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## WORLD BRIEFS



**THAILAND** Police said yesterday that they were stepping up security along the country's borders as they searched for around 20 suspected ethnic Uighurs who escaped an immigration detention center.

**PHILIPPINES** The government filed complaints yesterday with an anti-graft office accusing many Cabinet officials in the previous administration of corruption in a maintenance contract for a Manila commuter train line hounded by near-daily breakdowns.  
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**INDONESIA** The Mount Agung volcano on the Indonesian tourist island of Bali spewed ash and steam yesterday, but authorities said its alert level remained unchanged.



**IRAN's** President Hassan Rouhani has criticized the Arab League for supporting Saudi Arabia and its role in the war in Yemen. He also called the regional organization of Arab countries "old, worn-out, exhausted and ineffective."

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## TYPHOON HATO

# Fong faces new disciplinary procedure

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## Vatican and China planning a first-ever exchange of artworks

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## Pace of inflation quickens in October

The Composite Consumer Price Index (CPI), a key measure of inflation that reflects the impact of price changes on general households, increased by 1.54 percent year-on-year in October 2017 to just over 110. The growth was significantly higher than the 1.39 percent growth in September 2017, attributed by the Consumer Council to rising charges for eating out, outpatient services, tuition fees and parking meter rates. Among the various sections of goods and services, the price indexes of health and education grew by 5.11 percent and 4.25 percent respectively year-on-year, and the price index of food and non-alcoholic beverages, which accounted for the largest share of household expenditure, went up by 2.33 percent. The CPI grew by 0.31 percent month-to-month; for the 12 months ending October 2017, it increased 1.16 percent from the previous comparable period.

## New viaduct connects Fishman's Wharf to Ferry Terminal

The government will build a new viaduct to connect one point of the Avenida da Amizade with the Fisherman's Wharf. Yesterday, the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT) conducted an open bid for the project's construction, having received 22 submissions. The viaduct will be 150 meters long, according to DSSOPT, and it will link to two other bridges which are currently being used at the Macau Ferry Terminal. The construction will start in the first quarter of 2018, and it will last for a maximum of 380 work days.



## 200 more entities in cultural industries

A total of 1,913 organizations were operating in the four core domains of the cultural industries of Macau last year, according to a statement released by the Statistics and Census Service. Those four areas are creative design, cultural exhibitions and performances, art col-

lection, and digital media. This figure represents an increase of around 200 such organizations compared with 2015.

The number of people engaged in the sector rose by 7.7 percent to 11,000, while employee compensation increased 9.3 percent year-

on-year to MOP1.71 billion. Total revenue recorded by the four core domains grew by nearly 10 percent year-on-year to MOP6.86 billion.

Gross value added, which measures the sector's contribution to Macau's economy, accounted for a mere 0.6 percent of economic activi-

ties, despite growing 8.5 percent year-on-year from 2015.

Analyzed by core domain, more than half of the organizations fell under the category of creative design in 2016, up by 100 year-on-year, while the number of people engaged increased by 0.6 percent to 3,372. Compensation of employees within this particular area, totaled around MOP430 million, which is an increase of 3.2 percent year-on-year.

564 organizations were operating in digital media in 2016, an increase of 50 year-on-year and the number of people engaged rose by 4.7 percent to 4,812. Compensation of employees in digital media grew by 9.6 percent to MOP960 million.

There were 218 organizations operating in the area of cultural exhibitions and performances in 2016, up by 49 year-on-year. The number of people engaged in the field soared in 2016 by almost one-third to 2,429, while the compensation of workers rose by 20.6 percent to a total of MOP290 million.

Some 110 organizations were operating in the fourth area, art collection, last year, just one more than in 2015. Just under 400 people were employed by the sector and compensation of employees fell by 7.5 percent to about MOP25 million.

### LEGAL WISE BY MdME

Francisco Leitão\*

## TAPPING AT WILL?

In the latest edition of the Macau Judiciary Police Gazette "Criminal Investigation and Legal System", a principal investigator from said police body penned an article defending the need for a criminal procedure reform in which collection and assessment of evidence by investigators can be expedited.

The investigator suggested that, to accelerate the search for and prevent the destruction of evidence, for instance in drug trafficking cases, the procedural requirement of a pre-trial judge's decision authorizing any interception or record of phone calls should be eliminated and replaced with an after the fact ratification by the competent authority.

This would allow the relevant investigating authority to carry out wiretapping at its discretion, without any type of prior supervision. Collection of any data deemed as suspiciously criminal would become easier and faster, with judges being left to verify the validity of taps as

a simple matter of fait-accompli.

In our opinion, the suggested reform would be a clear violation of the rights to privacy and to liberty and secrecy in communications afforded by the Basic Law to all Macau residents. In fact, this is a right so fundamental that it is enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

In respect to this matter, Macau is no different from most democratic jurisdictions, where the fundamental right to privacy is materially constitutional. In turn, this protection is reflected in the relevant provisions of our Criminal Procedure Code, which states that wiretapping can only be validly carried out subject to prior judicial authorization. The breach of said requirement results in the nullity of the relevant evidence, rendering the probative material collected in that manner of no legal effect.

Wiretapping is an exceptional, critical and subsidiary method of evidence col-

lection, and one that is particularly intrusive in nature. By striking at the very core of citizens' right to privacy, it is a textbook example of why criminal procedure systems absolutely must provide for the intervention of judges during the investigation stage. Pre-trial judges are generally referred to as the "judges of rights and freedoms", and there is good reason for that.

In this context, any proposed reforms on this topic should, in fact, be pointing the opposite way. Instead of advocating a waiver of judicial authorization and an extension of the scope of investigators' powers, focus should be on promoting tighter supervision of wiretapping by pre-trial judges.

In tandem connection to the 2007 criminal procedure reform in Portugal, there are a few amendments that could be taken into consideration when reviewing the legal requirements of the evidence collection method of wiretapping.

At a time when investigative misconduct and unlawful compression of suspects' rights is becoming a concern in Macau, measures such as imposing li-

imited timeframes for the monitoring of phone calls and stringent requirements for the substantiation of judges' dispatches, would all shift the system towards the protection of individuals' fundamental rights, reinforcing the intervention of the judiciary power and, ultimately, embodying the principle of presumption of innocence.

The most important thing to glean from this is that, as sophisticated as modern criminality has become, and as important as it is for public authorities to repress it, protecting citizens' right to privacy from unjustified, unreasonable and disproportionate limitations remains, as a rule, more important than protecting the competent authorities' interest in speedier investigations.

It is the role of the Macau Courts to ensure the defense of legally protected rights and interests, to repress violations of legality and to resolve conflicts of public and private interests. If there is any ground from which they should step back, wiretapping is certainly not one of them.

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## POLICY ADDRESS | ADMINISTRATION AND JUSTICE

# Lawmakers criticize top officials' accountability system

Julie Zhu

**T**HE Secretary for Administration and Justice, Sonia Chan, along with several department leaders from her secretariat, were present at the Legislative Assembly (AL) to answer the lawmakers' questions about 2018 Policy Address.

Agnes Lam asked the government how will it improve its principal officials' accountability mechanism. Lam also asked how it will help civil servants who occupy lower positions, but hold prestigious education degrees, to be promoted.

Ng Kuok Cheong, in line with expectations, criticized the appointment mechanism for the office of Chief Executive. "If the CE were elected by universal suffrage, would it be possible for the CE to pass his responsibilities to



his subordinate," asked Ng, adding that the Basic Law does not exclude direct election of members for non-political municipal organizations.

Lao Chi Ngai, Chan Hong, and Lam Lon Wai sought an indication of the top officials' "sense of patriotism." They asked ques-

tions about non-political municipal organizations, suggested the building of more children playgrounds, and proposed the establishment of a big data system for Macau.

Sonia Chan, replying to Agnes Lam's question on accountability, said: "The government has always

been paying importance to assessing the top officials' accountability, [...] we want to solve this problem."

Chan told Ng that she disagrees with the belief that a non-directly elected municipal organization is unable to represent the public.

According to the Secretary, in December, the government will consult with civil servants on their assessment system. Chan also noted that her secretariat has already put on its legislation agenda whether civil servants' non-civil service working experience can be regarded as civil service working experience.

Pang Chuan, Lau Teng Pio and Ma Chi Seng questioned the government on the restriction of spaces that recreational art groups can use, new fresh food wholesale market regulations, and the development of the rule of law, respectively.

In reply, Sonia Chan said that the government "is not restricting spaces for recreational art," but is helping art groups to improve their operational environment and benefit from Macau's economic development.

Chan noted that regulating arts' recreational spaces was beyond the concerns of public security and hygiene.

Mak Soi Kun pointed out that "more and more expenditure has been [diverted to] human resources. If you [the government] are simplifying the administration,

why do you keep hiring people?"

"Spending money is not a problem, as long as things are done, which is the most important [thing]," said Mak, who also questioned the government representatives about the legal process surrounding the amendment of the procurement law.

During the Policy Address yesterday, Pereira Coutinho told Chan directly that "several lawmakers have already expressed their dissatisfaction towards you [Sonia Chan]." He criticized Chan's departments for not having included legislation to ensure principle officials' accountability in next year's legislation schedule.

Coutinho pointed out that the top officials, especially the secretaries who are at the top of the administration, should firstly be held accountable for the deaths recorded during typhoon Hato.

"The higher the officials are, the more responsibilities they have," said Coutinho, adding that the leaders have passed responsibility amid Typhoon Hato to the former Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) director and deputy director.

Chan, instead of responding to this question, invited Kou Peng Kuan, Director of the Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau (SAFP), to do so.

Kou said that the government will have a full range of work assessments of civil servants in order to create a system for holding principal officials to account.

Chan noted that her department announced it would deliver five bills to the AL next year. She pointed out that, currently, "the Legal Affairs Bureau only has 25 professional law draftsmen and 15 translators. Their responsibilities and working pressure are significant."

## Ho suggests reviewing car maintenance regulations

**L**AWMAKER Ho Ion Sang claimed that the government did not implement substantial actions in relation to livelihood issues, a topic the government has made many promises about.

Ho first suggested the government should speed up its administrative processes, as well as improve its legislation efficiency. These two suggestions were aimed specifically at Sonia Chan's departments.

Ho voiced the belief that the administrative and judicial departments should prioritize legislation concerning livelihood issues. The lawmaker then pointed out that Macau's regulations on car repair garages should be reviewed, as several problems still arise within these businesses.

"Abandoned car repair garages [...] are producing an impact to the environment and hygiene due to their highly polluting operations. Moreover, they are threatening residents' safety and property. The [government] does not conduct supervision [of abandoned car factories] currently," said Ho, in support of his request for regulation over this industry. Ho concluded by pointing out that Macau's

laws concerning abandoned garages have not been amended for more than 20 years.

Ho also questioned the government about Macau's sewage treatment. In reply, a government representative stated that the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) has always paid attention to this industry. The government representative also noted that car maintenance services are responsible for environmental issues, despite the government monitoring the industry.

According to the government representative, the government issued double the number of tickets issued to car maintenance businesses in 2017, compared to 2016. The representative also noted that their departments have been conducting studies in collaboration with the environment protection authority on car management and car recycling, further announcing that short and long-term plans for the industry have already been made.

An IACM representative also told Ho that, in 2018, the bureau will carry out four projects to deal with flooding risks.

### ASSOCIATION SAYS POLICY ADDRESS IS MEANINGLESS

**THE MACAO** Community Development Initiative has characterized the government's 2018 Policy Address as "empty", according to the Chinese press. Topics surrounding livelihood occupied the biggest portion of the Policy Address presentation, but the association criticized the fact that even those topics lacked new

ideas. Some aspects related to disaster prevention were added into this year's policy address; however, the association deemed this new content to have no practical significance. They pointed out that the government did not even comment on the exact implementation schedules of short-term measures for disaster prevention.

## Chinese tourists spend slightly more

**T**OURISTS' total spending in Macau (excluding gaming expenses) amounted to MOP15.93 billion in the third quarter of 2017, up by 8.8 percent year-on-year and 15.9 percent quarter-to-quarter.

According to information from the Statisti-

cs and Census Service (DSEC), total spending of overnight visitors (MOP12.99 billion) and same-day visitors (MOP2.94 billion) rose by 9 percent and 8.2 percent respectively year-on-year.

In the third quarter of 2017, per-capita spending of visitors was MOP1,926,

up by 6.7 percent year-on-year and 7.8 percent quarter-to-quarter.

Per-capita spending of visitors from mainland China increased by 4.6 percent year-on-year to MOP2,197, while the average amount spent by those traveling under the Individual Visit Scheme

(IVS) grew 11.8 percent, to MOP2,586.

Per-capita spending of visitors from Singapore, Japan, and Malaysia went up by 10.1 percent, 10.4 percent and 4.8 percent respectively year-on-year.

Regarding the type of spending, visitors' spending lay mainly in sho-

pping (46.4 percent), accommodation (26.7 percent) and food and beverage (19.3 percent).

Meanwhile, the proportion of visitors who were satisfied with the services of travel agencies (73.3 percent) registered a notable increase of 9.6 percentage points quarter-to-quarter.

ter-to-quarter.

A relatively low proportion of visitors were satisfied with the services of public transport (63.8 percent), down by 3.8 percentage points quarter-to-quarter.

On the other hand, 56.1 percent of the visitors commented that there were an adequate number of tourist attractions in Macau, up by 5.2 percentage points over the previous quarter.



## TYPHOON HATO

## Fong faces new disciplinary procedure



Fong Soi Kun (left) and Raimundo do Rosário at the AL

**T**HE inquiry commission created to assess authorities' response to Typhoon Hato presented a report to the Chief Executive on November 9. Chui Sai On analyzed the report, which was coordinated by deputy prosecutor Mai Man Ieng, and announced yesterday that the former director of the Macau Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG), Fong Soi Kun, and the deputy director Florence Leong (who still holds the post) will be subject to a disciplinary procedure.

Fong Soi Kun resigned following criticism from residents and lawmakers about the bureau's failure to raise appropriate typhoon warning signals

prior to the August 23 tragedy.

Following his resignation, it was announced in October that the retirement application of the former director of the SMG had been rejected for "not respecting the legal notice period."

Also in October, the Commission Against Corruption issued an investigation report on SMG's typhoon forecasting procedures, where it pointed out that the bureau, when making typhoon forecasts and issuing warning signals for tropical cyclones, relied on the personal judgments and decisions of the former director. Consequently, the Secretary for Transport and Public Works,

Raimundo do Rosário, announced his department would launch disciplinary procedures against Fong Soi Kun.

The inquiry commission concluded that there is no evidence that other SMG staff (besides Fong and Leong) neglected their duties. Other institutions that had a role in the relief works - such as police, Fire Services and IACM - were also probed, but no wrongdoing was found.

Most of the content of the report has not been divulged publicly "to respect the rights of the persons involved in the process," according to a Government Spokesperson's Office statement.

## GAMING | CRYPTOCURRENCY

## Dragon Corp CEO denies involvement of Broken Tooth

Daniel Beittler

**T**HE CEO of Dragon Corp., the company that wants to build a USD300 million floating cryptocurrency casino in Macau, has denied that the territory's most notorious former gangster is involved in financing the project.

"Broken Tooth" (Wan Kuok Koi), a sexagenarian ex-triad boss who once ruled Macau's 14K group, was spotted in September at a Hong Kong signing ceremony for the company's initial coin offering (ICO).

"Broken Tooth is not involved in Dragon," CEO Chakrit Ahmad told Business Insider just before Lisbon's Web Summit conference earlier this month. "Do we know him? We know of him. We know

him. Not to a great extent. He came to the event introduced by someone else as a prominent figure in Macau. [...] He is not involved in Dragon and he is not financing Dragon in any way."

Broken Tooth was arrested in the late-1990s for several charges including money laundering, loan-sharking and the bombing of a car belonging to a former chief police inspector. Upon his release in 2012, the former gangster promised that his triad days were over, instead signaling an interest in the junket business.

The property, tentatively titled "Dragon Pearl Hotel Casino", is envisioned as a floating casino based near the Macau shore. It will be majorly financed by the Norwegian government,

which has extensive experience in building offshore platforms, while Norwegian company, Brova Idea, designed the structure and says that it hopes to complete it by 2020.

Dragon Corp. wants to enter the Macau game with a different offering to incumbent casino operators, trimming the role that junkets have historically held, by providing another avenue for wealthy individuals to move money out of mainland China.

The company is designing its business model around a casino that will exchange cryptocurrency coins for non-negotiable gaming chips.

Dragon Corp. hopes its property will cater to both gamblers who want to wager on baccarat and digital

currency investors.

However, whether Macau regulatory authorities will permit such a project remains to be seen.

The head of the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau, Paulo Martins Chan - who has overseen a tightening of the casino regulatory environment - has given no indication that the government would approve the floating casino.

In an effort to curb capital outflows and reduce rampant money laundering - particularly in the south of

China - mainland regulators earlier this year imposed a blanket ban on initial coin offerings. They also instructed cryptocurrency exchanges to surrender to the government information on their clients' bank accounts.

These obstacles potentially represent a roadblock for Dragon Corp., making it unlikely that the resort will be ready by 2020.

## Bitcoin falls on USD31 million peer hack

**B**ITCOIN slipped from a record after the USD31 million theft of a cryptocurrency peer renewed concern about the security of digital coins.

The company behind tether, a cryptocurrency used by bitcoin exchanges to facilitate trades with fiat currencies, announced the theft yesterday. It said in a statement that a "malicious" attacker removed tokens from the Tether Treasury wallet on November 19 and sent them to an unauthorized bitcoin address. The company said it's trying to prevent the stolen coins from being used.

Bitcoin dropped as much as 5.4 per-

cent to \$7,798.73, before paring the decline to 0.7 percent at 11:32 a.m. in London.

The incident is the latest in a long list of hacks that have dented confidence in the safety of cryptocurrencies. It's likely to fuel the debate on Wall Street over whether digital coins are secure enough to enter the mainstream of finance.

The effect seems short-lived on bitcoin, which after exceeding the \$133 billion value of McDonald's Corp. over the weekend erased most of its loss yesterday and was little changed at \$8,190.15.

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Daniel Beitler

## GAMING

**A**NALYST Grant Govertsen has predicted that Macau's gross gaming revenues (GGR) are unlikely to return to their pre-recession levels before the current concessionaire agreements end between 2020 and 2022.

Speaking on the sidelines of the MGS Show and Summit last week, Union Gaming's Govertsen told the Times, "it's going to be well after the concession expiration period before we reach peak revenues again."

"However, given the mix of revenues and how mass market is stronger than VIP, we should get back to peak profitability much before peak revenue," the gaming analyst added. "That could be within the next handful of years versus many years for revenue."

Macau GGR reached its peak in February 2014 with the region's six gaming operators recording a combined MOP38 billion. Then the MSAR entered a period of continuous decline with monthly revenues falling to a

# Analyst : GGR won't recover before 2020



Grant Govertsen

low of MOP15.88 billion in June 2016, before the recovery started.

October 2017 revenue amounted to MOP26.63 billion, up 22.1 percent from the same month in 2016. That means that

gross gaming revenues today are still only 70 percent of pre-recession levels.

"I think that the growth we are seeing now is temporary," warned Govertsen. "You have to

remember that the VIP market was shrunk so much that it doesn't take much to get a big bounce and that's what we are seeing now."

Accounting for more than 85 percent of Macau's gross domestic product, the 2014 casino downturn sent the whole economy into free-fall. In a matter of five years, Macau went from being the world's fastest growing territory to its fastest receding.

Asked about future risks that could endanger the city's economy, Govertsen said that nothing specific was on the horizon. However, he cautioned that "if VIP continues to grow at 30 or 40 percent in perpetuity, then that would raise some eyebrows and potentially result in some form of tightening."



## CCM hosts Children's Choir Annual Concert

The Macau Cultural Centre (CCM) announced it will present its Children's Choir Annual Concert on December 17. According to a press release issued by CCM, "from well-known musical plays, to Christmas classics, this year's line-up includes a wide range of tunes with some of the songs featuring choreographic moves performed by the choristers." Through weekly choral practices, the CCM Choir cultivates musical interest in kids aged 8 to 16, providing choristers with a chance to appreciate music and participate in creative activities designed to develop their interpersonal skills and artistic sensitivity.

## Participants oppose minimum wage bill

The Labour Affairs Bureau's first public consultation on the minimum wage bill was carried out on Sunday. More than ten participants (employers) expressed their opposition towards the bill. Overall, over 30 people attended the consultation. A few speakers warned that if the government implements a minimum wage across all industries, it will lead to an increase in the rate of inflation, which will in turn lead to elderly people and those in vulnerable groups being made redundant. They added that it could also lead to the closure of small enterprises.

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# Cancellation of taxi licenses is a measure to consider, Wong says

Renato Marques

**T**HE Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak acknowledged yesterday that increasing penalties for taxi drivers' legal infractions will be considered. The possibility of the transgressors having their taxi license canceled is among those measures that could be implemented.

Wong voiced this possibility during the press conference held at his office yesterday morning which aimed to present the results of crime statistics for the first three quarters of 2017.

According to the data disclosed, crimes related to taxi infringements rose between January and September of 2017 by 24.5 percent when compared year-on-year with the same period of 2016. A total of 3,781 cases, 743 cases more than that in the previous year, were registered. In 57.3 percent of these cases, the infringement was related to overcharging. Other common taxi infractions were refusing to provide transportation.

Questioned on the reasons for such a change of behavior (that had been noted as decreasing in the previous assessments), Wong said, "we never stopped pursuing this goal [of reducing legal infractions of taxi drivers]. It's a fact that we had

RENATO MARQUES



Wong Sio Chak

been registering a decrease and then [suddenly] we registered again an increase that was not what we expected." He added, "maybe it has to do with the sanction being too light and the process to enforce it too long. Maybe we should consider the cancellation of the [taxi] licenses. But this is a matter that is

not in the hands of the Public Security Police Force (PSP). We have to coordinate with the other entities responsible for this," he concluded.

The Secretary also acknowledged that such crimes are not easy to detect and demand a great effort by the authorities, as "police officers must be in

plain-clothes not wearing any uniform and require some support to perform these actions."

Coincidentally, the period when the police started registering a renewed increase of crimes related to taxi drivers' infringements correlated with the period following the car-hailing service provider Uber's exit from Macau. Wong noted that Uber had been fined a total of 1,158 times during the same period.

Another hotly discussed topic during the press conference was the measures that the authorities are calling the six gaming concessions and sub-concessions to enforce regarding terrorism threats. These measures are relevant considering the recent events that occurred in Manila, the Philippines and Las Vegas, USA.

Wong said he did not have a concrete schedule for the enforcement of the new measures. "It is the DICJ [Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau] that is in charge of coordinating such work," he said.

Nevertheless, Wong advanced that the measures proposed by the government to the gaming industry should pass through the acquisition of "inspection equipment" and added security staff members who should cover all entries and exits from the gaming venues.

Wong also revealed that it had been proposed that the casinos should have a "Special Security Task Force" (tentative name) that should have two roles; readiness to intervene in emergency situations and providing help and access to the police authorities when necessary.

Questioned on whether such a group should be armed, Wong replied: "It's too soon to discuss if they will be armed or not. The Macau law only allows police officers to carry guns during their operations." He additionally noted, "[the added security measures] - it's an added expense to the gaming operators - but it's also one of their duties to provide enough security to both staff and visitors." Wong left the question of when these measures will be entering into force to be answered by the DICJ.

## Crime rate drops slightly, arson cases surge

**T**HE latest crime statistics and law enforcement data for the first three quarters of 2017 were presented to the media in a press conference held at the Secretary for Security office yesterday.

An exponential hike in the number of arson cases was recorded. According to the data presented by Wong Sio Chak, this was an increase of 176.9 percent. This represents the registration of 23 more arson cases than in the same period of 2016 (13).

Wong explained, "according to the data provided by the investigating authorities, a total of 19 out of these 36 cases are related to cigarette ends not properly disposed. Four cases are related to arsons targeting vehicles and at least one case of a fire caused in a building corridor." He added, "in most of these other cases [not related to negligence] are cases of disputes with neighbors [...] that lead to the arson."

Wong also noted the decrease of the "violent crimes," which during the same period reduced by 2.3 percent, or numerically, 594 fewer cases than during the same nine months of 2016.

However, cases of scams perpetrated by con artists rose by 28 percent. This rise can be accredited to phone scams and crimes related to the exchange of counterfeit currency, which rose by 17.2 percent.

RENATO MARQUES



Judiciary Police director Chau Wai Kuong

Addressing the increase in phone scams, the Judiciary Police director, Chau Wai Kuong, noted that there had been reported losses of about RMB1.13 million across the recent cases, as, "the majority of the victims are students from tertiary education level, which leads us to think about a reinforcement on the prevention measures and information to such level of education." Chau added, "we are also in contact with the banking sector regarding the suspect transfers of money and the opening of accounts by Macau residents namely in Zhuhai, as in many cases the victims are asked to open an account in China to transfer the amounts." This alliance with the banking sector is a measure that will hopefully prevent scams.

## Sou case neither 'politically motivated' nor 'unique'

**A**LTHOUGH it was not mentioned by any of the media who attended the press conference yesterday, Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak sought to explain and reaffirm once more that the pending case of lawmaker Sulu Sou, (in which he is accused of aggravated disobedience to the authorities), is "not politically motivated." Wong made this case after the closing of the topics on the agenda.

"We are fulfilling the law, we are not targeting any person of association in particular. Our actions are the same for every citizen," he said.

Wong pointed out that Sou's case is one in a total of 14 similar cases from 2014 until the present. According to the figures cited by the Secretary for Security, "a total of 37 men and 10 women have been accused of the same crime in 14 different cases since 2014 until now." He noted that the

police have sent many of these cases to the Public Prosecutions Office. He also noted that Sou's case related to a demonstration in which "Pearl Horizon" caused damage to an office. However, this case has also been forwarded to the judiciary authorities by the police.

Referring to previous cases where demonstrators assaulted police officers, Wong said that the officers have decided to "drop the charges over the people [that assaulted them] due to feeling pity for them and their situation, but still the cases of disobedience have been forwarded."

When questioned by the media as to how many of these incidents occurred during the demonstrations, the secretary said, "[from the 14] 12 of these cases are referred to occurrences during several street demonstrations." He noted that the two remaining ones occurred on construction sites.



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## PROPERTY

## Luxury flat on Hong Kong's Peak sells for Asian record price

Frederik Balfour

**A**N unidentified buyer paid HKD132,000 (USD17,000) per square foot for a luxury flat in Hong Kong's exclusive Peak neighborhood, making it Asia's most expensive apartment by area, according to Knight Frank LLP.

The buyer shelled out more than HKD1.16 billion Monday for two adjacent apartments at No. 8 Mount Nicholson, said Wheelock Properties Ltd. The record was set by the smaller of the two, which sold for HKD560 million. The project is a joint venture with Nan Fung Development.

Hong Kong's property market is running red hot across land, commercial and residential buildings. Soaring home prices have put the city in bubble risk territory as local and foreign investors pile in, making a "mild correction" likely, according to the UBS Global Real Estate Bubble Index. Secondary residential prices have climbed 11 percent in the past 12 months, according to Centaline Property Agency.

"For many high net-worth individuals, Mount Nicholson is a way to invest," said Thomas Lam, head of valuation and consultancy at Knight Frank.

Such purchases also highlight the extreme differences between rich and poor in Hong Kong, which is the world's least affordable city to buy a house. It would take 2,745 years worth of the entire median annual income of HKD204,000 to buy the record 4,242 square foot property on the Peak.

"The wealth gap has increased a lot," said Cusson Leung, head of research for Hong Kong property and conglomerate



Residential buildings stand in the Peak district of Hong Kong

rates at JPMorgan Chase & Co. "The people on the street and the people on the Peak are separated by 2,745 years."

On Nov. 15, a six-member consortium including Sino Land Co. and K Wah International Holdings Ltd. paid HKD17.3 billion for a residential plot in Kowloon, a record for government land.

At Sun Hung Kai Properties Ltd.'s Victoria Harbour development in North Point, prospective bidders are required to pay a HKD7 million deposit for the right to view the apartments.

"The tendering process and deposit arrangement are not uncommon for high-niche residential properties, considering that the units are rare and of high quality," the company said in an email.

Six other units at the Mount Nicholson development didn't sell, because the tendered bids were too low, Wheelock said.

Wheelock said it is releasing six more apartments today by tender. Earlier this month, a four-bedroom house at Mount Nicholson with a swimming pool, elevator, garden and unobstructed views of Hong Kong and Victoria Harbour sold for HKD1.16 billion, or HKD126,813 per square foot.

Bloomberg

## Demand for gold in China lifts profit at world's top jeweler

Daniela Wei, Corinne Gretler

**C**HOW Tai Fook Jewellery Group Ltd.'s profit increased for a second consecutive six-month period as demand for gold products lifted sales at the world's leading jewelry retailer.

Net income rose 46 percent to HKD1.78 billion (\$228 million) in the six months through September, the Hong Kong-based company said in a statement yesterday. Revenue climbed 15 percent to HKD24.8 billion.

The results mirror the continued recovery in demand for luxury goods in China after a two-year slump amid a corruption crackdown in the country. Sales at the company's stores are picking up and more customers are also purchasing its products online as the world's second-largest economy is on track for its first full-year acceleration in seven years.

In the period, retail sales of Chow Tai Fook in mainland China increased 16 percent, and 13 percent in Hong Kong and Macau. Growth momentum was fueled by gold products, the company said.

The current financial year "will be a turning point for our business given the nascent jewelry market recovery," the company said. "Although the recovery is gradual and mild, the industry is expected to return to a stable yet sustainable growth."

The retailer expanded the number of outlets in mainland China to 2,358 at the end of September. It will continue the expansion "in view of the



improving general consumer sentiment, coupled with the rising opportunities from the development of shopping malls in the region," Chow Tai Fook said.

## In HK and Macau, the company will optimize outlets in tourist centers and selectively open stores in residential neighborhoods

In Hong Kong and Macau, the company will optimize outlets in tourist centers and selectively open stores in residential neighborhoods.

The company expects its total rent cost declining 15 percent in the current financial year, Hamilton Cheng, finance director, said at a press briefing in Hong Kong after the results.

Shares of Chow Tai Fook have climbed 48 percent this year, compared with the 36 percent gain in the benchmark Hang Seng Index. The results were announced after the close of trading.

Demand for jewelry, watches and clocks, and valuable gifts has been picking up. Sales of these products in Hong Kong rose 4.3 percent this year through September, compared with a 17 percent plunge in all of 2016. Luxury-watch retailer Hengdeli Holdings Ltd. said this month it's boosting orders for the upcoming Chinese New Year, expecting stronger demand from shoppers in Hong Kong.

Tourists from mainland China, who account for more than three quarters of arrivals to Hong Kong, grew in the nine months through September. With more Chinese tourists likely to travel to Hong Kong next year as the yuan strengthens against the Hong Kong dollar, retailers are poised to benefit from the rise in store sales and falling rents, according to Catherine Lim, an analyst at Bloomberg Intelligence. **Bloomberg**

## corporate bits

## GUANGZHOU AUTO LOOKS TO ENHANCE CHINA TIE-UP WITH FIAT



Guangzhou Automobile President Feng Xingya

Guangzhou Automobile Group Co. is in talks with Fiat Chrysler Automobiles NV to deepen their tie-up in China, as the world's largest car market looks to relax some regulations and the Chinese maker prepares to sell its own Trumpchi brand in the U.S.

Models, production and sales are at the core of the discussions with Fiat Chrysler, Guangzhou Automobile President Feng Xingya said yesterday. "Shareholders of both companies are exploring ways to expand the scope of cooperation."

With China increasingly accounting for a larger share of revenue, foreign automakers are bolstering their local partnerships while mainland manufacturers explore markets abroad to become globally competitive.

"Making our company a global player is a very important breakthrough for us in our five-year plan" through 2020, Feng said.

Guangzhou Automobile makes vehicles in China under the Jeep and Fiat brands through a Fiat Chrysler joint venture, whose sales more than tripled to 146,439 units last year.

## UM PRESENTS FIRST 'BNU CHAIR PROFESSOR OF FINANCE'

The presentation ceremony of the commemorative Professor Chair of the first "BNU Chair Professor of Finance" Prof. Jacky So was held at BNU main office yesterday, the bank announced in a statement yesterday.

Rector of The University of Macau and Vice Chair of the University of Macau Development Foundation Executive Committee Prof. Wei Zhao and BNU Chief Executive Officer Mr. Pedro Cardoso, amongst others, witnessed the handover.

BNU is under the third year donation for the commitment of MOP10.65 million in 2015 to

establish an endowment fund in the University of Macau Development Foundation, with the aim of supporting both teaching and academic research of a chair professor in the Faculty of Business Administration.

In appreciation of this contribution, the university has created its first named chair professorship in honour of BNU.

BNU has been supporting the educational system in Macau, including a donation of retail spending percentage of the universities' BNU affinity credit cards for education and research purposes.



# Vatican, China exchange art amid stall in hard diplomacy

Nicole Winfield, Vatican City

**T**HE Vatican and China are planning a first-ever exchange of artworks for exhibits in China and the Vatican Museums, as the two states forge ahead with soft diplomacy amid a stalemate in negotiations to heal decades of diplomatic estrangement.

The parallel exhibits announced yesterday, involving an exchange of 40 works of art from the Vatican's collection of Chinese bronzes, ceramics, cloisonne and paintings, and 40 works from China, are due to open simultaneously in March in the Forbidden City and the Vatican's Anima Mundi ethnological museum.

The head of the government's China Culture Industrial Investment Fund, Zhu Jiancheng, told a Vatican news conference that he hoped the exchanges would reinforce friendship, build mutual trust and "contribute to the normalization of diplomatic relations."

The dual exhibitions would "open a new era in people-to-people exchanges between China and the Vatican," he



From left: Vatican's spokesman Greg Burke, Secretary General of China Culture Industrial Investment Fund Zhu Jiancheng, and Chinese artist Yan Zhang sit during a press conference at the Vatican yesterday

said. The exhibit in China will travel to four other cities after its Beijing inauguration, including Xian and Shanghai.

The investment fund is a Chinese government and

Communist Party vehicle for monetizing soft power initiatives in media, culture and exhibitions. Its shareholders include the Bank of China, the Ministry of Finance and

China International Television Corporation, which operate under orders from China's Cabinet, the State Council, and the ruling party's Central Committee led by

President Xi Jinping.

Pope Francis, and before him Pope Benedict XVI, has made normalizing relations with China a priority. But the Vatican and China remain at odds over the Vatican's insistence that the pope have the authority to name bishops. China views the Vatican position as an infringement on its sovereignty.

Scholars and human rights activists say they only expect Xi's attitude toward religious and ethnic minorities to become tougher following his appointment to a second term as party leader during the recent party congress.

Vatican Museum officials declined to enter into the diplomatic standoff, or hopes that it might end, during yesterday's news conference announcing the initiative, deferring to their Chinese guests.

But the head of the Vatican Museums, Barbara Jatta, said beauty and art were an "extraordinary vehicle for dialogue."

China cut relations with the Holy See in 1951, after the Communist Party took power and set up its own church outside the pope's authority. China has an estimated 12 million Catholics, many of whom worship in non-state sanctioned congregations faithful to the pope that often overlap with the government-sanctioned church. **AP**

## Air China suspends North Korea flights, deepening isolation

**STATE-OWNED** Airline Air China suspended flights yesterday between Beijing and North Korea due to a lack of demand, deepening the North's isolation amid mounting U.N. sanctions over its nuclear and missile programs.

The move followed U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to add Pyongyang to a list of governments that support terrorism but there was no indication that prompted Air China's decision. A Chinese foreign ministry spokesman said he had no information.

The suspension left North Korea's Air Koryo as the only airline with regularly scheduled service to the North. Its website lists flights to Beijing, Shanghai, Shenyang and Dandong in China and Vladivostok in Russia.

Beijing has supported U.N. curbs on North Korean exports meant to



pressure the government of leader Kim Jong Un to drop its pursuit of nuclear and missile technology but has argued against measures that might harm the country's public.

Flights were "temporarily suspended due to unsatisfactory business operations," said an employee of Air China's press office who would give only his surname, Zhang.

A foreign ministry spokesman, Lu Kang, said he hadn't heard about Air China's cancellation. He said such decisions would

be made based on the "state of operation and the market."

Airlines have steadily reduced the frequency of flights to North Korea as mounting political tensions depressed the already small number of business travelers and tourists visiting the North.

Air China Ltd. announced in April it was cutting the frequency of flights to North Korea due to lack of demand. Some other Chinese carriers offered charter services to the North but those also have

been canceled.

Zhang said the last Air China flight to Pyongyang was Monday and he didn't know when service might resume.

The status of Air Koryo's flights was unclear. Phone calls to the carrier's Beijing office weren't answered. The flight information website for the Beijing airport showed its Pyongyang flight on yesterday took off as scheduled.

Lu, the foreign ministry spokesman, appealed for measures to ease the tense standoff.

"Given the highly complex and sensitive situation on the peninsula, we hope all relevant parties can do something conducive to alleviating the tension and pulling all sides concerned back to the track of negotiation and dialogue to settle the peninsula nuclear issue," he said at a regular news briefing. (See p13) **AP**

## Ecuador president: Manafort pitched deal for Chinese investors

**ECUADOREAN** President Lenin Moreno said that he met with President Donald Trump's former campaign chairman this year together with a group of Chinese businessmen interested in acquiring a stake in the nation's power company.

In a statement, Moreno said the meeting in Quito involved Paul Manafort and representatives of an unidentified Chinese company who proposed to privatize the state-owned National Electric Corp. He said the proposal was rejected because it would have violated Ecuador's constitution.

Moreno, who didn't say if any other issues were discussed, broke his silence about the May meeting with Manafort after being criticized by former President Rafael Correa.

"It's very worrying that there should be a meeting with types like Manafort

and that it should be kept hidden from the Ecuadorian people," Correa said in an interview Saturday with The Associated Press.

Manafort was recently indicted in the U.S. on money laundering charges and other counts tied to his work for Ukraine's pro-Russian ruling party. According to court documents in the case, Manafort visited Ecuador using a phone registered under a false name and traveled on one of three U.S. passports he possesses before going to Mexico and China weeks later.

Manafort wasn't under indictment at the time of his visit to Ecuador, and Moreno said the meeting with the former Trump adviser was one of many contacts he had as president-elect to court new economic and political partnerships.



Gillian Wong, Beijing

JIANG TIANYONG

# Court sentences prominent rights lawyer to two years in prison

A prominent Chinese human rights lawyer was sentenced yesterday to two years in prison on the vague charge of inciting subversion of state power, the latest verdict passed down in a sweeping crackdown on activism that has drawn widespread international criticism.

The Intermediate People's Court in the central city of Changsha handed down the verdict against activist Jiang Tianyong at a brief hearing, according to an announcement on the court's official account on the Sina Weibo microblogging platform.

The court posted a video of Jiang in a black down jacket sitting in the courtroom listening expressionless as a judge read out the verdict.

The court said Jiang would not appeal the sentence, though it was unclear from the court video if Jiang had said so. Jiang's court-appointed lawyer did not answer repeated phone calls.

"This entire legal process is arranged by the government. So I don't accept Jiang pleading guilty and the guilty verdict," Jiang's wife, Jin Bianling, said by phone from Los Angeles, where she now lives.

Prosecutors accused Jiang of using social media platforms to denigrate the government and judicial authorities and said he incited others to subvert state power, including fabricating claims that another lawyer had allegedly

been tortured in custody.

Rights groups and some Western governments have said the trial was a sham and that Jiang was caught as part of a campaign aimed at snuffing out any opposition to the ruling Communist Party.

The verdict was criticized by Germany's ambassador to China, Michael Clauss, who noted that Jiang had been denied access to lawyers of his own choosing.



Jiang Tianyong

**This entire legal process is arranged by the gov't. So I don't accept Jiang pleading guilty.**

JIN BIANLING  
WIFE

"The circumstances and the lack of regard for the rights of the defendant certainly call into question the fairness of the ver-

dict," Clauss said in a statement issued by the embassy.

Berlin will continue to raise Jiang's case in high-level meetings with Beijing, the statement said.

Courts in China are controlled by the Communist Party and convictions are virtually assured. Human rights groups and victims say the extraction of coerced confessions, sometimes through the use of physical and psychological torture, is common, despite being banned by Chinese law.

Jiang's wife, Jin, said she had heard that during his yearlong detention he had suffered torture and other abuse that forced him to make a clearly scripted confession.

Jin said Jiang suffers from high blood pressure and she was concerned his health will deteriorate in prison. Jin expects that because he was detained a year ago, he will serve another year before his release, but said she will continue to fight for his freedom.

"I'm confident that we will reunite one day. I won't give up," she said.

Jiang was a lawyer who defended politically sensitive clients such as the blind legal activist Chen Guangcheng and followers of the outlawed Falun Gong spiritual group, before authorities refused to renew his license to practice law in 2009. Just prior to his arrest, he worked to publi-

cize the plight of lawyers arrested in a sweeping crackdown on legal activists that began in July 2015.

Jiang met with the lawyer Xie Yang's wife months before she released her husband's account of being beaten, deprived of sleep and otherwise tortured while in detention — drawing further condemnation of Beijing by Western governments. Xie's wife and two children later fled the country.

Xie was released in May after pleading guilty to charges of incitement to subversion and disturbing legal proceedings but activists say he remains closely monitored.

Jiang had been taken away by state security agents in November last year and in March purportedly gave an interview to a state newspaper and was shown on state TV saying that he had made up the story of Xie's torture.

Rights group Amnesty International called Jiang's sentence baseless. "His so-called confession and apology, most likely extracted under duress, were nothing more than an act of political theater directed by the authorities," said William Nee, a China researcher for the group. **AP**

## FOREIGN CORRUPT PRACTICES ACT

# HK former home secretary accused of offering bribes to Uganda, Chad officials

Larry Neumeister, New York

FOR the second time in two years, federal prosecutors have charged foreign businessmen with paying millions of dollars in bribes to secure business deals, with one of the schemes relying on gifts paid to a former president of the United Nations General Assembly.

Dr. Chi Ping Patrick Ho, 68, of Hong Kong, and Cheikh Gadio, 61, of Senegal, were charged in a criminal complaint in Manhattan federal court with violations of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, international money laundering and conspiracy to commit both.

"As alleged, Ho's Ugandan scheme was hatched in the halls of the United Nations in New York, when the country's current foreign minister served as the president of the U.N. General Assembly, and then continued

unabated upon his return to Uganda," Acting U.S. Attorney Joon H. Kim said in a news release announcing the arrests yesterday.

William F. Sweeney Jr., head of New York's FBI office, said Ho and Gadio wanted to "get their hands on the rights to lucrative opportunities in Africa."

He said the U.S. government alleged they were "willing to throw money at the leaders of two countries to bypass the normal course of business, but didn't realize that using the U.S. banking system would be their undoing."

**Dr. Chi Ping Patrick Ho and Cheikh Gadio of Senegal were charged in a criminal complaint in Manhattan federal court**

Angel M. Melendez, head of New York's Department of Homeland Security office, said the men offered millions of dollars in bribes disguised as charitable donations to gain business advantages.

He said Ho used his position as a consultant to the U.N. Economic and Social Council to further the bribery schemes.

Ho's attorney, Paul Kreiger, declined to comment.

Gadio's attorney, Robert Baum, said his client was surprised by the charges.

"Mr. Gadio has a distinguished career in public

service, served as a college professor, and worked in the public interest on numerous projects. He has been a broker for peace in Africa and overseen the expenditure of millions of dollars. His integrity and honesty have never been questioned," Baum said in an email.

Both men made initial court appearances. Ho was being held on consent of his attorneys, while Gadio remained incarcerated on USD1 million bail. Once released, he will face electronic monitoring and home incarceration.

Beginning in October 2014, prosecutors said Ho and Gadio arranged bribes to secure business advantages for a Shanghai-headquartered multibillion-dollar conglomerate that operates internationally in the energy and financial sectors.

The company wasn't na-

med but details indicated it was CEFC China Energy, a privately owned firm seen as an up-and-coming player in the country's oil and gas sector. After arriving on the scene just a few years ago, the company now has investments in the Middle East, Africa and Russia, owns thousands of gas stations in Europe, and has a stake in Czech airline CSA. Fortune magazine last year dubbed Chairman Ye Jianming China's "newest oil baron" but some wonder whether the company has Beijing's support given its rapid ascent.

Prosecutors said that in one scheme, Ho and Gadio were charged with causing the energy company to offer a USD2 million bribe to the president of Chad to obtain valuable oil rights from the Chadian government without facing international competition.

According to a criminal

complaint, Gadio — the former foreign minister of Senegal and the operator of an international consulting firm — connected Ho with the president of Chad in return for a \$400,000 payment from Ho.

In a second scheme, Ho — Hong Kong's former home affairs secretary — caused a \$500,000 bribe to be paid to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uganda shortly after he finished his term as president of the U.N. General Assembly, the complaint said. Prosecutors said the bribe was meant to secure business advantages for the energy company, which was not identified in court papers.

Ng Lap Seng, a Chinese billionaire, was convicted in July of paying more than \$1.7 million in bribes to U.N. ambassadors to secure rights to build a U.N. conference center in Macau to serve struggling Southern Hemisphere nations. The center was never built.

Former U.N. General Assembly President John Ashe was once charged in that case, but he died in an accident at his home as he awaited trial. **AP**



## JAPAN

# Woman confessed to putting babies in concrete in 90s

Yuri Kageyama, Tokyo

A Japanese woman was arrested yesterday after police say she confessed to putting four newborns in concrete-filled buckets two decades ago and having been filled with guilt over not caring for her babies.

Human remains were identified in four buckets found in her condominium, an Osaka police official said, requesting anonymity due to department policy.

Mayumi Saito, 53, was arrested on charges of abandoning bodies, a day after she turned herself in at the police station.

Saito was quoted by police as saying she put the bodies into concrete from 1992 through 1997 because she had been too poor to raise them, but she had been filled with guilt over the years.

Saito had a part-time job, but details of her work, family and comments were not available.

The causes of the babies' deaths were unclear. It is fairly standard in Japan for criminal charges to be added later as an investigation progresses.



An apartment in Neyagawa, Osaka, western Japan, where buckets filled with concrete were found

Although Japan is the world's third-largest economy and has a reputation as being economically advanced, poverty remains a problem, especially among women.

Social support such as affordable daycare is lacking for women

to work while child-rearing, as well as to get counseling and other help to cope with parenting duties and mental stress.

Japanese media reports quoted the woman as saying she had no one to talk to or turn to. AP



## Ex-officials accused of corruption in Manila train contract

THE Philippine government filed complaints yesterday with an anti-graft office accusing many Cabinet officials in the previous administration of corruption in a maintenance contract for a Manila commuter train line hounded by near-daily breakdowns.

In addition to the frequent glitches, the Metro Rail Transit 3 Line has also suffered more serious accidents. A coach derailed last week while carrying passengers on metropolitan Manila's main avenue. No one was reported hurt, but more than 100 passengers had to be evacuated. In 2014, dozens of passengers were injured when a train overshot the tracks at a terminal station.

The maintenance contract

with Busan Universal Rail Inc., a Philippine-Korean group, has been canceled.

In its plunder complaint with the Ombudsman's Office, the Department of Transportation named most Cabinet officials in the government of former President Benigno Aquino III, current President Rodrigo Duterte's predecessor and political adversary.

"We must stress that the great suffering of the riding public as a result of the failure to deliver on the responsibilities of public office, such as the case of the current state of the MRT-3 system, carries consequences and that those accountable will be held liable," Duterte spokesman Harry Roque said. AP

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Foster Klug, Seoul

**A**S North Korea marches toward nuclear mastery, President Donald Trump slaps the country back on an American blacklist of state sponsors of terrorism. But is it anything more than bluster?

After all, former President George W. Bush removed North Korea from that same list nearly a decade ago, also in an attempt to halt its march toward nuclear mastery.

Aside from a pretty good illustration of just how hopeless the decades-long effort to get North Korea to abandon its nuclear ambitions can seem, the contrasting approaches also show that the list has always been more about symbolism than substance.

The top U.S. diplomat, Rex Tillerson, acknowledged as much — and undercut Trump's declaration that it was part of a "maximum pressure campaign" to isolate North Korea — when he called the decision a "very symbolic move" with limited practical effects.

After months of nuclear and missile tests that put North Korea ever closer to completing a viable long-range nuclear arsenal that can hit the U.S. mainland, the designation has the ring of a counter-punch that's more impressive to look at than painful to feel.

And since North Korea will see it as a yet another in a long list of provocations — even if symbolic — it likely pushes a negotiated end to the dangerous standoff on the Korean Peninsula further away. There will be angry words from Pyongyang, maybe more weapons tests, and then more angry words from Washington, and maybe more sanctions.

The listing will raise animosity and speed up North Korea's nuclear development, said Hong Min, an analyst at Seoul's Korea Institute for National Unification.

North Korea will also see the move as proof that the Trump administration has no genuine interest in diplomacy, considering the shame and global stigma the designation still brings, Hong said.

One problem for Trump is that while North Korea cared very much about the terror list a decade ago, it may not worry as much about it now.

When North Korea was taken off the list in 2008 — part of a pledge Bush made in a 2007 nuclear disarmament deal that blew up within a year — North Korea chafed at what it saw as an impediment to doing international business and pursuing large multilateral financial loans, analysts at the time said.

But 2017's North Korea is very different from the nation

AP PHOTO



## ANALYSIS

# US terror list more symbolism than substance

that did a deal with Bush.

The dictator now in charge — the young Kim Jong Un, who took over after his father, Kim Jong Il, died in 2011 — has so far seen little benefit to the interminable diplomatic wrangling his father dove into between so-called provocations.

Kim Jong Un, instead, has pursued with breakneck speed the building of an arsenal of nuclear-tipped missiles. Granted, the messages from Washington — where Trump has swung between threats of "fire and fury" and offers to talk — have been mixed, but when there has been U.S. outreach, North Korea has seemed uninterested.

The move by Trump will also fit neatly, from North Korea's perspective, into its long-running claim that Washington harbors "hostile intentions" that make the nuclear program a crucial part of national defense.

How you see the respective moves by Bush and Trump may depend on how you define terrorism.

Those who thought North Korea shouldn't be on the list a decade ago argued that it had not been tied directly to terrorism since its agents planted a bomb on a South Korean commercial jetliner in 1987. The other side saw

North Korea's abduction of Japanese citizens in the 1970s and 1980s, and its alleged assassinations of North Koreans who fled to South Korea, as clear evidence of terrorism.

Trump, in announcing the listing this week, mentioned an American student imprisoned in North Korea who died of injuries suffered there, and also "assassinations on foreign soil," a reference to the killing of Kim Jong

Un's half brother with nerve agent at the Kuala Lumpur airport in February.

Some in South Korea believe that, regardless of Washington's actions, North Korea has no intention of negotiating over its weapons until it successfully builds a working long-range nuclear arsenal, something that may happen in the next couple of years.

Evidence for this could be seen when a senior Chinese envoy, Song Tao, apparently

failed to meet Kim Jong Un during a four-day visit that ended Monday, according to Cheong Seong-Chang, an analyst at South Korea's Sejong Institute.

The terror list designation, Cheong said, won't hurt North Korea economically as it's already so highly sanctioned. But, he said, it would have one concrete result: "A dialogue between Washington and Pyongyang is virtually impossible now." AP

## China raises doubts on US policy on N. Korea; Japan says yay

**T**HE Chinese government has said it hopes countries would do more to bring North Korea and others back to talks instead of making tensions worse.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang is stopping short of criticizing the U.S. following its declaration of Pyongyang as a state sponsor of terrorism. Lu said yesterday that the situation on the Korean Peninsula is highly sensitive and that it would be "helpful to bring all parties back to the negotiation table instead of doing the opposite."

Da Zhigang, a North Korea expert at the Heilongjiang Academy of Social Sciences, said

the U.S. move could trigger retaliation from North Korea.

Da says the move "will arouse diplomatic reactions and hatred toward the U.S. from North Korea" and could even prompt the North to resume missile tests.

Japan's leader has welcomed America's re-designation of North Korea as a state sponsor of terror.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told reporters yesterday in Tokyo that Japan supports the move as a way to increase pressure on North Korea.

His statement followed President Donald Trump's announcement in Washington that the

U.S. is putting North Korea on America's terrorism blacklist. Trump said the designation is long overdue, and promised a new wave of sanctions as part of a maximum-pressure campaign.

Japan is increasingly nervous about North Korean advances in developing nuclear weapons. North Korea has sent missiles over Japan twice this year in tests into the Pacific.

The Trump administration is due to announce new sanctions on North Korea today [Macau time] after declaring it a state sponsor of terrorism in the latest push to isolate the pariah nation.



## ZIMBABWE

# Fired VP says Mugabe should resign immediately

Christopher Torchia  
& Farai Mutsaka, Harare

**ZIMBABWEAN** President Robert Mugabe should acknowledge the nation's "insatiable desire" for a leadership change and resign immediately, the recently fired vice president and likely successor to the 93-year-old leader said yesterday, as impeachment proceedings were set to begin against the world's oldest head of state.

The statement by Emmerson Mnangagwa, who was dismissed earlier this month, added to immense pressure on Mugabe to quit after nearly four decades in power, during which he evolved from a champion of the fight against white minority rule into a figure blamed for a collapsing economy, government dysfunction and human rights violations.

The ruling ZANU-PF party was poised to begin impeachment proceedings against Mugabe after its Central Committee voted to oust the president as party leader and select Mnangagwa as his replacement, a move that eventually could allow the former vice president to become head of state. Mnangagwa served for decades as Mugabe's enforcer, with a reputation for being astute and ruthless, more feared than popular.

"The people of Zimbabwe have spoken with one voice and it is my appeal to President Mugabe that he should take heed of this clarion call and resign forthwith so that the country can move forward and preserve his legacy," Mnangagwa said in his statement.

■ **The statement by Mnangagwa, who was dismissed this month, added to immense pressure on Mugabe to quit**

Mnangagwa, who fled the country and has not appeared in public during the past week's political turmoil, said Mugabe had invited him to return to Zimbabwe "for a discussion" on recent events. However, he said he will not return for now, alleging that there had been plans to kill him at the time of his firing.

"I will be returning as soon as the right conditions for security and stability prevail," said



Zimbabweans gather to pray for the country in a park opposite the parliament building in downtown Harare

Mnangagwa, who has a loyal support base in the military. "Never should the nation be held at ransom by one person ever again, whose desire is to die in office at whatever cost to the nation."

Zimbabwe's polarizing first lady, Grace Mugabe, had been positioning herself to succeed her husband, leading a party faction that engineered Mnangagwa's ouster. The prospect of a dynastic succession alarmed the military, which confined Mugabe to his home last week and targeted what it called "criminals" around him who alle-

gely were looting state resources — a reference to associates of the first lady.

Mnangagwa was targeted by U.S. sanctions in the early 2000s for undermining democratic development in Zimbabwe, according to the Atlantic Council, a U.S.-based policy institute. However, J. Peter Pham, an Africa expert at the council, noted that some Zimbabwean opposition figures have appeared willing to have dialogue with Mnangagwa in order to move the country forward and that the international community should consider doing the same.

"We're not saying whitewash the past, but it is in the interests of everyone that Zimbabwe is engaged at this critical time," Pham said in a statement.

Impeachment proceedings were expected to start with the resumption of parliament today [early morning in Macau], days after huge crowds surged through the capital, Harare, to demand that Mugabe quit. The ruling party instructed government ministers to boycott a Cabinet meeting that Mugabe called for yesterday at State House, the president's official residence.

Ruling party chief whip Lovemore Matuke said ministers were told to instead attend a meeting at party headquarters to work on the impeachment.

The ruling party says the charges for impeachment include that Mugabe "allowed his wife to usurp constitutional power" and that he is "of advanced age" and no longer has the physical capacity to run the government.

It was not clear how long the impeachment process could take. The ruling party has said Mugabe could be voted out as early as today but some analysts believe the impeachment process could take weeks and would, if conducted properly, allow Mugabe to make a case in his defense.

Mnangagwa said he was aware of the move to impeach Mugabe. Though unpopular in some parts of Zimbabwe, the former vice president called for unity and appeared to embrace the prospect of taking over power.

"I will not stand in the way of the people and my party," he said. **AP**

## USA

# Almost 60,000 Haitians allowed to stay only until 2019

**THE** Trump administration said it is ending a temporary residency permit program that has allowed almost 60,000 citizens from Haiti to live and work in the United States since a powerful earthquake shook the Caribbean nation in 2010.

The Homeland Security Department said conditions in Haiti have improved significantly, so the benefit will be extended one last time — until July 2019 — to give Haitians time to prepare to return home.

"Since the 2010 earthquake, the number of displaced people in Haiti has decreased by 97 percent," the department said in a statement issued today [Macau time]. "Haiti is able to safely receive traditional levels of returned citizens."



Advocates and members of Congress from both parties had asked the Trump administration for an 18-month extension of the program, known as Temporary Protected Status. Haitian President Jovenel Moise's government also requested the extension.

Rony Ponthieux, a 49-year-old Haitian nurse with temporary residency who has lived in Miami

since 1999, told The Associated Press, "This isn't over, this is time we get to fight for renewal, not to pack our bags." She has a daughter and a son born in the United States and another son in Port-au-Prince.

"We need to push Washington to provide a legal status for us with TPS," Ponthieux said. "This is anti-immigrant policy."

Advocates for Haitians quickly criticized the decision to make this the last extension, arguing the conditions in the island nation haven't improved nearly enough for Haitians to be deported.

Florida Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart, a Republican, expressed "strong opposition" to the measure and urged the administration to reconsider.

"Forcing them to leave the United States would be detrimental," he said in a statement. "Almost eight years later, Haiti remains in total disarray and still requires much rebuilding."

Amanda Baran, policy consultant at the Immigrant Legal Resource Center, called the termination of the status a "heartless decision" and said the Trump administration has no plan in place for

the U.S.-born children who may now lose their Haitian parents and caregivers to deportation.

While Haiti has made advances spurred by international aid since the quake, it remains one of the poorest nations in the world. More than 2.5 million people, roughly a quarter of the population, live on less than USD1.23 a day, which authorities there consider extreme poverty.

The United Nations last month ended a peacekeeping mission in Haiti that, at its peak, included more than 10,000 troops. Its new mission is comprised of about 1,300 international civilian police officers and 350 civilians who will help the country try to reform a deeply troubled justice system.

The Homeland Security Department made its

announcement 60 days before temporary status for the Haitians is set to expire. In May, the agency extended the program for only six months instead of the customary 18, and urged Haitians under the program to get their affairs in order and prepare to go home.

The decision doesn't affect thousands of Haitians who were taken in by Brazil and other South American countries after the earthquake and began making their way to the United States last year. U.S. Customs and Border Protection says 6,424 Haitians showed up at border crossings with Mexico during the 12-month period that ended Sept. 30, up from only 334 a year earlier. They were generally paroled to live in the United States on humanitarian grounds. **AP**





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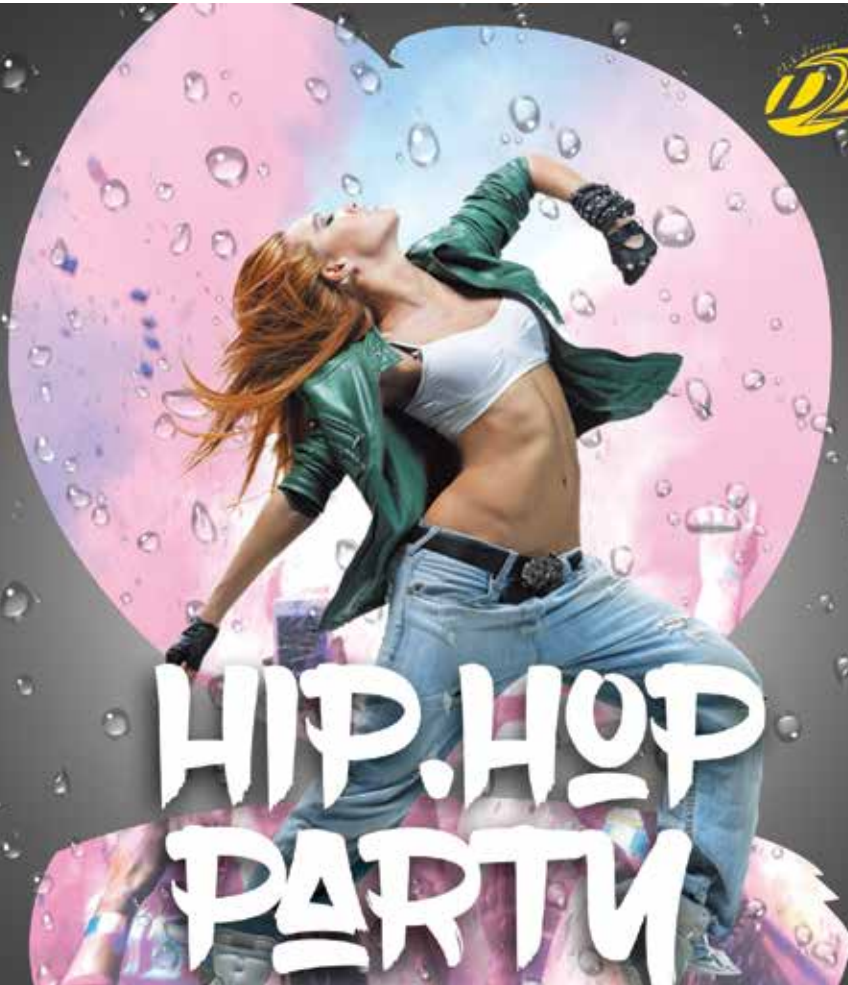








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## what's ON



## AFA AUTUMN SALON 2017

TIME: 9:30am-6pm (Closed on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays)

UNTIL: November 30, 2017

VENUE: Casa Garden, opposite Luis de Camões Garden

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6064

## 17TH MACAU FOOD FESTIVAL

TIME: 5pm-11pm (Mondays to Thursdays)

3pm-12am (Fridays to Sundays)

UNTIL: November 26, 2017

VENUE: Sai Van Lake Square, Largo da Torre de Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2857 5765

## FESTIVE VIBES AT ALBERGUE SCM

TIME: 3pm-8pm (Mondays)

12pm-8pm (Tuesdays to Sundays)

UNTIL: December 6, 2017

VENUE: Hall D1, Albergue SCM, No. 8, Calçada da Igreja de São Lázaro

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2550

## DISCOVER MACAU: MUSEUM OF TAIPA AND COLOANE HISTORY

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

ADDRESS: Rua Correia da Silva, Taipa

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

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

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

UNTIL: December 3, 2017

VENUE: Macau Archives, No.91-93, Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2859 2919

## AFFECTION FOR LOTUS - EXHIBITION OF PAINTING AND CALLIGRAPHY FOR THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF JAO TSUNG-I

TIME: 10am-6pm (Last admission at 17:30; closed on Mondays; open on public holidays)

UNTIL: December 31, 2017

VENUE: Jao Tsung-I Academy

ADMISSION: Free

## Offbeat

## TOWN MOVES MAN'S LOUDSPEAKER BROADCAST OF TAPS TO LOCAL PARK

A Pennsylvania town has reached a detente over a former councilman's broadcast of taps through loudspeakers at his home, which had caused complaints and lawsuit threats.

The Glen Rock Borough Council voted Nov. 15 to move the nightly taps-playing to a public park as part of a veteran's memorial.

Joshua Corney, a lieutenant commander in the Navy, has been playing a recording of taps from his home nightly for about two years. Last spring, he added loudspeakers.

Several neighbors complained it created a disturbance.

Over the summer, the council restricted Corney's broadcast to Sunday nights and certain flag holidays.

The York Dispatch reports the American Civil Liberties Union threatened to sue if Corney wasn't allowed to play it.

Corney says he'll continue playing taps at home until the speakers at the Glen Rock Park are installed.

It's not clear when that will happen.

## TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	RTPi News (Delayed Broadcast)
14:55	Debate of the Governance Action Lines for 2018: Administration and Justice Area (Live)
20:00	Miscellaneous
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Non-daily Portuguese News
21:30	Miscellaneous
22:10	Brazilian Soap Opera
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Champions League Highlights
23:50	Miscellaneous
00:40	Miscellaneous
01:00	Champions League: CSKA Moscow x Benfica (Live)
03:00	Miscellaneous
03:45	Champions League: Sporting x Olympiac (Live)
05:50	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, Hirose 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



## 1963 KENNEDY SHOT DEAD IN DALLAS

The President of the United States has been assassinated by a gunman in Dallas, Texas.

John F Kennedy was hit in the head and throat when three shots were fired at his open-topped car.

The presidential motorcade was travelling through the main business area of the city.

Texas Governor John Connally was also seriously injured when one of the unknown sniper's bullets hit him in the back.

The men were accompanied by their wives, who were both uninjured.

Vice-president Lyndon Johnson - who was following in a different car - has been sworn in as the new US leader.

The presidential party was driving from Dallas airport to the city centre when witnesses said shots were fired from the window of a building overlooking the road.

The president collapsed into Jackie Kennedy's arms, who was heard to cry "Oh no". Seconds later Governor Connally was also hit.

Dallas Times Herald photographer Bob Jackson was in the motorcade close behind the Democrat leader's car and heard the shots as it entered Dealey Plaza.

"As I looked up I saw a rifle being pulled back from a window - it might have been resting on the windowsill - I didn't see a man," he said.

Mr Kennedy's limousine was driven at speed to Parklands Hospital immediately after the shooting.

The president was alive when he was admitted, but died at 1400 local time (1900 GMT) - 35 minutes after being shot.

Police and Secret Service agents stormed the School Book Depository building moments after the shots were fired and recovered a rifle with a telescopic sight, said to be the assassination weapon.

The mood of shock in the US was echoed by Senator Mike Mansfield in an emergency forum of the senate.

"This is terrible - I cannot find words," he said.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

A little under an hour after the shooting, a policeman approached Lee Harvey Oswald, believing he recognised his description.

The policeman was shot dead. Oswald was arrested almost immediately under suspicion of murder.

Shortly afterwards, he was also charged with the assassination of President Kennedy.

The suspect was never tried as he was shot dead himself two days later by nightclub owner Jack Ruby.

The Warren Report, commissioned to investigate the president's death, concluded he had been killed by shots fired by Mr Oswald from the School Book Depository building.

But conspiracy enthusiasts quickly turned the assassination into one of the most disputed events in modern history, with theories ranging from claims it was an elaborately staged suicide to the driver being the murderer.



YOUR STARS

Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

You are usually quite direct about what you want and completely unafraid of going out there and getting it. Today is a little different, though - your mental energy is much more geared toward introspection.

Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

Your mental energy brings you extra insight and compassion - an extremely useful pair! Someone close needs a helping hand, and you're just the one to supply it.

Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Ambition is everything today, so go right ahead and flex those muscles to let everyone know that you're a major player. Be careful, though - you don't want anyone in a powerful position to view your actions as disrespectful.

Libra

Sep.23-Oct. 22

Your desires are close to the surface now. You're like a snake shedding its skin - somewhat vulnerable, but ready to shuck off anything that inhibits or restricts you.

Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Turn up the volume on that inner dialogue and really listen to what you're trying to tell yourself. The message may not be crystal clear yet, but your guiding wisdom is trying to tell you something very important.

Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Perform in front of an audience doesn't usually faze you much. Today, however, you may be feeling just a wee bit exposed to all and sundry in the face of some very deep.

Taurus

April 20-May 20

Your normally placid exterior might be a bit more turbulent, thanks to various pricks and stings - even those not directed at you! Your energy makes you able to feel things below the surface.

Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

You need to take some time and really contemplate where you are and what you've accomplished of late before launching your next big project. Take some time and think about all the milestones you've reached.

Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

You've got way more options than you might realize, and a much wider range of opportunities than you give yourself credit for. It might seem unfathomable.

Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

The spotlight is definitely on you as your personal energy amps up your already considerable magnetism - and makes you practically irresistible. Expect crowds to gather as you leave the house.

Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

You need to dive deep - and fast! Whatever you're doing, dig in as deeply as possible until you think you're close to hitting bottom. This applies whether you're in a yoga class or trying to work.

Pisces

Feb.19-Mar. 20

Is there a lifeguard on duty? If not, you may want to call on someone close to stand and watch while you hold your nose and dive into some deep emotional waters.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

7	3		6	2				
		8					2	7
				8			4	
9		1	2				8	
	6		9		1			
7			1	5		6		
2		3						
4	1				9			
			1	4			3	5

Easy+

4			6					
8		2			1			7
		8		9				4
				2	6	5	9	
5			1					2
	1	6	9	3				
4		3		2				
8		9		1		5		
			8				7	

Medium

	6				7		5	
2				8	5		9	
		9	2					
		4					6	7
			4	9	3			
3	1					5		
				2	9			
	9		8	7				4
1		8					7	

Hard

6						4	1	
2		7						
		3					5	
	3	4				5		
			6					
	7							
			4		7	6		
8			1					

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
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CHINA

Beijing	-2	7	clear/cloudy
Harbin	-9	-1	snow shower/cloudy
Tianjin	-1	6	smoggy/clear
Urumqi	-6	0	clear
Xi'an	2	9	cloudy
Lhasa	-3	16	clear/cloudy
Chengdu	7	13	overcast
Chongqing	10	12	drizzle
Kunming	8	12	drizzle
Nanjing	5	14	overcast/cloudy
Shanghai	10	14	drizzle
Wuhan	6	13	clear/cloudy
Hangzhou	8	14	drizzle/cloudy
Taipei	19	22	drizzle
Guangzhou	13	17	drizzle/overcast
Hong Kong	18	22	cloudy

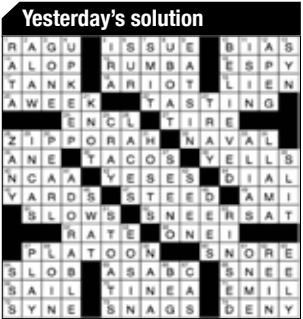
WORLD

Moscow	-3	-1	flurry
Frankfurt	4	9	drizzle
Paris	6	12	drizzle
London	10	15	drizzle
New York	4	11	clear/moderate rain

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Pet plant; 5- Traditional prayer ending; 9- Uttered; 13- Pound part; 15- Dole (out); 16- Neighbor of Sask.; 17- Valuable violin; 18- Shoppe sign word; 19- Robin's digs; 20- Vietnamese holiday; 21- Hardware fastener; 23- Teaching of the Buddha; 25- Son of Odin; 26- Soap ingredient; 27- Book of the New Testament; 30- Actress Arthur; 31- Bellowing; 32- Uneasy; 37- Coil; 38- Green-lights; 40- Varieties; 41- Abandoned; 43- Sheep cry; 44- Shortened version of actor Stallone's first name; 45- Dramatic dances; 47- Trojan War hero; 50- Busy as \_\_\_\_; 51- Kiss; 52- Agricultural implement; 53- Large container; 56- Emcee; 57- Change for a five; 59- "Goodnight" girl; 61- Great lake; 62- Small plateau; 63- Spud; 64- Reading rooms; 65- Tiny particle; 66- Large village;

DOWN: 1- Paint layer; 2- Actor Cronyn; 3- \_\_\_\_ the finish; 4- Do something; 5- Love affairs; 6- Dissolve; 7- LAX posting; 8- Unnecessary; 9- Capital city of Yemen; 10- Tip off; 11- "Who's there?" response; 12- Computer input; 14- One or the other; 22- Without delay; 24- Warmth; 25- Snares; 26- Follow orders; 27- 50%; 28- Switch ending; 29- Rude dude; 32- Sought office; 33- French textile city; 34- Gen. Robert \_\_\_\_; 35- Three-player card game; 36- Fast fliers; 38- State of USA; 39- Lock openers; 42- Wait \_\_\_\_; 43- Edible pale-bluish mushroom; 45- Aromatic ointment; 46- Blood letters; 47- Love, Italian-style; 48- Red fluorescent dye; 49- Short letters; 51- Storage shelter; 52- Cancun coin; 53- Rejection power; 54- Once again; 55- Small gull; 58- Hockey goal part; 60- Rodent, betrayer;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

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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	
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## SAILING

# Cup champ Team New Zealand unveils radical foiling monohull

Bernie Wilson, San Diego

**T**HE next America's Cup will be contested in radical, single-hull boats that will rise up on hydrofoils and speed across the tops of the waves.

America's Cup champion Emirates Team New Zealand, always bold in pushing the envelope of yacht design, has unveiled the concept for a fully foiling monohull for the 2021 regatta in Auckland.

The fantastical-looking design, which from some angles looks like a giant nautical insect or beast, blends the tradition of a monohull with the modern advancement of foiling, which is all the rage in sailing.

The 75-foot boat, designed in conjunction with Challenger of Record Luna Rossa of Italy, will use twin canting T-foils to help lift the hull completely out of the water in order to increase speed. The foils will be ballasted to provide righting moment when sailing, and roll stability at low speed. The AC75 will not have a keel.

The AC75 will replace the AC50, a 50-foot foiling catamaran used in the 35th America's Cup earlier this year in Bermuda.

In the normal sailing mode, the AC75 will skim above the waves on the leeward foil and rudder, with the windward foil raised out of the water to reduce drag. Both foils can be lowered in pre-starts and through other maneuvers to provide extra lift and roll control, which also will be useful in rougher sea conditions.

"Our analysis of the performance of the foiling monohulls tells us that once the boat is up and foiling, the boat



This undated concept drawing shows a radical fully foiling monohull, the AC75, for the 2021 America's Cup, created by Emirates Team New Zealand

has the potential to be faster than an AC50 both upwind and downwind," Team New Zealand CEO Grant Dalton said in an announcement released early Tuesday New Zealand time. "Auckland is in for a highly competitive summer of racing in 2020/2021."

Many more details are still to come, including cost, the type of sails and how the foil movement will be powered. ETNZ said there will be an element of one design to keep the costs down. The class rule will be published by March 31.

Team New Zealand said the AC75 will provide for great match racing with the safety factor of being able to right itself if it capsizes.

The AC75 design is radical even for a Kiwi team that hit on a remarkably advanced 50-foot catamaran that it sailed to a stunning victory against two-time defending champion Oracle Team USA in June.

"This design process has been new territory for the team, starting with a clean sheet to

develop a class — and we've loved it," ETNZ design coordinator Dan Bernasconi said. "We wanted to see how far we could push the performance of monohull yachts to create a foiling boat that would be challenging to sail and thrilling to match race. We're really excited about the concept and can't wait to see it on the water."

Luna Rossa Challenge chairman Patrizio Bertelli, who is CEO of the Prada fashion house, said the choice of a monohull was a fundamental con-

dition for the Italians to return to the America's Cup.

"This is not a return to the past, but rather a step toward the future," he said. "It is a modern concept, at the high end of technology and challenging from a sporting point of view, which will deliver competitive and exciting match racing."

Team New Zealand's America's Cup boats over the years have been either spectacular successes or, in one instance, a spectacular failure.

**Team New Zealand said the AC75 will provide for great match racing with the safety factor of being able to right itself if it capsizes**

In 1995, the Kiwis designed a fast boat that dominated the challenger fleet and then sailed to a five-race sweep of Dennis Conner off San Diego.

The Kiwis outsmarted everyone earlier this year, including powerhouse Oracle Team USA and its owner, tech tycoon Larry Ellison. Team New Zealand routed Oracle 7-1.

Then there was 2003, when the Kiwis failed to finish two races in a five-race sweep by Alinghi of Switzerland off Auckland. The New Zealand boat nearly sank in the first race before dropping out halfway up the first leg, and then the mast snapped in two and tumbled into the Hauraki Gulf in the fourth race.

Entries for the 2021 America's Cup open Jan. 1. The New York Yacht Club, which once held the Auld Mug for 132 years, has announced that it will challenge. **AP**

## FOOTBALL

## 12 arrested in Thailand in match-fixing investigation

**F**OOTBALL Association of Thailand president Somyot Poompanmuang says five players and two match officials from the top-flight national league are among 12 people arrested for alleged match-fixing.

Somyot held a news conference yesterday with national police chief Chakthip Chaijinda to announce an investigation was underway into the results of a match in July and three matches in September.

ber.

Police reported that four players from the Navy club and one from Nakhon Ratchasima were allegedly paid up to 200,000 Thai baht (USD6,100) to manipulate results.

The FAT and Royal Thai Police used information from data services company Sportradar as part of the investigation after reports of an unusual number of goals being scored in the late stages of the games.

"Match-fixing has been committed for a long time," Somyot said during the news conference at the Royal Thai Police headquarters. "It's time we eradicate this wrongdoing which is like a bad disease of our body that needs to be cured."

Chakthip said 12 people had been released on bail. Court details were not immediately available.

"I have to give big credit to the Royal Thai Police for their work or otherwise

we will see the fall of Thai football if match-fixing is not tackled," Somyot said.

Chakthip said the alleged fixing was coordinated through a network comprising players, two referees, a club official and domestic and international investors.

He said the match and club officials can face up to 10 years in prison and fines if found guilty of match-fixing, and players could face up to five years in jail and fines. **AP**



Football Association of Thailand President Somyot Poompanmuang gives a traditional Thai greeting, "wai", after a press conference



opinion

Macau Matters

Richard Whitfield



THE JOYS OF CUSTOM CLOTHING

I loathe and abhor shopping, especially for clothes, mostly because I never know what to buy. People who know my wife and I also know that any clothes that I wear that are remotely stylish were only bought and worn to satisfy her - if it was up to me, I would only wear my old shorts, t-shirts and birkenstocks.

Nonetheless, I do like custom made clothes. Generally, they are just much more comfortable to wear and are made in fabrics, cuts and styles that I am comfortable wearing. My father sent me to his tailor to get my first suit when I graduated from university. He was an excellent tailor, and more importantly, he was an excellent style advisor who recommended some shirts, ties, shoes and belts to go with the suit so I ended up with several "color coordinated" outfits for different occasions. They lasted me for years. Before leaving Australia I also bought some expensive dress shirts from a shop where they only sewed on the cuffs after measuring your arm lengths - these were a revelation because I always have problems with off-the-rack shirts that are unfailingly designed for people with shorter arms or smaller necks than mine.

When I moved to Hong Kong I started buying custom made shirts, pants, suits and shoes, and I have generally been very happy with the results. Since moving to Macau I have continued to buy custom shirts and suits, but I find that the range of fabrics is usually not as good here. Unfortunately, I have not been able to find a reasonable custom cobbler in Macau, and I lost track of the cobbler I used in Hong Kong after they moved location. I really miss my custom shoes!

I have also found that the custom tailors I have used in Asia do not give the color and style advice I got from my father's tailor - mostly I just buy what my wife chooses for me. Also, the tailors here do not have the range of products - as well as custom suits and shirts, my father's tailor was a full "gentlemen's outfitter" who sold all sorts of formal and casual branded clothing and shoes and accessories and could advise you on all sorts of outfits and how to mix and match pieces to suit different occasions.

I would like to see a real gentlemen's outfitter in Macau that stocks the full spectrum of good quality custom and branded clothing and accessories and offers professional advice for formal, office and casual wear. (A good barbershop would be an added bonus.) I am sure that there would be a good market for it, especially among our richer tourists.

The Internet and international parcel post is also changing the nature of this kind of business. Once you have been properly measured and fitted and the clothing styles you like are known, it is easy to learn about new products and re-order clothing online for home delivery (like many Hong Kong tailors now do). I would be very happy to continue buying online from a shop that keeps my details, including records of what I have previously bought, and that continues to send me information and advice about clothing that I like in an e-newsletter. Ordering fabric swatches online for delivery by post would also be good. I would also be happy to periodically revisit the shop, not so much to buy, but to update my details and to get advice. I believe that the Internet can really change this kind of retail business, greatly extending customer reach and loyalty and changing the in-shop and online experiences of customers. Perhaps a business for Macau?

THE REPORTS: UK PREPARING TO INCREASE  
BUZZ 'BREXIT BILL' OFFER

British media reports say the U.K. is planning to offer more money to settle its "Brexit bill" with the European Union, but only if the EU agrees to start discussing a future free-trade deal.

The bill is a key sticking point in divorce negotiations. Britain has previously offered about 20 billion euros (USD23 billion), but the EU wants at least 60 billion euros (\$70 billion).

British media said yesterday that the Cabinet's Brexit committee had agreed to increase the offer to about 40 billion euros (\$46 billion).

May's office declined to confirm the amount, but said that "the U.K. and the EU should step forward together" to unblock the negotiations.

EU leaders are due to decide at a Dec. 14-15 summit whether talks can enter a new phase.

US first loosened limits  
on lion trophies, then  
elephants

Michael Biesecker, Washington

ONE month before the Trump administration sparked outrage by reversing a ban on trophies from threatened African elephants, federal officials quietly loosened restrictions on the importation of heads and hides of lions shot for sport.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service began issuing permits Oct. 20 for lions killed in Zimbabwe and Zambia between 2016 and 2018. The agency is also currently studying whether to add three additional countries to the list — Mozambique, Namibia and Tanzania.

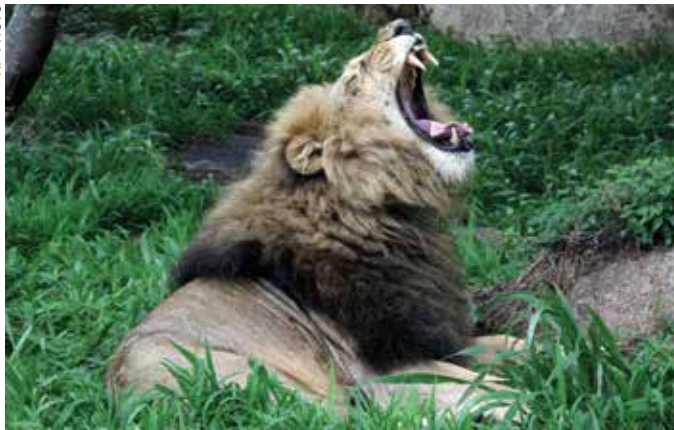
Previously, only wild lions killed in South Africa were eligible to be imported.

In two recent tweets, President Donald Trump said he will delay the new policy on allowing elephant trophies, but he made no mention of lions. Trump, whose adult sons are avid big-game hunters, also expressed skepticism about his own administration's claim that killing threatened animals could help save them by helping raise money for conservation programs.

"Big-game trophy decision will be announced next week but will be very hard pressed to change my mind that this horror show in any way helps conservation of Elephants or any other animal," the president tweeted on Sunday.

Trump weighed in after a

AP PHOTO



This January 2013 file photo, shows a lion yawning near the National Parks sanctuary in Zimbabwe

strong public backlash against reversing an Obama-era ban on elephant trophies, which became public through a written notification posted in the Federal Register. Officials said there was no such legal requirement for notifying the public about the policy change on lions.

In late 2015, the Obama administration added two subspecies of African lion to the list of animals protected under the Endangered Species Act. Due to poaching and habitat loss, the number of lions living in the wild is in sharp decline — from an estimated 200,000 a century ago to less than 20,000 today.

The additional protections were added a few months after Minnesota dentist Walter Palmer sparked international outcry by killing Cecil, a beloved 13-year-old lion who lived in Zimbabwe's Hwange National Park. Palmer paid

USD54,000 to bow-hunt Cecil on private land just outside the park.

A photo of Donald Trump Jr. holding a knife and the bloody severed tail of an elephant he reportedly killed in Zimbabwe in 2011 has also drawn ire from animal rights activists.

Wayne Pacelle, the president and CEO of The Humane Society of the United States, said he is encouraged that the president is taking a second look at the issue.

"Keeping elephants and lions alive is a key to economic progress in so many African nations," Pacelle said. "Trophy hunting robs these nations of their greatest resources, diminishing the wildlife-watching experiences of so many tourists. Any U.S. sanctioning of trophy hunting sends a particularly contradictory message at a time when the world has been rallying to save elephants and lions." AP

THE  
DECISIVE MOMENT

AP Photo/Andy Wong



Shanghai exposé. Models Romee Strijd, from right, Candice Swanepoel, Adriana Lima, Alessandra Ambrosio, Lily Aldridge, Elsa Hosk, during the Victoria's Secret fashion show at the Mercedes-Benz Arena in Shanghai on Monday night.

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	45-65 Good	
High Density Residential Area	45-65 Good	
Ambient	25-45 Good	

SOURCE: D5M8

WORLD BRIEFS

**EGYPT** Security officials say prosecutors have ordered an Egyptian female pop singer detained for a week on accusations of promoting debauchery in a racy video clip.

**NIGERIA** A teenage suicide bomber attacked worshippers as they gathered for morning prayers yesterday at a mosque in northeastern Nigeria, killing at least 50 people. While there was no immediate claim of responsibility for the bombing, suspicion immediately fell on the Boko Haram extremist group, which has been blamed for scores of similar attacks over the years.

AP PHOTO



**UKRAINE** In a new challenge to the Ukrainian leadership, opposition leader Mikhail Saakashvili, the former president of Georgia, said that Ukraine needs a new Cabinet and he's ready to lead it.

**BRITAIN**'s Treasury chief is likely to ignore demands that the government ease seven years of austerity when he unveils the budget today, opting instead to keep a tight rein on spending as economic growth slows and the country prepares for the impact of Brexit.

AP PHOTO



**ARGENTINA**'s navy says that a U.S. aircraft searching for a missing submarine with 44 crew members aboard has spotted a white flare, but it's unlikely to be from the sub as the ARA San Juan carries red and green flares. The vessel went missing on Wednesday last week and only has enough oxygen to last seven days if submerged.

**PUERTO RICO** Whitefish Energy Holdings said that it was halting work to help restore power in Puerto Rico because the U.S. territory's government has not paid crews as part of a contract that led to accusations of overcharging and incompetence.