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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

**WORLD BRIEFS**



**ANGOLA** The Portuguese news agency Lusa is reporting that recently elected President Joao Lourenco yesterday removed Isabel dos Santos (pictured), the daughter of former President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, as chair of the state-owned oil company. Isabel dos Santos has been reported to be Africa's richest woman.

**INDONESIA** Gunmen fatally shot an Indonesian police officer yesterday in the latest suspected attack by separatists near a giant gold and copper mine in easternmost Papua.



**INDIA** Hundreds of students marched yesterday in India's capital to demand action to improve the city's toxic air. New Delhi has been wrapped in a choking haze for much of the past week. The march was organized by representatives from the United Nations, private schools and the Sonalika company, a tractor maker.  
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**AUSTRALIA** Nearly two-thirds of Australians supported gay marriage in a postal survey that ensures Parliament will consider legalizing same-sex weddings this year, although the form any law would take and its allowances for religious objections sparked immediate debate. More on p13

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**DEBATE WITH LAWMAKERS**

# Chui's responsibility during Hato questioned

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with a twist

# Association: Suspension of employment certificate will not halt illegal work

**SOME** fear that the suspension of the Filipino government's issuance of Overseas Employment Certificates will affect domestic helpers in Macau.

Last week, The Philippines' Department of Labor and Employment announced the suspension of acceptance and processing of new Overseas Employment Certificates for land based overseas Filipino workers (OFW), saying the government must investigate allegations of illegal recruitment activities.

These certificates are required for Filipinos who identify themselves as working abroad when passing through Philippine immigration.

However, seafarers hired by manning agencies, workers hired by international organizations and members of the diplomatic corps are excluded from this requirement.

Returning workers and government-hired workers are also excluded from the suspension.



Nedie Palcon (fourth from left) during the union's clean up drive

Based on the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration's estimates, some 75,000 aspiring OFWs may be affected by this suspension – which will be in place until December 1.

Greens Philippines Migrant Workers Union, a Filipino migrant group in the region, la-

mented the move, noting that the measure will not halt illegal recruitment in the Philippines.

Speaking to the Times, chairperson of the migrant group, Nedie Palcon, condemned the measure even though she believed that the move will not affect domestic workers in the region.

Palcon expressed that it is significantly affecting those set to leave the region for other countries within these two weeks.

"Many workers already have their flights scheduled so it really affects them. What if the employers abroad could no longer wait for them?" she questioned.

The chairperson also noted that the suspension of the document is not an effective mea-

sure to lessen and solve illegal recruiters.

"Even here in Macau we encounter a lot of illegal recruiters. If we have illegal recruitment agencies back home, we also have them here in Macau. So suspending the document will not help," said Palcon.

**Even here in Macau we encounter a lot of illegal recruiters. If we have illegal recruitment agencies back home, we also have them here in Macau.**

NEDIE PALCON  
GREENS PHILIPPINES MIGRANT  
WORKERS UNION

Meanwhile, the Macau Overseas Worker Employment Agency Association explained that the measure is highly unlikely to affect the local market as only a low percentage of domestic helpers in Macau are hired through official agencies in

the Philippines.

Speaking to TDM, chairman of the association, Ao Ieong Kuong Kao, explained that majority of Filipino domestic helpers found employers during their 30-day travel visa.

"It's not going to affect Macau much because looking at previous records, most of the Filipino domestic helpers didn't come to Macau in an official way. Only maybe less than 20 to 30 cases, so this figure is very low," Ao pointed out, continuing, "as we can see in the market, many of them came to Macau under a travel visa because the number of them getting official documents through the Philippine Consulate is very low."

The Labor Affairs Bureau (DSAL) also issued a statement noting that the measure has not been implemented to specifically target the local market, noting, "according to the information obtained currently, it is understood that the measure is not aimed at Macau."

However, the bureau pledged to follow up on relevant issues and make further announcements if further information becomes available.

Meanwhile in Hong Kong, the Immigration Department pledged to be flexible with work permits for its domestic helpers in its region.

The HKSAR also acknowledged that the requirement was not targeting Hong Kong. **LV**

## RALLY OUTSIDE THE PH CONSULATE IN HK

**MEMBERS OF** the United Filipinos of Hong Kong, a workers union of about 6,000 domestic workers in the city, staged a rally outside the Philippine Consulate yesterday. They are calling for the government of the Philippines to reimburse people affected by the

ban and for Hong Kong authorities to push for it to be lifted. Some 210 workers bound for Hong Kong are believed to have been affected, while the city's Secretary for Labor and Welfare Law said it could impact as many as 1,000 local families.

## EDUCATION

# Local scholar included in 2017 Clarivate Analytics HCRs

**THE** Institute of Chinese Medical Sciences (ICMS) and the State Key Laboratory of Quality Research in Chinese Medicine at the University of Macau (UM) were recently recognized by international authoritative institutes.

Xiao Jianbo, an assistant professor from the ICMS, has made the list of Highly Cited Researchers (HCRs)

published by Clarivate Analytics for two consecutive years, said UM in a statement.

Xiao is the only scholar from the region in the field of biomedical sciences to have been included on the list of either the 2016 or 2017 Clarivate Analytics HCRs.

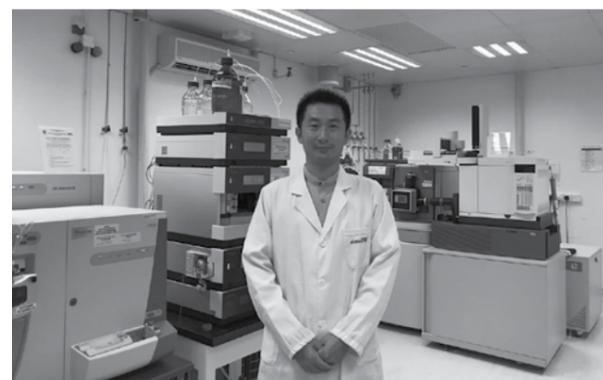
In addition, UM has been included in the Essential Science Indicators

(ESI) database, ranking in the top 1 percent in terms of the citation frequency of published papers in the field of pharmacology and toxicology.

According to Clarivate Analytics, 230 scholars from 18 disciplines affiliated with universities in mainland China, Hong Kong, and Macau were included in the list of HCRs 2017.

Only highly cited papers published in science and social sciences journals indexed in the Web of Science Core Collection (Essential Science Indicators) between 2005 and 2015 were surveyed for the 2017 list.

A total of 134,832 papers have been defined as 'Highly Cited Papers' as they rank among the top 1 percent in terms of citations in their fields in the



Xiao Jianbo

year of publication.

A total of 3,542 inclusions were made on the 2017 list. Of these, 282 of them are scholars with Chinese institutions as their primary affiliation

(32 from Hong Kong, 18 from Taiwan, and three from Macau). The number of HCRs is an important factor that can influence a university's international rankings.

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## POLICY ADDRESS

# Chui Sai On satisfied with five year plan implementation so far

Julie Zhu

**C**HIEF Executive (CE) Chui Sai On expressed his satisfaction over the turnover rate of the first two years of the Macau Five-Year Development plan. Chui went to the Legislative Assembly (AL) yesterday, for the second consecutive day, this time tasked with answering lawmakers' questions.

According to Chui, in 2018, the government will pay special importance to reviewing the city's catering industry licensing system. He also expressed his worries about SMEs not having sufficient human resources in order to provide their services, since many enterprises frequently hire temporary workers.

When replying to Chan Hong, who wanted to know exactly about the government plan for improving the competencies of Macau's human resources, Chui said that the government needs to review the region's popular

science education, and it needs to train talented people for the e-commerce and artificial intelligence industries.

He then talked about the slow processing of administrative procedures. Six public departments have been closed this year, as the government tries to simplify administrative procedures and 15 projects regarding public department works will be implemented electronically next year.

Ip Sio Kai pointed out that Macau should actively participate in the Greater Bay Area development by having a better financial groundwork.

Chui revealed that the Macau government is planning legislation for the development of a finance leasing company. Laws and talented human resources are the two main aspects which Macau most requires to become competitive within the finance sector.

When asked by Leong Sun Iok how many land plots the govern-



ment will retake next year, Chui answered that it is difficult to come up with an exact number. He then pointed out that the government has declared 57 plots to be invalid in the past year, with most of these still involved in legal procedures because they will be used for building public facilities.

Pereira Coutinho posed questions about the accountability of top officials, having mentioned that the former director of the Macau Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG), Fong Soi Kun, should be held responsible for the disasters caused by Typhoon Hato. Coutinho added that he, together with SMG workers, had presented a complaint to the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC), around a year before the Typhoon Hato occurrence, but nothing had been done.

Chui told Coutinho that a special, responsible team is still investigating whether some parties will have to be held accountable for what happened during Hato.

During the debate with lawmakers, the CE expressed hopes that, next year, the government can do more in terms of providing opportunities for locals to get promoted in their careers. Currently, the government is trying to achieve the target of local residents making up 85 percent of the six gaming operators' executive positions, Chui told the lawmakers.

In terms of the creativity of the city, Chui hopes that the Macao Institute for Tourism Studies (IFT) can be expanded to become the base for Macau's development as a city of gastronomy.

According to Chui, the government hopes to provide special

funds to stimulate the creative industry.

When asked about the development of Macau's medical system, the CE noted that, currently, there are seven health centers and three health stations. The number of health centers will increase to nine in 2020. He also announced that, at the end of this year, the government will announce the report on the study of Macau citizens' health. Until the fourth quarter of 2017, Macau will have successfully trained 152 specialists, a number that represents 55.3 percent of the government's goal, which is to have trained 270 specialists by 2020, according to Chui.

Having posed several questions in previous editions of the Policy Address, Zheng Anting, once again, chased the government for an answer to solve the Pearl Horizon issue.

Chui told Zheng that the Pearl Horizon case is still in the hands of the Court of Final Appeal, and that the Macau government will implement the rulings of the court once they are announced.

Currently, there is not a plan regarding the Greater Bay Area development; there is only an agreement between Hong Kong, Macau and Guangdong.

Next year, the government will also deliver a plan to the AL to gain the lawmakers' approval. The plan consists of the establishment of a fund which will be responsible for investment in the development of the Greater Bay Area.

Regarding another long-discussed topic concerning Macau's role as the platform between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries, Chui announced that, next year, the Secretariat for Social Affairs and Culture will focus on a related topic, which concerns the establishment of Macau as the basis for talented human resources of China and Portuguese-speaking countries.

## Gov't to deliver LRT operation regulation next year

**W**HEN answering questions voiced by Chui Sai Peng, Chui said that a law regarding the Light Rapid Transit (LRT) has already been included in next year's legislation schedule.

According to Chui Sai On, regulations regarding the LRT operation is planned for delivery to the AL in the middle of 2018, as it will be delivered to legal departments somewhere within the first half of 2018.

Lei Cheng I posed several questions regarding public transportation concerning topics including the proposed bus fare increase and mutual driving license recognition.

"What I heard mainly concerned the elderly and students, but a decision has not been made yet as this is only a consultation period," said Chui.

Chui noted that the Transport Bureau (DSAT) subsidizes MOP1 billion per year in bus operation.

Regarding mutual driving license recognition, there are concerns that it will lead towards a deterioration of road safety education, although the Transport Bureau's feedback indicates that the recognition will not have a huge impact over Macau, as explained by Chui.

Chui also remarked that Macau's driving licenses are recognized in more than 110 countries and regions around the globe.

Wu Chou Kit strongly suggested for Macau to connect its transportation network to the networks outside of the territory. Wu recommended connecting Macau's LRT to the mainland's high-speed railway network. Wu even proposed that Macau should build a high-speed train which is reachable within the city, and should also connect the highway across Guangdong and Guangxi to Macau.

Chui said, regarding the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HKZMB), that many aspects of the cross-border transportation between Macau and Hong Kong are underway and that both regions' governments are already negotiating shuttle bus and taxi lineups from Macau to the Hong Kong airport.

Regarding a railway connection in the long-term, the Macau LRT has been planned to accommodate such facilities at four locations, including the Barra station, one station at the New Urban Zone connecting to the HKZMB and the Hengqin border gate.

## Sou questions Chui's responsibility during Hato

**S**ULU Sou fiercely questioned the CE during yesterday's AL session, about "whether you [Chui] admit that you should [account] for the political responsibilities for the Hato disaster."

"The Chief Executive, up until this moment, still owes the public an explanation. Nearly three months after the disaster, you are still avoiding accountability for the political responsibilities for that day [August 23] as Chief Executive. Some people ask if you are the Chief Executive or if Fong [Soi King, the former SMG head] is. [...] But as Chief Executive for eight years, you let your subordinates behave according to their own will, [...] recently, [the government] even launched a non-political municipal organization. [...] You did not even express a single word admitting your responsibilities for the Hato disaster. [...] If this policy address is not achieved, who are we going to look for [to held accountable]," asked Sou.

Although Chui Sai On did not answer Sou's question in a straightforward manner, he reaffirmed that a special team is investigating the case, and that once the



investigation is completed, the public will be informed of who should be held accountable for the Hato disaster.

According to Chui, the investigation is being carried out by three people, and its targets include all governmental organizations and members.

On the non-political municipal organization, which was also strongly opposed by Ng Kuok Cheong, Chui mentioned that the public can still voice their opinions on the topic.

## opinion

## DEAL THE DECK, FORGET THE PAST, FEAR THE FUTURE IN MACAU

Shelly Banjo, Bloomberg

No hotshot gambler tells epic stories about losing money. It's the winning hand people want to hear about. But blocking out memories of preventable miscalculations also blocks out learning from them. That's happening with Macau's casino operators, which are enjoying a resurgence of high rollers and forgetting the trouble caused by over-reliance on high-stakes players two years ago, when Xi Jinping's corruption clampdown struck the world's largest gambling hub.

Investors are rewarding their behavior: Macau gaming stocks have soared past Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index, which is hitting 10-year highs. The 14 months of year-over-year growth that pushed casino revenue in October to the highest level in three years followed a two-year plunge that ravaged the only place in China where casino gambling is legal.

What happened to those pledges Las Vegas Sands Corp., Wynn Resorts Ltd. and their competitors made to increase the penetration of mass-market visitors coming to Macau for family-friendly revenue-generating activities like dining out and shopping, rather than for money laundering or evading Chinese capital controls?

Well, the talk is still there, but actions and data tell a different story. Take MGM China Holdings Ltd., which engaged five junket operators to bring high rollers to the MGM Cotai resort, to launch next year, and will open a new VIP room at its existing Macau resort in response to strong VIP growth. Sands, too, is spending USD1.1 billion to transform its Sands Cotai property into a London-themed resort, another way to attract higher-end customers.

Regulators are paying attention, according to Bloomberg's Daniela Wei. Macau's Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau director Paulo Chan warned Tuesday of heightened scrutiny of promoters that ferry rich gamblers into casinos and take a cut of the winnings. Come January, the territory's government will tighten standards for the junket operators. They'll also review gaming laws to make sure casinos follow through on commitments to increase non-gaming operations, he said.

A more important deadline is the expiration of the gaming licenses without which casinos can't operate. The 20-year licenses of Melco Resorts & Entertainment Ltd., Sands, Wynn and Galaxy Entertainment Group Ltd. run out in 2022, marking the first major renewal process since Macau ended Stanley Ho's 40-year gaming monopoly in 2002. The SJM Holdings Ltd. and MGM China concessions expire in 2020. It wouldn't be surprising if Beijing became less accommodating of the headache-inducing foreign-run casino operators.

Political jockeying is underway. So it's worrying that casinos seem to be distracted by a cash infusion from wealthy patrons returning to Macau. The companies' actions in the next few years could determine their prospects for the next 20, and it will take more than talk of mass tourism to placate Beijing.

Investors may be able to cash in as casinos sop up a revenue windfall from the biggest gamblers, but their owners should be playing a longer game.

## Macau in good position to develop esports

Lynzy Valles

THE success of esports in Southeast Asia is continuing as the region remains the world's fastest growing region in terms of audience.

Predictive data has shown that esports enthusiasts in the continent will surge to 19.8 million by 2019, a 100 percent increase from 9.5 million in 2016.

A session held yesterday in the MGS (Macau Gaming Show) Summit 2017 noted that although China has the largest number of esports players in Southeast Asia numerically, Vietnam is leading the market with participation from 50 percent of its population.

Today, at a time when electronic games have an increasing amount of influence in the economy and society, esports is officially a competition and the potential of this growing sport has attracted several governments and organizations.

Lou Sai Ho, founding chairman of Macau eSports Association, stressed that Macau should take advantage of its resources and facilities to boost esports in the city. The main suggestion was to work towards being capable of hosting a global esports competition.

Although the sport in Macau is still in its first stage, Lou



Lou Sai Ho, founding chairman of Macau eSports Association

stressed that there are "boundless prospects" for future development in eSports.

"The esports industry has a combination of internet and emerging culture. It's in line with the future direction of Macau," Lou mentioned, recalling the Five-Year Development Plan of the government, which includes the aim of expediting the development of smart city characteristics and the integration of industries and the internet.

"Macau has rich experiences in holding many global competitions such as Grand Prix and FIVB Grand Prix, so Macau has an advantage to hold such competitions."

Esports is set to make its debut at the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta, and will be a me-

dal event at the 2022 Asian Games.

The chairman noted that the cultivation of some esports teams will only develop in accordance to local citizens' understanding of esports; however, he said his expectations were positive regarding Macau residents' willingness to accept esports as a new form of sport.

Although it remains to be seen whether the esports industry will significantly contribute to the region's economy, Lou implied that Macau should use its resources to build a hub for esports competition.

As esports in Korea are already interrelated with its economy, Lou added that Macau should learn from Korea

and aim to nurture and train young esports players by holding seminars and relevant competitions.

Meanwhile, another esports expert Wang Rui, who is also a professor at Nanjing University of Agriculture, said that the percentage of the population engaged in esports may reach China's participation percentage point – which stands at 15 percent.

"Reaching 50 percent [similar to Vietnam] might still be hard. It needs to invest a lot of time, money and effort to teach that. But reaching the same percentage as China should be okay," Wang told the press on the sidelines of the event.

Since traditional sport facilities in Macau are maintained in good condition, the expert noted that this may be a factor that will hamper the development of esports in Macau.

Wang explained that the rapid growth of the esports industry in China, particularly in larger cities, might be due to the poor condition of its sports facilities, or the absence of sporting venues. In these contexts, esports are the only available alternatives.

"Esports don't really need a lot of hardware, just software and internet. If we can do that and maintain it in good condition, I'm sure it will help Macau's economy," he said.

"But at this moment, I can't foresee it happening but there is a possibility."

Wang also echoed Lou's sentiments over the significant advantages of holding international esports competitions in Macau, concluding that it would only take a few years for it to become a contributor to growth in the city's economy.

## MGS ENTERTAINMENT SHOW

## Second day focused on competitive video game phenomenon

THE focus for the second day of the 2017 MGS Entertainment Show and Summit was mobile video games and the esports phenomenon. Speakers explored the challenges and opportunities presented by mobile games, as well as the prospects for developing the esports industry in Macau. Esports – which has trained professional teams, multimillion-dollar prizes, stadiums filled to the brink, and with over millions of players worldwide – is seen by many as the brightest new star on the sports scene. In 2022, esports will be-



Han Zhihai, Secretary General of ChinaJoy Organising Committee delivers a talk at the MGS Summit

me a medal event in the Asian Games in Hangzhou.

Macau is no stranger to esports, having hosted the CEC China Esports Carnival and the Girlgamer Esports Festival this

summer. These large-scale esports events were the city's first, but they surely will not be the last. Near the end of the second day of the summit, there was a signing ceremony between Sina

Games and the Macau Esports Association.

The two organizations are teaming up to bring more esports tournaments to Macau, and this strategic partnership will utilize Macau's extensive convention space and tourism infrastructure which will, as a result, increase the city's participation in the new sport.

The MGS Entertainment Show and Summit is running until today. Originally focused on the gaming industry, the Macau Gaming Equipment Manufacturers Association (MGEMA) has expanded the scope

of its main annual event to encompass the broad-based entertainment industry.

The event's speakers come from a variety of backgrounds, including government regulators, industry consultants, information technology giants, game developers, advertising agencies, universities, VIP junkets and integrated resorts.

According to a press release issued by the organizers, "the summit's aim is to bring together the perspectives decision makers need in order to understand the fast-changing entertainment industry."

# A NOVEMBER TO BE THANKFUL FOR AT MGM

The festive season is the perfect time to focus on one of life's most important things: spending quality time with loved ones over a hearty feast.

MGM is pulling out all the stops to ensure you have plenty to be thankful for together, bringing back its popular, authentic buffet and takeaway menu so that everyone can partake in holiday delights without worrying about reservations or all-day meal preparation.

Launched earlier this year to rave reviews, Rossio's lavish Kobe beef buffet is returning for a limited time. The European restaurant's top chefs have prepared a spread of unique takes on the premium meat, which is renowned for its unparalleled flavor, melt-in-your-mouth tenderness and well-marbled texture.



The beef will be served at interactive cooking stations in a variety of delectable international styles, from traditional Japanese nigari - thinly sliced and lightly torched to perfection - to Southeast Asian-inspired satay with peanut sauce and ketupat (rice wrapped in palm leaf).



Diners who miss out on Rossio's tempting seasonal offer, or who just want a hot meal at home, need not fret. Not far from Rossio is MGM's picturesque Pastry Bar - named for its dazzling array of delicately crafted Portuguese and Asian-inspired cakes and pastries - which is offering a line-up of festive fare to bring home to family.



The takeaway menu offers a choice of one main in different sizes: herb-scented roast turkey weighing between 6 and 11 kilograms, or orange honey glazed baked ham weighing between 3 and 7 kilograms. Customers can add two sides: brussels sprouts with spicy chorizo, sausage and cornbread with chestnut stuffing, haricot beans, baby carrots, and potatoes - either mashed or roasted with caramelized onions and smoked bacon.

*Rossio's evening buffet runs Fridays through Sundays for the rest of November and is priced at MOP458 per person. Children under the age of 7 dine free; children 7-12 years old and senior citizens over the age of 60 enjoy a 50% discount.*

*For Pastry Bar, all takeaway orders must be placed 48 hours in advance, with a special 15% discount on orders paid in full before November 27. The menu will end its run this December 31, just in time to ring in the New Year.*



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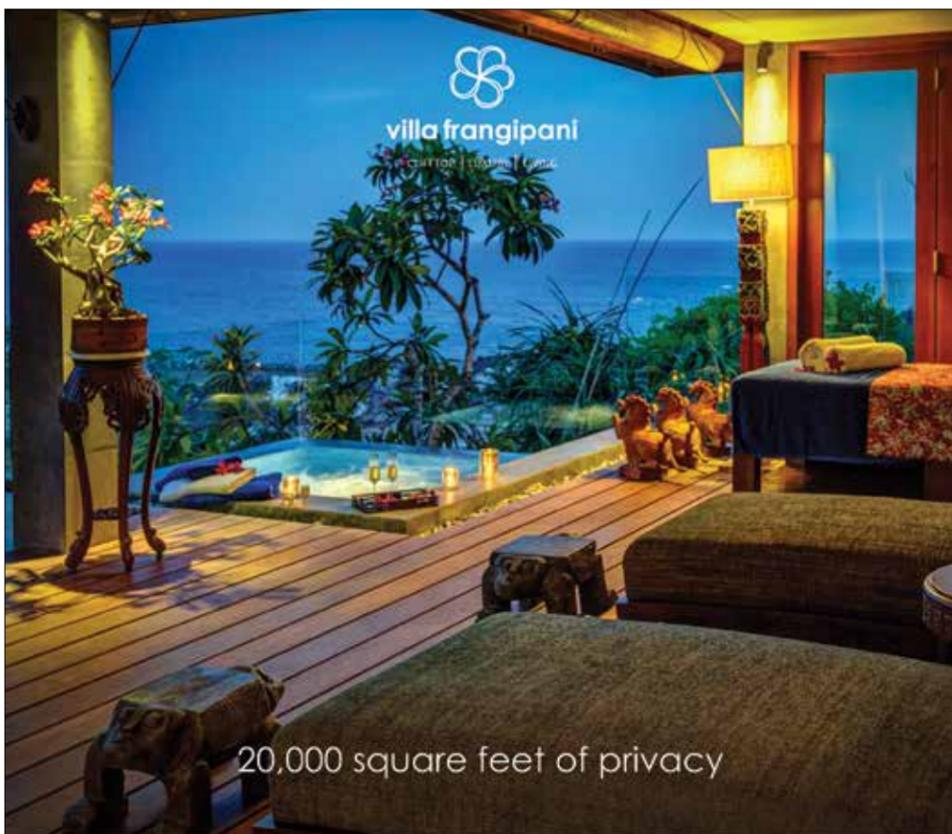
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Lucas di Grassi kicks the ball



Michael Rutter

## MACAU GP

# Racers showcase football skills in lead up to the racing weekend

Renato Marques

A group of racers from four different categories (including GT, WTCC, Motorcycle and F3) met a group of students from Macau Anglican College for a gathering where football was the sport of the day. This meeting is one of the events that was scheduled into the off-track program, which is taking place ahead of the Macau Grand Prix.

On the sidelines of the event, the Times spoke with several of these racers to learn more about their feelings and perspectives regarding the racing weekend.

In his debut year, 18 year-old Sacha Fenestraz is one of the five F3-drivers representing Carlin Motorsports, a team that has a long tradition and has been delivering good results in Macau recently, including last year's win by Felix da Costa.

Fenestraz is one of the three debutants from Carlin and the team is rounded out by two more experienced racers, including the F3 European Champion Lando Norris. "I hope to pair with my mate Jehan [Daruvala] and try to see if I can be faster than him," Fenestraz said. "During the season he started far back but he managed to keep up and was even faster than me in Hockenheim all through the weekend," he added. Fenestraz also noted that he respects Daruvala as a great racer and great friend and expects above all to learn a lot from the upcoming race.

Moving to a much more experienced driver, the Brazilian Augusto Farfus is back to race in Macau and this time Farfus is racing the brand-new BMW M6 GT3 Art-Car. When asked about which sport he feels the most comfortable in, racing or

football, Farfus had no doubts; "Definitely behind the wheel. Back in my school days, I remember I was always the last one to be picked [when choosing teams] and usually ended up in the goal [as goalkeeper]", he recalls laughing.

As for the return to Macau he says, "It's spectacular! Macau is certainly one of - if not the - most spectacular tracks and this is a very good event [the GT World Cup] because almost no one that is listed for this grid is in fact racing on GTs the whole season so this is almost a 'get-together' (logically everyone wants to win) but it's kind of a friendly approach," he said, adding, "we are all here in different teams [for what they usually race] so I would say will definitely be a unique weekend."

Commenting on the chances for the Team BMW, Farfus said: "This is first time that BMW is

really in this competition and putting all its efforts, we really want to participate and of course we want to win but let's wait to see, we know that in GT cars, the outcome is depends on the BOP [Balance of Performance - System that aims to level the different cars by adding different amounts of weight], so let's see how things run."

The most successful rider in Macau racing history, Michael Rutter, won eight times at the Guia Circuit. He joked in the past that he would quit racing in Macau after reaching 10 wins. "I doubt that I would ever win 10; I would love to win another one but it's getting more and more difficult with a lot of young riders coming in which are very good, we would just keep trying, we never know what could happen," Rutter said yesterday.

Questioned on the experience

factor, a factor where he holds a major advantage, the 45 year-old rider said: "Yes, definitely, it's a long race, it's a lot of miles and you have to keep your tires and also your concentration around the track. It's very difficult."

Replying on what his competitive advantages are compared to other riders, Rutter said, "The heat is also a good point, I don't mind if it's really hot, it doesn't bother me too much, so hotter the better for me while other riders suffer a lot from it," he said, noting that as far as the race outcome is concerned, "I would be happy with a place in the podium even if I don't win."

Returning to Macau after a gap of three years will be WTCC driver Norbert Michelisz. The Hungarian and the Honda team are boosted by a win in the main race at Twin Ring Motegi, Japan and are currently placed in second position overall in the championship. However, he is not yet worried with the championship table.

"I'm not really thinking about the championship yet, I'm behind [Thed Bjork] so the most important thing is to collect as many points. I think is not good to think about the championship at this point, maybe in Qatar [last round to be raced in December] in the second race if I have the chance to fight for the championship maybe I will think about it, but not right now," Michelisz said.

Commenting on possibilities for the racing weekend, Michelisz thinks that Citroens are the most likely cars to take advantage of the BOP for the Macau rounds. "With the ballast that we carry in the car, I don't think we are the favorites this year, I except the Citroens to be much faster but this is a circuit where the driver can make the difference. I will do my best and hope I can compensate [for] the [added weight of the] car."

GT racer Laurens Vanthoor also hopes to win, an achievement which would be a follow up from last year's unusual victory, achieved after a major crash at Mandarin's Bend that left Vanthoor upside-down on the track.

Racing this time for Porsche, Vanthoor is clear, "this is a single event and a world cup so only the win counts and I'm not interested in coming out on second or third," he said adding that the challenges of the track are to "make no mistakes and to try to use as much track-time as possible."

Vanthoor laid out the stages of his strategy, saying his success will depend on, "being the first on qualifying as on this track, it is not so easy to overtake, especially with the GT cars." He went on to note that it is necessary to "be cool" on the first laps to get some adjustment time on track because "if you crash too early on the weekend, you will be a couple of steps back."

## 'To drive an Art-Car is a great responsibility'

THE Brazilian Augusto Farfus returns to the Macau Grand Prix driving the "special" BMW M6 GT3 Number 18 Art-Car. As the number indicates, this is the 18th of a series that started back in 1975, by the hand of French racecar driver and auctioneer Hervé Poulain. Poulain wanted to invite artists to use a car as a canvas to create a new art form, to connect the two industries.

As Farfus told the Times on the sidelines of a Macau Grand Prix community event in Taipa yesterday, "to drive a [BMW] 'Art-Car' is a great responsibility and also a great honor," he said, noting, "This is a brand-new car that will compete in this event and after racing here he will be straight to BMW Museum where it will be displayed [together with the other 17 previews Art-Cars." "I need to say that I'm not an expert in art so I

can't say much about it but I know that this car is made by [Chinese artist] Cao Fei and on which she makes use of [augmented] reality [to show her work]. This is a completely different thing and a very new thing," he said, noting that a lot of people have been asking me, if it is "not just a plain black car."

"To those I must reply that probably 20 years ago when Andy Warhol picked a brush to paint its BMW Art-Car, some people should have looked to him and asked: with a brush?" Farfus said, adding, "Art is not to discuss, it's to participate and to appreciate."

Showing enthusiasm, the Brazilian concluded saying, "if I have the chance to participate in this [project] and leave my name in history, it's an honor."



Augusto Farfus

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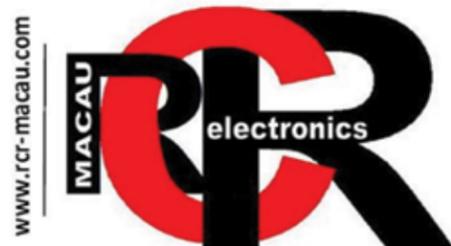
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Frank Jordans, Bonn

ENVIRONMENT

# Merkel to address climate talks amid calls for coal exit

**W**ORLD leaders arrived at global climate talks in Germany yesterday to give the negotiations a boost going into the final stretch, as campaigners called for a strong signal from rich countries on curbing greenhouse gas emissions.

Particular attention was focused on German Chancellor Angela Merkel, whose country is co-hosting the talks together with Fiji, a small Pacific nation that faces dramatic consequences from unchecked climate change.

Green campaigners and developing nations called on Merkel to use the event on her home turf to announce that Germany will set a firm deadline for phasing out the use of coal by 2030.

Germany generates about 40 percent of its electricity from coal, including the light brown variety called lignite that's considered to be among the most heavily polluting fossil fuels.

Environmental groups staged anti-coal protests before and during the talks, and planned to roll out a "red carpet" for leaders arriving in Bonn bearing the slogan "Keep It In The Ground."

The timing is difficult for Merkel:



after speaking at the climate talks in Bonn she flies back to Berlin for negotiations on forming a new government that would include both the environmental Green party and a pro-business party, the Free Democrats, which opposes a coal deadline. Energy companies warn that coal is needed to ensure a steady supply of energy for Europe's biggest economy.

Greens co-leader Katrin Goering-Eckardt said yesterday that rea-

ching an agreement on Germany's exit from coal would be "a small contribution to managing to secure the survival of the planet."

"Of course we are thinking about jobs — we do care about that — and of course supply security in the energy market is obvious," she said. "But we must reach the climate protection targets for 2020, 2030, 2050."

Germany is currently predicted to fall short of its target of reducing

emissions by 2020 by 40 percent from 1990 levels, largely due to emissions from the energy and transportation sectors. Experts say phasing out coal would ensure the biggest cut.

"If we want to honor this pledge we have to phase out coal power — that means lignite in particular in Germany," said John Schellnhuber, who heads the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research.

The loss of around 20,000 jobs in Germany's coal industry could be absorbed by the 600,000 new jobs the country's economy is expected to add next year, he said.

"Germany as a climate champion could definitely get out of coal fairly quickly, but we keep on operating the dirtiest of all fossil fuels to export the excess power," said Schellnhuber, who was an adviser to Merkel, a trained physicist, when she was Germany's environment minister at the first global

climate talks in 1995.

"She's a brilliant mind and she knows about the facts, we can be sure," he said.

Jennifer Morgan, executive director of Greenpeace International, said Merkel had been a leader on climate, even in the face of setbacks such as the announcement by President Donald Trump earlier this year that he would pull out of the Paris accord.

"That credibility is hanging in the balance because of the fact that German emissions are growing and because of the fact that there is a big gap in being able to achieve this 2020 goal," Morgan said.

Also speaking at the talks are U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and French President Emmanuel Macron, who has convened a climate summit in Paris next month to build on international efforts to fight global warming. **AP**

# A Japan firm's move from steel plates to fancy phone screens

**I**T calls itself a steel-maker, but don't be misled by the name. Japan Steel Works Ltd. is no longer just the old-world metals firm that it started life as more than a century ago. These days, the Tokyo-based company is more a technology play, supplying machinery to the makers of everything from high-end phone screens to lithium-ion batteries. So much so, in fact, that the steel and energy products business makes up less than a quarter of sales.

Now, with Apple Inc. selling its first phone boasting an organic light-emitting diode display, a sharp, vibrant screen that uses less energy, Japan Steel Works is counting on that being good for its own bottom line. While the iPhone X display supplier doesn't use the company's annealing machines, which apply a type of laser treatment to create a key layer of OLED screens, Japan Steel Works says Apple's move will help expand the entire OLED industry.

"If this takes off, demand is going to swell," said Hidehiko Ohtsu, the head of

planning for Japan Steel Works' laser-equipment business. "We'll boost capacity as needed."

JSW is one of a surprising number of Japanese companies that play key roles in the OLED business, hidden from sight as suppliers to suppliers, but possessing niche technologies. And while Japanese firms are sometimes criticized for diversifying away from their core strengths, Japan Steel Works is an example of that approach paying off.

Apple's shift toward OLED displays, a technology that Chief Executive Officer Tim Cook once disregarded, has sparked billions of dollars of investments in the display industry by those betting the new screen technology will fly with Apple on board. While Samsung Electronics Co. has used OLED screens for its phones for almost a decade, other smartphone makers have largely relied on liquid crystal displays.

While LCDs rely on a backlight panel, OLED pixels can glow on their own, resulting in thinner displays, better battery life and improved con-

trast. OLED screens can also be made on flexible plastic, which allows for a better variety of shapes and applications.

Chinese panel makers, which have started aggressively developing OLED displays, have ordered many of Japan Steel Works' laser annealing machines, Ohtsu said, vying to win a chunk of what UBI Research Inc. estimates will be a USD57 billion market by 2020. JSW, which had been generating as much as 10 billion yen (\$88 million) in annual sales from the machines, saw revenue for the business more than double in the year ended March.

"We're the top player in what we do," said Ohtsu. The steelmaker says it has about a 70 percent market share for laser-equipped annealing machines for LCD display manufacturing, thanks to its early foray into the machinery. It sold machinery to Samsung Display Co., the only OLED screen supplier for the iPhone X, and LG Display Co., before the South Korean companies started making it themselves. JSW will benefit as

Apple's move into OLED screens prompts other phone makers to adopt the technology, said Thanh Ha Pham, a Tokyo-based analyst at Jefferies Group LLC who rates Japan Steel Works a buy. "When that happens, obviously a lot of the orders will come to Japan Steel Works."

In 1995, the Japanese machinery maker was first in the world to start a process called excimer laser annealing, which



helped accelerate market adoption of high-performance, cost-efficient LCDs. Demand for small LCDs that initially targeted the digital-camera market took off with the massive growth in mobile phones in the late 1990s.

With the advent of smar-

tp hones, demand only got greater. But unlike companies such as Japan Display Inc. that fell behind amid the transition to OLED, JSW hasn't been affected, because its laser machines can easily be used for making the new screens. **Bloomberg**

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### 30 vehicles collide in heavy fog, 18 dead

State media say more than 30 vehicles have collided in heavy fog on an expressway in eastern China, killing at least 18 people and injuring 19 others. The official Xinhua News Agency said the pileup yesterday morning in Fuyang, a city in Anhui province, caused several vehicles to catch fire. It cited local police as saying 19 people were injured, nine seriously, and were being treated in a hospital.



### Chinese national accused of taking GRE for other people

A 25-year-old Chinese citizen is facing federal charges in Massachusetts after officials say she took the GRE graduate school entry exam for other people. Federal prosecutors say Yinyan Wang was arrested in Pennsylvania on Monday on visa and passport fraud charges. The U.S. attorney's office for Massachusetts says Wang will be brought to Boston later this week. Prosecutors say she took the exam for another Chinese citizen Oct. 20 in Boston with false identification documents. Authorities say Wang took the GRE or the Test of English as a Foreign Language Exam, called the TOEFL, five other times between July and August. Prosecutors say each charge carries a minimum 10-year prison sentence. It's unclear if Wang has hired an attorney.

# Lifeline thrown to builders facing record wall of debt

**C**HINESE developers facing a looming wall of debt repayments have been thrown a lifeline by regulators easing access to offshore financing. That won't solve all their problems.

The nation reported the deepest slowdown in new home sales in almost three years on Tuesday, as local authorities have rolled out curbs to cool runaway prices and President Xi Jinping urges citizens to end their speculation on housing.

Amid the slowdown, developers still face restrictions on borrowing in the local bond market, rising costs for domestic financing - including shadow loans - and a record USD30 billion in onshore and offshore bonds coming due in 2018. That figure balloons to \$71 billion if put options are exercised, according to Bloomberg-compiled data.

"Cooling measures will slow down sales and cash



receipts," said Clement Chong, senior credit analyst in Singapore at NN Investment Partners. "The government is unlikely to loosen these restrictions in the near term."

Home sales, excluding affordable housing, fell 3.4 percent in value in October from a year earlier, according to data released Tuesday.

So far this year, offshore bond sales almost tripled while local offerings - dominant in 2016 - shrank over 60 percent. That trend

looks set to continue, with the National Development and Reform Commission more willing to approve larger quotas for offshore bond deals than earlier in the year, people familiar with the matter said Tuesday. At least eight builders received quotas or had indications from the NDRC that approval is imminent, they said.

With the Shanghai Stock Exchange keeping the threshold high for property firms to sell bonds since October 2016, more builders have turned to shadow

financing. For one type, trust financing, interest rates have climbed to 9-10 percent from as low as 6 percent last year, according to Christopher Yip, a real estate analyst at S&P Global Ratings.

For developers that managed to tap the domestic bond market, the average coupon has climbed to 5.6 percent this quarter, 1.6 percentage points higher than the level in the first three months of 2017, Bloomberg-compiled data show.

Even for developers getting the green light to tap the offshore bond market, they still likely face a "material" increase on debt costs next year, Yip said yesterday.

"The market is somewhat weak, and issuance supply is coming up," Yip said. "Investors may only pick the strongest issuers or those offering the highest yields."

**Bloomberg**

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

Christopher Bodeen

# PRC sending envoy to North Korea following Trump visit

**F**OLLOWING President Donald Trump's visit to Beijing, China said yesterday that it would send a high-level special envoy to North Korea amid an extended chill in relations between the neighbors over Pyongyang's nuclear weapons and missile programs.

Song Tao, the head of China's ruling Communist Party's International Department, will travel to Pyongyang on Friday to report on outcomes of the party's national congress held last month, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

Xinhua said Song, as president and party leader Xi Jinping's special envoy, would carry out a "visit" in addition to delivering his report, but gave no details about his itinerary or meetings. It also made no mention of Trump's trip to Beijing or the North's weapons programs, although Trump has repeatedly called on Beijing to do more to use its influence to pressure Pyongyang into altering its behavior.

Foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang downplayed any connection between Song's trip and Trump's visit, saying it was "common practice" for the Communist Party and North Korea's ruling Workers' Party to exchange views.

"The purpose of this visit is to brief about the party congress and exchange views on issues of common interest and bilateral interest," Geng said at a regularly scheduled briefing.

Song would be the first ministerial-level Chinese official to visit North Korea since October 2015, when Politburo Standing Committee member Liu Yunshan met with leader Kim Jong Un. Liu delivered a letter to Kim from Xi expressing hopes for a strong relationship, although the respite in frosty ties proved short-lived. Vice Foreign Minister Liu Zhenmin visited Pyongyang in October of last year.

The two ruling parties have long-standing ties that often supersede formal diplomacy, even while Beijing has long been frustrated



Song Tao (right) the head of China's ruling Communist Party's International Liaison Department

with Pyongyang's provocations and unwillingness to reform its economy.

However, Song is not directly connected to China's efforts to convince Pyongyang to cease its nuclear weapons program and return to talks, downplaying the chances for a breakthrough in that highly contentious area.

China is also North Korea's largest trading partner and chief source of food and fuel aid, although it says its influence with Kim's regime is often exaggerated by the U.S. and others. While it is enforcing harsh new U.N. sanctions targeting the North's sources of foreign currency, Beijing has called for steps to renew dialogue.

Beijing is also opposed to measures that could bring down Kim's regime, possibly depriving it of a buffer with South Korea and the almost 30,000 U.S. troops stationed there, and leading to a refugee crisis and chaos along its border with the North.

In Beijing last week, Trump urged Xi to pressure North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons program.

China can fix the problem "easily and quickly," Trump said in remarks to journalists alongside Xi. He urged Xi to "hopefully work on it very hard."

"If he works on it hard, it will happen. There's no doubt about it," Trump said.

## ■ Song's visit to Pyongyang also comes as China and South Korea are repairing their relations

While calling the visit significant, a top Chinese expert on North Korea relations downplayed any connection with Trump's statements in Beijing, saying it fit a pattern of traditional exchanges between the two parties following significant events such

as national congresses.

"Representatives are dispatched to brief the other side at a chosen time and chosen level. It is a tradition and it is unnecessary to connect it with Trump's visit to China," said Guo Rui, researcher at the Institute for North Korean and South Korean Studies at Jilin University in northeastern China.

However, he said the visit "shows China's willingness to see a continuous development of the friendly relations between the two sides."

"Although the Korean Peninsula situation has been evolving fast with worrisome indications, the two parties are maintaining normal exchanges, and that is of significance for stabilizing the bilateral relations and the peninsular situation," Guo said.

The nature of Song's visit as a party-to-party exchange rather than one between the two governments appears to paint it as a bilateral attempt to strengthen relations, said John Delury, a professor at Seoul's Yonsei University who specializes in Korea and China.

The fact that Song was identified as Xi's special envoy also suggests that Xi is personally making a push to open the channel at a higher level and engage more constructively with Kim, Delury said.

"This is a chance to see if he can open things up," he said. "The relationship has been so frosty, it will be interesting to see if there's some improvement in the bilateral ties."

North Korea staged its sixth nuclear test on Sept. 3, detonating what it claimed was a hydrogen bomb, and last launched a ballistic missile on Sept. 15, firing it over the Japanese island of Hokkaido into the Pacific Ocean.

Since then, there has been a lull in such activity, leading to some hopes in Beijing that Pyongyang might be responding to international pressure and becoming more amenable to talks.

Song's visit to Pyongyang also comes as China and South Korea are repairing their relations, with South Korean President Moon Jae-in scheduled to visit next month for talks with Xi.

Previously warm ties soured last year over Seoul's decision to deploy a sophisticated U.S. missile defense system aimed at guarding against North Korean threats.

Beijing claimed the THAAD system damaged its own security because its radars could observe military movements within northeastern China and retaliated by banning Chinese tour groups from visiting and interfering in the China operations of South Korean companies.

While South Korea resisted China's demands to withdraw the system, Beijing appeared satisfied with a pledge from Seoul not to expand it, among other commitments. **AP**

# October auto sales stall as sedan demand shrinks

**C**HINA'S auto sales growth fell below 1 percent in October as demand for sedans contracted, an industry group said yesterday.

Sales rose 0.4 percent over a year ago to 2.3 million units, down from September's 4.1 percent growth, according to the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers. Total vehicle sales, including trucks and buses, rose 2 percent to 2.7 million vehicles.

Chinese auto sales have

struggled this year after a temporary tax cut boosted last year's growth to 15 percent. Sales contracted in April and May before growing feebly in recent months.

That weakness is a setback for global automakers that look to China to drive future revenue, though some have grown faster than the market, taking share from Chinese and other rivals.

"From January to October, production and sales of automobiles achieved

a slight increase but year-on-year growth dropped slightly," said CAAM in a statement.

Demand has weakened following double-digit annual gains as Chinese economic growth slowed and Beijing and other major cities tightened restrictions on ownership to curb smog and congestion.

October sales of sedans shrank by 5.4 percent to 1.1 million, offset by a 13.9 percent gain for SUVs to 1 million.

For the first 10 months of

the year, sales rose just 2.1 percent over the same period of 2016.

General Motors Co., which competes with Volkswagen AG for the status of China's biggest automaker, said October sales rose 11 percent to 382,723.

By contrast, Ford Motor Co. said sales declined 5 percent from a year earlier to 106,000.

Nissan Motor Co., the most popular Japanese brand in China, said sales rose 18.2 percent to 150,271. **AP**



## THAILAND

# Bangkok firefighters on front line of city's snake scourge

Tassanee Vejpongsa, Bangkok

WHEN the latest distress call came into Phinyo Pukphinyo's fire station in Bangkok, it was not about a burning home or office building. Instead, the caller needed urgent help with a far more common problem facing Thailand's capital: snakes.

A 2-meter-long python was dangling from the caller's garage roof, and after rushing to the scene, it took Phinyo less than a minute to remove the slithering reptile.

The number of snakes ending up in urban homes is on the rise in Bangkok, apparently in part because of development pains in the vast metropolis of about 10 million people. Thailand's has 300 species of snakes and 10 percent are venomous — including king cobras, kraits and pit vipers — making many city dwellers fearful of dealing with the creatures themselves.

Tara Buakamsri, Thailand country director for Greenpeace Southeast Asia, said the city is seeing more snakes because it sits on a "flood plain with a wetland ecosystem, which is a habitat for amphibians, including snakes," and housing expansions in recent years have curtailed their land.

Bangkok's low-lying landscape makes it prone to floods during the rainy season, which also invites snakes and other reptiles such as monitor lizards.

The huge python Phinyo's team caught was not the first of the day, or the last. Hours later, the station was called to remo-



Fireman Phinyo Pukphinyo catches a python on a garage roof in Bangkok,

ve a green snake found in the bathroom of another Bangkok resident, who apologized to the firefighters for calling them for the third time this year.

"I've been living in this house for 20 years and we would very rarely see any snakes," said the caller and homeowner, Chanun Chisa. "But this year, it seems like we see one every few months."

Phinyo said his fire station gets more calls to catch snakes than to put out fires.

"In a day, we can get several calls to catch snakes," he said.

"I think people have just started to become aware that they can call officials up to deal with it. Beforehand, people used to handle the snakes themselves, using sticks to hit them and that kind of thing."

He said he can now identify most types of snakes and has become an in-house instructor who teaches other firefighters how to safely capture the wriggly reptiles.

"We have no choice but to learn how to handle them," Phinyo said.

Piya Saereerak, a veterinarian who works for the Department of National Parks and Wildlife, said Bangkok's snake invasion is sustained by the city's growing piles of trash, which subsequently leads to more rats and birds — favored prey for serpents.

The Thai capital is producing more trash every year, and struggles to get rid of it. It has produced around 10,454 tons of trash per day this year, up from 8,943 tons daily in 2011, according to the Bangkok Metropoli-

tan Administration.

"In the wild, you'd have eagles and big birds that eat snakes, and their eggs are food for other reptiles," Piya said. "But in a big city like Bangkok, there is nothing hunting them."

Piya heads a wildlife clinic that takes in around 300 to 400 snakes a month from rescuers such as firefighters in Bangkok. Every week, the staff from his clinic releases truckloads of snakes caught in the city into the jungle.

## The number of snakes ending up in urban homes is on the rise in Bangkok

City authorities say the number of snakes caught in Bangkok homes has risen exponentially in recent years, from 16,000 reported cases in 2013 to about 29,000 in 2016. Figures for the first half of 2017 are over 30 percent higher than last year.

Penchom Saetang, director of the environmental foundation Ecological Alert and Recovery Thailand, said Bangkok is producing more trash each year because the city is quickly expanding under an insufficient waste management system.

A July 2017 Greenpeace report notes there are 2,490 waste management centers around the country, but only 466 of them working properly.

Piya's advice to Bangkok's residents is to keep the city clean in order to keep the snakes away. He said most snakes found in Bangkok homes and apartments are harmless, "but if you spot a venomous one, firemen will be there to help." AP

## INDIA

# Hundreds of New Delhi students march to demand cleaner air

Nick Perry, New Delhi

HUNDREDS of students marched yesterday in India's capital to demand action to improve the city's toxic air.

New Delhi has been wrapped in a choking haze for much of the past week. The smog did lift a little in time for the march at Nehru Park by students from 15 private schools.

The march was organized by representatives from the United Nations,

private schools and the Sonalika company, a tractor maker.

Charvi Thakkar, 13, said she felt the pollution had risen to an extreme level and that her grandmother, uncle and brother were no longer able to comfortably breathe.

"We need to stop this," she said. "Because this is what we are providing for our children, for the next generation. If we are not able to breathe properly, then there is

no future."

Teacher Neeraj Chhiber said that when she moved to Delhi 25 years ago, it felt a little dusty at this time of year but nowhere near as bad as it is now.

Environmentalist Vasu Primlani said she believes a series of low-cost initiatives could halve the city's pollution problem within two years. The measures, she said, would include teaching people to drive more efficiently and stopping

farmers from burning their fields.

Meanwhile, authorities opened themselves to ridicule after India's health minister favorably compared the capital's air to a massive 1984 gas leak in the city of Bhopal that killed as many as 15,000 people.

"We call that an emergency situation where you have to panic," Harsh Vardhan told a television channel on Tuesday.

And New Delhi was for-



School children holding banners march to express their distress on the alarming levels of pollution in the city

ced to abandon a plan to use water-spraying helicopters to cleanse the air, due to poor visibility caused by the smog.

New Delhi is one of the world's most pollu-

ted cities. The worst air quality often occurs at this time of year as nearby farmers burn fields, people build street fires to keep warm and winds die down. AP

Rod McGuirk

**N**EARLY two-thirds of Australians supported gay marriage in a postal survey that ensures Parliament will consider legalizing same-sex weddings this year, although the form any law would take and its allowances for religious objections sparked immediate debate.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics said yesterday that 62 percent of registered voters who responded in the unprecedented mail survey favored reform. The conservative government promised to allow a bill creating marriage equality to be considered in Parliament in the final two-week session that is due to end on Dec. 7.

A "no" vote in the survey would have put marriage equality off the political agenda, perhaps for years. Thousands of marriage equality supporters waving rainbow flags gathered anxiously in city parks around the country and cheered when the results was announced.

The mood was relief rather than exhilaration when the result was announced in a park in the national capital, said Tanna Winter, 30. Canberra demonstrated Australia's highest level of support for same-sex marriage, with only one in four responses opposing it.

"The polls said that Brexit wouldn't happen, the polls said that Hillary would win and I sort of thought this felt like Australia's time to show everyone that we're backward too," Winter said hours later over a celebratory beer.

"We didn't do it and we didn't do it in pretty good fashion. That's a nice relief, a nice moment to be proven wrong," he added.

# Australians endorse gay marriage, ensuring Parliament bill



Members of the gay community and their supporters celebrate the result of a postal survey calling for gay marriage rights in Sydney

His friend Sam James, 31, quipped: "It's hard for the Russians to interfere with a paper survey"—a reference to Russia's suspected meddling in the U.S. presidential election.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, a vocal advocate of marriage equality, called on lawmakers to heed the "overwhelming" result and to commit to legislate for gay marriage by next month.

"They voted 'yes' for fairness, they voted 'yes' for commitment, they voted 'yes' for love," Turnbull told reporters. "Now it is up to us here in the Parliament of Australia to get on with it, to get on with the job the Australian people have tasked us to do and get this done

this year before Christmas — that must be our commitment."

Some government lawmakers have vowed to vote down gay marriage regardless of the survey's outcome. But the survey found a majority of voters in 133 of the 150 districts in the House of Representatives wanted reform.

Lawmakers opposed to gay marriage are already moving to wind back anti-discrimination laws, with debate in Australia intensifying over the possibility of gay wedding boycotts and refusals to provide a celebrant, venue, flowers or a cake.

Several government lawmakers on Monday released a draft gay marriage bill, proposed by senator

James Paterson, that critics argue would diminish current protections for gays against discrimination on the grounds of sexuality.

Government senator Dean Smith yesterday introduced a separate bill to the Senate favored by Turnbull that ruled out any compromise that would cost gays and lesbians their existing protections against discrimination. Smith's bill permits only churches and ministers of religion to boycott same-sex weddings.

"If there are amendments, let's see them, but let's be clear about this: Australians did not participate in a survey to have one discrimination plank removed, to have other planks of discrimination piled upon them," Smith told reporters.

Fiona McLeod, president of the Law Council Of Australia, the nation's peak lawyers group, said Paterson's bill "would encroach on Australia's long-established anti-discrimination protections in a dangerous and unprecedented way."

Lyle Shelton, spokesman for Coalition for Marriage which lobbied against the reform, said his group favored Paterson's bill.

"I don't think anyone who voted in this postal survey wants to see their fellow Australians put up on hate speech charges," Shelton said. "We need to protect freedom

of speech, freedom of conscience and also freedom of religion."

"Yes" voter Peter Kensey, 36, said while he was celebrating the win with Winter and James in Canberra tonight, there was apprehension in the gay community about what form the law would take.

"I think that's why today hasn't been a huge celebration," Kensey said. "You wonder if you're going to be screwed over at the very last stage."

Ireland is the only other country to put same-sex marriage to a popular vote, but that referendum was binding. Irish voters in 2015 changed their constitution to allow marriage equality.

In Australia, voting in elections and referenda is compulsory, but the Senate refused to fund a binding vote. Almost 80 percent of more than 16 million registered voters posted ballots in the voluntary survey, which gay marriage advocates opposed as an unnecessary obstacle and opponents derided as being about a boutique issue of little public interest.

The U.N. Human Rights Committee last week criticized Australia for putting gays and lesbians "through an unnecessary and divisive public opinion poll." The committee called on Australia to legislate for marriage equality regardless of the survey's outcome. **AP**

## US considers individual sanctions for Myanmar

**U.S.** Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said yesterday that his country was deeply concerned by "credible reports" of atrocities committed by Myanmar's security forces and called for an independent investigation into a humanitarian crisis that has seen hundreds of thousands of Muslim Rohingya flee to Bangladesh.

Speaking at a joint news conference with leader Aung San Suu Kyi in Myanmar's capital, Tillerson said the U.S. would consider individual sanctions against people found responsible for the violence, but he would not advise "broad-based economic sanctions" against the entire country.

"All of that has to be evidence based," Tillerson said. "If we have credible information that we believe to be very reliable that certain individuals were responsible for certain acts

that we find unacceptable, then targeted sanctions on individuals very well may be appropriate," he said.

Tillerson's one-day visit comes as a new report said there was "mounting evidence" of genocide against the Rohingya in Myanmar's northern Rakhine state, where a government security operation has caused more than 600,000 Rohingya to flee to neighboring Bangladesh.

Tillerson also met with Myanmar's powerful military chief, Min Aung Hlaing, who is in charge of operations in Rakhine.

A senior U.S. State Department official said Tuesday that Tillerson would use the visit to "express concerns over the displacement and violence and insecurity affecting Rohingya populations and other local populations and discuss ways to help Burma stakeholders implement



Aung San Suu Kyi (right) shakes hands with Rex Tillerson after their press conference at the Foreign Ministry office in Naypyitaw

commitments aimed at ending the crisis and charting productive ways forward."

Myanmar was formerly known as Burma.

Though Suu Kyi has been the de facto head of Myanmar's civilian government since her party swept elections in 2015, she is limited in her control of the country by a constitution written by the military junta that ruled Myanmar for decades. The military is in charge of the operations in northern

Rakhine, and ending them is not up to Suu Kyi.

Still Suu Kyi has faced widespread criticism for not speaking out in defense of the Rohingya. At yesterday's news conference Suu Kyi denied she had been silent on the issue, saying she had personally commented on the situation as well as issued statements through her office.

"I haven't been silent," she said. "What people mean is what I say is not interesting enough. But

what I say is not meant to be exciting. It's meant to be accurate. And it's aimed at creating more harmony and a better future for everybody. Not setting people against each other."

The report by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the advocacy group Fortify Rights found there is "mounting evidence" of genocide against the Rohingya. It accused security forces and civilians of mass killings — including burning victims alive including infants — rape and other abuses, and called on the international community to take action.

"These crimes thrive on impunity and inaction," said Matthew Smith, the head of Fortify Rights. "Condemnations aren't enough. Without urgent international action towards accountability, more mass killings are likely."

Myanmar's military has denied the accusations,

most recently with a statement Monday. The military said it had interviewed thousands of people during a monthlong investigation into the conduct of troops in Rakhine after Rohingya insurgents launched a series of deadly attacks there on Aug. 25.

While the report acknowledged that battles against militants from the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army had left 376 "terrorists" dead, it also claimed security forces had "never shot at the innocent Bengalis" and "there was no death of innocent people."

Myanmar's government and most of the Buddhist majority say the members of the Muslim minority are "Bengalis" who migrated illegally from Bangladesh and do not acknowledge the Rohingya as a local ethnic group even though they have lived in Myanmar for generations. **AP**

## SCIENCE | HEALTH

## US scientists try 1st gene editing in the body

Marilynn Marchione  
AP Chief Medical Writer

**SCIENTISTS** for the first time have tried editing a gene inside the body in a bold attempt to permanently change a person's DNA to try to cure a disease.

The experiment was done Monday in California on 44-year-old Brian Madeux. Through an IV, he received billions of copies of a corrective gene and a genetic tool to cut his DNA in a precise spot.

"It's kind of humbling" to be the first to test this, said Madeux, who has a metabolic disease called Hunter syndrome. "I'm willing to take that risk. Hopefully it will help me and other people."

Signs of whether it's working may come in a month; tests will show for sure in three months.

If it's successful, it could give a major boost to the fledgling field of gene therapy. Scientists have edited people's genes before, altering cells in the lab that are then returned to patients. There also are gene therapies that don't involve editing DNA.

But these methods can only be used for a few types of diseases. Some give results that may not last. Some others supply a new gene like a spare part, but can't control where it inserts in the DNA, possibly causing a new problem like cancer.

This time, the gene tinkering is happening in a precise way inside the body. It's like sending a mini surgeon along to place the new gene in exactly the right location.

"We cut your DNA, open it up, insert a gene, stitch it back up. Invisible mending," said Dr. Sandy Macrae, president of Sangamo Therapeutics, the California company testing this for two metabolic diseases and hemophilia. "It becomes part of your DNA and is there for the rest of your life."

That also means there's no going back, no way to erase any mistakes the editing might cause.

"You're really toying with Mother Nature" and the risks can't be fully known, but the studies should move forward because these are incurable diseases, said one independent expert, Dr. Eric Topol of the Scripps Translational Science Institute in San Diego.

Protections are in place to help ensure safety, and animal tests were very encouraging, said Dr. Howard Kaufman, a Boston scientist on the National Institutes of Health panel that approved the studies.

He said gene editing's promise is too great to ignore. "So far there's been no evidence that this is going to be dangerous," he said. "Now is not the time to get scared."

AP PHOTO



Brian Madeux, 44, uses an infrared device to look at his veins as nurse Siobhan Field prepares an IV line for the first human gene editing therapy for NPS, at the UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland

#### WOE FROM HEAD TO TOE

Fewer than 10,000 people worldwide have these metabolic diseases, partly because many die very young. Those with Madeux's condition, Hunter syndrome, lack a gene that makes an enzyme that breaks down certain carbohydrates. These build up in cells and cause havoc throughout the body.

Patients may have frequent colds and ear infections, distorted facial features, hearing loss, heart problems, breathing trouble, skin and eye problems, bone and joint flaws, bowel issues and brain and thinking problems.

"Many are in wheelchairs [...] dependent on their parents until they die," said Dr. Chester Whitley, a University of Minnesota genetics expert who plans to enroll patients in the studies.

Weekly IV doses of the missing enzyme can ease some symptoms, but cost USD100,000 to \$400,000 a year and don't prevent brain damage.

Madeux, who now lives near Phoenix, is engaged to a nurse, Marcie Humphrey, who he met 15 years ago in a study that tested this enzyme therapy at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland, where the gene editing experiment took place.

He has had 26 operations for hernias, bunions, bones pinching his spinal column, and ear, eye and gall bladder problems.

"It seems like I had a surgery every other year of my life" and many procedures in between, he said. Last year he nearly died from a bronchitis and pneumonia attack. The disease had warped his airway, and "I was drowning in my secretions, I couldn't cough it out."

Madeux has a chef's degree and was part owner of two restaurants in Utah, cooking for US ski teams and celebrities, but now can't work in a kitchen or ride horses as he used to.

Gene editing won't fix damage he's already suffered, but he hopes it will stop the need for weekly enzyme treatments.

Initial studies will involve up to 30 adults to test safety, but the ultimate goal is to treat children very young, before much damage occurs.

#### ■ If it's successful, the experiment could give a major boost to the fledgling field of gene therapy

#### HOW IT WORKS

A gene-editing tool called CRISPR has gotten a lot of recent attention, but this study used a different one called zinc finger nucleases. They're like molecular scissors that seek and cut a specific piece of DNA.

The therapy has three parts: The new gene and two zinc finger proteins. DNA instructions for each part are placed in a virus that's been altered to not cause infection but to ferry them into cells. Billions of copies of these are given through a vein.

They travel to the liver, where cells use the instructions to make the zinc fingers and prepare the corrective gene. The fingers cut

the DNA, allowing the new gene to slip in. The new gene then directs the cell to make the enzyme the patient lacked.

Only 1 percent of liver cells would have to be corrected to successfully treat the disease, said Madeux's physician and study leader, Dr. Paul Harnatz at the Oakland hospital.

"How bulletproof is the technology? We're just learning," but safety tests have been very good, said Dr. Carl June, a University of Pennsylvania scientist who has done other gene therapy work but was not involved in this study.

#### WHAT COULD GO WRONG

Safety issues plagued some earlier gene therapies. One worry is that the virus might provoke an immune system attack. In 1999, 18-year-old Jesse Gelsinger died in a gene therapy study from that problem, but the new studies use a different virus that's proved much safer in other experiments.

Another worry is that inserting a new gene might have unforeseen effects on other genes. That happened years ago, when researchers used gene therapy to cure some cases of the immune system disorder called "bubble boy" disease. Several patients later developed leukemia because the new gene inserted into a place in the native DNA where it unintentionally activated a cancer gene.

"When you stick a chunk of DNA in randomly, sometimes it works well, sometimes it does nothing and sometimes it causes harm," said Hank Greely, a Stanford University bioethicist. "The advantage with gene editing is you can put the gene in

where you want it."

Finally, some fear that the virus could get into other places like the heart, or eggs and sperm where it could affect future generations. Doctors say built-in genetic safeguards prevent the therapy from working anywhere but the liver, like a seed that only germinates in certain conditions.

This experiment is not connected to other, more controversial work being debated to try to edit genes in human embryos to prevent diseases before birth — changes that would be passed down from generation to generation.

#### MAKING HISTORY

Madeux's treatment was to have happened a week earlier, but a small glitch prevented it.

He and his fiancée returned to Arizona, but nearly didn't make it back to Oakland in time for the second attempt because their Sunday flight was canceled and no others were available until Monday, after the treatment was to take place.

Scrambling, they finally got a flight to Monterey, California, and a car service took them just over 100 miles north to Oakland.

On Monday he had the three-hour infusion, surrounded by half a dozen doctors, nurses and others wearing head-to-toe protective garb to lower the risk of giving him any germs. His doctor, Harnatz, spent the night at the hospital to help ensure his patient stayed well.

"I'm nervous and excited," Madeux said as he prepared to leave the hospital. "I've been waiting for this my whole life, something that can potentially cure me."

Farai Mutsaka, Harare

ZIMBABWE

# Army has Mugabe, wife in custody, controls capital

**Z**IMBABWE'S army said yesterday it has President Robert Mugabe and his wife in custody and is securing government offices and patrolling the capital's streets following a night of unrest that included a military takeover of the state broadcaster.

The night's action triggered speculation of a coup, but the military's supporters praised it as a "bloodless correction."

For the first time, this southern African nation is seeing the military oppose Mugabe, the world's oldest head of state and one of the longest-serving authoritarian rulers. Mugabe has been in power since Zimbabwe's independence from white minority rule in 1980.

Armed soldiers in armored personnel carriers stationed themselves at key points in Harare, while Zimbabweans formed long lines at banks in order to draw the limited cash available, a routine chore in the country's ongoing financial crisis. People looked at their phones to read about the army takeover and others went to work or to shops.

In an address to the nation after taking control of the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation, Major General Sibusiso Moyo

said early yesterday the military is targeting "criminals" around Mugabe, and sought to reassure the country that order will be restored.

It was not clear where Mugabe, 93, and his wife were yesterday but it seems they are in the custody of the military. "Their security is guaranteed," Moyo said.

"We wish to make it abundantly clear that this is not a military takeover," he said. "We are only targeting criminals around [Mugabe] who are committing crimes that are causing social and economic suffering in the country in order to bring them to justice."

Moyo added "as soon as we have accomplished our mission, we expect that the situation will return to normalcy." The army spokesman called on churches to pray for the nation. He urged other security forces to "cooperate for the good of our country," warning that "any provocation will be met with an

appropriate response."

All troops were ordered to return to barracks immediately, with all leave canceled, said Moyo. The broadcast was sent out from the ZBC headquarters in Pocket's Hill near Harare's Borrowdale suburb.

Overnight, at least three explosions were heard in the capital, Harare, and military vehicles were seen in the streets.

The military actions appear to put the army in control of the country. Army commander Constantino Chiwenga had threatened on Monday to "step in" to calm political tensions. Mugabe's ruling ZANU-PF party responded by accusing the general of "treasonable conduct." But now Chiwenga appears to be in control.

The army has been praised by the nation's war veterans for carrying out "a bloodless correction of gross abuse of power." The military will return Zimbabwe to "genuine democracy" and make the country a



An armed soldier patrols a street in Harare, Zimbabwe

"modern model nation," said Chris Mutsvangwa, chairman of the war veterans' association, told The Associated Press in Johannesburg.

Mutsvangwa and the war veterans are staunch allies of Emmerson Mnangagwa, who was fired from his post of vice president by Mugabe last week. Mnangagwa fled Zimbabwe last week but said he would return to lead the country.

The U.S. Embassy closed to the public yesterday and encouraged citizens to shelter in place, citing "the ongoing political uncertainty through the night." The British Embassy issued a similar warning, citing "reports of unusual military activity."

For the first time, this southern African nation is seeing an open rift between the military and Mugabe. The military has been a key pillar of his power. **AP**

AD

**SATURDAY SUPER STACK**

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## what's ON



**FLOW: GLASS ART EXHIBITION BY SUNNY WANG**  
**TIME:** 9am-9pm (Open on public holidays)  
**UNTIL:** November 19, 2017  
**VENUE:** Temporary Exhibition Gallery of IACM, No. 163, Av. Almeida Ribeiro  
**ADMISSION:** Free  
**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 8988 4000

**LONELY TONES - WORKS BY FORTES PAKEONG SEQUEIRA**  
**TIME:** 11am-7pm (Closed on Mondays)  
**UNTIL:** November 26, 2017  
**VENUE:** 1/F, Macau Art Garden, No. 265, Av. do Dr. Rodrigo Rodrigues  
**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 2836 6064

**A SCULPTURE - YANG XIAO HUA REPRESENTING WOMEN THROUGH MAM COLLECTION - 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY**  
**TIME:** 10am-7pm, last admission at 6:30pm (Closed on Mondays, open on public holidays)  
**UNTIL:** December 31, 2017  
**VENUE:** Macau Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, NAPE  
**ADMISSION:** Free  
**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 8791 9814

## Offbeat



## POPE AUCTIONS LAMBORGHINI TO REBUILD CHRISTIAN IRAQ

Pope Francis got the keys to a fancy new Lamborghini yesterday — but he won't be tooling around the Vatican gardens in it.

Instead, the special edition Huracan will be auctioned off by Sotheby's, with the proceeds going to charities including one aimed at helping rebuild Christian communities in Iraq that were devastated by the Islamic State group.

Officials from the luxury sports car maker presented Francis with the sleek white car with papal yellow-gold detailing yesterday, outside the Vatican hotel where he lives. The pope promptly blessed it.

Base prices for the Huracan, which was first introduced in 2014, usually start at around 183,000 euros (USD217,000.) A special edition built for a papal charity would be expected to fetch far more at auction.

Francis got around his native Buenos Aires on public transport and has long railed against people who buy the latest model cars or cellphones. As pope, he uses a blue Ford Focus inside the Vatican walls, and he has made a statement on all his foreign trips by shunning fancy, bullet-proof SUVs and opting instead for modest Fiats or KIAs.

Some of the funds raised from the auction will go to rebuilding homes, churches and public buildings in Iraq's Nineveh Plains that were devastated during three years of fighting by the Islamic State group. The Vatican said the aim is to allow Christians who were forced to flee Nineveh "to finally return to their roots and recover their dignity."

Other funds will go to charities that help women who are trafficked and forced into prostitution, and those that provide medical care in Africa.

The Sant'Agata Bolognese-based Lamborghini is owned by Germany's Volkswagen.

## TV canal macau



07:30	Suncity Group Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix - 50th Edition - Practice (Live)
08:50	Suncity Group Chinese Racing Cup - Practice (Live)
09:35	Suncity Group Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix - FIA F3 World Cup - Practice (Live)
10:35	Suncity Group Macau Road Sport Challenge - Practice (Live)
11:20	SJM Macau GT Cup - FIA GT World Cup - Practice (Live)
11:55	TDM News (Repeated)
13:20	CTM Macau Touring Car Cup - Practice (Live)
14:20	Suncity Group Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix - FIA F3 World Cup - Qualifying (Live)
15:45	Suncity Group Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix - 50th Edition - Qualifying (Live)
18:45	Brazilian Mini Serie (Repeated)
19:15	Non-daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
19:50	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Talk Show
21:35	Non-daily Portuguese News
22:10	Brazilian Mini Serie
22:40	Miscellaneous
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:25	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:05	RTPi Live

## cinema



## CINETEATRO

16 Nov - 22 Nov



## JUSTICE LEAGUE

ROOM 1  
 (2D) 2:30, 4:45, 9:30pm  
 (3D) 19:15pm

**Director:** Zack Snyder

**Starring:** Ben Affleck, Raymond Fisher, Jason Momoa

**Language:** English (Chinese)

**Duration:** 118 min

## THE GLASS CASTLE

ROOM 2  
 2:30, 4:45, 9:30pm

**Director:** Destin Daniel Cretton

**Starring:** Brie Larson, Woody Harrelson, Max Greenfield

**Language:** English (Chinese)

**Duration:** 109 min

## THOR: RAGNAROK

ROOM 1

7:00pm

**Director:** Taika Waititi

**Starring:** Chris Hemsworth, Cate Blanchett, Tom Hiddleston

**Language:** English (Chinese)

**Duration:** 109 min

## MIX!

ROOM 3

2:30, 7:15pm

**Director:** Junichi Ishikawa

**Starring:** Yui Aragaki, Eita Ryoko, Hiroe Koji Seto, Mei Nagano, Yu, Aoi

**Language:** Japanese (Chinese & English)

**Duration:** 120 min

## LET ME EAT YOUR PANCREAS

ROOM 3

4:45, 9:30pm

**Director:** Sho Tsukikawa

**Starring:** Minami Hamabe, Takumi Kitamura, Shun Oguri

**Language:** Japanese (Chinese & English)

**Duration:** 115min

## this day in history



## 1983 ENGLAND FANS RAMPAGE IN LUXEMBOURG

More than 20 English football supporters have been arrested in Luxembourg after a night of violence.

The fans are being held for drunkenness, fighting and stealing after England was knocked out of the European Championship in spite of beating Luxembourg.

Denmark's victory over Greece earlier on Wednesday meant England finished second in their group and do not qualify for the finals next year.

The fans were not placated by a 4-0 win over Luxembourg and trouble started inside the stadium during which two police officers were badly hurt.

Afterwards England supporters raced through the city center overturning cars and smashing shop windows.

About 500 police officers and 150 soldiers were on duty in an attempt to head off trouble. They were hoping to prevent a repeat of violent disturbances in 1977 when England fans also ran riot.

But the omens had not been good with trouble flaring before many of the 2,000 fans even reached their destination.

On Tuesday about 20 English men beat up a railway employee in Belgium and four police officers needed hospital treatment after fighting broke out among drunken fans who got off a ferry in Ostend.

At the height of Wednesday night's violence riot police from neighbouring West Germany had to be drafted in to help the over-stretched Luxembourg forces.

Weapons seized included axes and aerosol cans filled with tear gas. Many England supporters spent the night on the streets because local hotels refused to take them in.

Finally they were herded to the railway station by the security forces where a train, brought forward by five hours, was waiting to take them to the ferry port in Ostend, Belgium.

Those arrested are being kept in custody overnight and are expected to appear in court tomorrow.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

A total of 50 fans were arrested - 13 received prison sentences of up to four months and fines of up to £250.

Luxembourg's minister of sport said the country would never again host a match involving England.

The trouble further sullied the reputation of England football supporters infamous for rioting across Europe.

In England, courts imposed tougher sentences and football clubs also started to clamp down on violent supporters, sometimes banning them from their grounds.

But numerous attempts by clubs and successive governments have failed to totally eradicate the problem.

However, the good behaviour of England's fans during the World Cup in South Korea and Japan in 2002 went some way to repairing their reputation abroad.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19
It's just one of those crazy days - the kind when anything can happen!

Taurus April 20-May 20
A family situation has been simmering for a while now, and it stands a decent chance of boiling over soon.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21
If you need to make any public appearances today, either professional or personal in nature, you had better arrange to have a companion handy.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22
Few have ever called you stingy, and that goes double when it comes to giving what you can to help children, animals or anyone else who verges on helpless.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Your deepest feelings - especially those related to anger - are easy for others to see at the moment.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22
You're not easy to surprise, and most people know it. You've heard it all, memorized a good chunk of it and read up on the rest.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22
Someone or something new at work turns your daily schedule upside-down, and quite possibly leaves you wondering what to do next.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
If there's one thing you appreciate in loved ones, it's consistency. When someone close says or does something entirely out of character today, it throws you - temporarily, at least!

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21
You usually throw yourself into doing absolutely everything you can for the ones they love.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19
It's not easy to surprise you, but today proves the exception to that rule. There's at least one major surprise en route, probably related to communication.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Sure, you're impulsive and impetuous - but that's why people love you!

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20
Your compassion, understanding, and tenacity are legendary, and you're usually quite able to keep your temper under wraps too.

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

Weather forecast table for China and World cities, including columns for MIN, MAX, and CONDITION.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Revue segment; 5- ... man \_\_\_ mouse?; 8- Cosecant's reciprocal; 12- Helper; 13- Snoop; 15- Indigo source; 16- Clairvoyant; 17- Mall unit; 18- Eyeball; 19- Eternal; 22- Accelerate; 23- Petroleum; 24- Otherwise; 26- Layers; 29- Like a professor's jacket; 31- Lamb's lament; 32- Oscar de la \_\_\_; 34- Great Lakes tribesmen; 36- Subsidies; 38- Comic O'Donnell; 40- Cong. meeting; 41- Dole out; 43- Gift recipient; 45- Word used to precede a woman's maiden name; 46- Pal of Pooh; 48- Characteristics; 50- Sensible; 51- Apr. addressee; 52- Bottle lid; 54- Pottery of hardened clay; 61- Scent; 63- Sanctimonious; 64- Enthusiastic liveliness; 65- Long time; 66- Hound's trail; 67- Put \_\_\_ on it!; 68- Eye piece; 69- Snaky curve; 70- X-ray units;

DOWN: 1- Freelancer's encl.; 2- Capital of the Ukraine; 3- Nice notion; 4- Abject fear; 5- Scraps; 6- Civil disturbance; 7- Ethereal; Prefix; 8- \_\_\_ Paulo; 9- Component part; 10- Khartoum's river; 11- Mtn. stat; 13- Book of hymns; 14- Continue a subscription; 20- Perjurer; 21- Exultation; 25- Sun. speeches; 26- Fine fur; 27- Next largest scoop after tea; 28- Battery terminal; 29- Spoil; 30- Approvals; 31- Actress Arthur; 33- General on Chinese menus; 35- Opposite of NNW; 37- Protein bean; 39- Most strange; 42- Color quality; 44- Deserve; 47- Harvests; 49- Honest!; 52- Carbonized fuel; 53- Zip-\_\_\_-Doo-Dah; 55- Starchy food grain; 56- Some digits; 57- Vandals; 58- \_\_\_ breve; 59- Sudden assault; 60- Breaks off; 62- Hosp. workers;



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



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Honda Macau





Mile Jedinak

## FOOTBALL

# Jedinak stars as Australia qualifies for 2018 World Cup

John Pye, Sydney

**M**ILE Jedinak stepped up when it counted most, propelling Australia into next year's World Cup with a hat trick yesterday in a 3-1 victory over Honduras that secured the next-to-last spot in Russia.

The Australia captain was in doubt for the intercontinental playoff series with a groin injury that had forced him to miss the end of the Asian qualifying campaign, when the Socceroos narrowly missed out on direct entry.

But Jedinak played a full game in the 0-0 draw in San Pedro Sula last Friday and, aided by the state-of-the-art rehabilitation program on Australia's charter flight home, took the free kick that broke the scoring drought in the 54th minute at Sydney's Olympic stadium.

His free kick curled to the left of the wall and deflected sharply in off defender Henry Figueroa, bringing the parochial 77,060-strong crowd at Sydney's Olympic stadium to life.

He converted from the spot in the 72nd after referee Nestor Pitana penalized Bryan Acosta for a hand ball and again calmly

slotted home another penalty in the 85th after Robbie Kruse was dragged down in the area. After 22 games and 27 months, the win ensured Asian Cup champion Australia qualified for its fourth consecutive World Cup.

"It wouldn't have mattered who scored. I'm happy to chip in," Jedinak said. "We got the job done and that's all that matters — it's going to be a big 2018."

Honduras scored a consolation goal deep in injury time in a scramble in front of goal with Alberth Elis and Maynor Figueroa both taking swipes at the ball from close range.

The result meant Asia got a full quota of five teams into the World Cup in Russia, with 31 of the 32 places decided as of last night.

Under-fire coach Ange Postecoglou said he was delighted for his Australian team, and declined to comment on his future amid speculation that he may not stay on to take them to the World Cup.

"They got what they deserved — it wasn't by luck or by chance," said Postecoglou, who took on the Australian job just before the 2014 World Cup in Brazil. "They believed in something that we started, and right to the

end they displayed the kind of resilience and belief that has made me proud all the way along. They did it their way, and got great rewards for it."

While the Australians invested heavily in the charter flight to get home Sunday after the first leg, the Honduras squad took a commercial flight and arrived a day later.

But with veteran skipper Maynor Figueroa returning, and with Elis adding pace on the flank, Honduras lifted its tempo in the first half and frustrated the Australian attack.

Honduras coach Jorge Luis Pinto said the Australians clearly worked to neutralize Elis out wide, and the momentum shift was too great after the opening goal.

"Australia were very strong and aggressive and put pressure on us. In the first half the game was more balanced — in the second half, the [first] goal took a toll," Pinto said. "The second goal, there was contact with the player's hand, but it wasn't intentional."

Honduras earned its place in the playoff with a 3-2 win over Mexico on a hectic last day of qualifying in North and Central America and the Caribbean, securing fourth spot and ensuring the U.S. missed out.

Australia advanced after beating Syria for fifth place in Asian qualifying, with veteran Tim Cahill scoring twice in Sydney.

Cahill was involved when Australia edged Uruguay on penalties in a playoff in 2005 to qualify for the following year's World Cup in Germany. He was also there when the Australians qualified directly from Asia for 2010 and 2014. There is a good chance he'll be in Russia, too, well after he has turned 38 years of age.

"To help my country qualify for four World Cups is something I will be proud of when I get [...] even older," the former Everton player said. "I feel like a young kid. I would've done anything to be part of this group and I will do anything to stay a part of it." **AP**

## FOOTBALL

# Ex-marketing executive: Fox Sports involved in bribes

**F**OX Sports partnered with a South American marketing firm to make millions of dollars in bribes to high-ranking soccer officials in exchange for lucrative broadcasting rights to major tournaments, the marketing company's former CEO testified at a U.S. corruption trial.

Alejandro Burzaco, former CEO of the firm based in Argentina, testified

that Fox and other broadcasters were involved in a scheme to pay bribes — concealed using offshore side entities and sham contracts — that secured rights for the Copa America and other events.

As evidence of the scheme, prosecutors at the trial at a federal court in New York City produced a 2008 agreement for the partnership to pay USD3.7 million to a hol-

ding company in Turks and Caicos that was an alleged conduit for the bribes. They say it was signed by a former Fox executive.

Asked whom he kept informed about the bribe arrangements, Burzaco responded, "Fox Pan American Sports. Fox Sports."

Through the bribes, the network "gained leverage and rights to broadcast its

signal to Argentina" and other parts of the world, he added.

Last year, a Florida-based soccer network that repeatedly lost out on the television rights to tournaments that Fox Sports aired had made similar bribery allegations against Fox in a pending federal lawsuit.

Fox Sports denied any involvement in bribery in a statement issued yester-

day. The statement said Burzaco's company was a subsidiary of Fox Pan American Sports, which at the time was under the control of a private-equity firm.

"Any suggestion that Fox Sports knew of or approved of any bribes is emphatically false," the statement said. "Fox Sports had no operational control of the entity with Burzaco ran."

The testimony came on the second day of the U.S. trial of three former South American soccer officials accused of taking bribes in a sprawling corruption investigation of FIFA, the sport's governing body. Burzaco, who has pleaded guilty to racketeering conspiracy and other charges, has emerged as a key witness against Jose Maria Marin, Manuel Burga and Juan Angel Napout. **MDT/AP**

opinion

**Girl About Globe**  
 Linda Kennedy



**WOMEN, LET'S GET WALKED ALL OVER**

Meet me on Jane Austen Street. At the tea room, beside the cake shop.

No, don't get the smelling salts, I'm not having a turn. There is an actual possibility such streets could be for real. But we have to fight to get Jane with a pavement, and other female addresses. Our enemy? Tech Giants.

Things have been happening on our cityscapes. Let's start with the good stuff and I'm proud to report the involvement of my hometown: Glasgow, Scotland. The Glaswegian streetscape honours men, rarely women. And so, a proposition was put to Glasgow City Council to redesignate main thoroughfares such as Ingram Street and Argyle Street after women like Mary Barbour or Jean Roberts. Barbour led protests against private landlords in 1915. Roberts was the first female Lord Provost in 1960. (Yes, a lady Lord Provost. Hey, it was 1960.)

It's not just Scotland. In Spain, some street names which reference the country's fascist leaders are being 'retired'. They're being called instead after women. For example, a formerly fascist Madrid street is to be known as Calle de Soledad Cazorla, the first Spanish prosecutor to specialise in work against gender violence.

In the Spanish city of León, citizens were asked to vote for a number of leading women to name streets after, including Rosa Parks, Frida Kahlo, Jane Austen and local inventor Ángela Ruiz Robles. Imagine Jane Austen Street. I would vie to live there, a heroine scrambling for square feet not a squire. If it rained, a canopy shaped like a bonnet would extend across the whole street. Neighbourhood watch would have opera glasses. The road would be narrower in the middle, and this undulation would be the safest point for pedestrians to cross. Corsets have some uses.

Amusing diversions are created by all this. Like, a new first date question - 'if you were a street, what would you be?' Would you feel way-ward? Linda Way. Or more like an alley? Maybe a passage? Would it feel weird to be trampled on, seeing as the metaphoric 'being walked all over' is not unfamiliar to women in history? If England followed Scotland and named streets after leading women, would 'Margaret Thatcher Boulevard' (French, that would annoy her) have a 'no turning' sign? And what about postcodes? A zip code of 34-24-36 would undermine the feminist message.

Now, boo hiss, the bad part. Just as I was getting ready for global maps hailing maidens and madams, Apple declared its stores were to become 'town squares'. Piazza iOS? Traditional church clock replaced by a giant in-store Apple watch? No need for a weekly market: you can buy fresh Apple products every day.

It's not been the company's only onslaught on the fabric of our cities. 'Apple Park' is the name of their new HQ, from which we can deduce green spaces are also a target. New Apple strategy: from domination of apps to maps.

And so, ladies and arterial route inspirations, we may have street brawls ahead of us. Tech is generally no friend to females and given the expression 'information superhighway' is almost a forgotten term, I fear we're seeing a tech giant switch to domination of local roads. Why should Apple stop at Piazza iOS? In the near future, might every city have a Steve Jobs Way or Tim Cook Drive? Me, I'd always prefer Jane Austen Street but so far in life, there have been as few women in town as there are in tech.

As for Glasgow, I hope they don't follow Apple and turn the streets into tech. InSTAGram Street rather than Ingram Street.

**THE BUZZ SINGAPORE'S HOME SALES ROSE IN OCTOBER AFTER A SLOWDOWN**

Singapore's home sales rose in October after a slowdown in September caused by the 'Hungry Ghost' period that's considered inauspicious by Chinese homebuyers. Developers sold 758 units last month, up from 657 in September, according to Urban Redevelopment Authority data released yesterday.

Singapore's property market is turning around, with home prices climbing after a record run of declines and developers making aggressive bids for land. On Tuesday evening, a government minister indicated that officials will mo-

nitior developers to make sure that they don't cut corners to pare costs after splashing out on land purchases. Companies launched new units in some older projects last month including Martin Modern and The Clement Canopy. Overall, Singapore developers have sold 8,702 units through September this year, eclipsing the full-year totals for 2014 to 2016.

While the market is showing signs of a revival, there may be limits on the scale of any comeback: the bulk of the cooling measures rolled out since 2009 remain in place.

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

SOURCE: DSI/MG

**WORLD BRIEFS**

**EGYPT** Officials say star singer Sherine Abdel-Wahab has been banned from performing in the country after she warned a fan against alleged health hazards involved in drinking water from the Nile River.



**ZIMBABWE's** army said yesterday it has President Robert Mugabe (pictured) and his wife in custody and was securing government offices and patrolling the capital's streets following a night of unrest that included a military takeover of the state broadcaster. The night's action triggered speculation of a coup, but the military's supporters praised it as a "bloodless correction."  
 More on p15

**TURKEY** A Turkish court has ordered the release of six defendants in the trial against dozens of suspects for their alleged links to the Islamic State group and involvement in last year's airport attack.



**GREECE** Flash floods turned roads into raging torrents of mud and debris outside Greece's capital yesterday, killing at least 13 people, inundating homes and businesses and knocking out a section of a major highway. There were fears the death toll could rise further as rescue crews continue searching for potentially missing people in the western outskirts of Athens.

**ECUADOR** A court in Ecuador has paved the way for a criminal trial to begin against the nation's vice president in an alleged corruption plot involving Brazilian construction giant Odebrecht.

**INDIA**

**City rounds up beggars ahead of Ivanka's visit**

**A**UTHORITIES in the southern Indian city of Hyderabad are rounding up beggars ahead of a visit by Ivanka Trump for an international conference.

Over the past week, more than 200 beggars have been transported to separate male and female shelter homes located on the grounds of two city prisons. Authorities have been strictly enforcing a begging ban on the city's streets and in other public places.

The crackdown seems to be having the desired effect, with most of Hyderabad's thousands of beggars vanishing from sight.

Trump is a senior adviser to her father, President Donald Trump. Later this month, she is scheduled to be a featured speaker at the Global Entrepreneurship Summit in Hyderabad, which will also be attended by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Officials say the drive against begging was launched because two upcoming international events are taking place in the city — the entrepreneurship summit and the World Telugu Conference in December.

Begging is a criminal offense in India and can be punished by as much as 10 years in prison, although the law is rarely enforced.

"We will complete the clearing of beggars from the city roads by the end of the mon-



th," said V.K. Singh, a top police officer.

The beggars have been rounded up from traffic junctions, bus stations and railway stations and transported by van to the shelters, where they often find themselves separated from their family members.

They are being offered clean clothes, a shower and a bed. But they're also being fingerprinted before they're allowed to leave and told they could face jail time if they are found begging again.

More than 20 percent of India's 1.3 billion people live on less than 2 dollars a day. For many, begging is survival.

Beggars tend to crowd around cars at traffic signals, knocking on windows and asking for food and money. They include children as young as 5, who weave through dangerous traffic and often perform small acrobatic acts.

A rights group that runs the two Hyderabad homeless

shelters on the grounds of the Chanchalguda and Charalappally jails where the beggars are being taken estimates the city has 13,000 beggars.

The entrepreneurship summit is an annual event that this year will focus on supporting female entrepreneurs. Running from Nov. 28-30, the summit is being jointly hosted by the U.S. and India.

Singh said that next month, after Ivanka Trump has left, police will start offering cash rewards to people who inform them of a beggar's location. Police have set up a control room to receive the information.

This isn't the first time the poor and homeless have been pushed out of sight as India hosts international visitors. Ahead of the 2010 Commonwealth Games in New Delhi, slums were demolished and thousands of beggars pushed to the edge of the city. **AP**

**THE DECISIVE MOMENT**

Martial Trezzini/Keystone via AP



The largest-ever D-flawless diamond to be put up for auction, mounted in a diamond and emerald necklace, sold for USD33.7 million yesterday [Macau time]. The white, matchbox-size "Creation 1" diamond from Swiss jeweler de Grisogono weighs a whopping 163 carats. The buyer was not immediately identified.