe, you just use western tools, and when you are in China, you use Chinese tools," he said. "Here [in Macau], you should really do market studies and know exactly



Lug Giroud

who your clients are, because efforts, resources and money are going to be expended if you choose the wrong channel."

"For example, let's say that you are trying to target China. You are going to need WeChat. But we also need to use western tools because there are very

rich people, typically from Hong Kong, that don't use WeChat so much, and will be using Facebook [...] so you should really know who your clients are, and then you use the proper channels and tools."

WeChat has been criticized for poor protection of its customers' privacy, but Giroud expressed his confidence in the platform.

"I would say that I am pretty confident that WeChat is going to improve in this area, and sadly I think that there are not many things that you can do about it. I mean, if you are [in] business you really need to use WeChat [but it] does breach confidentiality."

Giroud noted that no company can be blamed for WeChat's flaws in protecting customer confidentiality, adding that if a company uses WeChat as part of its

digital marketing strategy, that company should safeguard its own interests. He said that WeChat has many good qualities even if the service is fundamentally flawed.

Giroud also shared his opinion on application preferences in Macau.

"In Macau, yes, I think you should [use WeChat] but in Hong Kong, not so much. Now it's a personal preference. If you will spend two hours per day on social media, you have enough time for WeChat; if you spend ten minutes, then Facebook is fine. It also depends who are going to be your colleagues, and your circle of friends," finished Giroud.

"For business, we are getting back to my first answer - basically, you need to identify [...] your target market. If it's Chinese people, you must use WeChat."

## Candidates suggest MOP10,000 for birth subsidies

The group Aliança de Bom Lar, which is running for the Legislative Assembly election, is calling through its political platform for a MOP10,000 birth subsidy. The list political platform is mainly focused on protecting women's and children's rights, as well as on pushing forward family development. The group also suggests the government provide MOP1 billion for supporting households' needs, and for improving the quality of life of every single member in a household. The group also hopes that the city can implement a five-day paid paternity leave, as well as extend the number of days of maternity leave.

## Members of HK, Macau electoral councils approved

China's legislature approved on Friday the member lists of the electoral councils that will elect deputies from the special administrative regions of Hong Kong and Macau to the 13th National People's Congress (NPC). A total of 1,989 people in Hong Kong and 481 in Macau were approved at the bimonthly session of the Standing Committee of the NPC, which ended Friday. Thirty-six deputies from Hong Kong and 12 deputies from Macau will be elected according to a plan released by the NPC Standing Committee this April. Current deputies will end their term in March 2018. The election of deputies to the 13th NPC shall be completed in January 2018.

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Sonia Sirletti

**N**OW that worries Italian banks will suffer a meltdown have subsided, lenders need to persuade investors they can make money.

Both optimistic buyers and more skeptical investors, gathered on the shores of Lake Como for the annual Ambrosetti Forum, agree that momentum for bank shares will depend mainly on an acceleration of economic growth and higher interest rates, while poor governance and business-model sustainability have become the main risks for the industry.

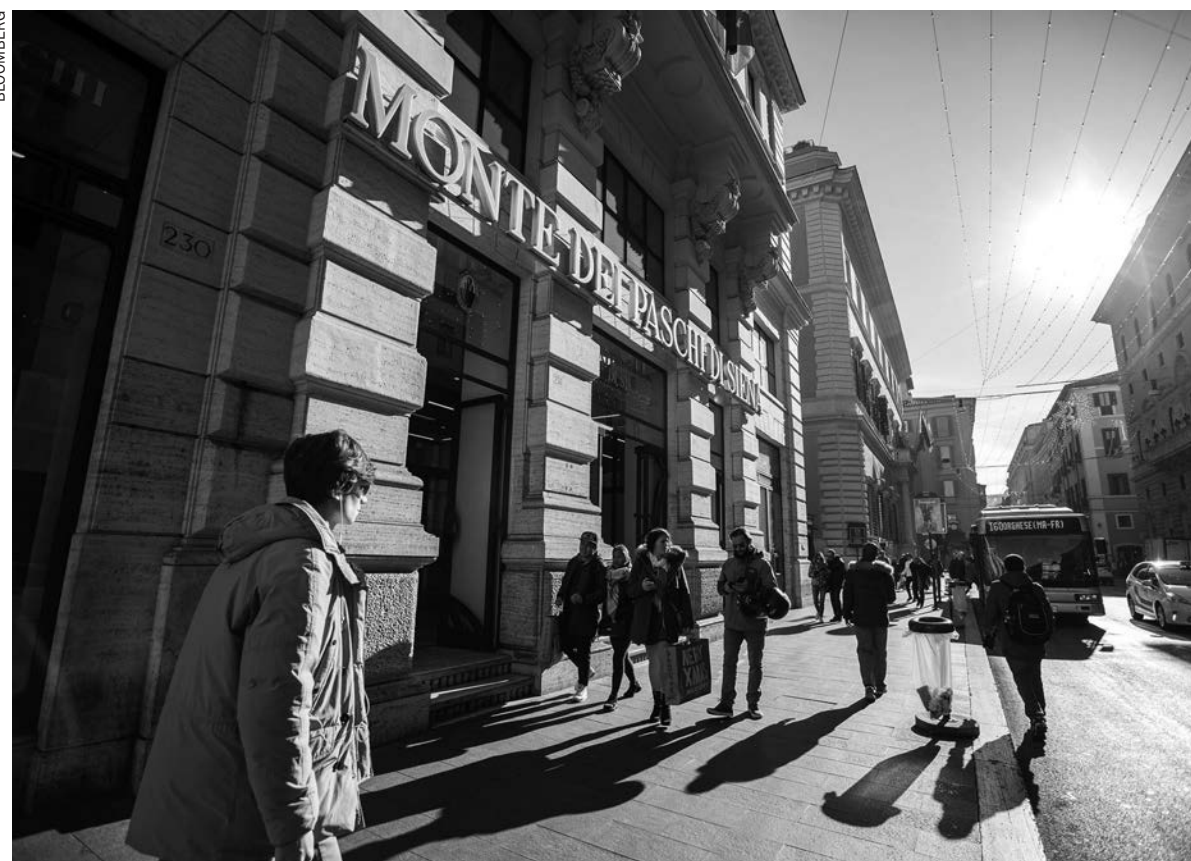
"The perception that systemic risk is over has supported shares in recent months and, looking forward, the ability of the country to exit from a sluggish path of recovery and expectations of higher interest rates will be a trigger to buy bank securities," Davide Serra, chief executive officer of Algebris Investments, said in an interview on the sidelines of the event in Cernobbio, Italy. "We are very positive on Italian banks."

London-based Algebris, which has 10 billion euros (USD12 billion) of assets under management has committed about 20 percent of its portfolio into Italian bank equity and credit, including holdings in lenders such as UniCredit SpA, Intesa Sanpaolo SpA and Banco BPM SpA.

In June, the government committed as much as 17 billion euros to wind down Banca Popolare di Vicenza SpA and Veneto Banca SpA, and a month later got EU approval to give 5.4 billion euros of aid to recapitalize Banca Monte dei Paschi di Siena SpA, thus addressing what were considered the main systemic risks for the banking industry. Since then, shares of Italian banks have jumped almost 8 percent compared with a 1 percent uptick in the Europe STOXX 600 Banks Index.

Italy has very strong fundamentals and its healthy econo-

# Italian banks have overcome systemic risk, finance elites say



mic growth is pushed by exports, consumers and investments, so "the core banking activity in Italy is actually quite profitable," said Jean Pierre Mustier, chief executive officer of UniCredit SpA, Italy's biggest bank.

Though still lagging behind euro-area peers, Italian economic recovery looked more convincing this year with gross domestic product expanding 0.4 percent in the second quarter and a rise in exports of Italian goods over the same period despite a stronger euro. GDP could expand 1.5 percent this year if the current pace of growth is confirmed for the rest of 2017, Italian statistics institute Istat said in August.

"Italy is showing concrete signals of an acceleration of eco-

mic growth which can spur banks' profitability," said Francesco Confuorti, chief executive officer of Advantage Financial SA, a Milan-based investment firm. "This may be a boost in the short term, but banks should use this positive environment to address their governance and improve their structure, cutting branches and costs."

Banks' operating profit for 2016 was down by 27 percent, mainly owing to a drop in income, Bank of Italy data shows. Italian banks' operating profit should rise this year helped by continued growth in economic activity and the slight increase in the slope of the yield curve, the central bank said in its stability report published in April. The report also pointed

out that the number will remain below 2015 levels unless action is taken to stop an increase in costs.

## ■ Banks' operating profit for 2016 was down by 27 percent, mainly owing to a drop in income

"Expectations of a brighter economic future present banks with a unique opportunity to address remaining issues to improve profitability and reduce costs," said

Banca Ifis SpA Chief Executive Officer Giovanni Bossi.

"The traditional commercial banking sector is not yet attractive for private investors," Giancarlo Aliberti, a partner at Paris-based private equity firm Apax Partners said. "Recent restructurings have solved the short-term problem of lack of capital and are very positive for the banking system, but banks still have an infrastructure and business model that generates profits below what a private equity investor needs, which means that only selected opportunities where short-term restructuring is feasible might be attractive."

Italian banking Association data shows subdued loan growth for the private sector, with loans to Italian residents up 1 percent at the end of June at 1.5 trillion euros. Banks have only increased lending to households, which as a whole have a low level of indebtedness, and to firms with high credit ratings, according to Bank of Italy reports.

While Italian banks have raised almost 30 billion euros of fresh money since 2014 to strengthen their balance sheets, they continue to be burdened with more than 170 billion euros of net non-performing loans.

The European banking system as a whole has a questionable level of capital and that could lead to problems in the next economic slowdown, said Jim McCaughan, CEO of Principal Global Investors, whose firm oversees more than \$420 billion in assets. "For many banks, prosperity is very dependent on continuity of the economic momentum," said McCaughan, who recommends staying underweight on the European banking sector. **Bloomberg**

## corporate bits

### K-POP GROUP TO BRING 'WINGS TOUR' TO MACAU



Live Nation has announced that the "2017 BTS Live Trilogy Episode III The Wings Tour In Macau" will take place on November 4 at The Venetian Macao's Cotai Arena.

Recently named "The 25 Most Influential People on the Internet" and awarded the "Billboard Music Awards Top Social Artist", BTS is a seven-member South Ko-

rean boy band under Big Hit Entertainment, formed by Jin, Suga, J-Hope, Rap Monster, Jimin, V and Jung Kook.

BTS' album "Wings" was one of 2016's top-selling albums in South Korea.

The album also reached No. 1 on 97 iTunes charts around the world and was No. 26 on the prestigious Billboard 200 albums chart, a record for a Korean artist.

Meanwhile their follow-up, "You Will Never Walk Alone" topped the Gaon Chart Album Sales and Digital Rankings for the first half of 2017 with a total of 729,295 album sales.

Tickets go on sale today at Cotai Ticketing, HK Ticketing and the Macau Kong Seng Ticketing Network.

### MGM HOLDS SEMINAR ON BELT & ROAD INITIATIVE



With the support of the Liaison Office, MGM has been hosting the "Seminar on the Belt & Road Initiative and Greater Bay Area Plan" at its Grand Ballroom yesterday

and today.

The two-day event's keynote speaker is Prof. Zhang Jianping, director general of the Center for Regional Economic Cooperation, Chinese

Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation (CAITEC) under the Ministry of Commerce of China.

According to a statement issued by the gaming operator, more than 300 team members from MGM's management are attending the event.

The seminar also offers the audience updates on the development of the Greater Bay Area.

The event kicked off yesterday with an opening speech by CEO and executive director of MGM China, Grant Bowie, who said: "This seminar enables our management staff to understand more details of the events and activities that will affect our future, so that we can play a role in achieving the best outcomes for Macau and the Greater China region."





Oil tankers pass along the road towards the capital Luanda, Angola

## Angola loses status as largest oil producer in Africa to Nigeria

ANGOLA was one of three member countries of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), whose output fell in July, along with Iraq and Venezuela, according to the August oil market monthly report.

Nigeria, on the other hand, was one of the three countries where production increased most, the other two being Libya and Saudi Arabia, and Nigerian production exceeded that of Angola according to both secondary and direct sources.

Angola's production in July increased, according to direct information, from 6,000 barrels

per day to 1,668 million barrels per day, but Nigeria's increased by 117,200 barrels per day to 1.674 million barrels per day.

According to secondary sources, Angola produced 19,300 barrels per day in July for a total of 1.646 million barrels per day, while Nigeria's production increased by 34,000 barrels per day to 1.748 million barrels per day.

Russia, Angola and Saudi Arabia in June were the three main oil suppliers to China, with market shares of 18%, 13% and 11%, respectively, with Chinese oil imports increasing by 28,000 barrels a day to an average of 8.8 million barrels per day. **MDT/Macauhub**

# Agreements between Brazil and China could represent USD9.9b in funding

THE 14 agreements signed during the official visit of Brazilian President Michel Temer to China to attend the BRICS summit meeting in Xiamen, Fujian province, could represent USD9.9 billion in investments and credit lines, according to Brazilian daily Estado de São Paulo.

The largest amount will be the result of the Brazilian Institute for the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (IBAMA) granting the environmental license for construction of the electric power transmission line between the Belo Monte dam in the State of Pará and the southeastern region of Brazil.

Brazil's ambassador to China, Marcos Caramuru, said in Beijing that the China State Grid group will invest \$3.5 billion to build the 2518-kilometre transmission line, which will be the longest in Brazil.

The second largest amount relates to the China Development Bank credit line to Brazil's National Bank for Economic and Social Development (BNDES).

The Brazilian ambassador also said



Xi Jinping (left) holds a welcome ceremony for Brazilian President Michel Temer before their talks in Beijing, Sept. 1

that there are agreements for the project of the Porto do Sul port, in Ilhéus and the Ferrovia de Integração Oeste-Leste (FIOL) railway, which will link that city to Caetité, both in the State of Bahia, over a distance of 500 km, with both projects valued at \$2.4 billion.

According to the ambassador, the agreement provides for a consortium of Chinese companies, Kazakhstan and the government of the State of Bahia to

compete for the projects, which are expected to be tendered in 2018.

The fourth largest amount concerns \$700 million in financing to be raised by the China Communication and Construction Company (CCCC) for construction of a private terminal at the port of São Luís (Maranhão State).

In the overall announced figure, the Brazilian ambassador included a credit line worth \$300 million that the Export-Import Bank of China may grant to Banco do Brasil.

The National Bank for Economic and Social Development and the China Export & Credit Insurance Corporation (Sinosure) have signed a document granting guarantees to Chinese companies doing business in Brazil. The Brazilian government had announced in advance the hiring of the China National Nuclear Corporation to evaluate the procedures necessary for conclusion of the Angra 3 nuclear power plant.

The president of Brazil also met with Xi Jinping, with the two presidents agreeing to extend bilateral strategic cooperation. **MDT/Macauhub**

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# Chinese oil lifeline to N. Korea targeted after nuclear blast

**E**VEN before North Korea detonated its most powerful nuclear bomb yet, Japan was calling for moves to cut off its oil supply.

Some sort of oil embargo is likely to come up as the international community discusses a response to the nuclear test, starting with a United Nations Security Council meeting today. China has resisted such a move in the past over fears that North Korea might collapse, but has grown increasingly frustrated with its rogue ally.

Still, while China might make a gesture to Trump in an effort to defuse his criticisms, it may not be the panacea the U.S. president is looking for, and do little in a practical sense to slow Kim down.

“A temporary or partial ban is possible, but the Chinese government will definitely refuse to cut off oil exports completely or permanently to North Korea,” said Shi Yinong, an adviser to China’s cabinet and international relations professor at Renmin University in Beijing. “If China agreed to cut off oil exports completely, China would use all its tools but not achieve any purpose, and the consequence could be costly.”

Since the Korean War, Beijing has avoided prodding North Korea to the point it might collapse, fearing a destabilizing economic blow and the possibility of the U.S. military gaining influence on its border via a unified Korea.

That calculation has held even while China’s interests have diverged from those of North Korea.

Relations between President Xi Jinping and Kim have been cool - a shift from prior leaderships in both countries - with state-run media occasionally sparring. Kim’s decision to conduct the nuclear test as China prepared to host leaders from the so-called BRICS nations was seen as a slight to Xi.

China supplies most of North Korea’s crude oil, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, but it’s hard to know exactly how much: China hasn’t reported any volumes in its published customs data since 2013. Based on reported volumes, North Korea’s oil use over an entire year would be less than the U.S. East Coast consumes in a single day.

Oil products are transported by North Korean tanker to the port of Nampo, near the capital Pyongyang, while crude oil is sent via an aging pipeline from the Chinese border city of Dandong, Reuters reported earlier this year. While other countries supply the regime with fuel, the total figures are suspected to be under-reported, according to the EIA.

Even if China did agree to ban all oil supplies, North Korea would likely have stockpiles to sustain critical operations for



North Korea leader Kim Jong Un (center)

months and could earn cash for its weapons programs from its remaining non-sanctioned exports, Rajiv Biswas, Asia-Pacific chief economist for IHS Markit, said in an email.

“These FX inflows may be sufficient to allow the North Korean ballistic missiles and nuclear weapons programs [to continue] operating,” he said. It would take a ban on all exports, a complete blockade of fuel and the elimination of remittances from North Korean workers abroad to bring North Korea to the negotiating table, he said.

North Korea’s oil consumption last year was paltry. It averaged 15,000 barrels a day, according to

an EIA estimate based on reported trade information, compared with almost 2.6 million barrels a day in South Korea and 12.5 million in China.

The agency estimates North Korea crude imports at about 10,000 barrels a day, all of which goes to its only operating refinery, the Ponghwa chemical facility, located near the Chinese border. China also reported sending 6,000 barrels a day of oil products to North Korea last year, according to the EIA, citing UN customs data. Figures from China’s General Administration of Customs shows those shipments include fuel oil, gasoline, diesel, jet fuel and lubricants.

China says it will only implement sanctions agreed by the UN. In February it banned purchases from North Korea of coal and iron ore for the rest of the year, and in August it supported the Security Council vote to tighten sanctions that targeted about a third of North Korea’s USD3 billion in exports. Around 90 percent of North Korea’s documented trade was with China in 2016.

Economists at Citigroup Inc. said the nuclear test could be the “red line” sufficient for China and Russia to back additional UN sanctions, including curbs on oil and energy exports. But it’s less clear if agreement can be reached for a complete embargo.

“It is also unclear if more sanctions would suffice to change North Korea regime behavior,” the Citigroup analysts wrote in a note.

An editorial in the Communist Party-affiliated Global Times on Sunday questioned if a ban would deter Kim.

“If China completely cuts off the supply of oil to North Korea or even closes the China-North Korea border, it is uncertain whether we can deter Pyongyang from conducting further nuclear tests and missile launches,” it said.

Any further sanctions against North Korea would be meaningless, said Shen Dingli, deputy dean of Fudan University’s Institute of International Studies in Shanghai.

“Sanctions would be more like gestures,” Shen said. “North Korea is engaged to develop nuclear weapons, and none of the two powers can change that.” **Bloomberg**

## TAIWAN

# Premier’s resignation puts spotlight on China ties

Ralph Jennings, Taipei

**T**aiwan’s premier tendered his resignation yesterday, raising the possibility of changes in the island’s troubled relationship with mainland China.

The Presidential Office said on its website that President Tsai Ing-wen reluctantly accepted Lin Chuan’s decision to resign after more than a year in office.

Tsai is to announce a successor today, with the official Central News Agency saying her pick will be William Lai, mayor of the southern city of Tainan.

Though described as a supporter of Taiwanese independence, Lai suggested seeking common ground with China ear-

lier in the year and said the ruling Democratic Progressive Party should approach Beijing with confidence.

China cut off contacts with Tsai’s government more than a year ago because of her refusal to endorse Beijing’s view that Taiwan is a part of China. The sides separated amid civil war in 1949 and China continues to threaten force to gain control over the island of 23 million people.

Government surveys since 2014 have found at least 70 percent of Taiwanese prefer autonomy from the Communist government in Beijing.

Tsai’s popularity rating dipped to 33 percent in June partly over per-

ceptions she had failed to manage foreign relations under pressure from China, which uses its economic power and global diplomatic clout to marginalize the island. Taiwan has lost two diplomatic allies to China in Tsai’s term to date.

At the same time, China is Taiwan’s top trading partner, with imports and exports totaling USD118 billion last year and billions of dollars invested by Taiwanese in the mainland since the 1990s.

Tainan city news department director Hsu Shu-fen declined to say whether Lai wanted the premier’s job, calling word about his appointment “news that hasn’t taken place yet.”

Lin had suffered from low popularity, with the independent Taiwanese Public Opinion Foundation putting his approval rating at 28.7 percent in May. Taiwan’s high-tech, export-driven economy has suffered in recent years from low growth and stagnant wages, particularly among young people.

Lin said at a news conference on Monday that he had asked the president in June to replace him before the 2018 elections so he could avoid getting involved in political issues.

“These aren’t things that fall within my interests,” he said.

Lin was hired as a “transitional figure” and had done all he could given his limited political



Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen

contacts, said Raymond Wu, managing director of Taipei-based political risk consultancy e-telligence. He oversaw pension reform, despite staunch opposition from government employees, and saw through the approval this year of a

\$13.9 billion plan to build infrastructure such as commuter railways and irrigation projects.

“He’s not really all that well connected in the Democratic Progressive Party,” Wu said. “He has fulfilled what he needed to get done.” **AP**



Louise Watt, Xiamen

**T**HE BRICS group of five major emerging economies called yesterday for reform of the United Nations and tougher measures against terrorist groups, while denouncing North Korea's latest nuclear test at a summit in China that seeks to enlarge the organization's presence on the world stage.

The nations — Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa—agreed in a joint declaration to strengthen cooperation against a range of organizations it described as terrorist, including some based in Pakistan, in a diplomatic victory for New Delhi.

The five also pledged their opposition to protectionism, a theme increasingly taken up by host Chinese President Xi Jinping as anti-globalization sentiment in the West poses a threat to China's vast export markets.

In the 43-page declaration, Xi, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Brazilian President Michel Temer and South African President Jacob Zuma said they would work together to improve global economic governance to foster "a more just and equitable international order."

They also strongly condemned North Korea's sixth — and most powerful — nuclear test that took place Sunday and has overshadowed the two-day BRICS summit in the port city of Xiamen that China is using as a showcase for its growing international status.

Preeti Saran, an official with India's Ministry of External Affairs, said each leader had referred to North Korea's nuclear test when they spoke during their meeting.

The declaration said the five emphasized that the issue should only be settled through "peaceful means and direct dialogue of all the parties concerned."

They called for "comprehensive reform" of the U.N. and the U.N. Security Council "with a view to making it more representative, effective and efficient, and to increase the representation of the developing countries so that it can adequately respond to global challenges."

No proposals on specific reforms were offered.

China, the world's second largest economy, wants BRICS to play a more important role in international affairs. But some observers suggest the group's influence is waning given the ongoing political and economic rivalry between China and India and the economic woes faced by Brazil, Russia and South Africa.

In addressing terrorism, the declaration named organizations including the Pakistan-based militant groups Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad, the Islamic State group and al-Qaida.

Saran said it was the first time there had been a specific listing of alleged terrorist groups in a BRICS document, calling that "a very



A plenary session of the BRICS Summit is held in Xiamen yesterday

# BRICS countries urge UN reform, cooperation on terrorism

important development."

China, a key ally of Pakistan, has repeatedly blocked India's attempts to have the leader of Jaish-e-Mohammad, Masood Azhar, put on a U.N. Security Council terror blacklist. India has accused archrival Pakistan of harboring and training militants to launch attacks on its soil.

China is a veto-wielding permanent member of the Security Council and has been seen as using that clout to gain an edge in its political and economic rivalry with India. The nuclear-armed Asian giants recently ended a 10-week border standoff high in the Himalayas that re-awakened memories of their 1962 frontier war,

**BRICS's influence is waning given the ongoing rivalry between China and India and the economic woes faced by Brazil, Russia and South Africa**

paving the way for Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to attend the BRICS summit in China.

Saran denied any connection between China's agreement to list the Pakistan-based organizations and the withdrawal of Indian troops from the contested Himalayan area last week.

"This is a multilateral forum with five sovereign countries. There is no linkage to any other development," she said.

At earlier BRICS summits, China balked at India raising Pakistan-sponsored terrorism allegations and defended its ally's role in countering terrorism, said Sreeram Chaulia, dean of the Jindal School of International Affairs near New Delhi.

The inclusion of the two Pakistan-based groups in the declaration shows that "India has finally succeeded in persuading all BRICS members that Islamist fundamentalists pose a universal threat," Chaulia said.

That came despite comments by Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying on Thursday that China did not consider Pakistan's counter-terrorism efforts to be an "appropriate topic" at the summit.

Saran said Modi and Putin discussed oil and gas cooperation and how to promote trade and investment between their two nations. Xi and Modi are expected to hold a meeting on the sidelines of the summit tomorrow.

The declaration also expressed concern about the Haqqani network that is active in Afghanistan, and the Eastern Turkistan Islamic Movement, accused by Beijing of fomenting unrest in China's northeastern region of Xinjiang.

The declaration said nations should unite to fight terrorist groups in accordance with the principles of international law, but emphasized the importance of not interfering in the sovereign affairs of individual states.

Xi announced in his opening address yesterday that China would set aside 500 million yuan (USD76 million) for economic and technological cooperation and exchanges among BRICS countries, and \$4 million to support the BRICS' New Development Bank.

The figure was much smaller than the 780 billion yuan (\$120 billion) that Xi pledged at a summit in May for his own signature initiative, the "One Belt, One Road" project to boost connections between China, Europe and Africa. AP



President Xi Jinping (center) gestures as he stands with Russian President Vladimir Putin (left) and Xi's wife Peng Liyuan (right) as they wait for a family photo





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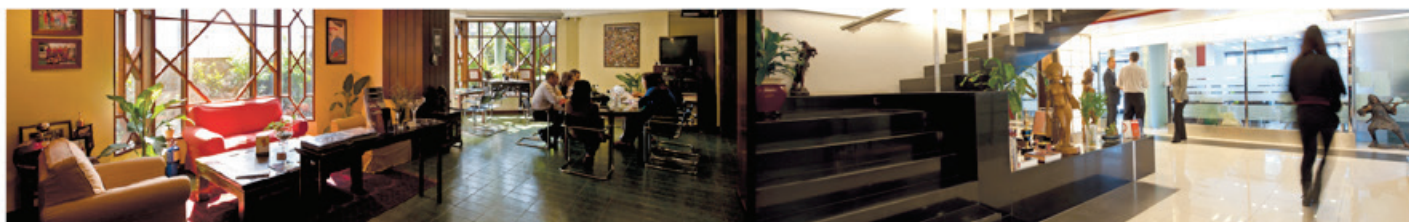
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Foster Klug & Youkyung Lee, Seoul

**F**OLLOWING U.S. warnings to North Korea of a “massive military response,” South Korea fired missiles into the sea to simulate an attack on the North’s main nuclear test site yesterday, a day after North Korea detonated its largest-ever nuclear test explosion.

South Korea’s Defense Ministry also said that North Korea appeared to be planning a future missile launch, possibly of an ICBM, to show off its claimed ability to target the United States with nuclear weapons, though it was unclear when this might happen.

The heated words from the United States and the military maneuvers in South Korea are becoming familiar responses to North Korea’s rapid, as-yet unchecked pursuit of a viable arsenal of nuclear-tipped missiles that can strike the United States. The most recent, and perhaps most dramatic, advance came Sunday in an underground test of what leader Kim Jong Un’s government claimed was a hydrogen bomb, the North’s sixth nuclear test since 2006.

The United Nations Security Council planned to hold its second emergency meeting about North Korea in a week today [Macau time] to discuss responses to the test.

In Seoul, Chang Kyung-soo, an official with South Korea’s Defense Ministry, told lawmakers on Monday that it was seeing preparations in the North for an ICBM test but didn’t provide details about how officials had reached that assessment. Chang also said the yield from the latest nuclear detonation appeared to be about 50 kilotons, which would mark a “significant increase” from North Korea’s past nuclear tests.

In a series of tweets, U.S. President Donald Trump threatened to halt all trade with countries doing business with North Korea, a warning to China, and faulted South Korea for what he called “talk of appeasement.”

In response, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang, told reporters in Beijing yesterday that China regarded as “unacceptable a situation in which on the one hand we work to resolve this issue peacefully but on the other hand our own interests are subject to sanctions and jeopardized. This is neither objective nor fair.”

South Korea’s military said its live-fire exercise was meant to “strongly warn” North Korea. The drill involved F-15 fighter jets and the country’s land-based “Hyunmoo” ballistic missiles firing into the Sea of Japan.

The target was set considering the distance to North Korea’s test site and the exercise was aimed at practicing precision strikes and cutting off reinforcements, Seoul’s Joint Chiefs of Staff said.



In this photo provided by the South’s Defense Ministry, a Hyunmoo II ballistic missile is fired during an exercise at an undisclosed location in South Korea yesterday

KOREAN CRISIS

# South simulates attack on North’s nuke site after test

Each new North Korean missile and nuclear test gives the country’s scientists invaluable information that allows big jumps in capability. North Korea is thought to have a growing arsenal of nuclear bombs and has spent decades trying to perfect a multistage, long-range missile to eventually carry smaller versions of those bombs.

Both diplomacy and severe sanctions have failed to check the North’s decades-long march to nuclear mastery.

In Washington, Trump, asked by a reporter if he would attack North Korea, said, “We’ll see.” No U.S. military action appeared imminent, and the immediate focus appeared to be on ratcheting up economic penalties, which have had little effect thus far.

In brief remarks after a White House meeting with Trump and other national security officials, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis told reporters that America does not seek the “total annihilation” of North Korea, but then added somberly, “We have many options to do so.”

Mattis said the U.S. will answer any threat from the North with a “massive military response — a response both effective and overwhelming.”

Mattis also said the international community is unified in demanding the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and that Kim should know Washington’s commitment to Japan and South Korea is unshakeable.

The precise strength of North Korea’s underground nuclear

explosion has yet to be determined. South Korea’s weather agency said the artificial earthquake caused by the explosion was five times to six times stronger than tremors generated by the North’s previous five tests.

Sunday’s detonation builds on recent North Korean advances that include test launches in July of two ICBMs. The North says its missile development is part of a defensive effort to build a viable nuclear deterrent that can target U.S. cities.

## ■ The South’s military said its live-fire exercise was meant to ‘strongly warn’ North Korea

North Korea has made a stunning jump in progress in its nuclear and missile programs since Kim rose to power following his father’s death in late 2011. The North followed its two tests of Hwasong-14 ICBMs, which, when perfected, could target large parts of the United States, by threatening to launch a salvo of Hwasong-12 intermediate range missiles toward the U.S. Pacific island territory of Guam in August.

It flew a Hwasong-12 over northern Japan last week, the first such overflight by a missile po-

tentially capable of carrying nuclear weapons, in a launch Kim described as a “meaningful prelude” to containing Guam, the home of major U.S. military facilities, and vowed to launch more ballistic missile tests targeting the Pacific.

Ahead of the North’s test, photos released by the North Korean government showed Kim talking with his lieutenants as he observed a silver, peanut-shaped device that was purportedly a thermonuclear weapon destined for an ICBM. The images were taken without outside journalists present and could not be independently verified. What appeared to be the nose cone of a missile could also be seen in one photo, and another showed a diagram on the wall behind Kim of a bomb mounted inside a cone.

The Arms Control Association in the United States said the explosion appeared to produce a yield in excess of 100 kilotons of TNT equivalent, which it said strongly suggests North Korea tested a high-yield but compact nuclear weapon that could be launched on a missile of intermediate or intercontinental range.

Beyond the science of the blast, North Korea’s accelerating push to field a nuclear weapon that can target all of the United States is creating political complications for the U.S. as it seeks to balance resolve with reassurance to allies that Washington will uphold its decades-long commitment to deter nuclear attack on South Korea and Japan.

That is why some questioned Trump’s jab at South Korea. He tweeted that Seoul is finding that its “talk of appeasement” will not work. The North Koreans, he added, “only understand one thing,” implying military force might be required. The U.S. has about 28,000 troops stationed in South Korea and is obliged by treaty to defend it in the event of war.

Trump also suggested putting more pressure on China, North Korea’s patron for many decades and a vital U.S. trading partner, in hopes of persuading Beijing to exert more effective leverage on its neighbor. Trump tweeted that the U.S. is considering “stopping all trade with any country doing business with North Korea.” Such a halt would be radical. The U.S. imports about USD40 billion in goods a month from China, North Korea’s main commercial partner.

Experts have questioned whether North Korea has gone too far down the nuclear road to continue pushing for a denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, an Obama administration policy goal still embraced by Trump’s White House.

“Denuclearization is not a viable U.S. policy goal,” said Richard Fontaine, president of the Center for a New American Security, but neither should the U.S. accept North Korea as a nuclear power, he said. “We should keep denuclearization as a long-term aspiration, but recognize privately that it’s unachievable anytime soon.” AP



## ANALYSIS

# South Koreans worry N. Korean nukes will damage US alliance

Foster Klug, Seoul

U.S. President Donald Trump took to Twitter following North Korea's strongest-ever nuclear test explosion to criticize both Korea and China. But his tweets will get as much attention in Asia for what's missing as for their tough words.

Following the clearest sign yet that North Korea is fast approaching a viable arsenal of nuclear-tipped missiles capable of hitting the U.S. mainland, Trump again skipped what for decades has been the bedrock of U.S. policy on the Korean Peninsula: A firm assurance that the United States would defend South Korea against any attack.

This feeds a growing worry that has many in South Korea and Japan asking a startling question. Could Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un want the same thing, namely a separation, or "decoupling," of the decades-old security alliance between the United States and its top Asian allies, South Korea and Japan?

The White House has occasionally issued statements in which Trump has repeated what past presidents regularly declared about the U.S. commitment to defend its Asian allies. But his public comments on the alliance have more often reflected deep skepticism — and skipped any security reassurance.

Trump, for instance, previously questioned the expensive stationing of U.S. troops in South Korea and Japan, and suggested that Seoul and Tokyo pursue nukes themselves, instead of relying on the so-called U.S. nuclear umbrella. Trump also appears to be taking a shot at another pillar of the U.S.-South Korean alliance, a hard-fought free trade deal, by considering triggering a withdrawal from the agreement, a U.S. business lobbying group said over the weekend.

Then came Trump's five tweets after the nuclear test which criticized North Korea's main ally and aid provider, China, for failing to contain the North; South Korea's liberal president for "talk of appeasement" (despite what many see as a consistent hard line toward the North's weapons tests) and, of course, "rogue" North Korea.

Nowhere did he seek to reassure a frazzled South Korea that the United States would have its back if attacked.

This matters because North Korea's relentless pursuit of nukes is seen by many analysts



less as a way to beat the United States in a war than as a way to separate Washington from its Asian allies. The goal is to cause the United States to seriously consider whether it's worthwhile to fulfill its treaty obligations by treating an attack on Seoul as it would an attack on San Francisco.

## ■ Trump's public comments on the [U.S.-South Korea] alliance have often reflected deep skepticism; and skipped any security reassurance

Ironclad U.S. vows of protection were easier before North Korea's recent demonstrations that it may be very close to actually being able to hit San Francisco and other parts of the United States with nuclear missiles.

"What people in South Korea worry about most is whether the United States will defend South Korea at a time when the U.S. mainland is under threat

[by North Korean missiles]. If you look at what Trump said now, the answer seems to be no," said Shin Hee-Seok, a graduate student in international law at Seoul's Yonsei University. "While it still remains a fringe opinion, some South Koreans are wondering if we should now build our own nuclear deterrent. If the U.S. is not a reliable ally, South Korea may have to think about Plan B."

The possibility of losing the free trade deal seemed for some here yet another hit to the alliance.

"The United States now is not the United States we used to know," the Chosun Ilbo, South Korea's largest daily newspaper, said in an editorial. "The president prioritizes dollars over the alliance."

Some see a not-too-distant future where North Korea's pos-

session of dozens of nuclear-tipped ICBMs allows it to attack Seoul or Tokyo without U.S. intervention because of American fears that North Korean retaliation could kill millions in American cities.

"I'm worried about whether the U.S. is really serious about defending its ally, South Korea, or if it's putting its own national interest first," said Woo Young-soo, a law lecturer at a university in Seoul. "As a true ally, I wish Trump would have a defense policy that is truly meant for South Korea."

Others believe North Korea can still be checked with firm statements from Washington that make clear how strongly the United States will respond if its allies are attacked. Because Kim Jong Un cares deeply about keeping power, this argument goes, he won't risk an attack if an overwhelming U.S. response seems more likely than not.

Trump's experienced lieutenants have sought to signal this. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said all the right things after the test when he repeated what Seoul and Tokyo long to hear — that Washington's commitment to them is unshakeable.

"A lot of reassurance comes down to trust," Colin Kahl, a Georgetown University professor and former Obama administration national security official, said in a Twitter thread. "Our allies have to 'believe' we would trade San Francisco for Seoul or Toledo for Tokyo if push comes to shove. Yet instead of reassuring our democratic allies in East Asia, Trump has done the opposite."

"Undermining alliance solidarity at this moment is dumb and dangerous. It emboldens Pyongyang, increases the risk of [North Korean] miscalculation [and] potentially incentivizes [South Korea] and Japan to seek their own independent nuclear arsenals," Kahl wrote. AP

## Beijing says Trump's trade threat 'unacceptable'

CHINA yesterday criticized President Donald Trump's threat to cut off U.S. trade with countries that deal with North Korea and rejected pressure to do more to halt the North's nuclear development.

Trump issued the threat after North Korea on Sunday exploded a thermonuclear device in its sixth and most powerful nuclear test. The threat was seen as a warning to China, North Korea's main trading partner and only major ally.

A foreign ministry spokesman, Geng Shuang, criticized Trump's stance as unfair to Beijing.

"What is definitely unacceptable to us is that on the one hand we work so hard to peacefully resolve this issue and on the other hand our interests are subject to sanctions and jeopardized," Geng said at a regular news briefing. "This is unfair."

Such an approach would be drastic if applied to China, from which the Uni-

ted States imports goods worth about \$40 billion a month.

Trump said it was under consideration "in addition to other options."

Asked whether Beijing would support tougher U.N. sanctions such as cutting off oil supplies to North Korea, Geng didn't mention oil but said whatever happened would depend on discussions among council members. Geng said China, one of five permanent Security Council members with power to veto U.N. actions, would take part in a "responsible and constructive way."

Geng expressed frustration at Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull's comment that Beijing had a responsibility to influence North Korea due to its status as the North's main trading partner.

"We keep stressing that we cannot solely rely on China to resolve this issue," said Geng. "We need all parties to work in the same direction." AP



HURRICANE

# Harvey damage testing Texas infrastructure

**T**HE damage Harvey wrought on Texas is testing the state's infrastructure like never before, challenging regulators, politicians and others on several fronts in the hurricane's aftermath. Experts say wastewater treatment plants sprawled across Houston and Southeast Texas are facing unprecedented challenges, with ramifications for human safety and the environment well after the floodwaters eventually recede.

There have been several dozen sewer overflows, private septic tanks in rural areas could fail and the system also faces contamination from spilled fuel, waste site runoff, lawn pesticides and pollutants from petroleum refineries and chemical plants.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said Sunday that of the 2,300 water systems contacted by federal and state regulators, 1,514 were fully operational. More than 160 systems issued notices advising people to boil water before drinking it, and 50 were shut down.



### POLITICS OF DISASTER RELIEF

The demand for federal disaster relief funds comes as the Treasury Department has been using various accounting measures to cover expenses because the debt limit has already been reached.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said Sunday that Congress should combine a USD7.9 billion disaster relief package for Harvey with an increase in the

nation's \$19.9 trillion borrowing limit. Before Harvey, Mnuchin had said Congress would need the limit to be raised by Sept. 29 to let the government keep borrowing money to pay bills such as Social Security and interest.

"Without raising the debt limit, I'm not comfortable that we would get the money that we need this month to Texas to rebuild," Mnuchin said.

President Donald Trump ex-

pressed hope for quick action on relief aid when he visited storm-ravaged areas over the weekend. The aid request would add \$7.4 billion to Federal Emergency Management Agency disaster aid and \$450 million to finance disaster loans for small businesses.

### PREACHING TO PAIN

Each day is now a flurry for a church of unconventional priests perhaps made for this unconventional time.

At the Catholic Charismatic Center south of downtown Houston, the Rev. Mark Goring is in a race to help meet spiritual and material needs at a time when people who come in are searching for all kinds of help.

The lobby of the church is a swarm of volunteers at tables full of donations for the storm's victims. Meanwhile, he bounces from the church to the community center to the streets, looking for signs of need so he can send teams of volunteers to help.

### DISPLACED PETS

Their owners in Houston didn't

want to give them up, but felt they had no choice.

So volunteers from PAWS Chicago drove three vans with 43 cats and dogs about 1,600 kilometers to give the pets new homes, according to the Chicago Sun-Times. Volunteer Mark Lukas says the owners were tearful but happy the animals would find shelter.

### WANT TO HELP? HERE'S HOW

Charities and philanthropy experts say the best way to help during times of disaster is to send money directly through a website.

That gets the funds to charity faster than a text donation, even though the text might seem easier. And while sending clothes and other supplies can be a natural urge, household items can complicate and hinder relief efforts, experts say.

The U.S. Center for Disaster Information says unsolicited goods generally compete with priority items for transportation and storage. AP

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## what's ON



FLOAT INTO THE FLOW - THE EXHIBITION OF SOU CHON KIT

TIME: 1pm-7pm (Closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: September 17, 2017

VENUE: Artistry of Wind Box Community

Development Association, Rua Tomas Vieira 3A R/C

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 6685 9215

ABSTRACT PAINTINGS FROM THE MAM COLLECTION

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

UNTIL: September 17, 2017

VENUE: Macau Art Museum

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

## Offbeat

## ZOZOBRA GETS POLITICAL: FLAMES LICK UP PEOPLE'S FEARS IN RITUAL EFFIGY BURNING



High anxiety about White House politics, hurricane flooding and even the threat of nuclear war with North Korea is adding an extra spark to the annual burning of a giant, ghostly marionette that serves as an effigy to gloom and doom.

The ritual burning of Zozobra attracted tens of thousands of revelers last week to a Santa Fe city park for a mixture of wholesome and ghoulish fun.

Inside the six-story puppet are reams of crumpled, handwritten notes about recent troubles and travails that people hope to leave behind. Worries this year included a combustible mix of disenchantment with politics and preoccupation over natural and manmade disasters.

In preparation for the burning, Holly Garcia, a 39-year-old homemaker, stuffed several notes into a slotted "gloom box" at a shopping center.

The first was about a hospitalized sister and a brother recovering from brain surgery. Then came a note about the U.S. president, and a hand-scrawled prayer for friends and former neighbors besieged by floods in League City, Texas — a community sandwiched between Houston and the Gulf of Mexico.

"I put down, 'Get rid of Donald Trump!'" said Garcia, while still counting her blessings. "I'm very blessed personally, my immediate family."

Yinka Adeniji, a 40-year-old technology consultant, said he wanted to join others in washing away all internal feelings of bad will and also perhaps get rid of an inept U.S. political system and start from scratch.

"I think it's going to take a lot more than Zozobra," he said. "We're a country that doesn't want to care for its people."

The invention of Will Shuster — a painter from Philadelphia who migrated to the Southwest — Zozobra was first built and ignited in 1924, adding a madcap celebration to a Santa Fe's weeklong community "fiestas" that include historic and religious processions. The festival's name was derived from a Spanish word for anguish.

Modern pyrotechnics have transformed the nighttime burning, now preceded by hours of live music and performances on an adjacent stage. A team of a dozen puppeteers heaves on cords to flex the groaning marionette's arms, head and jaw.

The spectacle appeals to people's "better angels" in a year marked by disaster and political upheaval, said Ray Sandoval, who organizes Zozobra for the local Kiwanis Club to raise money for youth charities.

He spied credit card bills and a paid-off mortgage papers among the messages in the Zozobra stuffing this year — along with worries about nuclear war.

"We're getting a lot of political messages to be quite honest," Sandoval said. "People are really worried about the path of the country and their leadership. There are a lot of them that are more hopeful for the country."

## TV canal macau



12:50	AL elections campaign
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	AL elections campaign
15:00	RTPi Live
19:10	The Brazilians (Repeated)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:25	Camilo Pessanha 150 years
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	AL elections campaign
21:10	Miscellaneous
21:30	Grimm Sr. 1
22:10	The Brazilians
22:50	AL elections campaign
23:00	TDM News
23:30	2018 FIFA World Cup qualification - Highlights
23:50	Miscellaneous
00:25	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:05	RTPi Live

## cinema



## CINETEATRO

30 AUG - 6 SEP

## CRAYON SHINCHAN MOVIE 2017

ROOM 1

2:30, 7:30pm

Director: Masakazu Hashimoto

Starring: Tamao Hayashi, Tôru Hotohara, Teiyû Ichiryûsai

Language: Cantonese

Duration: 107min



## THE ADVENTURERS

ROOM 1

4:30, 9:30pm

Director: Stephen Fung

Starring: Andy Lau, Shu Qi, Zhang Jingchu

Language: English

Duration: 131min



## THE DARK TOWER

ROOM 2

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

Director: Nikolaj Arcel

Starring: Idris Elba, Matthew McConaughey, Tom Taylor

Language: English

Duration: 132min

## A DOG'S PURPOSE

ROOM 2

7:45pm

Director: Lasse Hallstrom

Starring: Josh Gad, Dennis Quaid, Brit Robertson

Language: English

Duration: 95min

## DANGAL

ROOM 3

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

Director: Nitesh Tiwari

Starring: Aamir Khan, Sakshi Tanwar, Fatima Sana Shaikh

Language: Hindi (Chinese & English)

Duration: 164min

## this day in history



## 1997 MOTHER TERESA DIES

Mother Teresa, the Nobel Peace Prize winner who devoted her life to helping the sick and the poor, has died at the age of 87.

She died of a heart attack at the headquarters of the Missionaries of Charity in Calcutta shortly before 1700 BST.

The nun from Skopje, Macedonia, had been battling ill health for some years, and in March stepped down as head of the order of nuns she founded.

She was revered by many around the world as a living saint for her work with the dispossessed.

The Pope often praised her work and a Vatican spokesman told reporters he was "deeply hurt" by the news of her death.

"The Pope believes she is a woman who has left her mark on the history of this century," he said.

The head of the Catholic church in England and Wales, Cardinal Hume, said she was an "enormously significant figure - everyone knows who Mother Teresa is".

Born Agnes Bojaxhiu in Skopje, then part of the Ottoman Empire later Macedonia, she took the name Sister Teresa in Ireland, where she began her training as a nun with the Loreto Sisters.

She founded her order in 1948 and went out to work in the slums of Calcutta.

She was sometimes accused by Hindus in her adopted country of trying to convert the poor to Catholicism by "stealth" and criticised by liberals who disliked her conservative stance on abortion and contraception.

But her biographer and friend Navin Chana said she would be remembered as someone who "gave the word compassion a new dimension".

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

Tens of thousands of people lined the route of Mother Teresa's funeral procession in Calcutta a week later.

Her successor as head of the Missionaries of Charity was Sister Nirmala.

In 1997 the order which Mother Teresa had run for almost half a century was 4,000-strong and established in 130 countries. It cared for 7,000 children and treated about four million sick people each year.



YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 After dealing with someone else's secrets lately, you're all warmed up to deal with your own. Right? Well, if you're not, the least you can do for yourself is to find someone you trust implicitly.

Taurus April 20-May 20 When it comes time to tell someone a secret, most people who know you turn to you, for several reasons. First off, it takes quite a bit to shock you. Second, you're completely trustworthy - and also quite wise.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You'd much rather spend money than keep track of it. In your mind, that's what monthly bank statements are for - and that's why the heavens invented accountants.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Every so often, you wake up and find yourself smack dab in the middle of a day when everyone seems to be out for one thing and one thing only: to be pleasant to each other, which is the way you are every day.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 It's up to you now to figure out what those coincidences and dreams are all about. You know you can do it. If anyone is an expert at unraveling such things for others, it's you. Do it for yourself now.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Sometimes you have to believe - you know, have a little faith. Scientists provide us with a lot of answers, but you of all people know there's more to life than what science has to offer.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Relationships are complicated. There's just no way they can't be. So when someone comes along who's very different, you often spend more time than you probably should worrying about those differences.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 For some reason, you've been thinking a lot lately about either going back to school on a regular basis or just taking a class or two that will add to your already impressive resume.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You do love to chat - there's no arguing that fact. But the one thing you actually love more is taking action. So now you can see the possibility of making a positive change happen.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Before you board that plane or hop in your car, be sure the person you trust most is in charge of everything. You won't be able to enjoy yourself or concentrate on the task at hand if you don't.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 The best part of socializing with your peers is that you often run into people who are on the same career path - or on paths that necessarily cross every now and then.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Being brazen has its advantages. First of all, it's extremely appealing to prospective suitors and an absolute magnet for friends. It's fire, and whether it's in a fireplace or a person's attitude doesn't matter.

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.

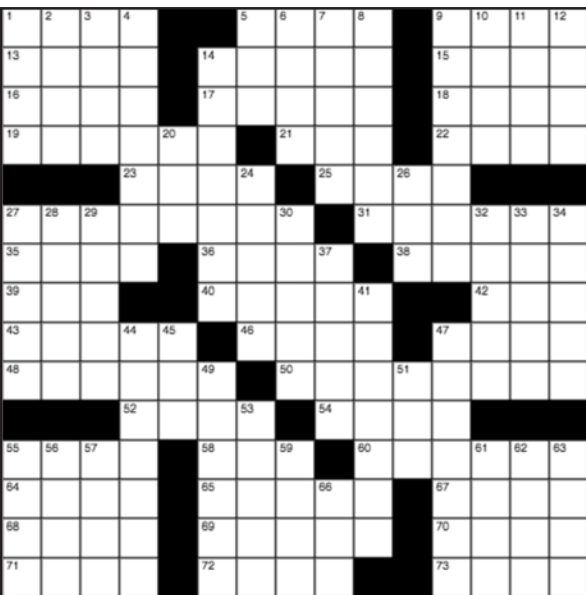
WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Farming prefix; 5- Strong cotton; 9- Recipe amt.; 13- Not kosher; 14- Take \_\_\_ at (try); 15- Expectant desire; 16- Willingly; 17- \_\_\_ Park, Colo.; 18- Intestinal sections; 19- Blue dye; 21- Lacto-\_\_\_ vegetarian; 22- Tiered shelves; 23- Tins; 25- Energy units; 27- Root of Apium graveolens; 31- Conflict; 35- Loud, deep utterance, especially used by lions; 36- Hebrew month; 38- Disinfectant brand; 39- Double curve; 40- Identified; 42- Faulkner's "\_\_\_ Lay Dying"; 43- Beethoven's "\_\_\_ Solemnis"; 46- Head of France; 47- Worry; 48- Adequate; 50- Ball game; 52- Scottish refusals; 54- Film spool; 55- Bahrain bigwig; 58- Sighs of relief; 60- Foreigners; 64- Ricky's portrayer; 65- Portals; 67- Nautically sheltered; 68- LAX guesstimates; 69- Spooky; 70- Elation; 71- Short letter; 72- Historic Scott; 73- Consumes;

DOWN: 1- King of the Huns; 2- Broad smile; 3- Oboe, e.g.; 4- Constable; 5- Letter addenda; 6- Sock \_\_\_ mel; 7- "Circle of Friends" author Binchy; 8- Soak up; 9- Parched; 10- Gaucho's weapon; 11- Blueprint detail, for short; 12- Highest point; 14- Eternal; 20- Long-jawed fish; 24- Begin's co-Nobel; 26- Guy's counterpart; 27- \_\_\_ de menthe; 28- Red fluorescent dye; 29- Cow catcher; 30- Humped ruminant; 32- Autocratic Russian rulers; 33- Misplaces; 34- Best of a group; 37- Pave over; 41- Die; 44- Morning; 45- Turkish honorific; 47- Leafage; 49- Directed a course; 51- Fam. reunion attendee; 53- Blacksmith, at times; 55- Utopia; 56- Take \_\_\_ your leader; 57- The wolf \_\_\_ the door; 59- Achy; 61- Fitzgerald of jazz; 62- Nair rival; 63- Goes out with; 66- Purge;



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## FOOTBALL | WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS

# Amid war, Syria hopes to reach World Cup for first time

Albert Aji And Bassem Mroue, Damascus

IN the midst of a long-running and ruinous war, millions of Syrians may finally have something to be joyful about.

Syria's national soccer team has a chance to qualify for next year's World Cup — what would be the Arab nation's first ever appearance in the sport's most prestigious event. The team, referred to by many Syrians as the "Qasioun Eagles" after a mountain overlooking the capital Damascus, has been on an impressive run despite being forced to play all its games in other countries.

The Syrians beat Qatar 3-1 last week in Malaysia, moving into third place in Group A of Asian qualifying. The top two finishers in the six-team group will automatically qualify for next year's tournament in Russia, while the third-place team will enter a playoff.

If the Syrians beat Iran in Tehran in their final group match today, they will be guaranteed to finish at least third. But Syria could finish second and qualify directly depending on the result

AP PHOTO



of the match between South Korea and Uzbekistan.

"Our team is ready to achieve victory and qualify Syria for the first time to the World Cup," Muwaffaq Fathallah, the chief administrator of the Syrian team, said by telephone from the Iranian capital. "We want the Syrian people to be happy."

The qualification would come as a welcome surprise for millions across the war-torn country,

which has been devastated by the conflict. More than 400,000 people have been killed and half the country's prewar population displaced since the conflict erupted in March 2011. It will also be a boost for President Bashar Assad, who is eager to project strength and normalcy on the world stage while his forces continue to recapture territory on the ground.

The war has negatively impac-

ted the country's soccer industry, the country's most popular sport. As the nation descended into conflict, sports stadiums were trashed and many of the national team's players moved to Arab or Asian countries to play.

The national team is made up of government-approved supporters, although at least one player was an opposition activist. Striker Firas al-Khatib, who was often seen attending fundraising

events for the opposition during his years in exile, returned to Damascus last month for the first time in five years, receiving a VIP welcome at the airport.

The team's captain, Ahmad al-Saleh, plays for Chinese club Henan Jianye, while Omar Khribin, who scored a goal in each half against Qatar, plays for Saudi Arabian team Al-Hilal. Al-Soma, who recently joined the national team, plays for Saudi club Al-Ahli.

Al-Khatib, who played for Kuwaiti team Qadsia and later Al-Arabi, will be returning to his mother club of Al-Karamah in the central city of Homs.




Syrian state news agency SANA said the national team began its training in Tehran on Saturday in preparation for today's match against Iran.



In the Syrian capital yesterday, workers were setting up giant screens in at least three squares for public viewing, while businessmen will be offering food and drinks for those planning to watch. State-run television, which is planning to broadcast the game live, has lined up special programs for the event.

The politics of Syria's run has not been lost on anyone.

For Syria to qualify for the World Cup in Russia, its chief international ally, it must defeat Iran, its regional political ally. Both countries have provided crucial political and military support to shore up Assad's forces in the war. **AP**

AD

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<p>horário/schedule: Segundas Mondays 18h30 - 21h30</p>	<p>início/starts: 11/09/2017 fim/finishes: 04/12/2017 total: 36 horas/hours 12 sessões/sessions propina/fee: MOP 1080 *</p>
<p>patrocínio/sponsor: Fundação Macau</p>	
<p>lingua/language: Português/Portuguese ** local/venue: Avenida do Dr. Francisco Vieira Machado nº 431 - 487 Edf. Industrial Nam Fung 13º andar D, sala 1, Macau número máximo de participantes/maximum number of participants: 8 (Será respeitada a ordem de inscrição sendo esta efetiva mediante o pagamento de propina). 8 (The registration order will be respected and registration is considered when payment is done).</p>	
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AP PHOTO



FOOTBALL | WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS

# Switzerland wins 8th straight game, Portugal stays close

Tales Azzoni, AP Sports Writer

**SWITZERLAND** extended its perfect record in World Cup qualifying by defeating Latvia 3-0 yesterday for its eighth straight victory, while Cristiano Ronaldo's Portugal edged 10-man Hungary 1-0 to stay close at the top of Group B.

With two games left, Switzerland has 24 points, three more than defending European champion Portugal. Third-place Hungary stayed on 10 points and is out of contention.

An Oct. 10 showdown between Portugal and Switzerland in Lisbon will likely decide which team wins the group to automatically qualify for the 2018 World Cup in Russia. Three days earlier, Switzerland hosts Hungary and Portugal plays at Andorra.

Earlier, the Faeroe Islands defeated Andorra 1-0 for its second win, securing its best ever qualifying campaign.

Switzerland scored early and twice shortly after halftime to keep alive its impressive run in

qualifying.

Forward Haris Seferovic netted his fourth goal in the qualifying campaign with a neat flick from close range, and Blerim Dzemaili and Ricardo Rodriguez added to the lead in the second half.

Portugal kept pace with Switzerland with its seventh straight victory since an opening 2-0 loss to the Swiss.

Andre Silva scored the winner with a header from close range after a cross by Ronaldo just three minutes into the second half in Budapest.

"It was a difficult game from start to finish," Silva said. "We had to give everything we had. I'm glad I scored the winning goal."

Hungary played with 10 men from the 30th after Tamas Priskin was sent off for an elbow on Pepe.

"We were always in control, but it was always a difficult and uncertain match," Portugal coach Fernando Santos said.

Gilli Soerensen scored a first-half winner and the Faeroe Islands defeated Andorra 1-0 to guarantee its best qualifying

campaign ever.

With two games left, the Faeroe Islands is in fourth place and out of contention for a World Cup berth, but it already has eight points

— one more than it achieved ahead of the 2002 World Cup.

Lars Olsen's team beat Latvia earlier in its campaign, and drew with Andorra and Hungary.

Its final games are against Latvia and at Hungary.

Andorra has four points from a win over Hungary and a draw against the Faeroe Islands. **AP**

## France held by Luxembourg; Belgium qualifies for World Cup

**FRANCE** wasted its chance to move a step closer to World Cup qualification after a 0-0 home draw with Luxembourg that leaves automatic qualification from Group A wide open with two games to go.

Belgium overcame stern resistance from Greece to qualify for Russia 2018, winning 2-1 away from home. Manchester United striker Romelu Lukaku's winning goal put the other Red Devils out of reach at the top of Group H.

There were contrasting emotions afterward for France and Luxembourg.

"We had the chances and didn't take them," France coach Didier Deschamps said. "We should have done more."

But Luxembourg counterpart Luc Holtz could barely contain his delight.

"It's a historic result," he said. "Yes, it's a glorious day for Luxembourg football."

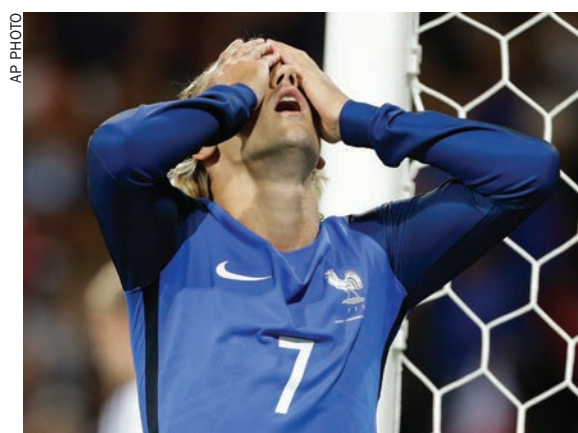
Sweden moved one point behind France after easing to a 4-0 win away to Belarus, while a selection choice from Netherlands coach Dick Advocaat paid off as midfielder Davy Proepper scored his first two international goals in a 3-1 home win against Bulgaria.

Advocaat's side is three points behind Sweden with two games remaining and still in with an outside chance of securing a playoff spot.

Elsewhere, defender Domagoj Vida's header gave Group I leader Croatia a 1-0 win against Kosovo in a match which started Saturday before being called off due to a torrential downpour.

Only the group winners automatically advance in European qualifying for the World Cup.

While France fluffed countless chances, the Ne-



therlands and Sweden had no problem finding the net.

Proepper's first international goals helped the Dutch keep their slim qualifying hopes alive — albeit four points behind Les Bleus.

Proepper replaced veteran Wesley Sneijder and tapped in from close range in the seventh minute.

Veteran winger Arjen Robben doubled the lead in the 67th minute with his 34th international goal. Georgi Kostadinov pulled back a goal just two minutes later before Proepper sealed the win in the 80th.

On a night for firsts, Christoffer Nyman got his first Sweden goal to make it 2-0 midway through the first half.

Emil Forsberg scored in the 18th and, after Nyman's goal, striker Marcus Berg popped up with his 14th for Sweden to put the result beyond doubt at halftime.

Center half Andreas Granqvist completed the scoring near the end with a penalty. **AP**

### RONALDO PASSES PELE'S GOALS TALLY

**CRISTIANO RONALDO** scored a hat trick to move past Pele on the list of all-time international goalscorers as Portugal beat Faeroe Islands 5-1 last week to stay close to Switzerland at the top of Group B in World Cup European qualifying. Ronaldo netted with a neat volley from inside the area then added two other goals to lift his career tally to 78 and surpass the great Pele, who scored 77 for Brazil. On

the European list, Ronaldo is now six goals behind Hungary legend Ferenc Puskas. Ronaldo scored twice in the first half and once after the break to reach 14 goals in seven Group B matches. The Real Madrid striker opened the scoring with a side-volley by the far post. "I had been trying to score a goal like this for a long time," Ronaldo said. "It was the goal that was missing in my career."



opinion

Our Desk

Julie Zhu



RECYCLING STARTS EARLY

Around ten years ago, in the city where I grew up, the government one day decided to fine people RMB200 for walking around topless. Of course, we are generally talking about those men who, in the summer, walk by without wearing any shirts because of high temperatures.

I remember the day when all those old hags sitting around in front of yards talking loudly, started preaching, one by one, "it's 200 per person."

Then, the city's topless men mystically disappeared over the night, and never returned to town ever since. Obviously, they are still around, but it became rare to see them in the streets.

This story first came to mind when I saw a picture of the Inner Harbor's state when the typhoon was still wrecking havoc over all objects and creatures in Macau. In the picture, an old styled building, surrounded by yellow waters, could be seen with trash floating around it, while human beings were strained inside.

At that moment, I thought that if people ever have to suffer, at least they should never have to suffer such insult.

You ask, why does the picture reminded me of the first story I mentioned? Because I wonder if there is a way Macau can become so efficient, so clean, that nobody would ever have to worry about trash floating around when typhoons strike the city every summer.

Can Macau's trash disappear like the topless men, and never come back?

I cannot think of solutions to accomplish said goal when it comes to adults because, after having attended so many government events, I kept hearing Macau leaders saying "it is unfeasible, it will cause this or that kind of problem."

However, there is one thing I can suggest Macau to do, which is to start encouraging young people to recycle in schools.

Forget about those theoretical classes where teachers lecture students on how to be environmentally-friendly. Practice is what really matters.

I'm not denying the positive effects that oral education can bring to students. I'm merely stressing that verbal education cannot be the priority. It has to be action-driven education.

Start by placing recycling bins in schools to allow children to recycle at school; in primary and middle ones, and universities.

If, day by day, students practice recycling, then, ideally, when they grow up, at least the new population will have the sense of recycling, and will have the habit to do so too. Not only that, but they will become a source of influence for their parents to recycle.

Rather than educating the main labor force about recycling, why not first clear all the potential waste that might be produced by kids now? Hence, make sure that at least there will be no concerns with the next generation.

On the other hand, if the city's leaders can figure out ways to make sure adults recycle, the problem will be way easier to solve.

Personally, I lack the wisdom to find a way to lead adults to recycle.

Last reminder: Macau faces a typhoon season every single year; do we really want to see plastic bags, egg shells, and other things flying all over the place? If not, what should we do now?

THE ROYAL BABY: DUKES OF CAMBRIDGE EXPECTING THIRD CHILD

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge are expecting their third child, Kensington Palace has announced. The Queen and both families are said to be "delighted with the news," the BBC reported yesterday.

As with her previous two pregnancies, Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge, 35, is suffering from hyperemesis gravidarum,

or severe morning sickness. She will no longer carry out her planned engagement at the Hornsey Road Children's Centre in London.

Catherine is being cared for at Kensington Palace, the statement said. The duke and duchess have a son, George, who is four, and a daughter, Charlotte, aged two.

Odd inheritance: 1889 landmark courthouse with clock tower



The Litchfield Judicial District Courthouse in Litchfield, Connecticut, which was closed on August 25 by the state authorities

Dave Collins, Litchfield (Conn.)

GEORGE Beckwith got the surprising phone call a few months ago, informing him that he soon would be an owner of a 19th-century courthouse in Connecticut, nearly 1,400 miles from his home in Missouri.

The 78-year-old resident of Goodman, in southwestern Missouri, knew about the unusual lease agreement his ancestors had signed with Connecticut officials in 1803. If Connecticut ever stopped using the property in Litchfield for a courthouse, the parcel would revert back to descendants of the six landowners who leased it to the state.

Beckwith never thought Connecticut would abandon the landmark 1889 courthouse, which features a Seth Thomas clock tower and lies along the historic Litchfield Green. But that's exactly what was happening, his lawyer, Michael Rybak, told him in that phone call.

"Just out of the blue, the state of Connecticut got a hold of Mike Rybak and they said they were going to hand over the keys," said Beckwith, who grew up in Litchfield. "It was certainly startling."

The state closed the Litchfield Judicial District Courthouse on Aug. 25 and transferred operations to a new USD80 million courthouse a few miles away in Torrington. Officials had planned to continue some judicial functions in the granite building after the

move to Torrington but abandoned the idea because of the state budget deficit, judicial branch officials said.

Beckwith said he had no use for a courthouse or the expenses that came with it, so he went looking for options before the state planned to hand it over on Sept. 30.

The search didn't take long. The nonprofit Greater Litchfield Preservation Trust has agreed to purchase Beckwith's interest in the property for an undisclosed, below-market-value price, Rybak said. The trust is the parent organization of two partnerships that own and operate two other buildings in Litchfield.

The trust intends to keep the building open and "repurpose" its use, said its attorney, Perley Grimes. There are no specific proposals yet, he said.

Ownership of the property actually will pass to Beckwith and his two late sisters' estates, which also are expected to sell their interests to the trust, said Rybak, who also represents the estates. Descendants of the other landowners lost out on ownership rights because their interests were not legally passed down through the generations, Rybak said.

The property was leased to the state by landowners Moses Seymour, Moses Seymour Jr., Roger Skinner, Aaron Smith, Elijah Wadsworth and Frederick Wolcott. The Beckwiths are descendants of the Seymours.

"In 40 years of practice, I've

never seen anything like this," said Rybak, who has advocated since the late 1970s to keep the Litchfield courthouse open amid various plans to close it. "But then again, there are not too many properties like this."

People who worked at the courthouse have mixed emotions about its closure. A piece of history is being lost. But the building had grown cramped, there were accessibility problems for the disabled and there were security concerns, including judicial marshals having to transport prisoners through public areas of the courthouse.

"It's quite a piece of history," said Judge John Pickard, who worked at the courthouse the past 15 years. "I think we have all loved being here. But it doesn't have modern facilities. It's time."

The courthouse is the most prominent landmark in the Litchfield Historic District, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Two previous courthouses on the same property burned down.

It was host for decades to Litchfield County's civil court cases, as well as the region's most serious criminal cases, including the well-publicized murder trial of teenager Peter Reilly.

Reilly was convicted of killing his mother in Falls Village in 1973 but exonerated four years later after playwright Arthur Miller and others helped Reilly find a top defense attorney. AP

Station	Air quality
Roadside	30-50 Good
High Density Residential Area	25-45 Good
Ambient	30-50 Good

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS



MYANMAR A Nobel laureate and Muslim nations in Asia criticized Myanmar's persecution of its Rohingya Muslim minority as thousands in Indonesia and elsewhere staged angry protests against Aung San Suu Kyi and her government.

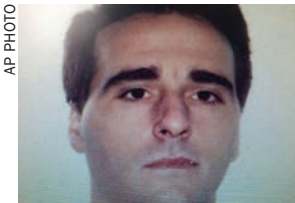
PAKISTAN A suspect involved in an attack on a lawmaker killed one police officer and wounded another during a raid at his house and he was able to escape from his eastern Karachi neighborhood, police said yesterday.



SYRIA Government forces and their allies are on the verge of breaking a nearly three-year siege imposed by the Islamic State group on parts of the eastern city of Deir el-Zour, opposition activists and state media said yesterday.

TURKEY Top Turkish officials took to social media yesterday to criticize comments on Turkey by German Chancellor Angela Merkel and her opponent during a televised pre-election debate.

GERMANY European Union anti-trust regulators have approved Germany's plan to provide troubled low-cost carrier Air Berlin with a 150-million-euro (USD179-million) loan.



URUGUAY A top crime syndicate boss on the run from Italy since 1994 has been arrested in Uruguay, where he was living under an alias and using a false Brazilian passport, authorities said yesterday.

COLOMBIA President Juan Manuel Santos says the government will sign a bilateral cease-fire with the nation's last remaining major rebel group ahead of Pope Francis' visit this week.