



XU BING'S EXHIBITION OPENS

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HAVE YOUR SAY

The Cultural Affairs Bureau wants to collect information from the public regarding the condition of Macau's heritage sites

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TOP COURT CLEARS YOUNG ACTIVISTS

HK's top court gave three young democracy activists, including Joshua Wong, a last chance to appeal prison sentences

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WORLD BRIEFS



HONG KONG is set to retain its status as the city most visited by international travelers this year in spite of strained relations with mainland China. In a report published yesterday, market research firm Euromonitor International said it estimates 25.7 million arrivals in Hong Kong this year, down 3.2 percent on 2016. Thai capital Bangkok retains second place but its popularity has grown faster than Hong Kong's, with arrivals up 9.5 percent at 21.3 million.

MYANMAR The U.N. Security Council unanimously approved a statement strongly condemning the violence that has caused more than 600,000 Rohingya Muslims to flee from Myanmar to Bangladesh. [More on p12](#)



RUSSIA Thousands of Communist party members and supporters have marched across downtown Moscow to mark the centennial of the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution even as the Russian government is ignoring the anniversary.

INDIA A thick gray haze enveloped India's capital yesterday as air pollution hit hazardous levels, prompting local officials to ask that schools shut down and a half marathon scheduled for later in November be called off.

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Exhibition 'Language & the Art of Xu Bing' opens today

THE first solo exhibition of internationally recognized artist Xu Bing will be inaugurated at 6.30 p.m. today at the Museum of Art (MAM). Entitled "Language & the Art of Xu Bing," the exhibition features 30 significant works by Xu, including "Book from the Sky" and "Book from the Ground", which the Cultural Affairs Bureau views as "the magnum opuses of his accomplishments and prominence in the international art arena."

The artist's new work, specially created for this exhibition, will also be presented. The exhibition features a number of large-scale installations designed by Xu over the years, scattered through an exhibition area of 1,350 square meters on three floors of the museum.

Xu was born in Chongqing, China, in 1955 and was raised in Beijing. He obtained his Bachelor's degree in print-making from the Central Academy of Fine Arts



Xu Bing shows his work

(CAFA), in Beijing in 1981, and stayed on as an instructor, receiving his Master of Fine Arts degree in 1987. He worked as Vice President of the CAFA from 2008 to 2014, and is now a professor and advisor to CAFA PhD students.

Xu currently resides and works in both Beijing and New York. Xu's works are frequently shown in major art museums and art institutions around the world. He has repeatedly been invited to show his works at the Venice Biennale and the Biennale of

Sydney, among other international exhibitions, winning various awards.

The exhibition will run until March 4. MAM is open daily from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., including on public holidays and is closed on Mondays. Admission is free.

Number of credit cards slightly up

ACCORDING to statistics released yesterday by the Monetary Authority of Macau, the total number of personal credit cards issued by banks in Macau stood at 1,168,020 as of the end of September 2017, equivalent to an increase of 3.3 percent compared to a quarter earlier or an increase of 13.6 percent compared to a year ago.

Both credit card turnover and total repayments registered year-on-year growth.

The numbers of MOP cards, HKD cards and RMB cards grew year-on-year by 12.9 percent (to 824,057), 9.8 percent (to 92,534) and 17.8 percent (to 251,429) respectively.

At the end of September 2017, the total credit card credit limit granted by banks in the region reached MOP28.3 billion, up 3.9 percent from June 30 this year.

Credit card receivables amounted to MOP2.3

billion, of which the rollover amount totaled MOP749.5 million, representing 32.5 percent of credit card receivables.

The delinquency ratio, which is the ratio of delinquent amounts overdue for more than three months to credit card receivables, edged up from 1.38 percent at the end of June to 1.5 percent at the end of September.

Meanwhile, for the third quarter of 2017, the credit card turnover totaled MOP5 billion, up slightly by 0.9 percent quarter-to-quarter or 6.6 percent year-on-year.

The cash advance turnover was MOP217.2 million, occupying 4.4 percent of total credit card turnover.

Credit card repayments, in which payments for interest and fees are included, amounted to MOP5.2 billion, up 8.1 percent from the previous quarter.



LEGAL WISE BY MdME

Jacky Lai Kim Hong*

COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY OF CONDOMINIUM MANAGEMENT

With a total area of 30.5 square kilometers, Macau is one of the most densely populated cities in the world. Inevitably, the lack of space equates to squeezing more buildings into less land, and, as we take a quick look at the city, we can see that construction of strata title properties is unexceptional in Macau.

Further, the increase of the quality of condominiums and the respective inflation in property prices has also led to a higher expectation of the overall standard of management of the condominiums.

The Macau Government and the Legislative Assembly sensed the need to delineate and regulate the commercial activity of condominium management by property managers, for the improvement of the efficiency of the management companies as well as the overall environment of the condominiums. As such, a new law regulating the commercial activity of condominium management, numbered as Law no.12/2017, which was

approved by the Legislative Assembly on August 7, will come into force on August 21, 2018.

The first innovation of the newly published law is the mandatory application of a license, with a term of three years, to be issued by the Macau Housing Bureau, by any company or sole proprietor, who wishes to exercise the commercial activity of condominium management.

The law sets out several requirements for successful approval of the license. The company or sole proprietor must not be declared bankrupt/insolvent, owe any debts to the Macau Government and also pay a deposit, calculated according to the number of units in the condominium. This amount will be further approved by a Chief Executive dispatch and published in the Official Gazette. Moreover, if the managing entity is a company, it must have a minimal share capital of MOP250,000, its registered office must be in Macau and its scope of business must

cover the management of condominiums.

Another pivotal addition in the law is the emergence of the role of a technical director. A licensed company or sole proprietor must have at least one technical director, who must hold (at least) a high school diploma and have successfully completed the training course held by the Labour Affairs Bureau in management of condominiums.

In a nutshell, it is easy to see that the desire of the Macau Government is to not only increase the duties of the entity responsible of condominium management but also severely sanction the violation of the duties imposed by law. Non-compliance can result in fines ranging from MOP2,000 to MOP500,000, suspension of license or interdiction of their management of the condominium, as well as criminal liability in case of disobedience.

To that point, duties of the condominium manager shall not only consist of hiring security guards and/or cleaners to perform daily maintenance chores. Multi-dimension

facilities, like the type of condominiums we have in Macau, require a highly organized structure to efficiently execute the daily tasks of condominium management and the law also requires condominium managers to have a first condominium assembly, documentation archive, insurance against fire, facility maintenance and financial reporting. Hence, the mandatory appointment of a technical director, who has knowledge of property management, is capable of pointing out structural deficiencies and can proceed with any maintenance duties, is, indeed, a step forward.

All things considered, we believe that good management and tighter supervision of the Housing Bureau will positively reform the standard and quality of the condominiums in Macau and it will, beyond any doubt, boost the value and environment of the current real estate market.

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House of Dancing Water suspended on account of technical problems

Daniel Beitler

WATER-BASED entertainment show, The House of Dancing Water, has been suspended for the last few days, gaming operator Melco Resorts told the Times yesterday, because of technical problems. However, a company representative informed that shows will resume from next week.

"The show pushes the boundaries of technical requirement and human performance," the gaming operator behind the City of Dreams-based show said in a note to the Times. "Some of the equipment has required special maintenance to continue to provide our audience with the same thrilling experience."

The operator said it had made arrangements for a full refund for the affected customers.

The resort's ticketing website on Monday included a warning and apology message stating that shows between November 2 and 6 had been cancelled for "technical reasons". That message had been lifted from the website last night.



Also last night, it was still not possible to book tickets for performances before November 13 using the online ticketing system.

The suspension this month follows several last-minute cancellations reported by guests at the show on the weekend of October 28/29.

One visitor, who asked to remain anonymous, told the Times that a performance on October 28 was delayed for about 30 minutes, before being outright cancelled 20 minutes into the performance.

The visitor also expressed safety concerns with how staff at The House of Dancing Water had handled the cancellation and evacuation of attendees.

"After the show [was] cancelled

they let the VIP leave the theater first," she told the Times. "After that people started to line up to leave, then they closed all doors without any announcement. By that time, there were hundreds of people standing in the narrow passageway and all [the] doors were closed including all the emergency exits without any staff present or explanation."

Describing the experience as "horrifying", the visitor said she later discovered that the guests were detained in the theater because the management team had not decided on a refund policy.

A second visitor posted a negative review on social media on October 29, claiming that he had traveled from Australia to see The

House of Dancing Water performance, but it had been cancelled three hours before it was due to start. A third visitor in mid-September said his show was cancelled 30 minutes in.

Reports of mid-show cancellations are consistent with an anonymous email sent the Times earlier this week from a disposable email address. Signed only "concerned performers", the nature of the email address meant it was impossible for the Times to verify the source.

The "concerned performers" said that there are a number of dire problems at the show, including technical performance, the state of equipment and serious safety concerns.

"During the last year, the show has undergone a massive decline in quality due to various equipment and technical issues, many times resulting in many show pauses and sometimes out right cancellations," the email noted.

"We are concerned as performers to hear that over the past year many of the safety systems for the performers were shut down periodically for shows due

to malfunctions with the equipment. Since Melco took over the operations last year the quality and the efficiency of the show has been in decline. [...] There is a total lack of confidence with the management team since the change in structure."

The show pushes the boundaries of technical requirement and human performance.

MELCO

The House of Dancing Water is normally staged 10 times each week. Performances are held on Thursday through Monday inclusively, with a 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. showing each day. It premiered over seven years ago in September 2010.

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IC launches platform to collect public information on heritage problems

Renato Marques

THE Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) has announced the launch of a new platform aiming to collect information from the public regarding the condition of Macau's heritage sites, particularly the protected buildings. The announcement was made by the president of the IC, Leung Hio Ming, during the ordinary plenary meeting of the Cultural Heritage Council held yesterday morning at the Macau Cultural Centre.

Leung stated this new platform aims to create a "more efficient way to protect cultural heritage as well as to incentivize the population to participate in the safeguarding of such cultural heritage." He said that the purpose is to have a more convenient and effective way for people to be able to report problems they find regarding the buildings, "thus contributing to a timely response [from the IC] in order to tackle the problem."

Leung mentioned that Macau has a total of around 600 constructions that are listed as cultural heritage, and most of them are privately owned.

The new platform includes several ways to contact IC services, such as through a dedicated website (www.culturalheritage.mo/en/report) and also from social network platforms such as Facebook (IC Art) and IC's WeChat account.

"Once the notifications from people in general are received, we will do a screening and assign staff teams that can check on the issue reported," the IC head noted, clarifying that such reports "can be done by anyone, even tourists." During the discussion of the new initiative, several members of the council questioned the "capacity of the IC to deal with all these reports from people."

In reply, Leung noted, "staff from the IC will be in charge of doing a preliminary analysis from the notifications received and gather this data to decide what should be done or not or what are the priorities."

The methods of inspection of the classified buildings was the other topic discussed during yesterday's



Leung Hio Ming

meeting. Leong Wai Man, head of the Department of Cultural Heritage of the IC, said that the two major issues likely to affect the classified building are "the monitoring of the Particulate Matter (PM2.5) on air pollution that can be very harmful and also the circulation and high influx of tourists."

"We have done over 1,000 inspections throughout the year and found about 170 flaws in the maintenance of the buildings. We have notified the owners promptly and many of them already replied saying they will initiate repair works," she said.

On this topic, council member Keang Kok Cheong addressed concerns over the buildings around Senado Square and the Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro area. "We see now that the shops on [the] ground floor are tidier and well-kept but I'm concerned with the upper floors, that in most cases

are abandoned or not in use and where we can see many problems happening. This was clear also during Typhoon [Hato]."

In reply, the IC said that it is already aware of such situations and that it has notified the owners.

The IC also informed that two sites that will undergo major renovation works will be the Ruins of Saint Paul's and the Monte Fort, as previous inspections have detected severe problems that need to be addressed.

The Monte Fort will see three of its four main walls targeted with a renovation plan that aims to tackle "mistakes committed in the past and that have contributed to added damages," said Choi Kin Long, acting chief of the Division for Cultural Heritage Conservation of the IC. Choi also stated the Ruins of Saint Paul's will see its bronze statues removed for repairing.

In both cases, the IC explained that the works would be done in several phases, and presented a draft scheduling of the tasks.

Regarding Monte Fort, one wall will be addressed each year; the East Wall during 2018, the South Wall in 2019 and the West Wall in 2020. According to Choi, the works to be performed aim to repair cracks and bring back the original look of the walls that over the years "had been fixed with unsuitable cement, motivating new cracks and the growth of plants

and fungus."

Choi mentioned that tests had already been made in cooperation with a university on the mainland to find the right compound (closer to the originally used materials) to fix the walls. Questioned on the expected cost for such works, Leung replied that for now there is only a budget for the first wall, equal to about MOP300,000. For the others, the IC does not have yet a budget as it depends on many factors and will be done on a "case-by-case" basis.

Another concern from several of the Council members was the final outlook of the walls after repair works, with Ip Tat and Leong Chong In noting that the solution will give the walls a "new look" and that "is not what we want." Leong Chong was insistent in saying, "we need to maintain the old look."

Choi once more explained that the "look of new" would be only temporary and that "in a short period they will gain a look close to the other ones [original ones]."



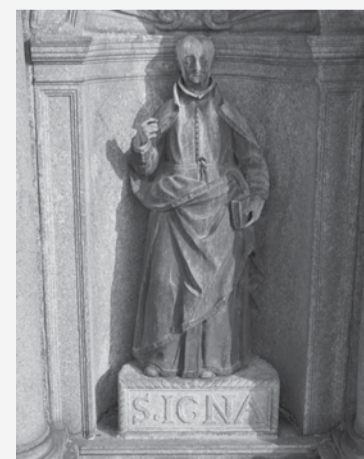
The Mount Fortress wall



Ruins of St Paul's

MOP900,000 BUDGETED TO REPAIR TWO ST. PAUL'S RUINS STATUES

THE GOVERNMENT is expecting to spend MOP900,000 on the removal and repair works for the first two of the seven statues included in the façade of the most popular tourist landmark of Macau. The head of the Department of Cultural Heritage of the IC, Leung Wai Man, disclosed the budget on the sidelines of the plenary meeting of the Cultural Heritage Council, when questioned on the topic by the media. Previously, the president of the IC, Leung Hio Ming had clarified that the works on the statues will initially start with just the first two. "In December we will initiate the first phase in which we will repair the first two statues, as for the other five they will be all [repaired] in 2018." Leung also stated that the repair



works will be done in a specially designed workshop located at the back of the façade. In the original place of the statues will be a large "banner," printed with the image of the statues.

NEW LIST OF CLASSIFIED HERITAGE SITES WILL INCLUDE 13 BUILDINGS

A **NEW** list of classified heritage buildings in the region has been prepared and is "ready to be announced," said the IC president, Leung Hio Ming. The list will be composed of 13 buildings, and will be announced at the last meeting of the year of the Cultural Heritage Council (to be held in December). Leung noted once more that it was not the right time to announce

the new 13 buildings that will be included on the classified heritage list. Nevertheless, he confirmed "Lai Chi Vun shipyards is not one of them as we are addressing this as a separate and individual topic." At the same time, the president of the Bureau also confirmed that the new list of classified buildings will be the topic of a public consultation period at the start of 2018.

EDUCATION

Brighter Future Student Awards launch ceremony to be held today

THE launch ceremony for the first Brighter Future Student Awards will be held at the University of Macau (UM) today. All university students in Macau majoring in law or other disciplines related to law are eligible to apply.

“The purpose of creating these awards is to promote legal studies, to improve students’ knowledge in the laws of Macau and Portuguese-speaking countries, and to foster greater participation of students in community affairs,” said Gonçalo Mendes da Maia, a partner of MdME Lawyers, a local law firm which is co-organizing the event. “Another purpose is to contribute to the policy objectives of China and the Macau SAR governments to develop our region into a platform for investments from

the Portuguese-speaking countries,” he added.

The Brighter Future Student Awards comprise two categories: laws in Macau, and laws in Portuguese-speaking countries, with one winner for each category. The winner in each category will have the chance to visit and intern for one month in the leading Portuguese law firm Morais Leitão, Galvão Teles, Soares da Silva & Associados, as well as to participate in a Portuguese language course. Flight tickets, accommodation, and food allowance during the internship period will be included. Students who are ranked second in each category will receive a one-month internship opportunity in Macau at MdME Lawyers and a symbolic monetary prize.

Airport reports steady growth in air traffic in October

AIR traffic at the Macau International Airport (MIA) continued to grow in October, with a passenger volume of 610,000 during the month, an increase of 20 percent year-on-year, MIA revealed yesterday.

The number of flights also rose by 16 percent year-on-year to 5,100. The Southeast Asian market continued to perform well in October, taking up 43 percent of the overall market, followed by the Chinese mainland and Taiwan, accounting for 32 percent and 25 percent respectively.

From January to October, a total of 5.86 million passengers travelled through MIA, an increase of 6.5 percent compared with the same period last year.

The passenger volume on the Chinese mainland routes increased by 12 percent, whereas the Southeast Asia routes and Chi-



na’s Taiwan route were less affected, with an increase of 8 percent and a decrease of 2.7 percent respectively. In October this year, there

were 30 airlines operating at the MIA, connecting Macau to 47 cities with about 1,100 weekly scheduled flights. **MDT/Xinhua**

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AL PLENARY

Permanent public housing application mechanism established

Julie Zhu

THE amendment for the public housing regime was passed at the Legislative Assembly (AL) yesterday. It included age and income requirements of public housing applicants, as well as a permanent mechanism for residents to apply for a public house at any point in the year.

The amendment had firstly been brought to the AL for discussion on Monday. However, as Monday's meeting did not finish within the AL's legal hours, it was adjourned and resumed yesterday.

The Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raimundo do Rosário was present at the meetings to introduce the change. He mentioned that the key modifications included: increasing the eligible age of public house applicants to 23 years old; the requirement that the applicants' spouse and family members must have not bought properties five years before the application (previously the limit was three years); and the following rule on income: when a social house contract ends, if the income of the residents is less than twice the social housing maximum income requirements, then the tenants should pay double the rent, or, if they exceed twice the maximum, then the residents are obliged to



pay an amount three times the rent, while the government will simultaneously initiate actions to remove these residents from the public houses.

Ng Kuok Cheong questioned the Secretary regarding youth housing policies, wondering when the government will launch policies on the subject.

Ng also remarked that he deemed the amendments brought up by Rosário to offer both advantages and disadvantages.

Song Pek Kei pointed out that there is a group of people who are eligible for both public and affordable houses.

Yesterday, Rosário replied to the lawmakers saying that a more detailed discussion could be carried

out during other meetings where the bill's articles need to be voted one by one.

The amendment further suggests that, if the social residents live in the houses for less than four months, then their cases will be forwarded to the Housing Bureau.

During yesterday's plenary meeting, lawmaker Agnes Lam argued that government representatives should explain the consequences associated with these amendments.

Several other lawmakers, including Wong Kit Cheng and Leong Sun Iok, also voiced their concerns towards the youth, as the amendment increased the minimum application age to 23 years old.

Lam Lon Wai asked how many

cases there were of social housing applicants lying about their incomes in order to become eligible.

Angela Leong noted that, in many countries, private house developers, when building a new project, are obliged to set aside a percentage of the houses for social accommodation. Leong wondered whether this could become a reality in Macau.

She reaffirmed that through her proposal, she hopes the government will build youth apartments for young people to rent, in order to help those who are ineligible for social houses yet cannot afford a regular house.

The Secretary said that his department will try to make thousands of social houses available. He informed that currently there are hundreds of social houses

available because the previous residents had moved out.

The Secretary noted that many of the lawmakers' concerns could be discussed in later meetings.

When replying to Angela Leong, Rosário said that private developers could save a portion of their houses for social housing. However, he noted that the private market usually does not operate in this manner and is based on profit logic. Hence, such decisions do not concern the government's regulations and solely depend on the developers themselves.

According to the Housing Bureau, 49 cases were recorded so far in 2017 where residents assigned public housing had not been living there. Twenty-nine of these 49 houses have since been returned to the government.

MOP27.873B BUDGET SURPLUS RECORDED

IN 2016, the government recorded a MOP27.87 billion budget surplus. The total integrated expenditure of the SAR government in 2016 was almost MOP82.63 billion, which corresponds to MOP1.875 billion more than in 2015. This information was revealed yesterday by the Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, when announcing the government's 2016 budget execution rate at the Legislative Assembly

(AL). The ratios of expenditure spent on education, economy services, public administration, and social security were 12.3 percent, 12 percent, 11.1 percent, and 9.4 percent respectively. The rest was spent on social services and other projects. The Legislative Assembly's budget for 2018 is MOP184.63 million, representing a 0.71 percent decrease. The AL budget for 2018 was passed by the lawmakers yesterday.

Tax rebates granted to employers who hire disabled employees

A bill proposing tax rebates for employers who hire people with disabilities was passed yesterday at the Legislative Assembly (AL).

The law suggests that for every single disabled employee hired, the employer is entitled to a tax reduction which, according to the Secretariat for Economy and Finance, can be of MOP5,000 per individual, although the amount might be adjusted in future iterations based on economic development.

In cases where the recruitment period is less than one year, the tax rebate shall be calculated based on the number of months.

Every disabled employee will be required to hold the Disability Assessment Registration Card issued by the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) in order to be qualified for the tax rebate requirement.

Disabled employees should also work at least 128 hours per month.

If the employers are found to have provided forged income documents, their tax reduction will be suspended, and they will also be punished in accordance with the city's regulations.

According to Lionel Leong, Secretary for Economy and Finance, applying tax rebates is a relatively simple and practical method to entice employers to hire people with disabilities. Leong noted that, at the end of September, approximately 11,500 people in Macau held the Disability Assessment Registration Card.

"If all these people are working for employers who need to pay taxes, then the SAR government will collect MOP57.5 million less each year in taxes," explained Leong.

Fourteen lawmakers voiced their opinions and questions upon the bill. They were mainly concerned about the regulations concerning working hours, the fact that the bill does not distinguish between people with different types of disabilities, and the fact that only enterprises paying taxes can benefit from the tax rebate policy when hiring disabled employees.

Leong Sun Iok commented: "The bill cannot encourage them [employers] to hire people with heavy disabilities."

Agnes Lam pointed out that 128 working hours per month might be a lengthy stretch for some of the disabled.

According to government representatives, currently somewhere around 6,000 entities are qualified for the tax rebates.

AL to debate buses and Hato-related matters

FOUR motions were passed at the AL yesterday to discuss matters such as increase in bus fares, the government's blame during Typhoon Hato, and the future of the border gate bus terminal.

Lei Cheng I proposed for the AL to debate on the government's plan for increasing bus fares and Macau's public transportation priority policies.

Mak Soi Kun said that the "government needs to first supervise the bus service and only then talk about increasing the fares."

Agnes Lam noted that this proposal "contradicts the government's policy stating that public transportation is a priority."

Ng Kuok Cheong proposed that the AL should debate issues related to Typhoon Hato, in parti-

cular addressing the government's responsibility involved with the disaster.

Both Chan Wa Keong and Fong felt that the government did enough to confront Hato. "The society requires accountability," said Au Kan Sam. The motion was backed by 16 votes.

Sulu Sou proposed the AL should debate how the Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) needs to improve the weather warning system and its internal management.

Ma Chi Seng recalled that the government had already taken several measures regarding Typhoon Hato, and that therefore it was unnecessary for the AL to debate it again. However, the motion was passed with 14 votes in favor and 13

against.

AL Chairman Ho Iat Seng proposed the debate of both bus fares and Hato should be done without separating them into two different discussions, because they concern the same topic.

Another debate proposed by Sulu Sou was also passed. Sou proposed a discussion of the border gate bus terminal's development and also suggested the government should stop its reconstruction works.

Several lawmakers, including Chan Chak Mo and Wu Chou Kit, voiced their support towards Sou's proposal, mainly because the border gate bus terminal has a history of different problems, even before entering the recent reconstruction stage.



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PARADISE PAPERS

Offshore leaks depict Apple's quiet shift to Island of Jersey

David Kocieniewski

THE European Union's high-profile investigation into Apple's tax avoidance ended last year with a USD15 billion fine and an unanswered question: How exactly did the company structure itself in recent years to save billions in taxes?

EU officials said then they were unable to fully decode Apple's techniques even after a two-year inquiry and the examination of thousands of pages of internal corporate documents.

But new details emerged Monday, as the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists published leaked documents from an offshore law firm called Appleby, operating in locations including Bermuda and the Isle of Man. The emails show how lawyers at another firm working for Apple aggressively shopped for a new haven after the U.S. cracked down on its accounting practices in 2013 and after Europe followed suit, focusing on Apple's arrangements in Ireland.

Just days before Ireland was planning to close a loophole that had saved Apple billions, the documents show, the company transferred some of its Irish subsidiaries to the Channel Island of Jersey, which taxes foreign companies at a rate of zero percent. Effectively, the company stayed one step ahead of regulators and lawmakers.

Apple disputed the findings, published by ICIJ in conjunction with the New York Times and other partners, and issued a written statement asserting that its corporate restructuring



in 2015 was actually intended to "preserve its tax payments to the United States, not to reduce its taxes anywhere else."

"The changes we made did not reduce our payments in any country," the statement said. The company is also challenging the EU fine, which Ireland has not yet collected.

International tax experts said that Apple's use of new structures may not lower its tax bill further but they will help preserve its already low rate by shielding its overseas cash and intellectual property.

"Apple doesn't pay significant taxes in the U.S. on its foreign income," said Ed Kleinbard, former chief of staff for the congressional Joint Committee on Taxation, who now teaches law at the University of Southern California. "Switching its subsi-

diaries to Jersey will allow Apple to continue its stateless income machinery."

The fresh details about Apple's tax strategies come as Congress is considering a House bill that would cut the top U.S. corporate rate from 35 percent to 20 percent. U.S. corporations have for years complained that the 35 percent rate, the highest among economically advanced countries, puts them at a competitive disadvantage.

The typical U.S. multinational pays far less, however, about 20 percent of its profit in federal corporate taxes. Companies that rely on intellectual property - especially tech and pharmaceutical concerns - can often reduce their effective rate to the single digits. The documents obtained by ICIJ, and shared with its media partners in 100 coun-

tries, also hinted at tax avoidance maneuvers by several other U.S. companies, including Nike, Uber and Allergan.

Switching its subsidiaries to Jersey will allow Apple to continue its stateless income machinery.

ED KLEINBARD
SCHOLAR

Some Washington Democrats, including Rep. Lloyd Doggett of Texas, a member of the House Ways and Means Committee, called on congressional Republicans to delay considering the tax bill until they know more about how the offshore maneuvers deprive the U.S. Treasury of corporate revenue.

Like many U.S. multinationals, Apple lowers its tax bill by booking a substantial portion of its profits overseas, where earnings aren't subject to the U.S. 35 percent tax rate. By 2013, after media reports that it used a British Virgin Islands subsidiary to amass more than \$100 billion in untaxed cash offshore, the Senate Permanent Committee on Investigations held public hearings that accused Apple of exploiting Irish tax law to create billions a year in "stateless income" - earnings not subject to tax

by any country.

Apple CEO Tim Cook defended the company angrily in his testimony. "We don't depend on tax gimmicks," he said. "We don't stash money on some Caribbean island."

The hearing nonetheless led to an EU investigation and stoked public pressure on Ireland to close the loopholes commonly used by Apple and other U.S. companies. In October 2013, Ireland changed the quirk in its law that had allowed companies like Apple to create subsidiaries that could avoid declaring themselves tax residents of any country. The following year, Ireland took steps to phase out the "Double Irish," a strategy that had allowed Apple to funnel all its sales outside of the Americas through Ireland, where the tax bite was low.

With those changes approaching, Apple's U.S.-based law firm, Baker & McKenzie, sent a 14-item questionnaire to the law firm of Appleby, according to the documents, asking about the tax advantages of havens like the Cayman Islands, Mauritius, Bermuda, the Isle of Man and the British Virgin Islands. Other emails published by ICIJ show that lawyers for the company were intent on keeping Apple's tax moves secret.

A spokeswoman for Appleby said the firm was unable to comment on any matter regarding its clients. In a statement published on its website on Nov. 5, the law firm said of multiple articles published based on the data: "The journalists do not allege, nor could they, that Appleby has done anything unlawful. There is no wrongdoing."

The company ultimately decided that the Island of Jersey would be the new tax home of two key Irish subsidiaries: Apple Sales International and Apple Operations International (AOI), which is believed to be the entity that controls Apple's \$252 billion in offshore earnings, largely out of the reach of U.S. tax authorities. **Bloomberg**

corporate bits**LABOR BUREAU HOLDS OSH TOUR AT MGM**

Last week, a group of 60 professionals and practitioners from the local hospitality and catering industry visited MGM Macau for a presentation on MGM's occupational safety and health (OSH) initiatives, followed by a guided tour of the resort's catering operations and award-winning kitchens.

The Catering Industry Occupational Safety and Health Tour was

organized by the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL).

The activity began with a speech by Wong Chi Hong, Director of DSAL, who shared that the tour provides a great platform for industry practitioners to gain fresh perspectives on improving their OSH.

Workplace health and safety is a prime concern at MGM, according to a statement issued by the gaming operator.

Earlier this year, MGM signed the "Occupational Safety and Health Charter," an industry-wide commitment to workplace safety initiated by DSAL.

The company also received a total of 15 awards, including the silver award, in Corporate Safety Performance in the 2nd DSAL Catering Industry Occupational Safety and Health Award Program.

TENCENT SAID TO PLAN DRIVERLESS TECHNOLOGY

Tencent Holdings Ltd. has developed its own autonomous driving system, according to sources related to the matter, becoming the latest player to dive into an already crowded field that could become a USD42 billion industry.

The social media giant intends to leverage its mapping and artificial intelligence technology to compete in a sector that has attracted investment from the likes of local rivals Baidu Inc. and Alphabet Inc. (Al), as well as Alphabet Inc.'s Waymo, the sources said, before requesting not to be named due to the private nature of the matter. It is unclear how far the development effort has advanced, though Tencent has a prototype and begun testing the system internally, the sources said. Tencent's share price rose as much as 3 percent in Hong Kong trading, to the highest level since the company's initial public offering in 2004.

Tencent, whose now-ubiquitous We-



Chat service emerged from an internal development project, would be by far China's biggest entrant into autonomous driving. While it bought about 5 percent of Tesla Inc. in March and is a big backer of ride-sharing giant Didi Chuxing and mapmaker NavInfo Co., few expected the gaming and social media company to come up with its own self-driving technology. That would pit it squarely against Baidu Inc., which has invested billions of dollars on AI and driving research and intends to get autonomous vehicles on roads by 2018.

WELL LINK BANK INAUGURATED

Well Link Bank, which was named Novo Banco Ásia until September 2017, is planning to open branches in Macau, the bank's president of the board of directors, Zhang Shengman, told TDM.

The bank was inaugurated under the new name yesterday. New shareholders bought it partly from Novo Banco spending a total of MOP183 million to buy 75 percent of the Portuguese bank.

Well Link Bank's main shareholders are now Well Link Group (26 percent); Novo Banco (which keeps a 25 percent share); the Ma family (with 15 percent of the shares) and Group KingKey (also holding 15 percent of the shares).

Novo Banco was once Portugal's largest lender by market value (Banco Espírito Santo) - before a rescue plan was put in motion. That plan consisted of splitting the troubled financial institution into a "good bank" - renamed Novo Banco, housing healthy assets - and a "bad bank," housing riskier assets.

Zeke Miller, Washington

ANALYSIS

Tweeter-in-chief ready to confront China's 'great firewall'

AMERICA'S tweeter-in-chief is set to face off bit-to-bit against China's "great firewall."

President Donald Trump's arrival in Beijing today will serve as a test of reach for his preferred 140-character communications tool.

The White House is declining to comment on the president's ability to tweet in China or the precautions being taken to protect his communications in the heavily monitored state. It's about more than cybersecurity. Knowing the president's penchant for showmanship, some aides are trying to build up social media suspense before Air Force One is wheels-down in Beijing.

Spoiler alert: The American president will get his way. Multiple officials familiar with the procedures in place but unauthorized to discuss them publicly said the president will, in fact, be able to tweet in China.

Twitter is blocked for domestic users in China, but foreigners have had success accessing the social media service while using data roaming services that connect to their home cellular networks.

For an American president,

it's not that straightforward. Securing the president's communications — and tweets — in China requires satellites, sophisticated electronics and the work of hundreds on multiple continents.

Trump, like his predecessor, has a secure cell phone, though he uses it more for tweeting than phone calls. He's sent at least two dozen tweets in the first four days of his trip to Asia. Developed in collaboration between the National Security Agency and Secret Service, it has some regular functionality disabled to protect from hacking. But China poses a distinct challenge: Merely turning it on there is a security risk, as China's cellular network is believed to be entirely compromised by its security services.

Several former administration officials said they did not recall whether President Barack Obama brought his cell phone to China.

AP PHOTO



The White House declined to say whether Trump would be bringing his phone on the trip, but

tweets sent by him since he's departed Washington are marked as being sent from an iPhone.

Chinese officials appeared to recognize the importance of the medium to their guest. Asked whether Trump would be able to tweet from Beijing, Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Zheng Zeguang told reporters last week: "We take everything into account on receiving foreign heads of state so you should have no reservations about Mr. President's ability to keep in touch with the outside."

Officials familiar with the procedures in place ... said the president will, in fact, be able to tweet in China

But officials said it would hardly be up to China, as it would be inconceivable for Trump's device to ever reach a Chinese network.

The White House maintains an ever-updating set of policies and regulations for overseas travel. According to current and former White House staffers, officials are sometimes issued new devices specifically for foreign trips. Their phone numbers and emails are forwarded to the new devices for the duration of the overseas stint, then shifted back to their stateside devices once they return. The phones used on the trip are returned to the White House IT office for inspection.

In the event the trip is to a high-risk cyber-espionage location, such as China, Israel or Cuba, aides are given extensive briefings on cybersecurity. Among the precautions: Aides are strongly dis-

couraged from turning on their devices in the offending country.

Former White House press secretary Josh Earnest recalled that security protocols changed frequently during the Obama administration, but that aides were encouraged to leave their personal devices on Air Force One.

"While in the country, we were encouraged to bring everything with us whenever we left the room, even for short periods" such as a gym visit, Earnest said. "And, we were told never to use hotel provided Wi-Fi."

But, Earnest added, it "seems reasonable that these safeguards are easy to put in place for Trump's phone."

The White House Communications Agency, a 1,200-person military command, is responsible for the president's global communications needs. The primary role is to maintain communications for critical defense purposes, like emergency communications with military commanders. In every presidential motorcade, for instance, an armored SUV codenamed Road Runner provides for a connection to an array of military and Secret Service communications networks. Abroad, it also enables mundane presidential traffic, like tweets.

On a trip, the WHCA, along with the White House situation room staff, maintains a secure communications suite at the presidential hotel for use by presidential staff. It includes both secure and unsecured phones, as well as access to the White House Wi-Fi network. It is swept routinely for spying devices and guarded 24/7. Overseas, "we'd have to be extra vigilant about confining classified — and even personal — discussions to this suite," recalled Ned Price, a former CIA analyst who worked as a spokesman for Obama's National Security Council. **AP**

North Korea, trade deficit on agenda of visit

PRESIDENT Donald Trump's agenda in Beijing is expected to be led by the standoff over North Korea's nuclear weapons and demands that China do more to balance trade with America.

Trump's meetings with Chinese President Xi Jinping will be grander than their informal April talks at Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida. That visit was most memorable for Trump informing Xi about ordering a missile strike on Syria while they ate a dessert of chocolate cake.

Officials from both sides say Trump has forged a personal connection with Xi, and Chinese officials have said they expect the leaders to continue to have "in-depth, constructive, friendly and productive" talks.

NORTH KOREA

China is North Korea's chief trading partner and source of aid and diplomatic support, and Trump has pressed for Beijing to take more forceful measures against Pyongyang.

China has already agreed to tough new U.N. penalties that would substantially cut foreign revenue for the isolated North. It has ordered North Korean-owned businesses and ventures with Chinese partners to close by early January. China also has promised to cut off gas and limit shipments of refined petroleum products, effective Jan. 1.

Beijing, however, adamantly

opposes steps that could bring down North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un's government.

TRADE

Trump wants to narrow China's trade surplus with the United States, which stood at USD347 billion in 2016, but has yet to say what he might propose this week.

Washington has raised duties on Chinese goods including stainless steel and plywood to offset what it says are improper subsidies and is investigating whether Beijing improperly pressures foreign companies to hand over technology.

Some American companies worry that Trump's focus on trade in goods might mean he pays too little attention to other issues such as Chinese rules that limit their presence in finance, health care and other service industries.

SOUTH CHINA SEA

China and the U.S. are at odds over Beijing's military buildup, island-building and assertive claims to disputed islands in the South China Sea.

Washington has criticized such moves and says it has a national interest in freedom of navigation in sea lanes critical for world trade. Tillerson said last month that China's "provocative actions" in the waters are a challenge to international law and norms.

But China says the U.S. has no territorial claim in those waters

and should let countries in the region manage their own disputes.

MARKET ACCESS

The American Chamber of Commerce in China wants Beijing to ease market barriers such as limits on foreign ownership of enterprises in finance and other industries.

The chamber has called for faster approval of new seeds and agriculture-related biotechnology. Foreign business groups express concern that Chinese plans for government-led development of electric cars and other technology will limit their presence in emerging industries.

OPIOIDS

Trump has said he will make China's connection to the U.S. opioid crisis a major theme of his talks.

Chinese officials have disputed Trump's claim that the opioid fentanyl, which is flooding the U.S., is produced mostly in China. China doesn't deny that some fentanyl produced illicitly inside the country makes its way to the United States, but officials say there is no data proving the majority of fentanyl used in the U.S. comes from China.

Trump said last month that the U.S. was stepping up measures to curb the flow of fentanyl, a synthetic opioid. He has said he would mention it to Xi. "And he will do something about it," Trump said. **AP**

TAIWAN

Activists ask Trump to raise rights case with Xi

Ralph Jennings, Taipei

TAIWANESE human rights activists yesterday called on U.S. President Donald Trump to use his visit to Beijing this week to ask for the release of a man charged with political crimes in China.

Trump should raise the case of Lee Ming-che when meeting Chinese President Xi Jinping following his arrival in the Chinese capital on Wednesday, activists told The Associated Press.

Lee, a university program manager and former employee of Taiwan's ruling Democratic Progressive Party, is accused of using social media since 2012 to teach mainland Chinese citizens about Taiwan's multi-party democracy. He also managed a fund for families of political prisoners in China.

"We think U.S. government departments and especially the president at the top should express their concern," said Chiu Yi-ling, a representative from an alliance of more than 10 Taiwanese rights groups that organized a campaign

pressing for Lee's release that kicked off yesterday. "The president should express his views."

The 42-year-old Lee disappeared on a trip to China in March and showed up at a court hearing in Yueyang, near the major southern city of Changsha in September. Supporters in Taiwan say he was forced to plead guilty to subverting state power and faces up to 10 years in prison at a sentencing hearing expected later this month.

Subversion of state power is a vaguely defined charge often used by Chinese authorities to muzzle dissent and imprison critics.

In June the U.S. Congressional Executive Commission on China added Lee to a database of people it considers political prisoners.

"We of course hope from a human rights point of view that the United States, as one of the world's most important rights defenders, will pay attention not just to the Lee Ming-che case, but possibly bring up others" in meetings with Xi, said Huang

Yi-bee, chief executive officer with rights group Covenants Watch.

Trump's talks with Xi are expected to center on trade disputes and reining in North Korea's nuclear weapons program, and it's unclear whether he plans to raise human rights concerns.

The writer's organization PEN America has urged him to ask China to free the widow of Nobel Peace Prize winner Liu Xiaobo from house arrest.

That followed a letter signed by literary luminaries such as Margaret Atwood and Philip Roth calling on China to remove restrictions on Liu Xia's freedom of movement and allow her to meet freely with whomever she wishes.

Lee's case has strained already stalemated relations between authoritarian, communist-ruled China and self-governing democratic Taiwan. China, which claims Taiwan as its own territory, cut off ties with the island's government shortly after the election of independence-leaning President Tsai Ing-wen last year.

The prosecution has raised concerns about the security of the hundreds of thousands of Taiwanese who reside in China or travel there on a regular basis for business, education or cultural exchanges. It's viewed not only as a warning to would-be overseas democracy activists, but also as part of Beijing's campaign of increasing diplomatic and economic pressure on Tsai's administration to compel her to acquiesce to its political demands.

At the kick-off event, organizers stood under a tree festooned with ribbons to chant "Lee Ming-che is innocent" and "Free Lee Ming-che."

"No matter what laws China uses, the Lee Ming-che case needs to be closed as soon as possible," said Kao Jung-chih, director of the Taipei-based Judicial Reform Foundation.

"We think Lee Ming-che is a political prisoner," Kao said. "What he did is something we all do in our daily lives, whether it's Taiwan society or Chinese society, which is to express our own ideas and views." AP



Pro-democracy activists Joshua Wong (second left) and Nathan Law, (left) pose for photographers in front of the Court of Final Appeal yesterday

HONG KONG

Top court clears young activists to appeal prison sentences

HONG Kong's top court yesterday gave three young democracy activists, including Joshua Wong, a last chance to appeal prison sentences related to their involvement in huge 2014 pro-democracy protests in the Chinese-controlled city.

The Court of Final Appeal approved the request by Wong, Nathan Law and Alex Chow to appeal the months-long prison terms they received for their roles in an unlawful assembly that sparked the protests.

"It's really good news for us," Wong told reporters after the hearing, though he noted the "three of us still have the possibility to be put inside prison again a few months later."

The three were originally given community service or suspended sentences that let them avoid jail but those were overturned after the justice secretary requested a sentencing review. The move raised concerns that the city's independent judiciary was being undermined — part of broader tensions over Beijing's increasingly strained relationship with Hong Kong, which includes calls for independence on college campuses and football fans booing China's national anthem.

Wong said he hopes the appeal can clarify what extent the court should take into account the motive of civil disobedience when sentencing protesters.

The three filed their appeal bid to the Court of Final Appeal after a lower court rejected their request. The top court's three-member panel approved their application after hearing arguments for about half an hour.

The judges also extended bail for Wong, 21, and Law, 24, who were released two weeks ago after serving about two months so they could make their appeal. Wong faces the remainder of his six month sentence and Law eight months if their appeals fail.

Chow, who was given seven months in the case, was set free on bail for the appeal hearing, which the court scheduled for January. He had not requested bail earlier.

Wong was still a teenager when he helped spearhead the protests three years ago against Beijing's decisions to restrict elections for the city's top leader. He's the subject of a recent Netflix documentary that's been submitted for Oscar consideration. He still faces sentencing in a separate case that could send him back to prison.

Under the "one country, two systems" framework, Beijing promised to let Hong Kong maintain wide autonomy and civil liberties following its 1997 handover from Britain. Residents fear China's communist leaders are backtracking on the pledge. AP



AP PHOTO

Rod McGuirk, Canberra

Another Australian politician has had his eligibility to sit in Parliament called into question due to a constitutional ban on dual citizens, while the prime minister proposed making all lawmakers prove they are not foreign nationals.

Ruling party lawmaker John Alexander said yesterday he was seeking verification from London on whether he had inherited British citizenship from his father.

"I understand he renounced his British citizenship before I was born because he was a proud Australian," Alexander said in a statement about his father, who died in 1987. "As my father was born in the U.K., and consistent with the plan of action outlined by the prime minister yesterday, I am making further enquiries," he added.

If Alexander proved to be a dual citizen he would become the seventh lawmaker to be forced from office since the High Court last month made a ruling to enforce a 116-year-old constitutional ban on foreign citizens sitting in Parliament. That has created an unprecedented political crisis that could threaten the majority of Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull's conservative coalition.

House of Representatives lawmakers found to be dual citizens must renounce their foreign citizenship and then win a by-election if they want to return to their seat. Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce, who was disqualified



Lawmaker John Alexander

AUSTRALIA

Ruling party lawmaker under dual citizen cloud

by the High Court last month over New Zealand citizenship he inherited from his New Zealand-born father, has chosen that route and will run in a Dec. 2 election.

Five senators who have lost their seats will usually be replaced by members of their own parties without a by-election so there is no change to the political balance of power.

Australia's ban on dual national lawmakers is rare if not unique in the world, and many argue it is outdated in a nation

of immigrants where half the population was born overseas or has a foreign parent

Alexander, who has been in the House of Representatives since 2010, announced his father was born in Britain after Turnbull on Monday proposed making all lawmakers prove they are not dual citizens.

Australian-born lawmakers, such as Alexander and Joyce, would have to state where and when their parents were born, details that could reveal an inherited second national-

ty. Overseas-born lawmakers would provide records of how and when their foreign citizenship was renounced. The citizenship registry proposal needs the endorsement of Parliament.

Turnbull told Australian Broadcasting Corp. radio yesterday that Alexander had told his government colleagues that he believes he is not a dual citizen.

Turnbull said his proposed demand for all lawmakers to prove their nationality cou-

ld result in more by-elections that could impact his government's slim majority.

"I take it as a given that every Member of the House and the Senate as of today believes that they are eligible to sit in the House or the Senate," he said, after explaining that anyone who thought otherwise should resign.

Independent lawmaker Andrew Wilkie called on Alexander to prove that his father had renounced his British citizenship before Alexander was born on July 4, 1951. Australian citizenship has only existed since Jan. 1, 1949, giving Alexander's father less than three years to become solely Australian before his son was born.

"Given the furor over this, knowing that he has a British-born parent, it would've been wise of him to look into this and certainly to have looked into it well before the media challenged him on it yesterday," Wilkie said.

Calls for an audit of all lawmakers' citizenship intensified when a senior senator announced last week that he was resigning from his 350,000 Australian dollar (USD270,000) a year job because he had inherited British citizenship from his father. Government ministers said he should have declared his dual citizenship much earlier.

Turnbull has previously resisted calls for added scrutiny of lawmakers' citizenship status. His critics say he fears losing more lawmakers because of his government's precarious control of Parliament. AP

MYANMAR

UN condemns violence forcing Rohingyas to flee

THE U.N. Security Council unanimously approved a statement yesterday [Macau time] strongly condemning the violence that has caused more than 600,000 Rohingya Muslims to flee from Myanmar to Bangladesh, a significant step that still fell short of a stronger resolution that Western nations wanted but China opposed.

The presidential statement calls on Myanmar's government "to ensure no further excessive use of military force in Rakhine State" and take immediate steps to respect human rights.

It expresses "grave concern" at reports of human rights violations in Rakhine by Myanmar's security forces against the Rohingya. These include "the systematic use of force

and intimidation, killing of men, women and children, sexual violence and [...] the destruction and burning of homes and property," it says.

Britain initially circulated a Security Council resolution with similar language, backed by the U.S., France and other council members. But resolutions are legally binding and diplomats said China, a neighbor and ally of Myanmar, was strongly opposed. China is one of the five countries that have veto power on the council.

So Britain and France turned the resolution into a presidential statement, which becomes part of the council's record but does not have the legal clout of a resolution.

Nonetheless, the statement still represents the strongest council pronou-

ncement on Myanmar in nearly 10 years, and reflects widespread international concern at the plight of the Rohingya, who face official and social discrimination in Buddhist-majority Myanmar.

French Ambassador Francois Delattre said the Security Council sent "a strong and unanimous message to end the ethnic cleansing that is taking place before our eyes in Myanmar and recreate the political momentum in this country."

Britain's deputy U.N. ambassador, Jonathan Allen, called it "a first step" and said the council will judge Myanmar "on how they act."

Both Delattre and Allen decried the desperate humanitarian situation for the Rohingya, with the French ambassador calling

it "one of the worst humanitarian crises of our time."

The council statement "expresses alarm at the significantly and rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situation in Rakhine state" and demands that the government grant "immediate, safe and unhindered access to United Nations agencies and their partners" and other aid organizations.

On Oct. 27, the U.N. World Food Program said it had gotten a "green light" to resume full operations in northern Rakhine State and was working out the details.

But the agency's executive director, David Beasley, said in an interview late Monday with The Associated Press that "we're in the infant stages of negotiating working with the government of Myanmar to re-



enter strategically where we need to be to help innocent people."

"We're hopeful the Myanmar government will give us the access we need," said Beasley, who recently visited Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. "That situation is catastrophic. [...] I've never seen anything like it."

Myanmar's govern-

ment doesn't recognize the Rohingya as an ethnic group, insisting they are Bengali migrants from Bangladesh living illegally in the country. It has denied them citizenship.

The latest violence began with a series of attacks Aug. 25 by Rohingya insurgents, which the presidential statement also condemns. AP

Jonathan Lemire
& Jill Colvin, Seoul

SOUTH KOREA

In Seoul, Trump calls for North Korea to 'make a deal'

PRESIDENT Donald Trump, on his first day on the Korean peninsula, signaled a willingness to negotiate with North Korea to end its nuclear weapons program, urging Pyongyang to "come to the table" and "make a deal."

In a notable shift from his aggressive rhetoric toward North Korea, Trump took a more optimistic tone yesterday, suggesting that "ultimately, it'll all work out." And while he said the United States would use military force if needed, he expressed his strongest inclination yet to deal with rising tensions with Pyongyang through diplomacy.

"It makes sense for North Korea to come to the table and make a deal that is good for the people of North Korea and for the world," Trump said during a news conference alongside South Korean president Moon Jae-in. "I do see certain movement."

Trump said he's seen "a lot of progress" in dealing with North Korea though he stopped short of saying whether he wanted direct diplomatic talks.

Trump also underlined the United States' military options, noting that three aircraft carrier groups and a nuclear submarine had been deployed to the region. But he said "we hope to God we never have to use" the military options.

During his first day in South Korea, Trump lowered the temperature on his previously incendiary language about North Korea. There were no threats of unleashing "fire and fury" on the North, as Trump previously warned, nor did the president revive his derisive nickname for North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un, "Little Rocket Man."

But he did decree that the dictator is "threatening millions and millions of lives, so needlessly" and highlighted one of the central missions of his first lengthy Asia trip: to enlist many nations in the region, including China and Russia, to cut off Pyongyang's economic lifeline and pressure it into giving up its nuclear program.

Moon, who has been eager to solidify a friendship with Trump, said he hoped the president's visit would be a moment of inflection in the stand-off with North Korea and said the two leaders had "agreed to resolve the North Korea nuclear issue in peaceful manner" that would "bring permanent peace" to the peninsula.

"I know that you have put this issue at the top of your security agenda," said Moon. "So I hope that your visit to Korea and to the Asia Pacific region will serve as an opportunity to relieve some of the anxiety that the Korean people have due to North Korea's provocations and also serve as a turning point in resolving the North Korean nuclear issue."

When presidents travel over-

AP PHOTO



Donald Trump (left) leaves a joint news conference with Moon Jae-in (right) at the Blue House in Seoul yesterday

seas, every word is parsed and every action studied. That scrutiny will be intensified in South Korea, Trump's second stop on his lengthy Asia trip, where he will try to reassure Seoul while risking antagonizing Pyongyang. Trump has suggested that even while in range of Pyongyang's missiles, he will not change his inflammatory rhetoric, which has included deriding Kim Jong Un as "Little Rocket Man."

Trump said he's seen 'a lot of progress' in dealing with North Korea

He began with a visit to Camp Humphreys, a joint US-Korean military base, but even as he walked among the weapons of war, he struck a hopeful note, saying: "it always works out."

Much like he did in his visit to Japan, Trump indicated he would place the interlocking issues of security and trade at the heart of his visit. He praised South Korea for significant purchases of American military equipment and urged the two nations to have more equitable trade relationship. Moon said the two agreed on lifting the warhead payload limits on South Korean ballistic missiles and cooperating on strengthening South Korea's defense capabilities through the acquisition or development of advanced weapons systems.

Trump also pushed his economic agenda, saying that the current US-Korea trade agreement was "not successful and not very good for the United States." But he said that he had a "terrific" meeting scheduled on trade, adding, "hopefully that'll start working out and working out so that we create lots of jobs in the United States, which is one of the very important reasons I'm here."

At Camp Humphreys, Trump shook hands with American and Korean service members and sat with troops for lunch in a large mess hall U.S. and South Korean

officials have said the base visit was meant to underscore the countries' ties and South Korea's commitment to contributing to its own defense. Burden-sharing is a theme Trump has stressed ever since his presidential campaign.

But Trump is skipping the customary trip to the demilitarized zone separating north and south — a pilgrimage made by every U.S. president except one since Ronald Reagan as a demonstration of solidarity with the South. Trump has not ruled out a military strike and backed up his strong words about North Korea

by sending a budget request to Capitol Hill this week for USD4 billion to support "additional efforts to detect, defeat, and defend against any North Korean use of ballistic missiles against the United States, its deployed forces, allies, or partners."

The other question looming over the visit is Trump's relationship with Moon, with whom he does not nearly share the close friendship he has with Abe.

Trump and Moon agree on the need to pressure the North with sanctions and other deterrence measures. But Trump has threatened to "totally destroy" the North, if necessary, repeatedly insisted that all options are on the table and suggested that Moon was being too lenient on the north. Moon, meanwhile, favors dialogue as the best strategy for defusing the nuclear tension and vehemently opposes a potential military clash that could cause enormous casualties in South Korea.

But Moon played the gracious host yesterday. Following the example set by Japan and other countries that have welcomed Trump with lavish greetings, Moon rolled out an elaborate greeting for the president, including an elaborate ceremony featuring colorful costumes and flags at South Korea's stately presidential residence known as the Blue House. And he made a point of saluting the recent gains of the U.S. stock market, a favorite Trump talking point, and congratulating the president ahead of the one-year anniversary of his election.

Trump smiled broadly. AP

Police on alert over Trump protests

SOUTH Korean police were on high alert in Seoul yesterday to monitor protests by both critics and supporters of President Donald Trump as the U.S. leader arrived in the country amid concerns over North Korea's nuclear threats.

Surrounded by thousands of police officers and a tight perimeter created by buses, hundreds of anti-Trump protesters rallied at a boulevard near the U.S. Embassy, holding banners that read "No Trump" and "No War."

The demonstrators accused the outspoken president of raising tensions with North Korea and pressuring Seoul to buy more U.S. weapons. They also criticized him for pressing Seoul to re-do a bilateral free trade deal between the countries so that



it's more favorable to the United States.

Across the street, hundreds of Trump supporters waved the U.S. and South Korean flags and held signs that read "Blood Allies Korea + US." They chanted "USA!" when Trump's motorcade passed by the two protest

groups for a meeting with South Korean President Moon Jae-in at the presidential Blue House.

More than 15,000 officers will be deployed to provide security during Trump's two-day visit and monitor the demonstrations, according to the National Police Agency.

USA | TEXAS SHOOTING

26 victims range from 18 months to 77 years old

Emily Schmall & Will Weissert, Sutherland Springs

As usual, John Holcombe posted his Sunday school lesson online a day ahead. It was about an Old Testament miracle.

Holcombe was expecting a small miracle of his own. His wife, a widow and mother of five, was pregnant with their first child. But the following morning, his family would bear an unspeakable burden: nearly a third of the fatalities in Texas' worst mass shooting.

The massacre inside their church in the tiny Texas town of Sutherland Springs spared Holcombe's life, but not the lives of his wife, three of her children, his parents, a brother and a toddler niece.

They were among 26 people fatally shot during the shooting rampage Sunday that also killed several members of at least one other extended family, a couple visiting

for the first time, the pastor's teenage daughter and other churchgoers. Investigators said the victims ranged in age from 18 months old to 77 years old. Hundreds of shell casings and 15 magazines that hold 30 rounds were found at the church, authorities said.

Holcombe and his 36-year-old wife, Crystal, had recently married, said Julius Kepper, who lives about two blocks from the church.

"She was starting her life all over again," he told The Associated Press. "That's a crying shame."

Holcombe suffered shrapnel wounds and Crystal's youngest child, Evelyn, was grazed by bullets but both were discharged from the hospital on Monday, Crystal's aunt, Michele Hill, told the AP. Crystal's eldest child, Phillip, had stayed home from church that day, Hill said. She added that Crystal was due in early April.

"They had actually just found out. They didn't think it was possible so this was just a miracle baby," Hill said.

Michael Ward rushed to the church after he was abruptly awoken by his wife, Leslie, when she heard a peal of gunfire from that direction as she set up a yard sale. Ward told The Dallas Morning News he found and carried out his 5-year-old nephew, Ryland, who had four gunshot wounds.

The boy was flown to University Hospital in nearby San Antonio, but the child's mother and two of his sisters were killed. Yesterday, the yard sale was still set up, with clothes laid out or hung on plastic racks, along with kitchen items. No one was there.

Another victim was the pastor's 14-year-old daughter, Annabelle Pomeroy. Her parents were both out of town during the shootings, which also wounded about 20 people. Another young victim was 16-year-old Hailey Krue-

ger, the church and family members confirmed on social media. Investigators said the gunman, Devin Patrick Kelley, had recently sent threatening texts to his mother-in-law, a member of the church, and the shooting appears to have been driven by domestic tensions. Kelley was formally ousted from the Air Force for a 2012 assault on his ex-wife. He was found with a self-inflicted



Kenneth and Irene Hernandez pay their respects as they visit a makeshift memorial with crosses placed near the scene of a shooting at the First Baptist Church of Sutherland Springs, Texas

gunshot wound Sunday after he was chased by two community members and crashed his vehicle.

Investigators said the gunman, Devin Patrick Kelley, had recently sent threatening texts to his mother-in-law, a member of the church, and the shooting appears to have been driven by domestic tensions.

Kelley was formally ousted from the Air Force for a 2012 assault on his ex-wife. He was found with a self-inflicted

gunshot wound Sunday after he was chased by two community members and crashed his vehicle.

Kelley's mother-in-law wasn't at the church Sunday. But his wife's grandmother, 71-year-old Lula Woicinski White, was attending the service and died in the shooting, according to family members. Her stated occupation on Facebook: doing whatever was needed at the church. AP

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THE leaders of Germany's Green party are signaling that they may drop demands for a 2030 deadline to phase out combustion engines and shut coal-fired power stations as Chancellor Angela Merkel's government-building efforts intensify.

Merkel's conservatives, the pro-business Free Democrats and the Greens want to determine by mid-November whether there's enough common ground for full negotiations on a coalition never tried in national government. They struggled to bridge differences during initial talks.

Greens co-leader Cem Ozdemir signaled in an interview with the daily Stuttgarter Zeitung published yesterday that his party will soften its demand, much criticized by its prospective partners, to stop registering new cars with gas or diesel engines in 2030.

"It is clear to me that we alone will not be able to push through the cutoff date of 2030 for the registration of fossil-fuel combustion engines," he was quoted as saying — though "we must of course clear the way for emissions-free mobility with binding measures."

The party also has called for

GERMANY

Greens signal flexibility in coalition talks with Merkel

AP PHOTO



German chancellor Angela Merkel

coal-fired electricity plants, currently a significant source of energy for Europe's biggest economy, to be shut by 2030. But chairwoman Simo-

ne Peter told the Rheinische Post daily it is "pragmatic" on "whether the last coal-fired power station goes offline in 2030 or 2032," and that the

key is reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

Germany, which is currently hosting a global conference on combating climate change,

will miss its own emissions reduction targets unless further measures are taken, officials say.

The Greens' comments increase pressure on other parties to make concessions. There's been little sign of movement so far, with Free Democrat leaders in particular saying they're not afraid of new elections.

Polls suggest a new vote wouldn't create a parliament much different from the one elected in September. In that election, the nationalist and anti-immigration Alternative for Germany, or AfD, emerged as the third-biggest party.

"We in AfD are not afraid — we would be very glad of new elections, because apparently none of the other parties is capable of fulfilling the task set by voters and forming a sensible governing coalition," co-leader Alice Weidel said. AP

AD

SATURDAY SUPER STACK

STILL THE BIGGEST POKER NIGHT OF THE WEEK

PokerStars LIVE Macau hosts the Saturday SuperStack with a HK\$100,000 guaranteed prize pool. With a buy-in of HK\$3,000, you start with a huge 15K starting chip stack.

Don't miss out on the biggest tournament of the week. Every Saturday from 4th November to 30th December.

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what's ON



FOREVER CRAZY

TIME: 8pm (Tuesday to Friday)

8pm & 11pm (Saturday to Sunday)

UNTIL: November 12, 2017

VENUE: The Parisian Theatre

ADMISSION: MOP180, MOP380, MOP480, MOP680

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2882 8818

CITY OF ECHOES

TIME: 11am-6pm

UNTIL: November 22, 2017

VENUE: A Porta da Arte, No. 42, Rua dos

Ervanários

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 6238 6441

FESTIVE VIBES AT ALBERGUE SCM

TIME: 3pm-8pm (Mondays)

12pm-8pm (Tuesdays to Sundays)

UNTIL: December 6, 2017

VENUE: Hall D1, Albergue SCM, No. 8, Calçada da

Igreja de São Lázaro

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2550

CERAMICS AND SEALS OF 108 HEROES OF SHU HU LEGEND FROM THE MAM COLLECTION

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

UNTIL: November 19, 2017

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

NAPE

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

DISCOVER MACAU: MUSEUM OF TAIPA AND COLOANE HISTORY

TIME: 10am-6pm daily (Last admission at 5:30pm; closed on Mondays)

ADDRESS: Rua Correia da Silva, Taipa

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

MACAU ILLUSTRATED - EXHIBITION OF CITY PLANS AND ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS FROM THE MACAU ARCHIVES' COLLECTION

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

UNTIL: December 3, 2017

VENUE: Macau Archives, No.91-93, Avenida do

Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2859 2919

Offbeat

PRANKSTER TOSSES YELLOW DYE INTO LINCOLN CENTER'S FOUNTAIN

A prankster has thrown yellow dye into the fountain at New York's Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts.

Photos posted on social media Saturday show lemon-yellow water gushing from the fountain, which sits in front of the Metropolitan Opera and is a popular tourist attraction that has been featured in movies including "Moonstruck" and "Ghostbusters."

The Daily News reports the fountain was turned off after suddenly changing color Saturday afternoon.

A Lincoln Center spokeswoman says security notified the police, who are looking for the prankster. She says the fountain is being cleaned.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	RTPi News (Delayed Broadcast)
15:00	Miscellaneous
15:50	Miscellaneous
17:45	Zig Zag
18:10	Portuguese Documentary Serie
18:45	Brazilian Mini Serie (Repeated)
19:15	TDM Interview (Repeated)
19:50	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Non-daily Portuguese News
21:30	Miscellaneous
22:10	Brazilian Mini Serie
22:40	Miscellaneous
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:15	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:50	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 & 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 & English)

Duration: 107 min

this day in history



2000 BUSH AND GORE FIGHT TO THE FINISH

The result of the American presidential election is still hanging in the balance hours after the last polls officially closed.

Votes are still being counted in the key state of Florida where it seems there are only a few hundred votes separating the two would-be presidents.

Early exit polls claimed Republican George W Bush had taken the Sunshine State - but the claim was later retracted.

The Democrat White House hopeful, Al Gore, had apparently been on the verge of admitting defeat.

He had already phoned Mr Bush to offer his congratulations when he was told the Florida result was still too close to call.

Mr Gore telephoned Governor Bush a second time to withdraw his concession.

He said: "Circumstances have changed since I first called you.

"We have now learned we are down by only about 600 votes out of millions cast and that means an automatic recount."

The election campaign has been one of the closest for years.

National polls gave Governor Bush a slender lead as voters went to the polls but one survey gave Al Gore a two point advantage suggesting he could still win the race.

A high turnout of blacks and union members appears to have helped Mr Gore in the large industrial states.

Jeb Bush, Mr Bush's brother and governor of Florida, had promised to deliver the state for his brother.

The Texas governor appeared to hold a slender advantage in a string of swing states, including Missouri, Iowa, Wisconsin, Arkansas and Nevada.

If he wins in Florida, he will probably have enough electoral college votes to become president.

It is possible Mr Bush could win the electoral college but lose the popular vote. This has not happened since 1888 when Benjamin Harrison became President even though Grover Cleveland had amassed more votes.

Mr Bush closed his White House campaign by vowing to be a "uniter not a divider" if elected president and Mr Gore promised to "fight for you".

If Mr Bush were to win, he would be the first son of a former president to win the White House since John Quincy Adams was elected in 1824.

For Mr Gore, the son of a senator, victory would represent fulfillment of a childhood ambition and the culmination of 24 years as a congressman, senator and vice-president.

He ended his campaign with a whistle-stop tour of five states, ending in Florida. He was joined in Miami by celebrity supporters including actors Robert de Niro, Glenn Close, Ben Affleck and Stevie Wonder.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Texas Governor George Bush was eventually declared President-elect on 13 December 2000 after a protracted legal battle.

The vote in Florida went to a hand-count. But it turned out thousands of votes had been discarded by automatic machines because voters were supposed to knock out a small rectangle of card next to their choice of candidate and many were not punched properly.

The bits of card, known as chads, gave rise to serious complaints. Many black Americans claimed they had been disenfranchised after it was revealed the oldest and least reliable voting machines were placed in black precincts.

An inquiry carried out after the result had been decided concluded that more than 180,000 votes were thrown out as a result of poorly trained poll workers and a lack of standard procedures.

On 13 December 2000 Al Gore conceded victory to George W Bush.

It followed the Supreme Court's decision to impose a deadline for the recounts which, in effect, ruled out several thousand votes. It meant George W Bush won by just 537 votes out of a total of six million in Florida.

Al Gore did not stand for the 2004 presidential election - despite a vociferous campaign by supporters who wanted to see a re-match of the 2000 election.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19

You can cut to the chase in a way that few other people can match...

Taurus April 20-May 20

You may be feeling even more secretive at the moment, so if you decide to let someone in on your feelings...

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21

The universe has appointed you muckraker-in-chief right now. Your talent for instigating movements...

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22

If someone close asks you how they look, they want to hear the truth. That means you need to really listen...

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Your friends live by one simple rule: When you're happy, everyone's happy. Your fiery nature just doesn't allow anyone to be depressed...

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Your recent flirtation with success should give you enough momentum to plow through everything you've got in front of you...

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22

With your energy levels running this high, you're not about to hand over the reins to someone you know is less committed or capable than yourself.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

Some bossy types might be in the mood to teach you a few so-called valuable lessons, but remind yourself that they mean well.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Some people may try to stereotype you as overly concerned with fun and games, but they don't realize that all your clowning serves a much higher purpose.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Try a fresh approach to an old problem. It's important for you to apply wild, untried methods to solving this current conundrum.

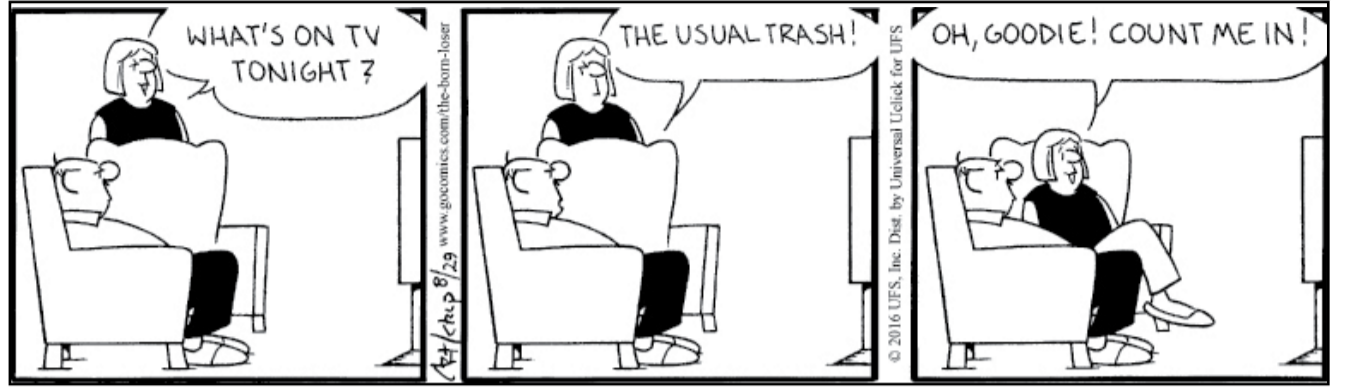
Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18

You've never been all that afraid to be different, and it's just that quality that helps you ensure that your radical ideas are implemented.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20

Your usual selflessness is nudged aside (for the moment) by some very inward-directed instincts. Why not just go with it?

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Easy' level.

Easy+

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Easy+' level.

Medium

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Medium' level.

Hard

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Hard' level.

WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION

CHINA

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

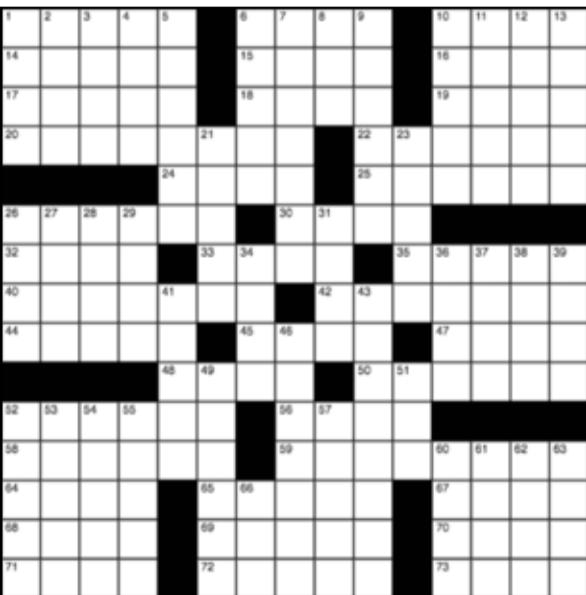
WORLD

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Crazed; 6- Gilbert of "Roseanne"; 10- Codlike fish; 14- The Merciful; 15- the crack of dawn; 16- Blunted blade; 17- Leader of the Mel-Tones; 18- Pond organism; 19- Asian inland sea; 20- Serve as a subordinate; 22- Leatherneck; 24- Spotted; 25- Deer horn; 26- Took home; 30- Actress Daly; 32- Gillette razor; 33- Spoollike toy; 35- Ready to hit; 40- Fatten; 42- Trash; 44- All, in music; 45- Yale students; 47- Blind part; 48- Ricky's portrayer; 50- Mischievous; 52- Hams it up; 56- Bone: Prefix; 58- Disappear; 59- Recently married; 64- To ___ (perfectly); 65- "Die Fledermaus" maid; 67- I could ___ horse!; 68- Precious; 69- Vertical face of a stair; 70- One of the Baldwin brothers; 71- Ballpark figs.; 72- Deputised group; 73- Zaire's Mobutu ___ Seko;

DOWN: 1- Wrestling surfaces; 2- Baseball family name; 3- Workers' rights org.; 4- Alpo alternative; 5- Curd stuff; 6- Debonair; 7- Sufficiently; 8- Piece of cloth, tabloid newspaper; 9- Cossack chief; 10- Soul mate?; 11- Month of showers; 12- "The Family Circus" cartoonist Bill; 13- Conger catcher; 21- Color anew; 23- Lend ___ (listen); 26- Political cartoonist Thomas; 27- Words to Brutus; 28- Horse's gait; 29- Lacking slack; 31- Hanna-Barbera bear; 34- Washington bills; 36- Recipe amt.; 37- Indonesian holiday resort; 38- Turkish titles; 39- 9th letter of the Hebrew alphabet; 41- They get high twice a day; 43- So to speak; 46- Pride woman; 49- F equivalent; 51- Gibson or Brooks; 52- Elude; 53- Ships' officers; 54- ___ a time; 55- Layers; 57- Tennis's Monica; 60- Votes for; 61- Fabric ridge; 62- French summers; 63- Fresh-water fish; 66- God, in Italy;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

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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
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Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
IACM 28 387 333
Tourism 28 333 000
Airport 59 888 88



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News At Hand



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Jenna Fryer, Charlotte (N.C.)

MATT Kenseth, a future Hall of Famer, likely has two races left in his life as a famous NASCAR driver.

The final seat in the carousel of job options will be filled Thursday [Macau time] when Stewart-Haas Racing is expected to announce Aric Almirola as its new driver.

Yes, a two-time Daytona 500 winner and former series champion was passed over for a driver with one victory in 242 career starts. It is yet another seat that didn't go to Kenseth, who embarrassingly has become the odd man out in a free agency period that has focused far more on salaries and sponsorship than talent.

Kenseth, who told reporters over the weekend that he will take time off in 2018, is hardly alone in his plight. Danica Patrick has nothing lined up for next year, same for reigning Daytona 500 winner Kurt Busch. Greg Biffle quietly went away at the end of last season, and Carl Edwards announced his retirement after coming 10 laps shy of winning the championship a year ago.

All but Patrick started in a robust economic period for NASCAR, where teams were flush with sponsor dollars and could basically hire any driver they wanted. Jack Roush was the fat cat in the early 2000s, and he'd hold gong-show style auditions for drivers to see who got paired with his newest open seat.

Kenseth, Busch, Biffle and Edwards all went on to become stars in Roush's system while launching lucrative and lengthy careers.

But the math has changed considerably. Sponsors are paying far less for the right to advertise on a car during a NASCAR race, and they are increasingly difficult to get. In the days of exploding popularity, a top team might spend USD30 million to run a race car. Most of that money came from sponsorship, and top drivers were making \$10 million per year.

Now owners are running teams for half of what they did 15 years ago, and driver salaries are slowly being adjusted accordingly. If a team owner can't get a driver that financially matches the sponsorship level, then the owner has to pay expenses out of pocket.

Brad Keselowski is widely regarded as the driver of the Miller Lite car, but Team Penske last week revealed its sponsorship program for the No. 2 car in pieces, and it only includes 11 races with Miller Lite as the primary sponsor. Discount Tire was sold the ri-

AP PHOTO



Matt Kenseth, famous NASCAR driver

MOTORSPORTS | ANALYSIS

As sponsorship dollars dwindle, NASCAR's stars fade

ghts to be on Keselowski's car in next year's season-opening Daytona 500 and season finale at Homestead, as well as eight other events. The Würth Group was announced as a three-race sponsor.

Still, Penske was able to do what few others can manage right now: Put together a sponsorship package that is valuable enough for him to afford a high-priced driver.

Kenseth struck out time and again in a search that began when Joe Gibbs Racing unexpectedly told him it was bringing development driver Erik Jones in-house next season, a decision that cost the 45-year-old Kenseth a spot in the lineup.

The 19-year Cup veteran didn't get rides at Hendrick Motorsports, which will see Dale Earnhardt Jr. and Kasey Kahne depart after the season. Alex Bowman and William Byron will allegedly drive next year for something like \$500,000 in salary.

It is clear that sponsorship budgets have been decreased, reflecting in many ways television viewership for NASCAR races and attendance at various tracks. With fewer dollars coming in, car owners have to be careful to avoid paying too many expenses out of pocket. Driver salaries don't seem to be a prio-

rity right now, and a guy like Kenseth would lose money on travel for himself, his wife and four children to some or all of the 38 races on the Cup schedule.

Earnhardt warned earlier this year that NASCAR's financial system was in for a major reset, and it has happened faster than anyone expected.

■ Sponsors are paying far less for the right to advertise on a car during a NASCAR race

"On a big scheme of things, I feel like things have happened quickly, but yet on the other hand, it kind of does surprise me how, you know, the reset, hasn't been totally linear," Kenseth recently said. "Some people have been able to make it work, some people haven't. Certainly right now is a very interesting time.

"I think it's a very tough time for car owners to find the money that they need to field competitive race cars with competitive personnel.

I think it's probably harder than at least it's been since I've been around. And the cost is higher than when I started, as well. Certainly a challenging environment."

Tony Stewart had been exposed to the changing NASCAR sponsorship landscape once he joined Gene Haas as co-owner of their four-car team, but even he's been surprised at the difficulties in finding funding.

The team had a massive stock of open inventory on Clint Bowyer's car this year, ran into a sponsorship dispute with Patrick's backers right before the start of the season and Haas has been primarily funding Busch's car out of pocket. For Busch to return to the team, he is likely going to accept a significant pay cut.

SHR now has Smithfield Foods coming aboard, and Almirola seems pegged to continue a driver-sponsorship relationship he began at Richard Petty Motorsports. SHR could have Kenseth or even Brickyard 400 winner Kasey Kahne, but instead is going with the driver the sponsor is already comfortable with.

Stewart is careful to note it's not a sponsor-driven decision, though.

"I'm not hiring drivers that have money. I've been the route that in the dirt-tra-

ck stuff. I've seen it, it's not the way to run a race team," Stewart told The Associated Press last month. "I know there's people that have to do that to survive, but if that's what I had to do to survive, I wouldn't do it, it's not worth it to me.

"I want to hire drivers that I feel like can go out and run well and win races, and if I can't hire them on their talent, I don't want to do it all."

Stewart said he'd dump a car before he'd hire a driver bringing in sponsorship money. However, that's essentially what Patrick did when she came to NASCAR with her GoDaddy Funding. When that ran out, SHR did find her new sponsorship.

Stewart believes the model needs a ton of work and the project begins with increased viewership. If ratings and attendance improve, the sponsorship dollars grow again.

Until then, NASCAR is in a cycle where drivers such as Kenseth will be sidelined next year. He finished fourth at Texas on Sunday. He's ninth in the standings.

"You do this because you want to compete and you want to go out and try to contend for races and championships, and if you're having to do it just to get by, there's no fun in that," Stewart said. **AP**

opinion

Macau Matters

Richard Whitfield



I SING THE BUS ELECTRIC

Wide scale adoption of electrically powered buses is a "no brainer"; the only question is when. Electric buses are significantly quieter and produce virtually no roadside pollution. Depending on how the electricity is generated, they can substantially reduce overall pollution, which is a political "hot potato" in China and other parts of Asia.

Moreover, electric buses are much simpler mechanically - with little need for gearboxes or engine cooling systems or fuel distribution systems and much lower "wear and tear" on their braking systems - so they have a much lower maintenance burden. And, again, depending on how the electricity is generated, electric buses have significantly lower fuel costs than conventional diesel powered buses.

The big stumbling block with electric buses is having enough battery capacity to run a full operating shift. The batteries are very expensive, and even lithium batteries weigh a lot compared to diesel (which has a much higher energy density). There are also reasonable concerns about plugging buses into the electricity system overnight to recharge their batteries - it takes the bus out of service for a relatively large proportion of the day and it is very easy for drivers to forget to unplug before driving away in their bus (and damaging the plug and bus) and the plugs and cables are walking hazards. Another issue with the plugs is that they involve high voltages and currents and often only registered technicians are permitted to connect them, which can significantly increase operating costs.

These problems largely disappear if you use wireless recharging for the bus. This involves embedding an induction loop in the roadway underneath a bus stop. When a bus stops over the in-ground loop a current is put through it which induces a secondary current in a second induction loop located on the corresponding underside of the bus. The secondary current thus recharges the battery.

Placing recharging induction loops in the roadway at each end of a bus's route means that the bus can be regularly recharged throughout its working day. Thus, it only needs enough battery capacity to last a few route legs and not a whole day of operations. Moreover, there is no need for overnight recharging so that the operating hours of each bus can be greatly extended. And there are no cables and plugs anywhere.

Several companies are working on wireless recharging systems for buses and other vehicles. It is already possible to buy home vehicle induction recharging kits for private cars in the USA that are priced at under USD3,000/unit, including installation. Other companies have licensed their wireless recharging technologies to Toyota, TDK and Delphi, and major car makers (including Audi, BMW, Daimler, Ford, Jaguar, Mercedes-Benz and Volvo) are expected to release "wireless recharging ready" models soon, according to The Economist.

Bus Line Route 7 in Milton Keynes in the UK is already being served by electric buses that pause for 2-4 minutes over recharging pads at the end of each route leg. The bus operating company estimates that it is saving USD0.50/kilometre using these buses when compared to the previous diesel powered buses. Wirelessly recharged buses are also running in Mannheim, Utrecht, Genoa, Turin, Salt Lake City and the Californian cities of Lancaster, Long Beach, Monterey, Palmdale and Walnut Creek. Los Angeles is expected to soon join the list.

I would really like to see the first wireless recharged electric buses in Asia operating in Macau, preferably within the next year. Why not? Public buses would be best, but casino shuttle buses would be a good second choice.

THE BUZZ INDONESIA THREATENS TO BLOCK WHATSAPP OVER SEXUAL CONTENT

Indonesian authorities say they will block access to the popular WhatsApp instant messaging app if it doesn't remove sexually explicit content.

The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology said yesterday on its website that it has already asked internet companies to block domain names used by Tenor, which provides animated image files known as GIFs through WhatsApp.

The government has sent three notices to WhatsApp, which is owned by Facebook and widely used in Indonesia, asking it to remove pornographic content and will block the app if there's no response by today, ministry official Samuel Abrijani Pangerapan said at a news conference this week.

Indonesia blocked web versions of the messaging app Telegram in July because it included chat groups for Islamic State group supporters.

Russian journalist goes on air for first time since attack

A Russian radio journalist who was stabbed in the throat by an attacker has gone on air for the first time since the assault that nearly killed her.

Tatyana Felgenhauer, a top host and deputy editor-in-chief at Ekho Moskv, Russia's only independent news radio station, spent hours in a medically induced coma following last month's attack at the station's studios in central Moscow.

Felgenhauer made an appearance on Ekho Moskv's morning show on Monday. She said she still faces lengthy rehabilitation.

"If my doctor were to find out that I went on air, I think he's going to kill me because I'm not supposed to speak," a smiling Felgenhauer said in the webcast published on Ekho Moskv's website. Felgenhauer said she still feels weak and spends most of her time at home in bed and that she has been assigned a bodyguard: "I'm terribly thankful to the people who provide me security and give me a sense of safety."

The Investigative Committee has identified the assailant as 48-year-old Boris Grits, who holds Russian and Israeli ci-



Journalist Tatyana Felgenhauer

zenship. After being apprehended, he told investigators he had been in "telepathic contact with Felgenhauer" for five years.

Ekho Moskv's programs have often been critical of the government, angering many in Russian political and business circles. Its hosts and journalists have previously reported death threats.

State-owned media have long targeted Ekho Moskv along with other rare independent media outlets for its critical reporting.

The state television channel Rossiya 24 put out a report two weeks before the attack that claimed that the station paid for "destabilizing society" ahead of Russia's presidential election in March. AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

AP Photo/Andy Brownbill



Hold your hats. A racegoer cheers on her horse ahead of a race at the Melbourne Cup at Flemington Racecourse in Melbourne, Australia.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	55-75 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	55-75 Moderate
Ambient	55-75 Moderate

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS

IRAN-SAUDI ARABIA Saudi Arabia's powerful crown prince says a ballistic missile launched at the kingdom by Shiite rebels in Yemen last weekend was a "direct military aggression by the Iranian regime and may be considered an act of war." A Saudi-led coalition has been fighting the rebels since March 2015 in support of Yemen's internationally recognized government.



KENYA Two petitions were filed in Kenya's Supreme Court challenging President Uhuru Kenyatta's (pictured) re-election last month in a repeat vote that the main opposition group boycotted.

SOUTH SUDAN In war-torn South Sudan 1.25 million people are facing starvation, double the number from the same time last year, according to a report by the United Nations and the government.

ROMANIA Some 5,000 employees at a Dacia automobile factory in Romania have protested an unpopular government plan to make employees pay social welfare taxes currently paid by employers, saying it will lead to salary cuts.



BRITAIN Running for election mere months ago, British Prime Minister Theresa May's slogan was "strong and stable government." The phrase sounds cruelly ironic now, with several senior members of May's Cabinet under fire for missteps or under investigation for alleged sexual misconduct.

US-NICARAGUA The Trump administration is planning a January 2019 end to a temporary residency permit program for 5,000 citizens from Nicaragua who have lived in the United States for almost two decades.

BRAZIL A 19-year-old in central Brazil sneaked into his former school on Monday and shot a student 11 times, killing her, authorities said.