



**POLICE ALERTED TO ILLEGAL WORKERS**  
An anonymous complaint led the police to find people working illegally in a Taipa restaurant

P2 CRIME



**TAM WANTS TO BUILD CULINARY CENTER**

P4



**'THREAT TO THE CIVILIZED WORLD'**  
During his visit to Japan, Trump said that North Korea is "a threat to the civilized world"

P12



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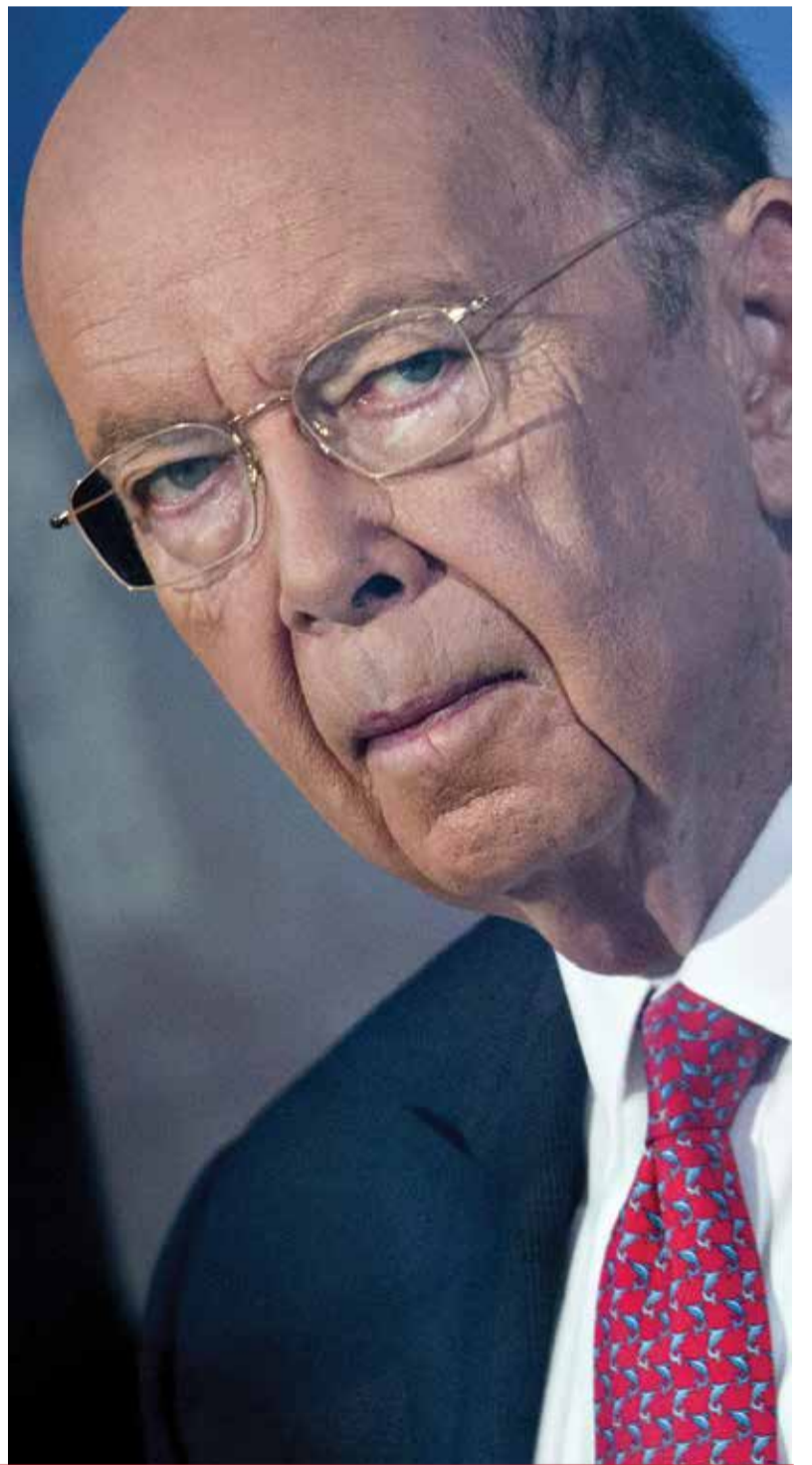
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# Queen, Ross caught in Paradise Papers leak

P14-15



## WORLD BRIEFS



**VIETNAM** A powerful typhoon that rocked Vietnam has killed at least 44 people, left more than a dozen missing and caused extensive damage to the country's south-central region ahead of a summit that will draw leaders from around the world.

**PHILIPPINES** Government forces have killed at least 11 remaining militants aligned with the Islamic State group over the weekend in southern Marawi city and are attempting to determine whether a Malaysian who may have taken over the militants' leadership is still alive, officials said.

**AUSTRALIA**'s prime minister yesterday proposed making all lawmakers prove they are not dual citizens in a move that could threaten the stability of his own government.

More on backpage

# Social workers new accreditation rules approved in spite of doubts

P7 AL PLENARY

## CRIME

# Anonymous complainant alerts police to illegal workers

Renato Marques

PHONE reports from citizens directly to the police or via Facebook led to the finding of several law offenders and subsequently to arrests, the Public Security Police Force (PSP) spokesperson said yesterday afternoon during a press conference.

In two different and unrelated cases reported by the PSP, reports from concerned citizens helped the force to act and to find the suspects of unlawful activities. In one case, authorities acted following the upload of a picture to a personal Facebook account. In the first case, the PSP responded to a phone call from an unidentified source, who said that in a certain food and drinks establishment located at Rua de Hong Chau, in Taipa, there were people employed without legal authorization to work in the region.

After receiving the complaint on October 31, the PSP sent officers to the venue, where they found a man outside that was operating a food delivery motorcycle. When re-



quested to show his documents to the police, the man provided a non-resident worker permit (commonly known as a blue card) and a driving license from Hong Kong. The officers promptly noticed that the blue card had a different job stated from the one the man was in fact performing. According to the PSP, the blue card stated "Kitchen Assistant." Moreover, his driving license had not been registered with the police in the region so it was considered that he was riding the delivery motorcycle illegally.

Further investigation uncovered a second man, a cook from the mainland, who did not possess any work permit but a safe conduct to visit Ma-

cau (travel permit).

The police also detained the individual responsible for the

establishment, a man of 50 years from mainland China, on the accusation of facilitating illegal work.

In the second case, the police said they were alerted to an exhibitionist following the upload of a photo from a Facebook user showing a man seated on a motorcycle and displaying his genitals. According to the Facebook user, the situation was allegedly occurring in the Areia Preta district.

The PSP went to investigate and at around 8.30 p.m. on November 5, the officers spotted a man riding a motorcycle on Rua da Pérola Oriental that resembled the one in the photo. The officers followed him and when he left a food establishment nearby and was preparing to ride the motorcycle again, they stopped and questioned him.

The man, a permanent resident of Macau, aged 47, admitted that he was the same person as in the photo but said he did not remember the incident as he was intoxicated. The police also found out that he did not possess a permit to ride the motorcycle and that, according to the suspect, the motorcycle was his brother-in-law's.

He was accused of exhibitionism.

## Mother and son involved in casino scam

TWO local residents, a mother and her son, were involved in a swindle scheme that defrauded a Cotai casino some HKD900,000, the Judiciary Police (PJ) informed at a press conference.

The case started with a report from the casino's security that informed the PJ that the son - a croupier and employee of the casino - had been illegally siphoning gaming chips to a woman that authorities later discovered was his mother.

According to the casino's security team, which had been following the case for a while, there were two ways the duo were unlawfully obtaining credits. The first involved the woman being given more chips by her croupier son than she was entitled to

for each winning play. The second occurred during the exchange of chips, when he would credit her with the double the amount she had traded in.

The security team collected evidence of 51 such incidents and calculated a combined loss of HKD130,000.

Last week the PJ organized a special surveillance unit to monitor the table where the man was working. On November 6 they were finally nabbed.

Questioned by the PJ, the suspects admitted the crimes and revealed surprisingly that the swindle, having started in July this year, had earned the duo around HKD900,000, more than six times what the casino had calculated.

## AUTUMN SALON 2017

## Tang Kuok Ho's photograph bags Orient Foundation award

ONE of Macau's most anticipated contemporary art exhibitions had its opening night on Saturday at the Orient Foundation's Casa Garden headquarters, where it was met with a quieter reception than previous years. The 2017 Autumn Salon - the latest edition of an annual exhibition that began in 2010 - saw fewer guests, participating artists and works on display.

To recognize Macau's most outstanding new artworks, organizers Art For All (AFA) and the Orient Foundation together pre-

sent the Orient Foundation Art Award to one participating artist every year.

This year's winner was Tang Kuok Ho for a large photograph titled "Scenery of Night". Honorable mentions went to Chan On Kei for a ceramic piece titled "Bite" and Season Lao for a photograph taken in Hokkaido, Japan.

Alice Kok, the curator of both AFA and the Autumn Salon 2017, said she was honored to be the "creator of the show" for another year.

"It has been a great pleasure to make the selection

and put the artworks in their proper place - especially in this beautiful mansion that is Casa Garden."

However, the art on display at the exhibition did not appear to comply with AFA's official regulations.

According to the regulations, "the year of creating the artworks must be after 2015." However, a list of works circulated at the opening noted that some of the art on display - including one of the honorable mentions - dated back as early as 2012. The Times contacted AFA to enquire about this irregu-

larity but did not receive a reply by press time.

Of the works showcased at the exhibition, the people's choice was "Until the End of Time", a provocative music box installation by Yves Etienne Sonolet.

The installation is a glass box containing a pack of cigarettes, which opens and closes its lid in synchronization with a seductive song by Annie Wang.

Guests circled the "singing" pack of cigarettes, capturing its eye-catching performance on video and conversing with the artist all evening.



"Scenery of Night" was the big winner of the event

According to organizers, the Autumn Salon provides a space for local artists, aged between 18 and 35, to showcase their latest works. It aims to "[give] the young generation more opportunities as a starting point in their road to art."

The event also seeks to contribute to the sustainability of the industry by providing a platform for patrons to purchase original local works.

The exhibition will run until November 30, 2017 at Casa Garden. Entry is free.

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# News At Hand



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“ THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’ ”



## Kiang Wu plans to offer assisted reproductive service

The Kiang Wu Hospital is preparing itself in all aspects to apply for a license to provide assisted reproductive services. The vice superintendent of the hospital, Chan Tai Ip, said that assisted reproductive professionals are ready to offer the service and that the hospital has also carried out related training. More specifically, it formed a professional team consisting of approximately 12 surgeons, technicians and nurses. An array of sophisticated equipment has also been prepared. Chan expects the hospital to conclude the evaluation of the determining factors (these devices and the environment) during May 2018.

## Fresh food to arrive in Macau one hour earlier

Fresh food coming from Zhuhai to Macau will likely be transported one hour earlier every day, the President of the Civil and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) José Tavares announced yesterday. According to a report by TDM, the governments of both Zhuhai and Macau have already reached an agreement regarding the topic, with both governments' efforts aiming to implement the policy within the year. So far, as noticed by José Tavares, the progress has been running well. This change is hoped to make the operations of Macau's new wholesale market more efficient.

## DSEJ to enhance China anthem education

Deputy Director of the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) Leong Vai Kei said that the bureau will enhance the educational and spiritual elements of the China anthem. Leong said that the current course framework in Macau already contains sections related to the anthem and that the majority of Macau's students know how to sing it. As emphasized by Leong, most schools have been organizing a flag raising ceremony as well as playing the anthem at appropriate events. The education authority will supplement teaching materials with information about the anthem and will also organize events to highlight the educational points included in the anthem.

## SCHOLARS

# Detailed measures should be included in Policy Address

Julie Zhu

**S**CHOLARS from the University of Macau (UM) want the government to include typhoon prevention measures as well as concrete measures regarding participation in the Greater Bay Area plan included in the 2018 Policy Address.

At a symposium, which took place last week at UM, several participants who teach at UM voiced their opinions on the preview of the policy address for the fiscal year of 2018 in Macau.

Kwan Fung, Assistant Professor of the Department of Government and Public Administration in the Faculty of Social Sciences at UM, said that the local government must use the experience of Hato to reach a "conclusion regarding the [potential influence of a] typhoon over the development of Macau." In Kwan's opinion, the government needs to set out



Lawmaker and scholar Davis Fong

a plan of action to prepare for future typhoons.

When commenting on the government's financial assistance payments to the victims of Typhoon Hato, particularly the payments to the SMEs, Kwan said that "they [SMEs] already lost their properties, [therefore] subsidies might not be of much help." Kwan then added that "regarding the typhoon, the government needs to assume the big-

gest responsibility because it did not perform well on warning and advising."

Davis Fong, director of Institute for the Study of Commercial Gaming of UM, who is also a lawmaker, wants the government to reveal the number of jobs already completed within the first five-year plan, which was published last year.

"I hope that in this Policy Address the government can report how much it

has done regarding the five-year plan. [...] Will it [the government] reach its goal during the remaining three years?" asked Fong. He would also like the Policy Address to include a detailed strategy plan for Macau's entrance into the Greater Bay Area plan.

"How can the [regional] Greater Bay Area plan coordinate with the [local] five-year plan?" Fong questioned. He affirmed that he hopes the two plans will not lead Macau into competition with her sister cities.

Hao Yufan, dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences at UM, suggested that there is still a long way for Macau to go before it can be considered a world class tourism and leisure center.

"The typhoon shows that there is still a great distance between Macau and a world level tourism leisure center across all domains, such as infrastructure, warning sys-

tems, and handling of crisis," said Hao.

Hao also thinks that Macau lacks an accountability mechanism. He has hopes that, this time, the SAR government can establish one in its policy address.

"I hope this time [the government] can elucidate exactly how it will participate in the Greater Bay area plan, [...] [Macau] should study plans for accelerating the integration [into the Greater Bay Area] and for simultaneously reducing costs," Hao declared.

He explained that the government should figure out methods for Macau to assimilate with the regional development without compromising Macau's quality of life.

Several other professors also voiced their differing opinions regarding the Policy Address 2018. Calling for Macau to improve its cultural and scientific development was another popular suggestion.

## Tam hints culinary center will be built in Seac Pai Van area

**T**HE Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Alexis Tam, says it is necessary to combine cultural innovation with the culinary arts and gastronomy to be able to forge a new path of development in the cultural and creative industries of Macau. Speaking on the sidelines of a public event earlier this week, Tam noted the challenges connected to Macau's recent designation as a Creative City of Gastronomy by UNESCO. In the secretary's opinion, the title "will contribute to and benefit the development of the adequate diversification of Macau's economy and promote Macau's transformation into an World Centre of Tourism and Leisure." The Secretary noted that culinary culture was considered by the government as the fif-

th branch of the activities classified under the "Cultural Industries of Macau" category, which also includes creative design, exhibitions and cultural shows, collection of artistic works and digital media. These creative sectors were grouped together intentionally, with the aim of promoting collaboration between the tourism sector, food and beverage establishments and the cultural and creative industries sector. The hope was expressed that the interconnectedness of these sectors would "enrich the content of the Creative City of Gastronomy."

To do so, Tam said that the government was already preparing for the construction a technical and vocational education center with the purpose of providing training in a variety of international cuisines.

The building, according to Tam, will occupy the land plot named CN6a in Seac Pai Van while at the higher education level, the Institute for Tourism Studies (IFT) will continue their works to create a culinary center, as well as organize courses for undergraduates,

continue education, and train professionals already operating in this field with the idea of improving the skills and knowledge of professionals in the culinary area.

Tam stressed that "gastronomy does not mean only wines and foods of different qualities but

also includes popular, economic, home and community gastronomy." He announced that the government will support the creation of an environment of culinary culture in the community and reinforce promotion and information disclosure with the purpose of "attract[ing] tourists to visit different areas of Macau, enjoy local food, as well as boost consumption and growth in different areas of Macau."

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# Boao summit discusses smart city and Asia development

**T**HE 2017 Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) Development Summit (Macau) was held yesterday with the theme "Smart city construction and the development of Asian region."

Secretary-General of BFA, Zhou Wenzhong, said at the opening ceremony that the MSAR is one of the most open trade and investment economies, and also that it is an important platform for communication and cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking countries.

The Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, said in his opening speech that all countries and regions have to choose to open up to realize sustainable development. The rapid development of Asian countries and



regions has shown that the economic globalization and regional integration are the engine for economic and social advancement. The local government will speed up the smart city construction to assist the development of Macau, he added.

The one-day summit set up three sessions: "Smart City and the Development of Asia", "Young Talent and the Future of Asia" and "The Belt

and Road Initiative and the Specialized Financial Services".

The summit attracted over 1,600 heads of government bodies, industry representatives, experts and scholars from Macau, the Chinese mainland, Britain, Australia and the United States. This was the second development summit held by BFA in Macau. The first version was held in 2015. **MDT/Xinhua**

## CINEMA

# Vincent Van Gogh film an instant hit in Macau

**T**HE world's first fully-painted feature film is a hit in Macau, according to organizer Cinematheque Passion, with its two rounds of local screenings selling out just hours after tickets were made available.

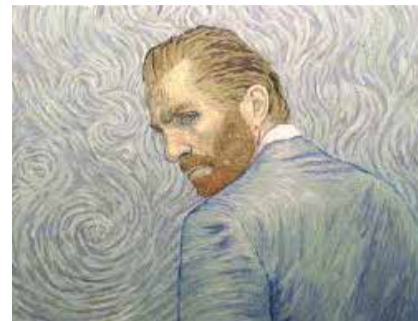
In response to public interest in the film, Cinematheque Passion last week announced 16 additional screenings in late December, all of which sold out within hours. The second round of the screenings brings the total to 30, according to organizers.

Exploring the last days of one of history's most illustrious and prolific painters, *Loving Vincent* brings Vincent Van Gogh's tragic end to the big screen through oil paintings in his instantly recognizable style.

Each of the film's 65,000-odd frames is an oil painting, created by a team of 125 professional artists from across Europe who traveled to the *Loving Vincent* studios in Poland and Greece to participate in this unique and unprecedented production.

The *Times* attended a media preview of the film on Wednesday night at the art house, along with representatives of the government's cultural institutes and several local artists.

Guests at Wednesday night's screening described the film as "innovative" and "gorgeous", with one attendee commending filmmakers for their "courage and determination" in making the film.



"I think no matter [whether] you're a fan of Van Gogh or not, this movie is a must see," said Dirco Fong, an executive at the Macau Design Center.

*Loving Vincent* had its world premiere on June 13 the Annecy International Animated Film Festival 2017, where it won the Audience Award and, according to Cinematheque Passion, earned a standing ovation of more than 10 minutes.

The first round of public screenings began on Saturday and will run until November 12. The second round begins on December 22 and ends on December 31. The film is in English with Chinese subtitles. **DB**

AD



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**Second International Film Festival  
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What to Expect?**

Goodridge was formerly CEO of London-based production, finance and sales company Protagonist Pictures from 2012, bringing some of the most acclaimed and successful independent films of the last five years to the world. The films have played in all the world's major festivals including Cannes, Venice, Sundance, Berlin, Telluride, Toronto and New York. Goodridge is a member of BAFTA and the European Film Academy.

**Venue: Amber Room I, 5/F, The St. Regis Macao, Cotai**  
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**8 am: Sit-down and breakfast**  
**8.10: Presentation and Q&A session**  
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AL PLENARY

# Structure of Social Workers' Professional Committee stirs doubts

Julie Zhu

A bill establishing new rules for the professional accreditation and registration of social workers was discussed and passed at the Legislative Assembly yesterday. The bill was passed despite the doubts of many lawmakers about the formation process for the "Social Worker Professional Committee" (CPAS). When established, the committee will be responsible for social workers' accreditation and ultimately, for registering these workers with the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS).

Chan Iek Lap was the first lawmaker to voice an opinion regarding CPAS, saying that "the sector [social workers] will worry about the problem of professional independence. [...] The sector is worried about having laymen manage the experts [the committee will be formed by five members proposed by the government]. [...] The regime also regulates the private sector, but does not regulate social workers within the scope of public departments. [...] Some members of the public asked during the public consultation period if it [the regime] could also include public department's social workers into this qualification?"

Chan believes the inclusion of medical professionals working in public departments into the civil



PHOTO ARCHIVE  
Ng Kuok Cheong said that Hong Kong has a better accreditation system

service regime is inappropriate.

Ng Kuok Cheong used Hong Kong as an example when questioning the government about whether it is considering selecting more than half of the committee's members based on the public's opinion.

"Hong Kong's social workers select representatives to participate in the committee, with more than half of the members of the committee being selected. This is a professional management, indeed a balanced responsible arrangement. It can improve their [the social workers' and the public's] confidence. [...] Is the government open to this course?"

Sulu Sou pointed out that the regime "must be about professionals since you mentioned the word 'pro-

fessional' more than ten times. Do you think this draft fully expresses a professional independence? Social workers are a little bit disappointed with CPAS. They have strong opinions about it. The majority of them hope to select more than half of the members for CPAS. [...]"

The Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, when replying to the lawmakers, denied claims that CPAS does not represent social workers as fairly as it should.

"The major purpose [of this regime] is to allow social workers to receive professional accreditation. [...] I think the regime has good intentions. It goes against some of the lawmakers' opinions. We pay importance to professional independence, and

because of this we gave strong professional importance to them [the social workers]. Regarding CPAS, we are clear about the proportion [between the social workers' committee members and other members]," he said. Tam also noted that the committee equivalent in Hong Kong has a lower representation of members who are social workers.

After listening to Alexis Tam's explanation, Au Kam Sam said that "CPAS must be the focus of this regime because CPAS holds the dominant rights [for the registration and accreditation regime]. You said that social workers are the majority [of CPAS], but you are deceiving yourself [by saying this]. The social workers sectors hope the members can be elected by the social workers."

Agnes Lam then questioned the government representatives about whether there could be a review period for this regime and requested the schedule for the announcement of the working morality instructions for social workers.

Other lawmakers, including Pang Chuan and Song Pek Kei, were also among those who voiced doubts regarding CPAS's formation.

Alexis Tam noted that the committee will have two teams, one responsible for the accreditation and registration, and one responsible for disciplinary cases.

ON THE LAWMAKERS' AGENDA

**NATIONAL ANTHEM** Mak Soi Kun suggested that the government should speed up the establishment of the China anthem laws and enhance the educational and propagandistic themes of the Chinese national anthem. "According to several residents, many associations play the anthem when organizing events. However, it is common to witness during these moments scenes where people are only concentrated on playing cellphones, cameras, or talking with other people and laughing. However, across many different countries and regions, playing the anthem is a very important thing, and even there, when friends are coming from all over the world they gather together, they act solemnly, respectfully and quietly to show their respect when listening to the anthem," said Mak.

**MUTUAL DRIVING LICENSE RECOGNITION** Sulu Sou expressed his doubts concerning the recent government proposal for the mutual recognition of driving licenses between mainland China and Macau. Sou condemned both the directors of the Transport Bureau and the Macau Government Tourism Office for their comments on the proposal, saying that they showed no concern for the probable deterioration of the transportation situation in Macau once the proposal is enacted. "The residents, in general, are very worried about [the] mainland's driving culture and its transportation law enforcement attitude," said Sou, who also noted that some of the mainland's typical driving aspects include "frequently honking, using long range lighting, changing lanes randomly and speeding up before zebra crossings."

**RENTAL LAW** Vong Hin Fai suggested altering the city's new rental law, specifically, mentioning the legal consequences and punishment regarding non-notarized property rental contracts. The rental law, which was passed on August 10, will come into effect on February 17. The law dictates that non-notarized property rental contracts will be considered invalid. Vong did not agree with the current meaning of the law and suggested that more details should be added regarding the legal effect of a non-notarized property rental contract, "to avoid unnecessary misunderstandings when legal workers explain this article."

corporate bits

SANDS CHINA PARTICIPATES IN CARITAS CHARITY BAZAAR



Sands China Care Ambassadors participated in the 48th Caritas Macau Charity

Bazaar over the weekend, making it the seventh straight year that the company

has helped raise funds for the annual Caritas event.

A total of 100 Sands China Care Ambassadors were on hand volunteering at the two-day charity bazaar at the Nam Van Lake Nautical Centre.

On Saturday, Sands China Ltd. President Dr. Wilfred Wong presented a cheque for MOP200,000 to Caritas Macau Secretary-General Paul Pun during the opening ceremony of the bazaar. The donation will help support the operational expenses of the non-profit charitable organization.

Since 2004, Sands China has contributed more than MOP4.3 million to Caritas Macau through events such as charity runs and bazaars.

ST. REGIS MACAO TEAMS UP WITH BUGABOO



The St. Regis Macao, Cotai Central has teamed up with Bugaboo, the world leader in innovative stroller design, to offer families complimentary use of the limited edition Bugaboo Donkey Weekender during their visit.

The resort says that the stroller grants "active and adventurous families the freedom and mobility to thoroughly enjoy their visit."

Guests at The St. Regis Macao can reserve the limited edition Bugaboo Weekender stroller through

the hotel's Concierge or simply make a request through their St. Regis butler, who can help bring the strollers to guests' room.

"We are delighted to offer our guests with children the chance to fully experience their visit to Macau with the use of the Bugaboo Donkey Weekender," said Daniella Tonetto, general manager of sales and marketing for Sheraton Grand Macao and The St. Regis Macao.

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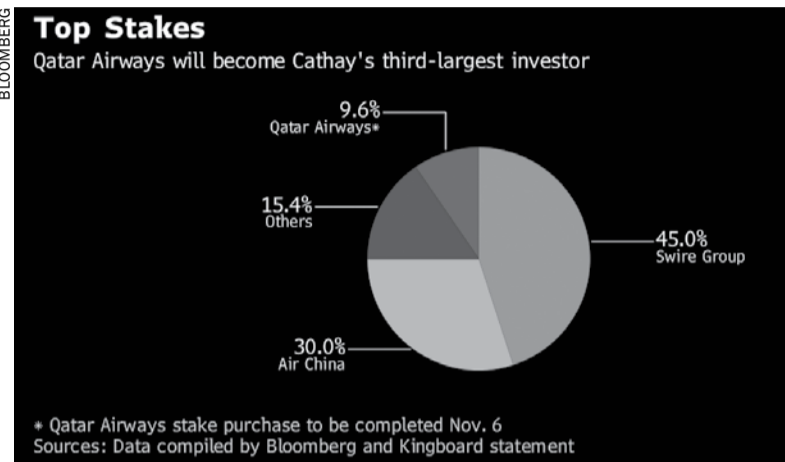




# Qatar joins China aviation bonanza with surprise stake in Cathay

**Q**ATAR Airways Ltd.'s surprise purchase of a 9.6 percent stake in Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd. to gain a foothold in East Asia has damped a long-held speculation among investors that the Hong Kong flag carrier would soon merge with another major shareholder: Air China Ltd.

Qatar Air on Sunday agreed to buy the stake for HKD5.16 billion (USD662 million) from Hong Kong-based Kingboard Chemical Holdings Ltd. and related companies, which have been steadily amassing shares in the Asian airline for the past year. The purchase, the first by a Middle Eastern airline in an East Asian carrier, makes the Doha-based company the third-largest shareholder in Cathay after Hong Kong conglomerate Swire Pacific Ltd. with 45 percent, and state-owned Air China with almost 30 percent. Cathay's stock fell the



most in more than three months.

"Cathay will have three major shareholders, all with different and potentially conflicting interests," said Corrine Png, chief executive officer of Crucial Perspective, which focuses on research in Asia transportation equities. "We still think it makes more economic sense for Cathay and

Air China to merge longer term, but given this new development with Qatar Airways in the picture, it is going to become more complicated for all three parties."

Behind the investment is the battle for better access to China, which is expected to become the world's biggest aviation market within a decade. U.S. carrier Delta Air Lines

Inc. bought a minority stake in China Eastern Airlines Corp. in 2015, while American Airlines Group Inc. purchased a minority stake in China Southern Airlines Co. this year.

"Cathay Pacific is one of the strongest airlines in the world, respected throughout the industry and with massive potential future," Qatar Airways CEO Akbar Al Baker said. Cathay CEO Rupert Hogg said in a statement on Monday that he looks forward to a "continued constructive relationship" with Qatar Air, which is a fellow member of the Oneworld Alliance of airlines.

Zhou Feng, board secretary at Air China, said having an airline as Cathay's stakeholder, rather than Kingboard Chemical, would "bring about better synergy" as an airline stakeholder has a better understanding of Cathay's strategy and business. Regarding the relationship between Qatar,

Cathay and Air China, Zhou said there is both competition and cooperation and it will depend on how the carriers maintain the balance. Air China is part of the rival Star Alliance.

Cathay has previously denied that it is considering a merger with Air China. Swire said in an email that it is firmly committed to Cathay and it has confidence in its long-term prospects.

Qatar Air's Al Baker said the purchase "supports Qatar Airways' investment strategy." The Doha-based airline has been buying minority stakes in airlines around the world, including a 20 percent stake in British Airways parent IAG SA and a 10 percent share of Latam Airlines Group SA, the biggest South American carrier. It also made a failed attempt to gain a slice of American Airlines Group. **Bloomberg**

# Venezuelan oil too big to fail, at least for China and Russia

Alex Nussbaum, Lucia Kassai

**V**ENEZUELA'S sudden demand to renegotiate its billions in debt could complicate life for its two biggest oil patrons, China and Russia.

President Nicolas Maduro caught bondholders off guard last week with a vow to wring debt relief from Venezuela's creditors, sending the country's bonds tumbling. But the move may also have been calculated to reassure the countries that are among Maduro's biggest lenders, and the most vital customers of his nation's crown-jewel oil industry.

State-owned Petroleos de Venezuela SA, keeper of the world's largest oil reserves, has seen output drop to a 14-year low, beset by the country's economic collapse, a global plunge in crude prices and U.S. sanctions. As American refineries, once PDVSA's top customers, have bought less, China and Russia have stepped in. The two countries have loaned more than USD60 billion

to boost production there, prepaying for more than a billion barrels.

"Venezuela is too important for the likes of China and Russia to let it fail," said Thomas Onley, an analyst at consultant Facts Global Energy, in a phone interview Friday. "Things are getting tough, no question about that, but China and Russia are the backstop."

At a rally in Caracas, Maduro said his cash-strapped country would seek talks with creditors, including for PDVSA's outstanding debt. He blamed American sanctions for drying up the well for new financing.

The step to restructure debt comes as Venezuela stands to receive more revenue for its oil. The country's crude oil basket price rose to CNY350.75 (\$52.90) a barrel Friday, the highest since July 2015. And Venezuela did approve a \$1.1 billion principal payment on a PDVSA bond on Thursday.

However, that came with the country holding just \$10 billion left in hard-currency reser-

ves, a sign, perhaps, of how wary Maduro might be of getting the oil company embroiled in a messy default. That he immediately followed that with a demand for relief is an indication he sees the situation as unsustainable.

In 2001, Venezuela was pumping more than 3 million barrels a day. Last month, national crude production fell to 1.95 million barrels a day and Venezuelan rig counts are at their lowest level since June 2012.

With output tanking, PDVSA has been forced to buy more cargoes from abroad to blend with its own, tar-like low-quality oil. Meanwhile, many of its refineries have shut because of recurring breakdowns or a lack of domestic supplies to process.

Sanctions imposed by U.S. President Donald Trump, meant to punish Maduro's crackdown on his political opposition, helped drive down exports to the U.S. by 35 percent from August to October. Over the same period, daily shipments

to China doubled while cargoes to Russia's state-owned oil company Rosneft PJSC more than tripled, according to U.S. Customs data and a shipping report compiled by Bloomberg. But income from those sales are limited because they're repayments for previous loans.

Turning to the risky process of renegotiation may be the price paid by Venezuela to preserve that lifeline, said Francisco Monaldi, a fellow in Latin American energy policy at Rice University in Houston.

"Russia and China have incentives to provide financing just for oil investment, so that they are able to get the oil repayments," Monaldi said in an email. "If Venezuela was able to successfully restructure the debt with bond holders that would make it more attractive for Russia and China to help, but giving them more money just to pay bond holders is unlikely to happen."

Rosneft said in August it isn't planning any further advance payments



A night view of Ameriven oil refinery, one of the four companies at the Jose Complex in Anzoategui state, 200 miles East from Caracas

to PDVSA after providing about \$6 billion in loans, including interest.

Seeking more help, PDVSA in recent weeks turned to oil trading houses in search of more prepayment deals. The company held talks with Triguera Group over a proposal that envisaged the Singapore-based merchant house paying as much as 80 percent of a \$700 million oil contract upfront, according to emails and PowerPoint presentations reviewed by Bloomberg News.

PDVSA approached at least one other trading house with a similar deal, according to a person familiar with the matter who asked not to be named because the discussions were private. Neither deal was consummated.

PDVSA has refineries overseas and oil receivables that could become a target in any debt fight. The company's U.S. refining arm, Citgo Holding Inc., has already been used as collateral to back some bonds. If creditors start going after the assets, buyers are apt to turn to other sources of crude, depressing not only demand but the price of Venezuela's main treasure.

An actual default at PDVSA would create "significant downside risks to both oil production and exports," Luisa Palacios, senior managing director at Medley Global Advisors, said in an email. She'll be watching to see whether the oil producer makes its bond coupon payments next week, she said. "We will know by Nov. 10." **Bloomberg**



## Beijing is going after click farms and fake online sales

CHINA enacted sweeping changes to a business competition law to address fraud in the e-commerce industry, which is plagued by malfeasance ranging from fake positive reviews to merchants goosing sales numbers.

The National People's Congress adopted revisions this weekend to the Anti-Unfair Competition Law intended to address online retailers, the official Xinhua News Agency reported. The changes take effect Jan. 1 but were announced days before Alibaba Group Holding Ltd.'s Nov. 11 Singles' Day bargain extravaganza, which dwarfs Black Friday in the U.S. in terms of revenue.

The Chinese law initially took effect in 1993 as a way to protect consumers and bu-

sinesses from unfair market practices. At that time, none of China's biggest online companies - including Alibaba, Tencent Holdings Ltd., Baidu Inc. and JD.com Inc. - even existed. As e-commerce developed and prospered, attendant problems grew with it.

These latest revisions stipulate that operators shouldn't deceive consumers by faking sales or employing "click farms" to rack up positive product reviews - increasingly common practices that have drawn the ire of buyers. And the rules encompass the entire breadth of internet commerce, from online goods and movie ticketing to food delivery.

"You now cannot delete bad comments or employ people

to leave good comments," said Christine Yiu, an intellectual property law expert and partner at Shanghai-based Bird & Bird. "It's a welcome change that echoes with the whole direction that China's trying to move in, by strengthening old protections and discouraging infringement in the market."

**Online merchants that fake sales or feedback can be fined as much as 2 million yuan**

Another example of such fraud in China is e-commerce sites buying up movie tickets to artificially boost a film's box-office rankings and to drum up popularity, Yiu said.

The new legislation states that businesses should be self-policing when upholding market order. Among the punitive measures outlined, online merchants that fake sales or feedback can be fined as much as 2 million yuan (USD301,000) or lose their business license, the state-run China Daily newspaper reported yesterday.

"The revision will better address new problems emerging in the market and protect the rights and interests of both business operators and consumers," Yang Heqing, an of-

ficial of the National People's Congress's Standing Committee, said Saturday, according to Xinhua.

The practice of "brushing" - faking sales transactions to boost rankings or draw more traffic to a website - has plagued Chinese online commerce for years. Much of the criticism focused on Alibaba, the market leader, which has a complicated history with brushing operators and has been trying to stamp out such practices.

The Hangzhou-based company sued Shatui.com last year for allegedly linking merchants with people willing to falsify purchases and reviews to help boost sellers' rankings. Along with the lawsuit, China's biggest technology company warned that merchants found to be violating its policies can have their credit scores cut or businesses shut down.

With a billion listings on Alibaba's Taobao website alone, standing out is critical for online sellers. The art of brushing comes down to tricking a site into believing a purchase has been made and then disguising the movement of money that makes it happen. The fake buyer is then paid by the brushing company.

Chinese companies aren't alone in battling fabricators. Amazon.com Inc. is trying to quash fraudulent reviews, and Facebook Inc. is combating "fake news." Yet China's operators take things to the next level by crowdsourcing the tasks to thousands of people.

"We tried to keep the interests of vendors and customers in mind while revising the law because we need to keep fair market order while encouraging innovation in the cyberspace," Yang Honggan, director of the Anti-Monopoly and Anti-Unfair Competition Enforcement Bureau of the State Administration for Industry and Commerce, said, according to China Daily. **Bloomberg**

## China adds two satellites to homemade global navigation system

CHINA has added two satellites to its home-grown global navigation and positioning network that seeks to reduce reliance on the U.S.-based Global Positioning System, state media reported yesterday.

The pair of Beidou-3 satellites were launched aboard a single Long March-3B rocket from the Xichang launch center in the

southwestern province of Sichuan on Sunday night, broadcaster CCTV and the Xinhua News Agency reported.

China plans to complete a network linking more than 30 satellites providing real-time geospatial information worldwide by 2020.

The system started operating in mainland China in 2000 and then expan-

ded to cover the Asia-Pacific region in 2012. The Beidou-3 satellites represent an upgrade with greater accuracy and an enhanced ability to communicate with other satellite navigation systems.

The network would eventually provide monitoring and safety information along the nation's multinational infrastructure megaproject, the Belt and

Road Initiative, designed to link China with Central Asia, Europe, Africa and beyond.

On completion, Beidou, which means Big Dipper in Chinese, will join GPS, Russia's GLONASS and the European Union's Galileo as satellite navigation systems with global coverage. India, France and Japan are also developing regional systems. **AP**



A Long March-3B rocket carrying two Beidou-3 satellites lifts off from the Xichang launch center in Sichuan province

Hyung-Jin Kim, Seoul

# Trump could face thorny issues on South Korea visit

**P**RESIDENT Donald Trump visits South Korea today on the second leg of his first official Asian tour. While Trump will be looking to use his trip to strengthen Washington's alliance with Seoul and reaffirm their joint push to maximize pressure on North Korea over its nuclear program, he will also be faced with several thorny issues weighing on the relationship. Here's a look at some of them.

## NORTH KOREA

Both Trump and South Korea's liberal President Moon Jae-in agree that it's time to ramp up sanctions and pressure on North Korea, which has ignored international condemnation as it moves forward with its nuclear and missile tests.

But Moon, a former human rights lawyer, still favors dialogue as a way to defuse the nuclear tension and vehemently opposes a potential military clash, which experts believe would cause enormous casualties in South Korea. This contrasts with Trump, who has threatened the North with "fire and fury" and exchanged warlike rhetoric with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

The world will be watching what kind of language Trump will use in his comments on North Korea. A hint at a military option or crude insults directed at Kim — like the term "Little Rocket Man" he previously used to deride the young North Korean dictator — is certain to enrage North Korea, which could react with weapons tests and threats of war.

Increasing animosity would be a burden for Moon.

## TRADE

Renegotiating South Korea's bilateral free trade agreement with the U.S., dubbed KORUS, is likely to be high on the agenda during the Trump-Moon summit. Trump has criticized the

AP PHOTO



U.S. Army and South Korean soldiers take their position during a demonstration of the combined arms live-fire exercise as part of the annual joint military exercise (2015)

deal as a source of the U.S. trade deficit with South Korea, an argument officials there dismiss.

Before Trump's presidency, many in South Korea and the United States regarded the deal as a key pillar of their alliance. But Trump has made scrapping trade deals a hallmark of his presidency. Earlier this year, reports that Trump was considering triggering a withdrawal from the deal caused uproar not just in South Korea but also in the United States.

The two countries eventually started talks this summer on renegotiating the deal, which went into effect five years ago. Many South Koreans are watching if Trump will make off-the-cuff remarks on the trade deal during news conferences or on Twitter.

## US TROOPS

Trump wants South Korea to pay more for the U.S. military presence on its soil, which is chiefly aimed at deterring potential aggression from North Korea.

During election campaigning, Trump said South Korea and Japan must make more contributions for together hosting 80,000 U.S. troops or he might withdraw those soldiers. Security jitters subsequently flared among many in South Korea and Japan.

Since taking office in January, Trump hasn't publicly threatened to pull out the troops but he harkened back to an election campaign request for greater burden-sharing with South Korea during his first summit talks with Moon in late June.

South Korea currently pays

more than 900 billion won (USD800 million) annually and negotiations with the United States are to start in the coming months to try to determine a new amount for South Korea to contribute.

## US MISSILE DEFENSE

South Korea's recent agreement with China to try to end disputes over an advanced U.S. missile defense system deployed in South Korea could be an issue.

While announcing the deal last week, Beijing, which views the Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense system as a security threat, said it noted that Seoul stated it won't do several things: deploying an additional THAAD battery, helping develop security cooperation with Japan and the U.S.

into a trilateral military alliance and joining a global U.S. missile defense network. South Korea's foreign minister made similar remarks during a parliament committee meeting earlier last week.

Critics say the South Korean moves, dubbed by local media as its "Three No" policies, could undermine the operational capability of the allied South Korea-U.S. forces and Trump's push to bolster three-way cooperation with Seoul and Tokyo to put more pressure on Pyongyang.

Other issues at stake are South Korea's hope to regain the wartime operational control of its troops, currently placed at the hands of the chief of the 28,000 U.S. troops in the South, and Seoul's possible purchase of high-tech U.S. weapons systems. **AP**

LIU XIA

# Writers urge US President to seek release of Nobel laureate's wife

**A**HEAD of President Donald Trump's visit to Beijing, literary luminaries such as Margaret Atwood and Philip Roth are calling on China to free the widow of Nobel Peace Prize winner Liu Xiaobo.

A letter issued through the writer's organization PEN America asks that China remove restrictions on Liu Xia's freedom of movement and allow her to meet freely with whomever she wishes.

"Liu Xia has undergone great suffering for many years, simply for being the wife of a man that China has deemed to be a dissident," the letter said. "She should be free to meet freely with family, friends, and members of the international community, free to travel where she wishes, and free to be reunited with the outside world."

Others signing the letter include Chimamanda Adichie, Louise Erdrich, Robert Pinsky and Stephen Sondheim.

In a news release last week, PEN America's executive director, Suzanne Nossel, said the writers hope Trump will "voice the United States' concern about the inhumane and unjustifiable detention of a poet who has been accused of no crime."

An accomplished poet and artist, Liu Xia has been under unofficial house

arrest since Liu Xiaobo was awarded the 2010 prize while serving an 11-year prison sentence for incitement to subvert government power resulting from his co-authoring a manifesto calling for political reform. Her whereabouts since his July 13 death of liver cancer are unclear.

China has dismissed all previous calls for her freedom, including from the United Nations' human

AP PHOTO



Liu Xia (center) wife of jailed Nobel Peace Prize winner and Chinese dissident Liu Xiaobo, holds a portrait of him during his funeral in Shenyang in July 2017

rights chief.

Trump arrives in Beijing on today for talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping, who has over-

seen a wide-ranging crackdown on civil liberties under the strict authoritarian rule of the Communist Party. **AP**

Jonathan Lemire & Jill Colvin,  
Tokyo

**D**ECLARING that North Korea was “a threat to the civilized world,” President Donald Trump vowed yesterday in Japan that the United States “will not stand” for Pyongyang menacing America or its allies.

Trump, in one of the Asian capitals threatened by North Korea’s missiles, did not rule out military action and exhorted dictator Kim Jong Un to cease weapons testing like the missiles he has fired over Japanese territory in recent weeks. The president also denounced efforts by the Obama administration to manage Pyongyang, declaring again that “the era of strategic patience was over.”

“Some people say my rhetoric is very strong but look what has happened with very weak rhetoric in last 25 years,” said Trump, who stood with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at a news conference and stated that North Korea imperiled “international peace and stability.”

Abe, who has taken a more hawkish view on North Korea than some of his predecessors, agreed with Trump’s assessment that “all options [are] on the table” when dealing with Kim Jong Un and announced new sanctions against several dozen North Korea individuals. The two men also put a face on the threat posed by the North, earlier standing with anguished families of Japanese citizens snatched by Pyongyang’s agents, as Trump called their abductions “a tremendous disgrace.”

Trump pledged to work to return the missing to their families, intensifying the pressure on North Korean leader Kim Jong Un by elevating these heart-wrenching tales of loss to the international stage in hopes of pushing Pyongyang to end its provocative behavior toward American allies in the region.

“We’ve just heard the very sad stories about family members — daughters, wives, brothers uncles, fathers — it’s a very, very sad number of stories that we’ve heard,” Trump said.

Trump and first lady Melania Trump stood with nearly two dozen relatives, some of whom held photos of the missing. North Korea has acknowledged apprehending 13 Japanese in the 1970s and 1980s, but claims they all died or have been released. But in Japan, where grieving relatives of the abducted have become a symbol of heartbreak on the scale of American POW families, the government insists many more were taken — and that



Shinzo Abe (left), Donald Trump (center) and first lady Melania (right) meet with the families of Japanese abducted by North Korea at the Akasaka Palace

## JAPAN

# US President declares N. Korea ‘threat to the civilized world’

some may still be alive.

Trump has delivered harsh denunciations of Kim, belittling him as “Little Rocket Man” but suggested that it would be “a tremendous signal” if North Korea returned the captives.

But Trump’s message on the second day of his five-country Asian tour was overshadowed by another tragic shooting back home.

Trump called the Texas church shooting that claimed at least 26 lives “an act of evil,” denounced the violence in “a place of sacred worship” and pledged the full support of the federal government. He said that in a time of grief “Americans will do what we do best: we pull together and join hands and lock arms and through the tears and sadness we stand strong.”

He later suggested that the shooter had mental health issues and waved off a question about gun control, saying of the massacre, “this isn’t a guns situation.”

Trump and Abe repeatedly touted their bond over two days that included a round of golf, a hamburger with American beef and a couples’ dinner at a teppanyaki restaurant.

“The relationship is really extraordinary. We like each other and our countries like each other,” Trump said. “And I don’t think we’ve ever been closer to Japan than we are right now.”

But disagreements on trade could strain the friendship.

## ■ Trump pledged to work to return the missing to their families, intensifying the pressure on Kim Jong Un

Trump complained that Japan had been “winning” for decades and rebuked the current relationship, saying the trade deals were “not fair and not open.” He told a group of American and Japanese business leaders: the United States was open for business, but he wanted to reshape the nations’ trade relationship, though he did not say how he would cut the trade deficit with Japan, which tota-

led nearly USD70 billion last year.

He also downplayed the potentially contentious nature of the negotiations, though the Japanese government has not shown much appetite for striking a new bilateral trade agreement. Tokyo had pushed to preserve the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which Trump has abandoned.

“We will have more trade than anybody ever thought under TPP. That I can tell you,” Trump said. He said the multinational agreement was not the right deal for the United States and that while “probably some of you in this room disagree [...] ultimately I’ll be proven to be right.”

Abe, for his part, publicly deflected questions about trade.

The president seemed at ease in front of his CEO peers, calling out some by name, teasing that the first lady had to sell her Boeing stock once he took office and calling for Japanese automakers to make more of their cars in America, though major companies like Toyota and Nissan already build many vehicles in the United States. He promised that profits would soon rise on both

sides of the Pacific once new agreements were struck.

“We’ll have to negotiate that out and it’ll be a very friendly negotiation,” Trump said, suggesting it would be done “quickly” and “easily.”

Japan orchestrated a lavish formal welcome for the Trumps, complete with military honor guard and an audience with Japan’s Emperor Akihito and his wife, Empress Michiko, at the Imperial Palace.

That event, like so much formal diplomacy in Asia, is stepped in tradition, with violations of protocol potentially considered grievous offenses. Trump, meanwhile, sports a spontaneous and, at times, impatient manner, on display again yesterday when he and Abe took part in a traditional feeding of koi in a pond.

At first, Trump followed Abe’s lead by gently spooning out small amounts of feed into the pond below. But while Abe then gracefully slipped the remainder of his box into the pond below, Trump abruptly stopped and, as cameras clicked, theatrically dumped the rest of his supply down to the fish.

Abe laughed. AP

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Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross

## PARADISE PAPERS

# US Commerce head Ross has stake in firm tied to Putin orbit

Bernard Condon, New York

**N**EWLY leaked documents show that Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, the Trump administration's point man on trade and manufacturing policy, has a stake in a company that does business with a gas producer partly owned by the son-in-law of Russian President Vladimir Putin.

According to records obtained by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, Ross is an investor in Navigator Holdings, a shipping giant that counts Russian gas and petrochemical producer Sibur among its major customers. Putin's son-in-law Kirill Shamalov once owned more than 20 percent of the company, but now holds a much smaller stake.

Commerce Department spokesman James Rockas said Ross "never met" Shamalov and has generally supported the Trump administration's sanctions against Russia, according to the ICIJ report. Rockas

added that Ross has withdrawn from matters related to transoceanic shipping vessels and has met the "highest ethical standards."

The details are likely to add to the questions about ties between Russia and the Trump administration, connections that for months have shadowed the White House and are a focus of an investigation by special counsel Robert Mueller. Yet it wasn't immediately clear how many partners Ross might have or what the profit-sharing agreement might be.

ICIJ disclosed the Ross holding as part of reporting on 13.4 million records of offshore entities in tax havens leaked to German newspaper Süddeutsche Zeitung. The newspaper then shared the records with ICIJ and a network of more than 380 journalists in 67 countries. The New York Times is its U.S. partner in this inquiry.

The Times reported on the Ross holding yesterday [Macau time].

It wasn't immediately clear exactly how much of Navigator, which is publicly traded on the New York Stock Exchange, Ross personally owns. ICIJ reported that Ross and other investors own four Cayman Island entities that in turn own 31.5 percent of Navigator, a stake worth USD176 million at Friday's closing stock price.

## ■ The details add to the questions about ties between Russia and the Trump administration

Ross' stake in Navigator is likely a small fraction of that. In financial disclosure forms he filed with the government this year, Ross valued his holdings in the Cayman Island entities,

which include other companies besides Navigator, at no more than \$10.1 million.

Sibur contributed 8 percent to Navigator's revenue last year, according to reports filed with securities regulators. Russia's energy sector is largely controlled by individuals with ties to state actors, including Putin.

Much of the new trove of files includes bank statements, emails and loan agreements from Appleby, a law firm that helps set up offshore dummy companies and trusts. Appleby told the ICIJ that there is "no evidence" that it has done anything wrong.

Other records came from Asiatic Trust, a family-run offshore specialist based in Singapore, and from 19 corporate registries maintained by governments in jurisdictions that draw the wealthy seeking privacy.

Big investments in two U.S. tech companies from a Russian government bank and Russian energy giant have also come to light.

The ICIJ reported that Silicon Valley investor and Russian citizen Yuri Milner got \$191 million from VTB Bank, and invested that money in Twitter. The leaked records also show that a financial subsidiary of Russian energy company Gazprom funded a shell company that invested in a Milner-affiliated company that held roughly \$1 billion in Facebook shares shortly before its 2012 initial public offering.

Milner told the ICIJ that he was unaware of any involvement by the Gazprom subsidiary in any of his deals and that none of his investments has been related to politics.

Milner has also invested in a tech-savvy real estate fund that was co-founded by Trump adviser and son-in-law Jared Kushner called Cadre. Milner told the ICIJ that he used his own money for the investment.

The revelations follow last year's release of records from a Panama-based firm involved in setting up offshore accounts. That disclosure triggered investigations in several countries, the resignation of the prime minister of Iceland and ouster of the leader of Pakistan. The Panama Papers also revealed that close associates of Russia's leader Putin had been using the dummy accounts abroad to store their wealth, including a close Putin friend who had \$2 billion of offshore assets.

There are legitimate reasons for setting up offshore accounts, but lax regulation and anonymity in some jurisdictions make it easy to launder money, evade taxes and avoid regulatory scrutiny. Critics of the widening gap between the super-wealthy and the rest have seized upon the use of tax havens as revealed in the Panama Papers as evidence of a crisis, and governments have promised to crack down.

In the case of Ross, the ICIJ reported Navigator's Russian customer, Sibur, has ties to Putin in addition to his son-in-law.

A big shareholder is Gennady Timchenko, who was targeted by the U.S. and other Western nations for sanctions after Russia's invasion of the Ukrainian region of Crimea in 2014. A few months later, the U.S. barred banks from providing long-term financing to a gas company belonging to another large Sibur shareholder, Leonid Mikhelson. Mikhelson has also been sanctioned by the Treasury Department for propping up Putin's rule.

Sibur itself was not targeted by the U.S. sanctions, but the Bank of America and the Royal Bank of Scotland reportedly backed away from doing business with the company.

The Russian gas producer last year contributed \$23 million to Navigator's revenue, an increase of more than 40 percent in two years **AP**

PARADISE PAPERS

# Queen Elizabeth has investments in offshore havens

Gregory Katz, London

**N**EWLY leaked papers revealed Sunday that Britain's Queen Elizabeth II has invested some of her private money in offshore tax havens.

According to documents obtained by the International Consortium of Journalists, the queen's investment managers placed roughly 10 million pounds (USD13 million) in offshore portfolios in the Cayman Islands and Bermuda.

The investments were made in 2004 and 2005 by the Duchy of Lancaster, the queen's private financial manager.

The Duchy of Lancaster, which holds assets for the British monarch to generate income for her, confirmed in a state-

ment that some of its investments are in overseas accounts. It said that all its investments were legitimate.

"We operate a number of investments and a few of these are with overseas funds. All of our investments are fully audited and legitimate," it said.

The documents showed that the queen has roughly 3200 pounds invested in Bright House, a household goods and electronics retailer that has been accused of exploiting customers by charging high interest rates.

Her use of offshore tax havens is likely to generate criticism from activists seeking to abolish the monarchy in favor of a republic.

The queen pays taxes on the income generated by her holdings in the Duchy of Lan-

caster. She has vast financial assets, including luxury real estate, valuable artwork and jewelry. She is also the legal owner of many of the swans on the River Thames.

The documents about Elizabeth's financial holdings are part of a tranche of some 13.4 million records of offshore accounts leaked to German newspaper Süddeutsche Zeitung and shared with the International Consortium of Journalists and a network of more than 380 journalists in 67 countries.

Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn said the widespread use of offshore havens by wealthy individuals in dozens of countries proves "there's one rule for the super-rich and another for the rest when it comes to paying tax." AP



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## what's ON



## A CONTRIBUTION TO THE HISTORY OF MACAU EXHIBITION

TIME: 10:30am-5:30pm (Closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: March 31, 2018

ADMISSION: Free

ORGANIZER: Macau Post and Telecommunications Bureau

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8396 8305

## COMMUNICATIONS MUSEUM

TIME: 9am-5:30pm daily (Ticket sales is closed 30 minutes prior to closing; closed on public holidays)

ADDRESS: No. 7, Estrada de D. Maria II

ADMISSION: MOP10

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2871 8063; 2871 8570

## REPRESENTING WOMEN THROUGH MAM COLLECTION - 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY

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

UNTIL: December 10, 2017

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

## 'A WEAR OF DANGEROUS CLAM' CERAMIC WORKS BY CHAN ON KEI

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

UNTIL: November 26, 2017

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 4582

## A BONSAI OF MY DREAM - ON THE PATH TO THE INTERNATIONAL ART EXHIBITION - LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA

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

UNTIL: November 12, 2017

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 981

## Offbeat

AP PHOTO



## FEARS SQUASHED: ZUCCHINI MISTAKEN FOR WWII BOMB IN GERMANY

A worried resident in Germany alerted police to what he thought was a World War II bomb in his garden. Officers rushed over — and found a particularly large zucchini.

Police were summoned to the scene in Bretten, near the southwestern city of Karlsruhe, on Thursday morning by an 81-year-old man.

They said in a statement over the weekend that officers determined “the object, which really did look very like a bomb” was actually a 40-centimeter zucchini.

The offending vegetable, which was very dark in color, weighed about five kilograms. Police believe someone threw it over a hedge into the garden.

Unexploded wartime bombs are unearthed frequently during construction work in Germany, often forcing authorities to evacuate tens of thousands of residents while they are defused.

## TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	RTPi Live
15:00	Miscellaneous
15:40	Zig Zag
16:25	NOS League: Guimaraes x Benfica (Repeated)
18:10	Brazilian Mini Serie (Repeated)
18:40	TDM Sports (Repeated)
19:50	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Interview
21:30	Grimm Sr. 2 - Premiere
22:10	Brazilian Mini Serie
22:40	Miscellaneous
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:40	RTPi Live

## cinema



## CINETEATRO

02 Nov - 08 Nov



## THOR: RAGNAROK

ROOM 1

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

Director: Taika Waititi

Starring: Chris Hemsworth, Cate Blanchett, Tom Hiddleston

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 109 min



## FLATLINERS

ROOM 2

2:30, 4:30, 9:30pm

Director: Niels Arden Oplev

Starring: Ellen Page, Diego Luna, Nina Dobrev, James Norton

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 110 min



## GEOSTORM

ROOM 2

2:30 9:30pm

Director: Dean Devlin

Starring: Gerard Butler, Jim Sturgess, Abbie Cornish, Daniel Wu

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 109 min

## LET ME EAT YOUR PANCREAS

ROOM 3

2:30, 4:30, 7:30pm

Director: Sho Tsukikawa

Starring: Minami Hamabe, Takumi Kitamura, Shun Oguri

Language: Japanese (Chinese &amp; English)

Duration: 115min

## ALWAYS BE WITH YOU

ROOM 3

2:30, 4:30, 7:30, 9:30pm

Director: Herman Yau

Starring: Louis Koon, Julian Cheung, Lam Ka Tung

Language: Cantonese (Chinese &amp; English)

Duration: 107 min

## this day in history



## 2000 HILLARY CLINTON IS FIRST FIRST LADY IN SENATE

Hillary Rodham Clinton, wife of the president, has won a seat for the Democrats in the Senate to become the only First Lady to win elective office in US history.

Votes are still being counted but exit polls show she has a clear majority over Republican rival Rick Lazio in the state of New York.

The Clinton family voted near their home in Chappaqua, north of the city, with the president telling reporters, “You can’t put me down as ‘undecided!’” Mrs Clinton made her victory speech in Manhattan, flanked by husband Bill, her daughter Chelsea, outgoing Democrat Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan and incumbent senator Chuck Schumer. She told cheering supporters: “Today we voted as Democrats and Republicans, tomorrow we begin again as New Yorkers.”

Mr Lazio only entered the race in May after charismatic New York mayor Rudolph Giuliani pulled out to fight prostate cancer.

During an acrimonious campaign he emphasised his strong connections to New York, while Hillary defied accusations she was a carpetbagger and appealed to Democrats in New York City, black, Hispanic, Jewish and women voters - and won through.

Mrs Clinton has also shown her tenacity in the face of the president’s much publicised extra marital affairs.

In 1992, when Gennifer Flowers revealed that she had had an affair with him (which he admitted to only years later and then claimed it was confined to one encounter), she uttered the famous words on the CBS 60 Minutes programme: “I’m not sitting here as some little woman standing by my man like Tammy Wynette. I’m sitting here because I love him.”

She later had to apologise to the country singer Tammy Wynette who wrote and sang “Stand by Your Man” but was not the character in it - but Mrs Clinton had successfully made her point to the American public.

Then in January 1998 the story about the president’s affair with White House intern Monica Lewinsky broke - which Bill Clinton strenuously denied.

Mrs Clinton was defiant once more, declaring in an interview with the NBC Today show that it was all inspired by “this vast right-wing conspiracy that has been conspiring against my husband since the day he announced for president”.

She had a difficult moment later that year when her husband admitted to having had a relationship with Miss Lewinsky, and TV viewers watched them walking across the White House lawn - Chelsea between them - to the helicopter waiting to take them on holiday.

All that is in the past and now - as her husband prepares to leave office at the end of his second term - Hillary Clinton’s supporters are even talking of her running for the top job herself.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

At a news conference the following day Hillary Clinton ruled herself out of the 2004 presidential election to serve her full term as New York senator.

Her husband left office in January 2001.

In her best-selling autobiography Living History published in 2003 Mrs Clinton said the two hardest decisions of her life were “to stay married to Bill and to run for the Senate from New York”.

In 2016, Clinton lost the Presidential election to Donald Trump



YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19
If anyone decides that it might be fun to see just how far you can be pushed, they are in for a serious lesson.

Taurus April 20-May 20
If you decide to let someone in on your feelings and plans and how you've reached this point, they need to understand just how special that makes them.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21
You've spent plenty of time assembling just such a crew, and you take their affection seriously.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22
You've always had a decent relationship with your bosses, teachers and other authority figures.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Your friends live by one simple rule: When you're happy, everyone's happy.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22
If you're not sure quite how you should handle a certain situation that's a little too delicate for prime time, then hold off on mentioning it to anyone.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22
Relationships are almost always your number one priority, but at the moment, nothing else can even come close!

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
You know how to make awesome plans and see them through to the end, never even thinking about aborting the mission.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Generosity and excess are dangerous qualities to tote around in tandem, and it takes a very special kind of person to pull it off.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19
No matter what the subject or where you happen to be, you are rarely shy about expressing an opinion.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18
If you're worried that you might say or do something to offend someone, especially if you know what's coming, take a friend along for the ride who's well-equipped to mediate when necessary.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20
You may not be in the mood for shopping at the moment, but that doesn't mean there isn't something out there that's so appealing that you don't go to any extremes to have it delivered to your door within 24 hours.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzles categorized by difficulty: Easy, Easy+, Medium, and Hard. Each category contains a 9x9 grid with some numbers pre-filled.

WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Strike callers; 5- Nixon pal Rebozo; 9- French composer Erik; 14-Sensed; 15- Cracked; 16- Vestige; 17- ... about (approximately); 18- Shrivelled, without moisture; 19- Gillette razors; 20- Writing above a letter; 23- Ovid, e.g.; 24- A really big shoe?; 25- Hot tub; 28- Pollen producers; 31- Summer drink; 34- Killer whales; 36- Granola bit; 37- Approved; 38- In spite of; 42- Bacchanalian cry; 43- Dawn goddess; 44- Spine-tingling; 45- Sun. speech; 46- Treating very gently; 49- Mornings, for short; 50- Univ. aides; 51- ... d'etat; 53- County in central England; 60- Freshen, as a stamp pad; 61- Side; 62- Suffix with buck; 63- Beetle Bailey's boss; 64- Pond organism; 65- In a minute; 66- Cornered; 67- Film spool; 68- Tolkien tree creatures;
DOWN: 1- ET transports; 2- List from which to choose; 3- Alka-Seltzer sound; 4- Throat bug; 5- Hunting dog; 6- Spewed matter; 7- Roseanne, once; 8- ... saw Elba; 9- Declares; 10- Bandleader Shaw; 11- Poi source; 12- Volunteer's words; 13- Some MIT grads; 21- Big name in vermouth; 22- Five; Prefix; 25- Loudness units; 26- Establish as the truth; 27- Thespian; 29- Like rocks in a stream; 30- Use, consume; 31- Director Kurosawa; 32- Fabric of jeans; 33- Perimeters; 35- Feeling of being overwhelmed; 37- Form of poem, often used to praise something; 39- Poke fun at; 40- Fireplace shelf; 41- Old Ethiopian emperor; 46- Financed; 47- Glacial period; 48- Usual; 50- Slight trace; 52- Aspect; 53- Cordelia's father; 54- Land of shamrocks; 55- The closest one to us is the sun; 56- Prefix with conference; 57- Golf club which can be numbered 1 to 9; 58- Dig like a pig; 59- Ages and ages; 60- They appear before U;

Yesterday's solution crossword grid with filled-in words.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



Advertisement for JML Property (卓雅物業) featuring a QR code and text: 'Scan QR Code to Download the JML app - Find the right property for you - See property location and details - Find your JML contact and request viewing'.

## NFL

# Brees, Saints find margin for error in rout of Buccaneers

Brett Martel

**D**REW Brees started listing the mistakes the Saints made against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

There were two lost fumbles, one on Alvin Kamara's run and another on Willie Snead's muffed punt. Wil Lutz missed a 43-yard field goal and had an extra point blocked. Brees missed a deep throw to Ted Ginn when the speedy receiver was behind the Bucs' defense. The Saints' kickoff return unit also botched a trick play.

In the NFL, teams generally need to be playing well to overcome all that. New Orleans overcame it to the tune of a 30-10 rout.

"By no means was it perfect out there," Brees said. "I felt like we had some opportunities to score" more points.

The Saints (6-2) are now riding a six-game winning streak, longer than any streak they had during their last playoff season



New Orleans Saints running back Alvin Kamara (41) carries for a touchdown past a diving Tampa Bay Buccaneers defensive tackle Clinton McDonald in the first half of an NFL football game in New Orleans this weekend

in 2013, and their longest since 2011. Four of the victories have been by two touchdowns or more. None was closer than eight points.

Against Tampa Bay, the Saints made their share of big plays.

There was Kamara's serpentine, 33-yard touchdown on a screen pass and Ginn's 36-yard score on a pass over the middle. Undrafted rookie Justin Hardee scored New Orleans' first TD when he blocked a punt and recovered it

on the run.

Defensively, the Saints continued to look like world beaters in what has been a stunning turnaround from New Orleans' 0-2 start, during which the same unit gave up 1,025 yards

and 65 points.

"We started out being one of the youngest defenses in the league," said defensive end Cameron Jordan, who had 1 1/2 sacks against Tampa Bay. "I could not be prouder of our defense and the way that they are playing."

The Bucs (2-6) lost their fifth straight, and their frustration boiled over during a scuffle that involved quarterback Jameis Winston and receiver Mike Evans.

Winston, who lasted only a half while playing with a shoulder injury, instigated the third-quarter dust-up when left the sideline and pushed his finger into the back of rookie cornerback Marshon Lattimore's helmet. Lattimore shoved back and then Evans decked Lattimore from behind, drawing an unnecessary roughness flag.

Evans berated himself for being childish and malicious. Winston, whose playing status for next week is uncertain, acknowledged that he's not dealing well with the disappointment of a season that began with a lot of promise after the Bucs narrowly missed the playoffs a year ago.

"I hate losing. I hate losing. I hate losing," Winston said. "It's something that we are going to have to handle internally, but we are going to handle it." **AP**

AD

## ACCURATE, TIMELY & COMPETITIVE TRANSLATIONS

**Languages:**  
ENGLISH, CHINESE,  
PORTUGUESE, JAPANESE,  
KOREAN, SPANISH,  
FRENCH, ARABIC,  
RUSSIAN

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Rob Harris, London

FOOTBALL | EPL

# Conte hands Mourinho third straight losing return to Chelsea

A surefire way for a Chelsea manager to ease any anxieties is the sight of a dejected Jose Mourinho at Stamford Bridge.

Antonio Conte achieved just that yesterday [Macau time], handing Mourinho a third successive losing return visit to Chelsea with Manchester United.

Alvaro Morata's second-half header secured the 1-0 Premier League win as Chelsea outplayed United to instantly recover from a debilitating loss at Roma in the Champions League.

The spirited performance moved the fourth-place champions a point behind Mourinho's side, while Manchester City extended its lead over United to eight points by beating Arsenal 3-1.

"We are worried," said Mourinho, who won the Premier League three times across two spells as Chelsea manager. "But there are 18 teams more worried than us because we are second."

Conte, though, is less worried than he was going into a game that saw defender David Luiz ruthlessly dropped and forced to watch from the stands.

"This season we are struggling a bit to find the best solution for this team," Conte said. "Last season we found great balance with the system, 3-4-2-1, but this season we changed many players and we have to find the best solution game by game."

"We showed good balance tonight, we created many chances to score, we could have been more clinical, but it's OK."

OK, because Morata did find the net once to end a six-game scoring drought in all competitions.

The goal was gifted in the 55th minute by the United defense, but it also owed much to Cesar Azpilicueta's vision and precision.

Morata peeled away from defender Eric Bailly and the striker was completely unmarked 12 yard (meters) from goal when he met Azpilicueta's pinpoint cross with a powerful looping header.

"Don't forget this is the first season he is playing regularly," Conte said of the off-season recruit from Real Madrid. "He played a really good game against three physical, strong central defenders. He showed he is strong physically and he has good technique. If I have to find a negative aspect, he could have scored more goals and killed the game."

Morata was only signed by Chelsea because Romelu Lukaku opted to sign for United rather than rejoining the Premier League champions from Everton. But while Lukaku has now gone a seventh game in all competitions without scoring, Morata's goal famine is over.

"I think we lost emotionally for a few minutes after the goal," Mourinho said, "the team was a bit in trouble to be confident again and to try to play again."

Chelsea was transformed from the disorganized team that was picked apart so easily at Roma in a 3-0 loss, making an assertive start against United.

Tiemoué Bakayoko had an early chance to put the hosts in front but missed the target, United goalkeeper David De Gea denied Eden Hazard and Morata lacked power with a strike before halftime.



Chelsea's Alvaro Morata (right) scores his side lone goal

But Chelsea was getting closer, overrunning United in midfield with stability restored by N'Golo Kante returning from six games on the sidelines with a hamstring injury.

Within two minutes of Hazard being again thwarted by De Gea, United was carved open as

Morata scored. But it was an anxious ending for Chelsea, with the three points preserved with a minute to go when Thibaut Courtois produced a close-range save from Marouane Fellaini.

Mourinho, who complained last month that he won't "cry" about injury problems like other

managers, in part blamed the loss on the absence of players like Paul Pogba.

"Of course we missed some important players, especially the quality and the physicality of some of them who could not be available," Mourinho said. AP

BOXING

# Wilder knocks out Stiverne in first round

WHEN Deontay Wilder finally took off the gold mask he wore into the ring, he displayed a fierce scowl.

That look never disappeared from his face as he knocked out the only man who'd ever gone the distance with him.

Wilder sent Bermane Stiverne to the canvas three times in the opening round to defend his WBC heavyweight title this weekend night at Barclays Center.

"So much frustration, it just seemed like my career, it's been crazy [...] so many guys using PEDs," Wilder said. "I just want to prove that I am the best. I know I am the best, but I wanna



A referee pulls Deontay Wilder away from Bermane Stiverne after Wilder knocked out Stiverne during the WBC Heavyweight World Championship fight

prove I am the best." There wasn't much question of that in the Showtime card that ended in spectacular fashion.

The 32-year-old Wilder jabbed through much of the first round while Stiverne, who hadn't fought in two years, moved slowly and cau-

tiously around the ring. Suddenly, Wilder lashed out with a huge right that felled Stiverne (25-3-1).

Already, Wilder was celebrating, but Stiverne got up. Unwisely, it turned out, because another big right as part of a flurry of punches sent the 38-year-old challenger back down.

At that point, Wilder climbed atop the ropes in a neutral corner, shouting at Stiverne's trainer to end things.

When they didn't, another right and then a mammoth left hook sent down the challenger for the final time with his "Alabama Slammer."

"One champion, one

face, one name, he goes by Deontay Wilder," the WBC champ said.

Wilder won the belt from Stiverne in 2015 in a 12-round decision. He repeatedly insisted Stiverne would go down and out early in this one.

Wilder kept his word. He is 39-0 with 38 knockouts.

Wilder now can set his sights on something he has been promising throughout 2017: unifying the heavyweight belts. He wants England's Anthony Joshua, the WBA/IBF champ, sometime next year, and was busy issuing challenges after disposing of Stiverne.

"I've been waiting on

that fight for a long time now," he said. "I declare war upon you. Do you accept my challenge?"

"I know I'm the champion, I know I'm the best. Are you up for the test?"

This was Wilder's sixth defense, and his most ferocious. Stiverne, who last fought on Nov. 14, 2015, outpointing Deric Rossy, never had a chance. He was a substitute for Jose Ortiz, who failed a drug test.

Stiverne did not land a punch and never should have bothered showing up.

Earlier, Sergey Lipinets won a unanimous decision over Akihiro Kondo for the vacant IBF junior welterweight title, a decision that was lustily booed by the crowd of 10,924 at Barclays Center. AP

opinion

**World Views**

The Editors, Bloomberg

**ASIA CAN MAKE TPP WORK WITHOUT THE US**

Donald Trump's grand tour of Asia will attract a lot of attention this week, but in one respect the fuss will be misleading. The president will be no more than a bystander when the region's leaders make a very big decision - whether to go ahead with the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a deal that the U.S. designed and subsequently abandoned.

They can go ahead without the U.S., and they should.

True, the pact was designed to go into effect only if countries accounting for 85 percent of the region's output signed on. This bar is impossible to reach without the U.S. Also, countries such as Vietnam and Malaysia made concessions during the original talks in hopes of gaining access to the huge American market. Without that incentive, their interest in the deal is diminished - and if the agreement were thrown wide open to take account of this, it might unravel altogether.

Yet the deal isn't dead. Negotiators have narrowed their differences, and it's possible agreement can be reached this week. They should seize the moment. Prolonging the talks raises the risk that political winds will shift again. (Last month's election in New Zealand nearly derailed the talks as negotiators sought further changes.)

It would have been far better to wrap up the initial negotiations sooner, so that the U.S. could have signed before Trump's election - but it's too late for regrets on that score. Prompt action now can salvage a pact that's valuable even without the U.S.

This is partly because the deal's most far-reaching clauses aren't about tariffs, but aim to set new standards for the protection of intellectual property, data flows, labor and environmental conditions, and more. In the long run, this will serve the interests even of countries such as Vietnam that stood to gain most from increased trade with the U.S. Japan's government, for its part, rightly sees TPP's ambitions as a tool to push through structural changes that make sense in their own right, and which would be politically difficult otherwise.

Japan and others are also wary of U.S. pressure to negotiate a bilateral free-trade agreement instead of the TPP. Having a regional deal in hand would make it easier to engage with the U.S. on level terms.

Best of all, adopting the agreement largely as it stands would allow a future U.S. administration, with a clearer understanding of U.S. interests, to join without protracted new bargaining. With that in mind, negotiators have wisely decided to suspend and not eliminate certain clauses especially sought by the U.S., such as those dealing with "biologics." These could be easily reinstated.

The region's leaders shouldn't let this chance slip. Talks led by China on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership are moving along, but that's almost certain to be a narrower deal, focused on tariff reductions rather than questions of greater concern to advanced economies such as Japan and Australia.

In stepping aside from TPP, Trump has let his country down. There's no reason other leaders should make the same mistake.

**THE BUZZ BONO AMONG FIGURES NAMED IN LEAK OF TAX-HAVEN DOCUMENTS**

Leaked papers revealing investments in tax havens by the world's wealthy suggest U2 frontman Bono used a company based in low-tax Malta to buy part of a shopping mall in Lithuania.

The Guardian newspaper says the "Paradise Papers" document trove reveals that the singer was an investor in Maltese company Nude Estates, which bought the Ausra shopping center in 2007.

Bono's spokeswoman told the paper that the

rocker, whose real name is Paul Hewson, was a "passive minority investor in Nude Estates Malta Ltd., a company that was legally registered in Malta until it was voluntarily wound up in 2015."

The Irish band has faced past criticism over its tax arrangements.

In 2011 protesters inflated a giant balloon reading "U Pay Tax 2?" during U2's set at the Glashtonbury Festival.

CLIMATE

**2017 set to be among top 3 hottest years, UN weather agency says**



Jamey Keaten, Geneva

**T**HE U.N.'s weather and climate agency says 2017 is set to become the hottest year on record aside from those impacted by the El Nino phenomenon.

The World Meteorological Organization says this year is already on track to be one of the three hottest years of all time, after 2015 and 2016, which were both affected by a powerful El Nino effect, which can contribute to higher temperatures.

Last year set a record for the Earth's average global temperature.

The warning was timed

for yesterday's start of the latest U.N. climate change conference, hosted this year by Bonn, Germany. Some 25,000 scientists, envoys, lobbyists and environmental activists have descended on the city for two weeks of trying to figure out how to turn the goals of the 2015 Paris climate change accord into reality.

WMO says key indicators of climate change — such as rising carbon-dioxide concentrations in the atmosphere, rising sea levels and the acidification of oceans — "continue unabated" this year.

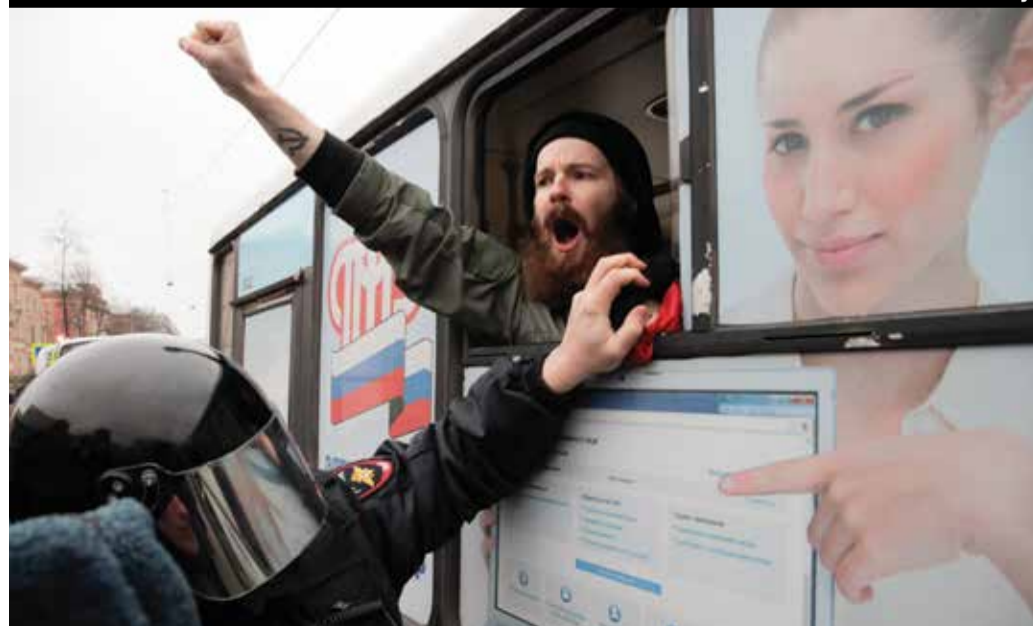
It said the global mean

temperature from January to September this year was about a half-degree Celsius warmer than the 1981-2010 average, which was estimated to be 14.31 degrees Celsius.

The five-year average temperature from 2013 to 2017 is more than 1 degree Celsius higher than that during the pre-industrial period.

WMO says 2017 has been marked by higher-than-average rainfall in places like western China, southern South America and the contiguous United States. It has also been marked by lower-than-average coverage areas for Arctic sea ice. **AP**

**THE DECISIVE MOMENT**



The other Russia. A detained member of the Other Russia movement shouts from a police bus during an unauthorized rally to mark the centenary of the Bolshevik Revolution in St.Petersburg yesterday

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	65-95 Moderate	☹️
High Density Residential Area	65-95 Moderate	☹️
Ambient	65-95 Moderate	☹️

WORLD BRIEFS



**FIJI**'s prime minister called for a sense of urgency yesterday, saying "we must not fail our people" as he talked ways to tackle climate change already affecting his Pacific island nation.

**IRAQ-SYRIA** As the Islamic State group loses its remaining strongholds in Iraq and Syria, U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis is facing a growing chorus of questions from NATO allies and partners about what the next steps will be in the region to preserve peace and ensure the militants don't rise again.

**SAUDI ARABIA** A Saudi prince and seven other officials have been killed in a helicopter crash near the border with Yemen, BBC News reported yesterday, just hours after a major purge of the kingdom's political and business leadership.

**EGYPT** has summoned the ambassadors of Canada, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Britain in protest over a statement they made expressing concern over the fate of a detained human rights lawyer.



**ZIMBABWE** President Robert Mugabe yesterday fired a vice president who had previously been seen as a likely successor, removing an obstacle to the presidential ambitions of Mugabe's wife.

**BELGIUM** A soccer player was injured by a smoke bomb thrown by rival fans during Sporting Charleroi's 3-1 win at Royal Antwerp in the Belgian League on Sunday.

**USA** A gunman dressed in black tactical-style gear and armed with an assault rifle opened fire inside a small South Texas church, killing 26 people in an attack that claimed tight-knit neighbors and multiple family members ranging in age from 5 to 72 years old.