



SUPPLEMENT

MACAO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL & AWARDS



### WECHAT IS MOST USED MEDIA APP

A joint survey by local institutions has revealed that WeChat has become Macau residents' most used new media application

P2

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FOUNDER & PUBLISHER Kowie Goldenhuys EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho www.macaudailytimes.com.mo

"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

## WORLD BRIEFS



**ISRAEL** Arabs and Muslims across a Middle East on edge warned yesterday that President Donald Trump's anticipated announcement recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital would inflame Muslim feelings worldwide and bring further chaos and instability to the region. More on p14

**MALAYSIA-N. ZEALAND** Malaysia rolled out the red carpet yesterday for New Zealand's governor general, who is marking 60 years of diplomatic ties between the countries.

**INDIA** The Sri Lanka cricket board has complained to the sport's governing body about the poor air quality in which its players have been compelled to play a test match in the Indian capital New Delhi.

**RUSSIA-INDONESIA** The Russian military says its strategic bombers have flown to Indonesia for a showcase. The visit by the bombers capable of carrying nuclear weapons underlined Russia's resurgent military might and its desire to expand its foothold around the world.



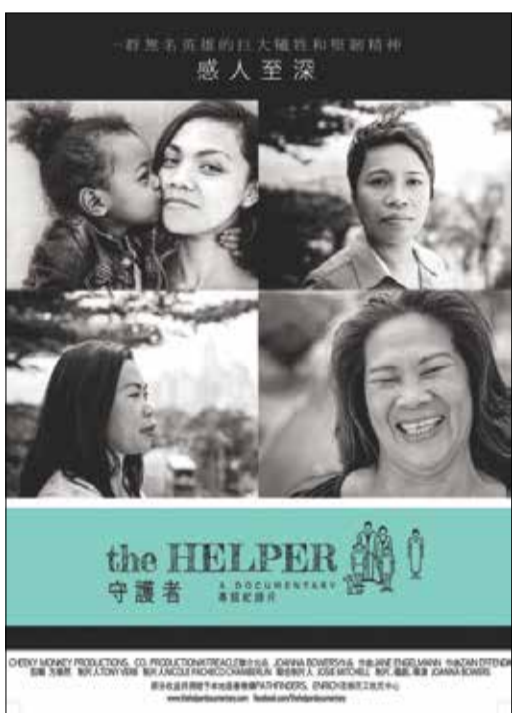
**RUSSIA** President Vladimir Putin yesterday declared his intention to seek re-election next March, a vote he appears certain to win. The Russian leader chose an enthusiastic audience of the GAZ automobile factory workers in Nizhny Novgorod to make the announcement.

More on backpage

## TAX HAVEN STATUS

# Blacklist could affect EU-Macau relations

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# Documentary tackles dreams, sacrifices of domestic workers in HK

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## Hoi Va Pou appointed IAS deputy director

Hoi Va Pou has been appointed deputy director of the Social Affairs Bureau (IAS), according to an announcement released by the office of the Secretariat for Social Affairs and Culture yesterday. He will commence his term on January 1, 2018. Hoi joined the civil service in 1994 and has been head of the IAS' Department of Prevention and Treatment of Problem Gambling and Drug Dependence since 2016. He has held leadership positions for 18 of his 23 years working for the Macau government.

## CPCS suggests exemptions to minimum wage regime

Wang Sai Man, a representative of the Employers' Organizations of the Standing Committee for the Coordination of Social Affairs (CPCS), suggested that small companies, domestic helpers, and people whose jobs lack fixed hours be exempted from the minimum wage regime. Along with representatives from the Federation of the Trade Union and the Labor Affairs Bureau (DSAL), the CPCS representative said the work of domestic helpers falls into a special category and that the minimum wage should not apply. DSAL acting director Ng Wai Han said that the minimum wage will not become a standard for increasing salaries.

## CE to visit Guangzhou for annual conference

Chief Executive Chui Sai On will lead a government delegation to visit Guangzhou on December 11 for the 2017 Guangdong-Macau Co-operation Joint Conference. During the meeting, Chui and the Governor of Guangdong Province, Ma Xingrui, will review past achievements and discuss issues of mutual interest. According to a statement issued by the government, topics for discussion will include enhancing efforts for the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area; outlining major annual tasks for the Framework Agreement on Co-operation between Guangdong and Macau; advancing facility connectivity and integration to build an international technology and innovation center; boosting industry modernization; and strengthening participation in the development of the mainland's "Belt and Road" initiative. The two governments are expected to sign several agreements during the conference.

# WeChat has become Macau's most-used new media

A joint survey by the Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST), the Sun Yat-Sen University, the Communication Association of Macau, and the Macau Creative Intelligence Development and Research Association has revealed that WeChat has become Macau residents' most-used new media application.

The survey was carried out in October and November, with the results reported yesterday at MUST. Some 1,046 valid questionnaires were collected.

Some 72.1 percent of residents surveyed use WeChat the most, compared to other websites and social networks like Facebook and Weibo.

About 59.5 percent prefer using websites, whereas 52.8 percent said that they use Facebook the most.

Facebook beats both WeChat and websites among internet users aged between 26 and 30 years old; 42.3 percent of these residents list Facebook at the top of their preferences, followed by the 34.9 percent who prefer WeChat.

Ninety percent of the new me-



dia users are under the age of 50.

Some 47.7 percent of the interviewees spend an average of one hour daily checking WeChat. Around 19.2 percent of interviewees use WeChat more than three hours a day, 12.4 percent browse WeChat for two to three hours, and 16.1 percent use it for one to two hours.

Regardless of income level and industry, approximately 70 percent of people use WeChat the most out of any other application.

More than 70 percent of the surveyed WeChat users work in industries ranging from gaming and tourism to catering, cons-

truction and the civil service.

More than 66 percent of the interviewees have at some point commented on online news, while 65.4 percent reposted news, only 38.2 percent claimed to have reported original breaking news.

Some 57.5 percent, 60.6 percent and 39.1 percent of people with high, medium and low income, respectively, commented on news.

According to the survey, the local government's main website is the most visited website among all other department websites (39.7 percent), with the second and third most visited being the Legislative As-

sembly (27.6 percent) and the Government Information Bureau (19 percent).

Macao Daily News, TDM and IMASTV are the top three most visited online media sources.

On WeChat, the most popular official account belongs to the Cultural Affairs Bureau, followed by the Macao Foundation and the Macau Government Tourism Office.

Regarding non-local media – websites in particular – Apple Daily topped local residents' preferences, with the second and third places going to People's Daily and TVB respectively. Oriental Daily News, Tencent and Toutiao are the most used non-local applications.

Compared to the results of the same survey last year, WeChat usage has decreased, while the number of people commenting on news has increased.

Hong Kong and mainland China dominated Macau residents' choices for non-local media. Compared to 2016, the impact of mainland Chinese media is increasingly shaping Macau residents' new media habits.

## FOOTBALL

# Benfica pitted against at least one N. Korean team at AFC Cup

THE team draw for the AFC Cup East Asian group play-off was decided in Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday, pitting local team Benfica Macau against North Korea's April 25 Sports Club, Taiwan's Hang Yuen FC, and a third team either also from North Korea or from Mongolia.

The Macau team is participating for the first time in the group stage of this competition, according to a statement from Benfica, and will contend for a place in the knockout rounds. It is the first club from Macau to reach the group stage of the AFC cup.

This is a tournament followed by an audience of many millions.

DUARTE ALVES

A total of six games will be played; three at home in Macau and three away to be held in Taiwan, North Korea and possibly Mongolia. Some of the away games will inevitably cause complica-



Duarte Alves during the draw in Kuala Lumpur

tions for local organizers, though they insist it is "not an impossible task," and well worth it since it will put the region on the international club football stage of Asia.

"It is an honor for us to take the football played by Macau clubs to the international stage of the AFC Cup," said club

director Duarte Alves. "This is a tournament followed by an audience of many millions, involving a total of 36 clubs coming from so faraway countries such as Syria, Philippines, Uzbekistan and Indonesia."

Meanwhile, the club director expects that the team will find support

from local authorities in preparing the logistical and financial groundwork for the home games. In particular, local organizers will need to meet strict compliance and regulations imposed by the AFC.

"We always received support and encouragement from the MSAR government, namely the Sports Institute," said Alves. "This support is being reinforced now, due to the experience we have already acquired and it will allow us to match fan's expectations and involve the most people possible in Macau, namely the youth."

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF (DIRECTOR) Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com  
MANAGING EDITOR Paulo Barbosa paulo.barbosa@macaudailytimes.com  
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS Eric Sautedé, Leanda Lee, Severo Portela

NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS Albano Martins, Annabel Jackson, Daniel Beitler, Emilie Tran, Grace Yu, Ivo Carneiro de Sousa, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Lao-Phillips, João Palla Martins, Joseph Cheung, Julie Zhu, Juliet Risdon, Lynzy Valles, Renato Marques, Richard Whitfield, Rodrigo de Matos (cartoonist), Viviana Segui  
DESIGNERS Eva Bucho, Miguel Bandeira | ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS JML Property, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars, Ruan Du Toit Bester | NEWS AGENCIES Associated Press, Bloomberg, Financial Times, MacauHub, MacauNews, Xinhua | SECRETARY Yang Dongxiao amy@macaudailytimes.com

A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

SECRETARY Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR Telephone: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84

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**M**ACAU'S inclusion on a European Union (EU) tax blacklist of 17 countries and regions has made the front page in the Portuguese financial daily "Jornal de Negócios", which indicated that bilateral relations between Portugal and the MSAR could be affected.

Deputy secretary of state Ricardo Mourinho Félix was quoted as saying that the Portuguese tax haven list – which does not include Macau – "must be collated with the European list." According to "Jornal de Negócios", trade between Portugal and the listed countries and regions could be disrupted and affected by higher taxes.

Reference newspaper "Público" also reported on the list, claiming that "Macau's image as a place that favors gambling and tourism, and where the casino neons are omnipresent, is going to have the burden of another image, less beneficial to its reputation."

The EU said that the listed countries and regions could potentially face sanctions for failing to bring their standards in line with the bloc, at a time when the bloc is seeking to step up its fight against opaque practices that facilitate tax avoidance by multinationals and individuals.

The European Commission -

# Blacklist may affect Portugal-Macau relations



the EU's executive arm – says that the threat of being on the list can itself incentivize countries to bring their tax systems in line with EU standards, for fear of being named and shamed. The countries that make commitments to tax transparency will be subject to monitoring by the EU over the coming year. The bloc plans to update the list at least once a year.

But some countries, including France, have said that listed jurisdictions should also

face sanctions. Potential countermeasures applicable at the national or EU level could be introduced, including the freezing of some EU funds.

"We want this list to be complete and effective. No state should escape responsibilities when it doesn't firmly combat tax evasion," French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire said on his way to the meeting where the blacklist was approved. "This list needs to be effective, meaning that it needs to allow

us to impose sanctions so that those who don't respect rules will change their behavior."

Some potential countermeasures include actions at an EU level - such as limiting listed jurisdictions' access to the European Fund for Sustainable Development - or measures that countries can take individually. These include stricter monitoring of transactions and increased audit risks for taxpayers benefiting from the regimes involved, or for those using these jurisdictions' structures.

Other measures that could be taken at a national level - but which will be at the discretion of each country - inclu-

de withholding tax measures, non-deductibility of costs, and special documentation requirements.

"There's still a number of countries which entered into commitments as regard to good tax governance and we will be following up [on] those commitments," European Commission Vice President Valdis Dombrovskis told reporters in Brussels on Tuesday ahead of the meeting. "If countries [implement] them, they won't be part of the tax list. If we see that countries are not implementing the commitments, there is the possibility that they will end up on this tax list." **MDT/Bloomberg**

## EU TAX HAVENS ABSENT FROM LIST

**THE SOCIALIST** S&D group said that the blacklist could have been much more inclusive, with several EU tax havens absent from the list. Others also asked why countries like Luxembourg, Malta and Britain – whose crown dependency Isle of Man featured

prominently in the Paradise Papers – were not included. "Tax havens inside the EU are missing as well. If we want to fight tax avoidance credibly on a global stage, we must also put our own house in order," said socialist legislator Peter Simon.

Macau Daily Times contest



One of the world's most popular and successful musicals, THE SOUND OF MUSIC is coming to The Venetian@ Macao's Venetian Theatre from Dec. 20, 2017, to Jan. 7, 2018, to delight audiences over the Christmas and New Year period. This highly-acclaimed production comes from the home of West End musical theatre – the famous London Palladium – where it celebrated a record-breaking 954 performances and was seen by over two million people. To add to the excitement, THE SOUND OF MUSIC will feature 18 talented youngsters from Macao and Hong Kong playing the Von Trapp family children.

tells the uplifting true story of Maria, the fun-loving governess who changes the lives of the widowed Captain Von Trapp and his seven children by re-introducing them to music, culminating in the family's escape across the Austrian mountains as tensions rise prior to the outbreak of World War II. Presented by Chessman and The Venetian Macao, THE SOUND OF MUSIC includes some of the most memorable songs ever performed on the stage, including "My Favorite Things", "Do-Re-Mi", "Climb Ev'ry Mountain", "The Lonely Goatherd", "Sixteen Going on Seventeen", and wonderful title song "The Sound of Music". The original Broadway production of THE SOUND

OF MUSIC has won five Tony Awards, including Best Musical, and was Rodgers and Hammerstein's biggest success. The 1965 movie starring Julie Andrews as Maria also won five Oscars, including Best Picture, and remains one of the most popular movies of all time. Auditions for the roles of the Von Trapp children were held at The Venetian Macao and Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, with 20 talented Macao and Hong Kong youngsters chosen to play in the show. Don't miss this opportunity to experience this dazzling show, widely regarded as the world's greatest musicals, THE SOUND OF MUSIC at The Venetian Macao from Dec. 20, 2017 to Jan. 7, 2018.

### Question for readers:

How long will the The Sound of Music show last?

Please email the answers to: [soundofmusic@macaudailytimes.com](mailto:soundofmusic@macaudailytimes.com) Along with your name and contact details.

#### Tickets - Giveaway

Three sets of two tickets each will be awarded to the four readers who send us the correct answers the fastest. The contest will run for five days, each day with a different question to be answered. Each ticket is valued at MOP488 for a total prize value of MOP3,000. Shows tickets (show session: Dec 25, 7:30pm) will be offered.

Tickets from MOP288 are now available through [cotaiticketing.com](http://cotaiticketing.com) or 2882 8818.

AD

### 30pct of local labor force have degrees

The Talents Development Committee revealed that one-third of Macau's current local labor force has a tertiary education degree. According to Macau's first five-year plan, by 2020, the ratio is expected to grow to 40 percent. Recently, the committee has conducted thorough research on Macau's human resources demands. One of the research efforts focused on the finance and construction industries. The committee also established a plan to attract Macau's talented human resources living abroad to return to the city. Many education subsidy programs have also been launched, including a UN internship program, and a master's subsidy program at the University of Coimbra.

### New wholesale market begins operations

On Monday, Macau's new wholesale market begun operating with double the number of stalls (222 in total) compared to the previous wholesale market, according to a statement released by the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau. All business operators from the old market (127 stalls) have already moved to the new one. The market provides 274 and 223 public parking spaces for cars and motorbikes, respectively. Vegetables and fruits are available for purchase from the ground floor up to the second floor. The third floor is reserved for sales of frozen poultry. Later, new stalls will be arranged on the fourth up to the sixth floors of the market.

# Former UN representative talks EU security threats

Daniel Beitler

**A** talk was held on Tuesday night at the Rui Cunha Foundation, outlining the current geopolitical and security challenges facing the European Union.

Presented by Victor Angelo, a former special representative of the UN and Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, the talk covered the difficulties in a number of regions in close proximity to the European member states, including Russia, the Middle East, the Maghreb and the Sahel.

"Can we be an optimist after so many crises [affecting the European Union] and after so many have not been resolved?" he asked attendees at the talk.

According to the speaker, the biggest security threat facing the European Union at present is its giant neighbor to the east, Russia, which is believed to have interfered in democratic elections, spread

disinformation and propaganda, and is the source of a number of cyber attacks.

Angelo stressed the EU's position that it "will not recognize Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea nor accept the destabilization of eastern Ukraine."

He also warned that Russia could replicate its tactics in Ukraine in the Baltic states in a bid to extend its influence there. Although Angelo believes the fear of Balkan state officials is "exaggerated", he admits that there is a real concern for the countries involved.

"The relationship with Russia has to be [approached through] a peaceful settlement of disputes and a respect for the national sovereignty of EU member states. We must say that that kind of annexation [in Crimea] is unacceptable and must be resolved. We must also be able to establish strong relations with states of the former [Soviet Union] and those states



Victor Angelo

do not need to ask Russia's permission to establish relations with Brussels."

Although Russia is intent on "undermining the European project", Angelo argued that China has an interest in bolstering it - partly because of its trade interests in Europe, but also because it divides the attention of its antagonistic neighbor, Russia.

Angelo also highlighted EU concerns with Turkey in his presentation. Though it was not explicitly mentioned in yesterday's talk, the underlying tension in EU-Turkey relations involves the issue of migrants. Under the terms of a controversial 2016

deal, Turkey is holding back tens of thousands of migrants that might otherwise cross into Europe. This therefore presents a geopolitical vulnerability for the European Union.

Other potential security threats originate in the Maghreb and the Sahel regions of northern Africa, which are increasingly becoming a source of terrorism and large numbers of migrants. Though these lands are separated from Europe by the Mediterranean Sea, they are still relatively close to the southern periphery - and soft underbelly - of the European Union.

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## News At Hand



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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

# Documentary tackles dreams, sacrifices of domestic workers in HK



Joanna Bowers

## Lynzy Valles

**I**NDEPENDENT documentary "The Helper" recently premiered in Hong Kong, revealing the sacrifices of domestic helpers, commonly dubbed as the unsung heroes of Hong Kong.

Aiming to portray the sacrifices and spirit of over 330,000 domestic laborers in Hong Kong, the feature film brings attention to the hard work of these women, featuring the reasons behind their migration to Hong Kong to fulfill their dreams

for their families back home.

As two-thirds of these domestic laborers are mothers, the feature film also highlights their maternal sacrifices for their children and the challenges they are eager to overcome for their families.

Hong Kong-based filmmaker Joanna Bowers ran a successful Kickstarter crowdfunding campaign, which confirmed that there was a strong appetite for this type of production as the campaign acquired USD89,000 from public donations.

After recent screening in three cinemas in Hong Kong,

"The Helper" will be shown in Singapore on Sunday.

Speaking to the Times, Bowers explained that the 106-minute feature film focuses on the aspirations and significant sacrifices of the migrant workers rather than the 'dark side,' issues that these domestic helpers may have faced along the way.

"If you are here on a Sunday, you'd see domestic helpers sitting out on sidewalks in Central or anywhere in Causeway Bay and that was something that [...] was a really impactful visual that made me question why these people are unable to integrate in the society like the rest of us," said Bowers, who has been residing in the SAR for seven years.

Questioned whether there were recurring themes in these domestic helpers' stories, the director suggested that these laborers had a certain goal in mind: to create a better future for their families.

"That was a common [idea] that we found. Some were trying to put their kids to school, buy [family] properties and build a home. Ultimately, the goal of being here was generally the same scene," the filmmaker added.

Most of "The Helper" revolves around "The Unsung Heroes," a choir of migrant domestic helpers living and working in Hong Kong, as they rehearse "I Wish I Could Kiss You Goodnight", a song with a poignant message to the children they have left behind in Indonesia, the Philippines and their other home countries.

Rather than focusing on these domestic helpers' struggles and hardship of being away from their families, it tackles their own stories of hope and accomplishments while working in Hong Kong.

Aside from sharing the plight of a young Indonesian

helper whose employers accused her of theft, the feature film also highlights a number of charities and organizations that are working on the improvement of these migrant workers' rights and their support networks.

**“We really hope that the film creates a shift in perception that is going to humanize domestic helpers in people's eyes.”**

JOANNA BOWERS

"We really hope that the film [creates] a shift in perception that is going to humanize domestic helpers in people's eyes and give insight to what their lives are like," Bowers expressed.

"I think a lot of people make assumptions about why they made decisions to leave their

families and come to Macau and Hong Kong," she added.

Shying away from the dark stories of these migrant workers, Bowers admitted that the crew came across stories of how some of these domestic workers were put in difficult situations such as being part of illegal practices - including money laundering, and employment agencies' practices.

"As film crew I think it's really, really hard to understand. [...] They don't really have a choice in the decisions to migrate for work," said the feature film director.

One of the challenges the crew faced was gaining the workers' trust and getting them to share their stories of dreams, hopes and struggles, as they were quite used to being portrayed in a negative light.

Meanwhile, Bowers revealed that they are in talks with Cinematheque Passion on bringing the independent documentary film to Macau. Although there are still no concrete details and updates yet, Bowers hoped that the film would also be available in different countries, including the Philippines.



Scene included in the documentary

## Agreement reached to strengthen regional cooperation on public health

**O**FFICIALS from the Chinese mainland, Hong Kong and Macau gathered in Hong Kong on Monday to discuss public health, inspection and quarantine and food safety

issues, and agreed to further strengthen exchanges and cooperation.

During the Health, Animal & Plant Quarantine & Food Safety Control Meeting with represen-

tatives from Hong Kong, Macau, Guangdong, Shenzhen and Zhuhai, in-depth discussions on important international and regional issues were held, including antimicro-

bial resistance, avian influenza and mosquito-borne diseases.

Addressing the meeting, Chui Tak-yi, acting secretary for the Hong Kong Food and Health Bureau

said the HKSAR launched the Hong Kong Strategy & Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance in July to outline ways to contain antimicrobial resistance in Hong Kong.

On the prevention and control of avian influenza, Chui said Hong Kong has established a stringent surveillance and control mechanism to reduce the risk of outbreaks.

The HKSAR government will adopt further biosecurity improvement measures to enhance the immunity of local poultry, and will maintain close contact with Chinese mainland and Macau health authorities to monitor and notify each other of the latest developments regarding mosquito-borne diseases, he added. **MDT/Xinhua**



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# Heated debate between Rosário and lawmaker Pereira Coutinho

Renato Marques

**S**ECRETARY for Transport and Public Works Raimundo do Rosário was at the Legislative Assembly (AL) for the second consecutive day to discuss the 2018 Policy Address with lawmakers, where he engaged in a heated debate with José Pereira Coutinho.

Coutinho raised several questions regarding matters under Rosário's jurisdiction, accusing the Secretary of disregarding his warnings about the dysfunction within the Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG), citing examples of certain bureau chiefs bullying their subordinates.

"Why [is it that] back in 2016 after Typhoon Nida, you didn't act [on] the warnings I [gave] you and forced us to go to the

Commission Against Corruption [CCAC]," Coutinho questioned.

"Do you think it is correct now to make two scapegoats out of the two [SMG] directors? If I were you, I would resign. I warned you as a lawmaker and a representative of 14,000 voters in Macau," he said grimly, while presenting pictures of the previous occasions where he had mentioned the aforementioned cases.

But that was not the only topic where Coutinho's questions to Rosário became heated. The lawmaker presented a series of other photographs and a letter from a citizen who was allegedly seriously injured after being hit by a metal plate while crossing Friendship Bridge by motorcycle, an unverified claim as the surveillance cameras did not catch the incident.

Coutinho stated that the equi-

pment "apparently works only selectively and when authorities need to prosecute citizens," citing previous comments by Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak. On another enquiry topic, Coutinho claimed that the Secretary "didn't respect the law by not applying fines to the contractor," regarding the poor construction quality of the Taipa Ferry Terminal, criticism that was once again supported by photographic evidence.

Referring to correspondence with a staff member from the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT), Coutinho said he had learned that "businessmen involved [in] the construction always have 'their back covered' and the public works inspectors are afraid to report mistakes and construction defects, fearing [...] retaliation."

## Current schemes take priority over 'third type of public housing'

**R**EPLYING to several lawmakers' queries about proposals for a "third kind of public housing" and its "disappearance" from the Policy Address, Raimundo do Rosário explained that the government is focused on solving matters pertaining to the two existing social housing schemes: affordable acquisition and renting.

"Since the government hasn't been able to conclude the works on [current] public housing, we will first try to finish the works on the affordable acquisition and affordable renting schemes. Only after that could I think about others such as [those mentioned by the lawmakers] for [the

elderly] and for youngsters," Rosário said.

As for the temporary houses that lawmaker Si Ka Lon said the Chief Executive (CE) had ordered to be built in Zone A of the new landfills – which would allow the old neighborhoods to undergo urban renewal – Rosário said, "I don't think that the CE ever said that. At least I never heard that from him. We are discussing this problem [in] the urban renewal committee, but I have no information from the CE of these kinds of houses in Zone A."

The Secretary also reaffirmed his availability to participate in a potential change in the land law if such an initiative is launched.

**Do you think it is correct now to make two scapegoats out of the two directors?**

PEREIRA COUTINHO

Coutinho urged the Secretary to explain what is really happening with the Islands District Medical Complex and who should be accountable for a delay of more than five years on the project.

Regarding the outcome of Typhoon Hato, Rosário read a section from the CCAC incident report that claimed to have found no evidence of "the violation of any legal provisions from the areas or procedures [concerning] the forecasts of both typhoons Nida and Hato by the SMG."

"Neither was [there] any evidence that proved that the decisions to hoist the typhoon warning signals by the SMG were in any way influenced by any external factors. I think this is clear," he concluded.

He noted that former SMG director Fong Soi Kun had been about to retire, reaffirming that he had risen to the top from a junior position and had been a director for over two decades without any prior complaints about his behavior.

About the Islands Hospital

situation, Rosário reiterated that he is not "in possession of all the necessary documents, project, budget, measuring, tender dossier and others in order to initiate the procedure of the public tender."

"We will initiate the procedures of the public tender as soon as we have all the documents that allow [us] to initiate such procedures," he added.

As for the Taipa Ferry Terminal, the Secretary said that when he invited all the lawmakers to visit the facility, he had mentioned that "the works lacked in quality [...] and to have been even able to finish it was already a great achievement for him." He added that the facility is being repaired to the greatest possible extent, justifying the lack of fines with reference to the low price of the contract. He challenged Coutinho to commence legal procedures against him if he still felt there had been misconduct.

As for the accident on Friendship Bridge, the Secretary said he had received the document and would reply later after conducting more analysis.

Following the questions, Coutinho suggested that the Secretary discuss the Islands Hospital project at one of the monthly meetings of the Executive Council (ExCo) in which "[those] responsible for the design [are represented]". He was referring to the president of the Architects Association of Macau (AAM), Eddie Wong, whose company oversaw the relevant works.

Rosário said in response that "contrary to what happens in most of the public works, in this case [Islands Hospital] the project is done by the user and the DSSOPT is only responsible for building. Why this happens, I don't know. I was not even here when this was decided in this way."

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FOOD & BEVERAGE

# Bangkok fails to win three stars in debut Michelin Guide

Natnicha Chuwiruch

**B**ANGKOK, long a food-lover's paradise, at last has its own Michelin guide but no restaurants achieved the coveted top accolade of three stars.

Indian restaurant Gaggan is among three that won two stars in the debut assessment of the Thai capital's dining scene by the French tiremaker and publisher. French eatery Le Normandie and European restaurant Mezzaluna were the others to get two stars.

And in a city famed for its roadside eating experiences, street food vendor Jay Fai was awarded one star for dishes such as crab omelette and curries.

Bangkok joins the likes of Tokyo, Hong Kong, Macau, Seoul, Shanghai and Singapore in getting the Michelin treatment. Thailand's military government is hopeful that promoting the city's gastronomic delights will help keep tourism buzzing and encourage more spending. The nation expects about 37 million arrivals next year - equivalent to more than half the Southeast Asian nation's population.

"We're confident the launch will attract more food connoisseurs, which will contribute overall to Thailand's tourism and leisure market," Yuthasak Supasorn, the governor of the Tourism Authority of Thailand, said at the launch event yesterday at the Grand Hyatt Erawan in the capital.

Michelin is introducing its guide in Bangkok as part of a broader effort to increase the



company's appeal in Asia, as it locks horns with Chinese tire competitors like Shandong Linglong Tyre Co. and Aeolus Tyre Co. Michelin sees the unprofitable guides as helping to position its brand as high quality.

## Street food vendor Jay Fai was awarded one star for dishes such as crab omelette and curries

The company's restaurant reviewers anonymously award stars based on creativity, quality and service. Three stars are given to restaurants where the

cuisine is akin to art and "worth a special journey," two stars are given to those "worth a detour," while one star is awarded to establishments that are considered good restaurants in their category.

The accolade for Gaggan comes after it scored a third straight win in the closely watched Asia's 50 Best Restaurants ranking earlier this year.

"My food is what it was yesterday, and it is what it is today, and there's no difference," Chef Gaggan Anand said in an interview. "But today people will look at me and go - he's two stars."

A total of 17 eateries were recognized by Michelin in Thailand yesterday, with 14 getting one star. The guide's International Director Michael Ellis said it would take some time before a Bangkok restaurant gets the top rating. **Bloomberg**



RETAIL

# Japan retail giant FamilyMart is said to mull Hong Kong exit

Vinicy Chan

**FAMILYMART** Uny Holdings Co., Japan's second-largest convenience store operator, is considering a sale of its Hong Kong retail business, people with knowledge of the matter said.

FamilyMart Uny is working with a financial adviser to gauge potential buyer interest in its three stores in the Chinese territory, according to the people. It is seeking to fetch close to USD100 million from any sale, one of the people said, asking not to be identified as the information is private. Deliberations are at an early stage, and Tokyo-based FamilyMart Uny could decide to keep the business, the people said.

Any deal will add to the \$26.5 billion of retail acquisitions in Asia this year, up from \$19.8 billion during the same period in 2016, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. In Hong Kong, FamilyMart Uny runs department stores targeting the city's affluent middle class under the Apita, Piago and Uny brand names. They sell stationery, clothing and food ranging from fresh local produce to imported chocolate, wine and wagyu beef.

Sales in Hong Kong's supermarket industry fell 0.1 percent in the first 10 months of the year, lagging the 1.2 percent

gain in the city's overall retail industry, government statistics show.

A representative for FamilyMart Uny said the company has no plans to sell its Hong Kong stores at the moment.

## In HK, FamilyMart Uny runs department stores targeting the city's affluent middle class under the Apita, Piago and Uny brand names

FamilyMart Co. bought rival Uny Group Holdings Co. last year in a stock swap valued at \$2 billion at the time of completion. The deal created the country's second-biggest convenience store chain, overtaking Lawson Inc. Uny opened its first outlet in the former British colony in 1985, according to its annual report. **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

### WYNN SPREADS HOLIDAY BLESSINGS WITH CHRISTMAS CAROLS



To celebrate the Christmas season, Wynn invited The International School of Macau (TIS) Crescendo Choir to present the gift of music at the lobby of Wynn Macau. The space was filled with renditions of familiar traditional Christmas ca-

rols such as Deck the Halls, Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer, and Oh Christmas Tree. In addition, continuing its annual charity gift drive, WE Share, Wynn donated over 100 Christmas presents to Caritas Macau to share warmth

and holiday cheer with underprivileged children in Macau during the festive period.

At the event, Linda Chen, president and executive director of Wynn Resorts (Macau) S.A. and Thomas Lau, director of Human Resources of Wynn Macau presented the Christmas presents to the representative of Caritas Macau, Paul Pun, Secretary General of Caritas Macau, along with greeting cards hand-made by students of The International School of Macau (TIS) Crescendo Choir.

The International School of Macau (TIS) Crescendo Choir consists of around 50 primary school students aged 5 to 12 who perform on a voluntary basis. The group of talented primary school students made their hand-made greeting cards after their performance at Wynn.

### LANE CRAWFORD PARTNERS WITH MGM FOR EXCLUSIVE COLLECTIONS



Heidi Chan (left) and Sophie Lei

Lane Crawford recently debut its unique edits from Autumn Win-

ter 2017 and global exclusive collections for the first time in Ma-

cau in partnership with MGM.

A private preview was hosted at MGM Macau for socialites, VIPs and Lane Crawford customers including Heidi Chan and Sophie Lei, chairperson of International Ladies' Club of Macau.

According to a press release, to celebrate this exclusive partnership, Lane Crawford is showcasing the latest luxury storage pieces from BUBEN&ZORWEG, a German luxury multifunctional storage manufacturer, for guests to pre-order prior to its trunk show in Hong Kong.

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The Chinese embassy in Canberra, Australia

# China scolds Australia over plan to ban foreign interference

Rod McGuirk, Associated Press

CHINA scolded Australia yesterday over its plan to ban foreign interference in politics — either through espionage or financial donations — in a move motivated largely by Russia’s alleged involvement in last year’s U.S. election and China’s growing influence on the global political landscape.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said this week that foreign interference in politics would be outlawed under updated treason and espionage laws. The announcement comes as a U.S. investigation into alleged election meddling by Russia continues and follows concerns about Chinese money and influence in Australian politics.

“Foreign powers are making unprecedented and increasingly sophisticated attempts to influence the political process, both here and abroad,” Turnbull told reporters this week.

The Chinese Embassy in Australia responded in a statement yesterday that said: “China has no intention to interfere in Australia’s internal affairs or exert influence on its political process through political donations.”

“We urge the Australian side to look at China and China-Australia relations in an objective, fair and rational manner,” the statement added.

Under legislation expected to be introduced in Parliament this week, it would become a crime for a person to engage in conduct on behalf of a foreign principal that will influence a political

or governmental process, including opposition party policy, and is either covert or involves deception.

The foreign influence and interference package will be complemented by another bill on electoral reform that will ban foreign political donations.

The laws would criminalize acts such as opposition Sen. Sam Dastyari’s soliciting of a donation from a Chinese businessman, Huang Xiangmo, to cover personal expenses; it got Dastyari demoted last week. Dastyari then misrepresented Australia’s policy on China’s sweeping territorial claims in the South China at a press conference held exclusively for Chinese reporters and attended by Huang.

**China has no intention to interfere in Australia’s internal affairs.**

THE CHINESE EMBASSY AUSTRALIA

Dastyari has been dubbed “Shanghai Sam” for his dealings with Huang, a wealthy Sydney-based donor to Australian political parties whom Australian security services suspect is linked to the ruling Chinese Communist Party. The Australian government argues that Dastyari should quit Parliament for giving Huang counter-surveillan-

ce advice last year when he told the Chinese citizen to leave his cellphone inside his Sydney mansion while they stepped outside to talk.

The government argues that by helping Huang avoid Australian security surveillance, Dastyari had not put Australia’s interests first. Dastyari has not denied the accusation, but said he did not know Huang was the target of a surveillance operation.

The Chinese statement said Australian media reports “reflected a typical anti-China hysteria and paranoid” and “tarnished Australia’s reputation as a multicultural society.”

“Some Australian politicians and government officials also made irresponsible remarks to the detriment of political mutual trust between China and Australia. We categorically reject these allegations,” the statement said.

Unlike the U.S. and many other countries that ban foreign donations, Australian law has never distinguished between donors from Australia and overseas.

Former President Barack Obama’s administration last year called for the Australian system to be reformed to remove the influence of political donations from China — Australia’s largest trading partner and its biggest source of foreign political funds.

Then-U.S. Ambassador John Berry said the U.S. was surprised by the amount of Chinese money and influence in Australian politics and wanted Australia to resolve its foreign donation issue. **AP**

# North Korea must halt all testing for talks, US ambassador to China says

**T**HE U.S. would be ready to talk with North Korea if it renounced further nuclear or missile tests and followed through on the pledge, U.S. Ambassador to China Terry Branstad said.

"If they announce that they're not going to be doing any more nuclear tests and they're not going to be launching any more missiles," Branstad told Bloomberg Television yesterday, when asked what it would take for talks to start. "If they announce that and do that, I think there's an opportunity for us to get back to the bargaining table."

Branstad, speaking on the sidelines of the Fortune Global Forum in Guangzhou, also said that sanctions against North Korea were "starting to have an impact." Calling Kim Jong Un's push for nuclear weapons "the biggest threat to humankind right now," the former Iowa governor repeated the Trump administration's call for China to cut off oil sales to Kim Jong Un's regime.

"We believe we need to go further," Branstad said. "We think oil and also these North Korean workers working in China and other countries, that needs to stop."

President Donald Trump has sought to pressure China to rein in its ally and neighbor, which last week tested a new type of intercontinental ballistic missile. Kim said the test showed that North Korea's nuclear program was complete because it



Ambassador to China Terry Branstad

could deliver an atomic warhead anywhere in the U.S.

While Kim hasn't yet proven he has the technology to put a warhead on an ICBM and deliver it safely to a target, the test has put new pressure on the U.S. and its allies to find a solution. By declaring his weapons program complete, Kim may have created a path to resume negotiations from a position of strength.

"I interpret this as a starting gun, signaling that he's opening up the negotiating pas de deux, the dance," Daniel Russel, who until June was assistant U.S. secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, told reporters in Beijing after the test. "The likeliest scenario is that we'll start

seeing some initiatives from one quarter or another and there will be some testing of the ground for negotiations."

The United Nations' top official for political affairs is in Pyongyang this week to discuss the nuclear issue, and countries from Canada to Germany are seeking to help facilitate talks. Branstad told the economic forum later yesterday that Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who was attending the same event, would meet with U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson to discuss North Korea on Dec. 19.

A spokesman for Trudeau declined to comment on the possible meeting.

Meanwhile, the saber-rattling has continued on both sides, with

the U.S. sending a B-1B bomber to join massive aerial drills with South Korea (see p12). North Korea had previously threatened to retaliate against the exercise with the "highest-level hard-line countermeasure in history."

**■ The US must work with China and others to convince North Korea 'what they are doing is a suicide mission'**

The U.S. must work with China and others to convince North Korea "what they are doing is a suicide mission that makes no sense," Branstad told the forum. He declined to rule out a Trump visit to North Korea at some point, but said the timing "is probably not right."

Branstad, 71, has ties with Chinese President Xi Jinping that go back decades. The two men met in 1985, when Xi visited Iowa as part of a delegation from the northern Chinese province of Hebei. Chinese officials refer to the envoy as an "old friend of the Chinese people," a designation reserved for foreigners who've demonstrated a particular understanding of the country.

But the ambassador told Bloomberg that the "very good" chemistry demonstrated in meetings between Trump and Xi was more important. "Building a relationship of trust and respect hopefully can go a long ways to these two big countries, the two biggest economies in the world, working together," he said.

Still, the U.S. has sharpened its tone toward China since Trump's state visit last month to Beijing, which ended with no big breakthroughs on trade. The Trump administration has in recent weeks hit China with a probe into the country's aluminum imports, and accused its leadership of backsliding on market-oriented reforms.

Branstad said he agreed with such criticism. **Bloomberg**

## Jack Ma argues PRC benefits from one-party stability

**A**LIBABA Group Holding Ltd.'s Jack Ma said China benefits from the stability of its single-party system, contrasting that with the unpredictability of U.S. politics.

The Chinese billionaire made the comments in response to a question about the country's economy and its prospects for growth. He said he has confidence in China's potential and cited as his number one reason the stability of one party in the country, which has been led by the Communists since 1949. In the U.S., the Democrats go one way, then the Republicans go another, he said, which complicates planning.

"I am very confident

about China," Ma said during an onstage interview at Fortune magazine's conference in Guangzhou.

It is Ma's second explicitly political declaration this week. At China's World Internet Conference in Wuzhen, Alibaba's chairman spoke out in support of the government's tight control online and lectured foreign competitors on their strategies in the country. He said companies like Facebook Inc. and Google that want to operate in China need to "follow the rules," implying they need to adhere to censorship controls to gain access to its citizens.

Also speaking in Guangzhou are Apple Inc. Chief

Executive Officer Tim Cook, Tencent Holdings Ltd.'s Pony Ma and Terry Gou, CEO of iPhone manufacturer Hon Hai Precision Industry Co.

Cook emphasized the importance of China to his company, both as the primary place for manufacturing iPhones and iPads and as a market for its products. He said the No. 1 attraction of China for manufacturing is the "quality of people." Though Apple has lost ground in the smartphone market against local rivals, Cook said the company is regaining share and he "couldn't be happier" with sales of the iPhone X so far.

Cook had also given a keynote speech at the Wu-

zhen conference, his first appearance there, and he defended his involvement against criticism he was lending support to Chinese authorities and their censorship of the internet.

"When you go into a country and participate in the market, you are subject to the laws and regulations of that country," he said in Guangzhou. "Your choice is, do you participate or do you stand in the sideline and yell at how things should be? My own view, very strongly, is you show up and you participate. You get in the arena because nothing ever changes from sideline."

Tencent CEO Pony Ma talked about the history of his company, which



isn't as well known abroad as Alibaba. He explained that several teams competed against each other in messaging services, which led to the success of the company's WeChat and QQ platforms.

Ma, whose company is now the seventh most

valuable in the world with a market cap of USD444 billion, said he sees the next big opportunities in education and health care. Tencent has invested in at least seven internet medical companies, he said, without giving their names. **Bloomberg**



UN Undersecretary-General for Political Affairs Jeffrey Feltman (left) talks with North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Pak Myong Guk at the People's Palace of Culture in Pyongyang yesterday

## NORTH KOREA

# Senior UN official meets deputy foreign minister

A senior United Nations official met with North Korea's vice foreign minister yesterday, the first full day of a four-day trip to Pyongyang.

It was not immediately clear what Jeffrey Feltman, the U.N. undersecretary-general for political affairs, discussed with Vice Minister Pak Myong Guk.

Feltman, an American citizen and former State Department official, arrived in Pyongyang on Tuesday. A U.N. spokesman said he was to have a wide range of talks

in Pyongyang during his stay, but did not elaborate.

Feltman is the first person in his position to visit Pyongyang since 2010.

He is also expected to meet Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho and with the U.N. staff based in the North Korean capital.

Although Feltman does not represent the United States, hopes are high that visits by him or other diplomats — a senior Chinese official visited last month — might help relieve tensions that have been growing amid threats and

taunts between Pyongyang and Washington.

North Korean officials rarely brief the media on the content of discussions with foreign dignitaries. U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said they do not expect to update the media on Feltman's visit until it is concluded.

Six U.N. agencies, with approximately 50 international staff, are represented in the North.

### DIPLOMATIC PIPELINES

North Korea's decision to

hold talks with a senior United Nations official, who is also an American citizen and former U.S. diplomat, presents a rare opportunity for both sides to sound each other out in the increasingly isolated North Korean capital.

It may take a while to find out exactly what is being discussed during Jeffrey Feltman's visit this week. North Korea almost never discloses the details of its discussions with foreign delegations, and the U.N. says it doesn't plan to brief the media until after Feltman, its undersecretary-general for political affairs, completes his four-day visit.

Here is a look at other delegations North Korea has hosted recently, and some other ways it is engaging with the outside world that don't involve launching long-range ballistic missiles.

### THE CHINESE ENVOY

China last month sent its highest-level envoy in two years. His official mission was to brief North Korean officials on the outcome of the recent congress of China's ruling Communist Party. The official, Song Tao, visited as Chinese President Xi Jinping's special envoy. He met with Choe Ryong Hae, one of North Korea's most senior leaders after Kim Jong Un. China's relations with North Korea have deteriorated under Kim, who has ignored Beijing's calls to end the North's nuclear and missile tests and return to disarmament talks. The visit was seen as an effort by Xi to explore a new approach in relations and his desire to head off further pressure from Washington to take stricter action against Kim's nuclear program.

### WASHINGTON'S RESCUE

Efforts by the U.S. State Department to obtain access to

four Americans held in North Korean jails, including secret talks in Norway, led to a mission by special envoy Joseph Yun in June to retrieve college student Otto Warmbier. Yun was allowed to travel to North Korea to bring back Warmbier, who had fallen into a coma and was in critical condition. Warmbier, who entered North Korea as a tourist, had been sentenced to 15 years for trying to steal a propaganda banner. He died just days after arriving back in the United States. President Donald Trump declared a ban on most travel by U.S. citizens to North Korea because of Warmbier's case and concerns about Americans' safety.

### EXCHANGES WITH MOSCOW

Though it didn't get much attention in the West, Choe Son Hui, the head of the North America desk at North Korea's Foreign Ministry, traveled to Russia in September and attended a non-proliferation conference in Moscow in October. A Russian political delegation visited North Korea in early October, and the head of Russian state-owned news agency TASS visited North Korea for the 69th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

### OTHER CHANNELS

According to the U.S. State Department, Washington and Pyongyang do have a pipeline known as the "New York channel" for communication, though it's unclear how much either side has utilized it as tensions have ratcheted higher lately. Also, a trickle of low-profile delegations from around the world still arrive in the North Korean capital, while the North sends its own abroad. **MDT/AP**

# US flies B-1B over South in show of force against North Korea

THE United States flew a B-1B supersonic bomber over South Korea yesterday as part of a massive combined aerial exercise involving hundreds of warplanes, a clear warning after North Korea last week tested its biggest and most powerful missile yet.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the Guam-based bomber simulated land strikes at a military field near South Korea's eastern coast during a drill with U.S. and South Korean fighter jets.

"Through the drill, the South Korean and U.S. air forces displayed the allies' strong intent and ability to punish North Korea when threatened by nuclear weapons and missiles," the military said in a statement.

B-1Bs flyovers have become an increasingly familiar show of force to North Korea, which after three intercontinental ballistic missile tests has clearly moved closer toward building a nuclear arsenal that could viably target the U.S.

mainland.

The five-day drills that began Monday involve more than 200 aircraft, including six U.S. F-22 and 18 F-35 stealth fighters.

North Korea hates such displays of American military might at close range and claimed through its state media on Tuesday that the "U.S. imperialist war mongers' extremely reckless war hysteria" has put the region at risk of a nuclear war. The North continued to describe the B-1B a "nuclear strategic

bomber" although the plane was switched to conventional weaponry in the mid-1990s.

North Korea typically uses strong language when commenting on U.S.-South Korean war games, which it claims are invasion rehearsals. Still, perennially bad tensions are at a particularly dangerous point with North Korea rapidly advancing its nuclear weapons program.

South Korea's military says the Hwasong-15 the North tested last week has



South Korea and U.S. fighter jets fly over the Korean Peninsula during the combined aerial exercise yesterday

the potential to strike targets as far away as 13,000 kilometers, which would put Washington within reach. The test flight used an arched trajectory and the missile flew 950 kilometers before splashing down near Japan.

The North also tested a different intercontinental ballistic missile twice in July and conducted its most powerful nuclear test in September which it described as a detonation of a thermonuclear weapon designed for ICBMs. **AP**

Jamey Keaten, Geneva

UNITED NATIONS

**M**YANMAR'S Rohingya minority has "very likely" faced crimes against humanity and possibly genocide at the hands of Myanmar security forces and their helpers, the U.N.'s top human rights body and a top U.N. official said yesterday [Macau time].

The comments came at an urgent session of the 47-member Human Rights Council, which overwhelmingly approved a resolution that said crimes against humanity "very likely" occurred in Myanmar against the Muslim minority group since a security crackdown began in August.

The crisis has left untold numbers of Rohingya killed and injured, and forced more than 626,000 to flee into neighboring Bangladesh.

Marzuki Darusman, who heads a council-mandated fact-finding mission on Myanmar that has received no access to the troubled state of Rakhine where many Rohingya once lived, chronicled a litany of allegations including the rape of young girls — some burnt to death or with their throats slit — and the mutilation of victims.

"The allegations are numerous and many of extreme severity," Darusman said. "Some have concluded that genocide or crimes

against humanity have taken place. We have not yet come to any conclusion on these issues, but we are taking such allegations very seriously and are examining them in depth."

But the U.N. human rights chief, Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein, challenged the council, insisting that the possibility of genocide was real.

Zeid, a Jordanian prince, cited the longtime segregation, exclusion and discrimination faced by the Rohingya. He referred to allegations of killings by grenades, shootings at close range, stabbings and "the burning of houses with families inside." He noted that Rohingya see themselves as a distinct ethnic group.

"Given all of this, can anyone rule out that elements of genocide may be present?" Zeid asked. "Ultimately, this is a legal determination only a competent court can make."

"But the concerns are extremely serious, and clearly call for access to be immediately granted



General view of the 27th special session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva

for further verification," he added, decrying how Myanmar's government has rebuffed U.N. monitors.

Myanmar's army began what it called "clearance operations" on Aug. 25 following an attack on police posts by Rohingya insurgents. Refugees arriving in Bangladesh said their homes were set on fire by soldiers and Buddhist mobs, and some reported

being shot at by security forces.

Zeid said actions by Myanmar's government to "dehumanize" the Rohingya minority were likely to fan more violence and affect more communities across the region.

Myanmar's ambassador in Geneva, Htin Lynn, denied any state efforts at "dehumanization" of the Rohingya, saying it "could be an act of extremist individuals."

"My government is doing everything possible to deter these extremist acts," he said.

With his government in the spotlight, the ambassador said the priority should be on returning displaced people to Rakhine.

Zeid, however, said no repatriation of Rohingya to Myanmar should occur without "sustained human rights monitoring" to ensure they can live safely.

He said Myanmar authorities had refused to give his office access to Rakhine, and that he had instead sent three teams to Bangladesh to monitor the situation and interview refugees.

The council's resolution broke little new ground other than calling for Zeid's office to report on Myanmar's cooperation with U.N. rights investigators.

It passed 33 to 3 — China, the Philippines and Burundi voted against it — with nine abstentions. Two delegations in the 47-member council were not present. AP



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## US-ISRAEL

# Amid warnings, Trump forges ahead on Jerusalem-as-capital

Matthew Lee & Josef Federman,  
Washington

**P**RESIDENT Donald Trump will recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital today [Macau time] despite intense Arab, Muslim and European opposition to a move that would upend decades of U.S. policy and risk potentially violent protests.

Trump will instruct the State Department to begin the multi-year process of moving the American embassy from Tel Aviv to the holy city, U.S. officials said yesterday. It remains unclear, however, when he might take that physical step, which is required by U.S. law but has been waived on national security grounds for more than two decades.

The officials said numerous logistical and security details, as well as site determination and construction, will need to be finalized first. Because of those issues, the embassy is not likely to move for at least 3 or 4 years, presuming there is no future change in U.S. policy.

To that end, the officials said Trump delay the embassy move by signing a waiver, which is required by U.S. law every six months. He will continue to sign the waiver until preparations for the embassy move are complete.

The officials said recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital will be an acknowledgement of "historical and current reality" rather than a political statement and said the city's physical and political borders will not be compromised. They noted that almost all of Israel's government agencies and parliament are in Jerusalem, rather than Tel Aviv, where the U.S. and other countries maintain embassies.

The U.S. officials spoke to reporters on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly preview Trump's announcement. Their comments mirrored those of officials who spoke on the issue last week.

The declaration of Jerusalem as Israel's capital is a rhetorical volley that could have its own dangerous consequences. The United States has never endorsed the Jewish state's claim of sovereignty over any part of Jerusalem and has insisted its status be resolved through Israeli-Palestinian negotiation.

The mere consideration of Trump changing the status quo sparked a renewed U.S. security warning. America's consulate in Jerusalem ordered U.S. personnel and their families to avoid visiting Jerusalem's Old City or the West Bank, and urged American citizens in general to avoid



places with increased police or military presence.

Trump, as a presidential candidate, repeatedly promised to move the U.S. embassy. However, U.S. leaders have routinely and unceremoniously delayed such a move since President Bill Clinton signed a law in 1995 stipulating that the United States must relocate its diplomatic presence to Jerusalem unless the commander in chief issues a waiver on national security grounds.

## America's consulate in Jerusalem ordered US personnel and their families to avoid visiting the Old City or West Bank

Key national security advisers — including Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Defense Secretary Jim Mattis — have urged caution, according to the officials, who said Trump has been receptive to some of their concerns.

The concerns are real: Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital could be viewed as America discarding its longstanding neutrality and siding with Israel at a time when the president's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, has been trying to midwife a new peace process into existence. Trump, too, has spoken of his desire for a "deal of the century" that would end Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

U.S. officials, along with an outside adviser to the administration, said they expected a broad statement from Trump about Jerusalem's status as the "capital of Israel." The president isn't planning to use the phrase "undivided capital," according to the officials. Such terminology is favored by Israeli officials, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and would imply Israel's sove-

reignty over east Jerusalem, which the Palestinians seek for their own future capital.

Jerusalem includes the holiest ground in Judaism. But it's also home to Islam's third-holiest shrine and major Christian sites, and forms the combustible center of the Israeli-Arab conflict. Any perceived harm to Muslim claims to the city has triggered volatile protests in the past, both in the Holy Land and across the

Muslim world.

Within the Trump administration, officials on Tuesday fielded a flood of warnings from allied governments.

The Jerusalem declaration notwithstanding, one official said Trump would insist that issues of sovereignty and borders must be negotiated by Israel and the Palestinians. The official said Trump would call for Jordan to maintain its role as the legal guardian of Jerusalem's Muslim holy places, and reflect Israel and Palestinian wishes for a two-state peace solution.

In his calls to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Jordan's King Abdullah II, Trump delivered what appeared to be identical messages of intent. Both leaders warned Trump that moving the embassy would threaten Mideast peace efforts and security and stability in the Middle East and the world, according to statements from their offices. The statements didn't speak to Trump's plans for recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

Majdi Khaldi, Abbas' diplomatic adviser, said Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital could end Washington's role as mediator.

"This would mean they decided, on their own, to distance themselves from efforts to make peace," Khaldi told The Associated Press in perhaps the most sharply worded reaction by a Palestinian official. He said such recognition would lead the Palestinians to eliminate contacts with the United States. **AP**

## 'Whole world is against' Trump move

**T**URKISH Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said the "whole world is against" President Donald Trump's move to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital and eventually move the U.S. Embassy there.

Cavusoglu's remarks came just before a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson at NATO headquarters in Brussels yesterday.

He says that moving the embassy to Jerusalem would be a "grave mistake."

Cavusoglu says such a move would "not bring any stability, peace but rather chaos and instability."

The Turkish diplomat says the whole world is reacting, not just the Muslim world. He says he's raised the issue with Tillerson in the past and plans to do so again.

Meanwhile, Pope Francis has called for dialogue that respects the rights of everyone in the Holy Land and expressed his hope for "peace and prosperity" for the Palestinian people, ahead of the expected announcement that the U.S. will recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

Francis made the comments during a previously scheduled meeting with a Palestinian dele-



Palestinian hold posters of the US President Donald Trump during a protest in Bethlehem, West Bank

gation of religious and intellectual leaders. The Vatican said it was coincidental that the audience fell on the same day as the U.S. announcement.

In his remarks, Francis said the Holy Land was the "land par excellence of dialogue between God and mankind."

"The primary condition of that dialogue is reciprocal respect and a commitment to strengthening that respect, for the sake of recognizing the rights of all people, wherever they happen to be," he added.

In Britain, foreign secretary is expressing concern about reports that U.S. President Donald Trump might recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

Boris Johnson said, "Let's wait and see what the president says exactly, but we view the reports

that we've heard with concern."

Not everyone is unhappy with Trump's move.

Israel's justice minister said she welcomes Trump's declaration on Jerusalem and encouraged him to "move the embassy de facto" to Jerusalem.

Ayelet Shaked told The Associated Press on the sidelines of the Jerusalem Post's Diplomatic Conference yesterday that Trump has to go beyond the paperwork stage and not be intimidated by Arab threats of violence.

Shaked says: "I wouldn't be worried about this event or the other. If Arab leaders take steps to prevent unrest, there won't be any unrest."

She spoke ahead of a speech at the conference by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. **MDT/AP**

AP PHOTO



Theresa May

# Two men in court in terror plot to kill British prime minister

**T**WO men will appear in a London court to face terror charges after reportedly plotting to assassinate British Prime Minister Theresa May.

The plan, revealed to the British Cabinet earlier this week, allegedly involved planting a bomb outside the entrance to Downing Street gates before attackers would stab the U.K. leader in the ensuing chaos.

Andrew Parker, the head of domestic intelligence agency MI5, reportedly told ministers in the briefing that nine Islamic extremist plots have been thwarted over the past year.

The prime minister's spokesman declined to discuss the details of the alleged plot, but several newspapers have reported that two young men arrested in London and Birmingham last week were making preparations to kill May.

Authorities said only that Naa'imur Zakariyah Rahman, 20, and Mohamed Aqib Imran, 21, were due to appear in Westminster Magistrates Court on Wednesday.

Imran is charged with preparing acts of terrorism. Rahman is charged with preparing acts of terrorism and assisting Imran in terror planning. **AP**

## BREXIT

# Britain urges move to phase 2 to solve border issue

**B**ITAIN'S foreign secretary said yesterday that Brexit negotiations mustn't be held up by disputes over Irish borders and that the issue should be tackled in phase two of departure talks.

Boris Johnson said that "the best way to sort it out is to get onto the second phase of the negotiations, where all these difficult issues can be properly teased out, thrashed out, and solved."

Britain and the EU came close Monday to agreeing on key divorce terms, including how to maintain an open Irish border after the U.K. — including Northern Ireland — leaves the EU.

But the agreement was scuttled at the last minute when the Democratic Unionist Party — which props up Prime Minister Theresa May's minority government — warned it wouldn't support a deal it saw as undermining Northern Ireland's place in the United Kingdom.

Johnson said that a solution to the issue "can only be discovered in the context of discussions on the end state of the U.K.'s relations with the rest of the EU."

AP PHOTO



British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson (left) and U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson

"We are going to take back control of our borders, of our laws and of U.K. cash contributions and that's the way forward, and we will come up with a solution," he added.

May was expected to hold talks with top EU officials later this week.

Britain and the EU have only days to clinch a deal on borders, Britain's financial settlement with

its EU partners and the rights of citizens hit by Brexit before a Dec. 14-15 EU summit that will decide whether Brexit talks can move on to future relations and trade.

The lack of progress so far has raised concerns that Britain may not have a deal by the time it officially leaves on March 29, 2019, and heightened fears that May's government could collapse. **AP**

AD

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## what's ON



## LANGUAGE &amp; THE ART OF XU BING

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

UNTIL: March 4, 2018

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

## DISCOVER MACAU: MUSEUM OF TAIPA AND COLOANE HISTORY

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

ADDRESS: Rua Correia da Silva, Taipa

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

## A PROMENADE IN THE SMALL CITY: AN ILLUSTRATION EXHIBITION OF THE MACAU CULTURAL AND CREATIVE MAP

TIME: 11am-10pm

UNTIL: December 31, 2017

VENUE: Lakeside Gallery, Anim'Arte

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6866

## Offbeat

## 'BIG AS MY HEAD': HAWAII WOMAN SEEKS RECORD FOR HUGE AVOCADO



A Hawaii woman is waiting to hear back from Guinness World Records to find out if the massive avocado she snagged is the world's largest.

Pamela Wang of the Big Island found the 2.3-kilogram avocado last weekend on a walk, the West Hawaii Today newspaper reported.

"I see avocados every day, and I pick up avocados every day, but this one ... it was hard to miss," Wang said. "It was as big as my head."

She met up with friends and showed them the enormous avocado. Wang's friends began making inquiries online, uncovering information that indicated that the avocado might just be the largest on record.

Wang submitted an application to Guinness and expects to hear back within two months. She had Ken Love, executive director of Hawaii Tropical Fruit Growers, witness the avocado's weighing. Guinness requires an expert to be present.

"I've seen [avocados] longer and I've seen them fatter, but not both," said Love, who verified the fruit's weight at 5.23 pounds. "I think people have other ones that they don't weigh, but I think this one, it was way up there."

Elizabeth Montoya, assistant public relations manager of Guinness World Records America Inc., wrote that the company doesn't have a category for the largest avocado. It does, however, have one for the heaviest.

Guinness verified in January 2009 an avocado submitted by Gabriel Ramirez Nahim of Caracas, Venezuela, which weighed 4 pounds, 13.2 ounces, Montoya said.

Wang said she found the avocado under a tree that hangs over a street. Anything overhanging or dropped outside a private property line is free for anyone to claim.

## TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	RTPi News (Delayed Broadcast)
15:00	Champions League: Porto x Monaco (Repeated)
16:40	Zig Zag
17:45	Miscellaneous
18:40	Brazilian Soap Opera (Repeated)
19:30	Champions League Highlights (Repeated)
19:50	Miscellaneous
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Talk Show
21:35	Non-daily Portuguese News
21:45	Yes, Chef! Sr. 2
22:10	Brazilian Soap Opera
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Champions League Highlights
23:50	Miscellaneous
01:20	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
02:00	European League: Basaksehir x Braga (Live)
04:05	European League: Guimaraes - Konyaspor (Live)
06:10	RTPi Live

## cinema



## CINETEATRO

07,11,12,13 Dec



## MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS

ROOM 1

2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30pm

Director: Kenneth Branagh

Starring: Penelope Cruz, Willem Dafoe, Judi Dench, Johnny Depp, Michelle Pfeiffer, Daisy Ridley and Josh Gad

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 114 min



## THE FOREIGNER

ROOM 23

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

Director: Martin Campbell

Starring: Jackie Chan, Pierce Brosnan, Katie Leung, Rufus Jones

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 113min



## WONDER

ROOM 2

7:15pm

Director: Stephen Chbosky

Starring: Julia Roberts, Owen Wilson, Jacob Tremblay

Language: Chinese (English)

Duration: 113min

## TAKE ME TO THE MOON

ROOM 3

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

Director: Chun Yi Hsieh

Starring: Jasper Liu, Vibian Sung, Vera Yen, Chih-tian Shih, Pipi Yao, Chuan Lee

Language: Mandarin (English & Chinese)

Duration: 105min

## this day in history



## 1941 JAPANESE PLANES BOMB PEARL HARBOR

Japan has launched a surprise attack on the American naval base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii and has declared war on Britain and the United States.

The US president, Franklin D Roosevelt, has mobilised all his forces and is poised to declare war on Japan.

Details of the attack in Hawaii are scarce but initial reports say Japanese bombers and torpedo-carrying planes targeted warships, aircraft and military installations in Pearl Harbor, on Oahu, the third largest and chief island of Hawaii.

News of the daring raid has shocked members of Congress at a time when Japanese officials in Washington were still negotiating with US Secretary of State Cordell Hull on lifting US sanctions imposed after continuing Japanese aggression against China.

At 0755 local time the first wave of between 50 and 150 planes struck the naval base for 35 minutes causing several fires and "untold damage" to the Pacific Fleet.

The Japanese squadrons dropped high-explosive and incendiary bombs.

A second strike followed at about 0900 when a force of at least 100 planes pounded the base for an hour.

At least two Japanese airplanes have been shot down but it is reported that at least 350 men were killed by one single bomb at the Hickam Army Air Field, an Air Corps post on Oahu.

Officials announced a further 104 Army personnel were killed and 300 were wounded in the raid.

It is believed the attack was launched from two aircraft carriers.

One radio report says US forces downed six Japanese planes and sunk four submarines.

There are reports the Hawaiian capital Honolulu was also bombed as well as the Pacific island of Guam and the capital of the Philippines, Manila.

A British gunboat, the Peterel, has also been sunk at Shanghai in China.

Reports from Singapore suggest a build-up of Japanese warships in the South China Sea and seem to be headed for the Gulf of Siam, towards Bangkok.

President Roosevelt is working on a message to Congress tomorrow in which he is expected to ask for a declaration of war with Japan.

The Times newspaper's Washington correspondent says the US Government expects Germany and Italy to declare war on the US within hours.

Although the attack has shocked the American people there is little doubt that it had been brewing for some years.

Relations with the United States have deteriorated since 1931 when Japan occupied Manchuria in northern China. Over the last decade conflict has intensified into a full-scale war between Japan and China.

Last year, the US imposed trade sanctions on Japan.

Then in September 1940 Japan signed a Tripartite Pact with Germany and Italy. It became a formal member of the Axis alliance fighting the European war but continued to negotiate with America for trade concessions until today.

Japan's fury over the embargoes and allied support for China prompted a declaration of war.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

Within two hours, six battleships had been sunk, another 112 vessels sunk or damaged, and 164 aircraft destroyed. Only chance saved three US aircraft carriers, usually stationed at Pearl Harbor but assigned elsewhere on the day.

The attacks killed fewer than 100 Japanese but more than 2,400 Americans died - 1,000 of those were on the battleship Arizona which was destroyed at her mooring. Another 1,178 US citizens were injured.

The next day, President Roosevelt called the attack on Pearl Harbor "a day that will live in infamy" and America declared war on Japan ending its policy of isolationism.

There were six wartime and one post-war investigation into how America was taken so totally by surprise. They revealed a lack of co-ordination and communication between Washington and Oahu, and between different armed forces.

As a result local US commanders Admiral Kimmel and Lt-Gen Short were fired.

The attack was a victory for Japan and allowed it to launch a full-scale invasion of South-east Asia. But out of the US warships damaged or sunk on 7 December 1941, only three - the Arizona, Oklahoma and Utah - were beyond repair, and Utah was already obsolete.

Pearl Harbor also united an outraged American nation behind President Roosevelt and behind the war against Japan, and failed to destroy the major US ships, the aircraft carriers.



YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You are rarely surprised by the unexpected behavior of others...

Taurus April 20-May 20 You've got to raid your bank account a bit in order to take care of a pressing financial issue...

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You know exactly what you really want - it's something you've been wishing to have for a long time...

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You're feeling especially chatty and friendly - which means you're much more easily tempted than usual...

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 The movie 'City of Angels' posits a whole legion of angels surrounding us at all times...

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 There are many great books out there that suggest that there really is no such thing as a coincidence...

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 You specialize in relationships, and you stop at nothing to let the right person know just how fond you are...

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Someone close has told you something you were beyond hoping you'd ever hear...

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You have little fondness for being meticulous, discreet or frugal - those traits bore you to tears...

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Everyone who knows and loves you expects your absence every now and then...

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 People do see you as quirky, erratic and highly unpredictable - and you're more than a little bit proud of owning those labels...

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Those closest to you don't ordinarily expect you to say or do highly erratic things...

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION

CHINA

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

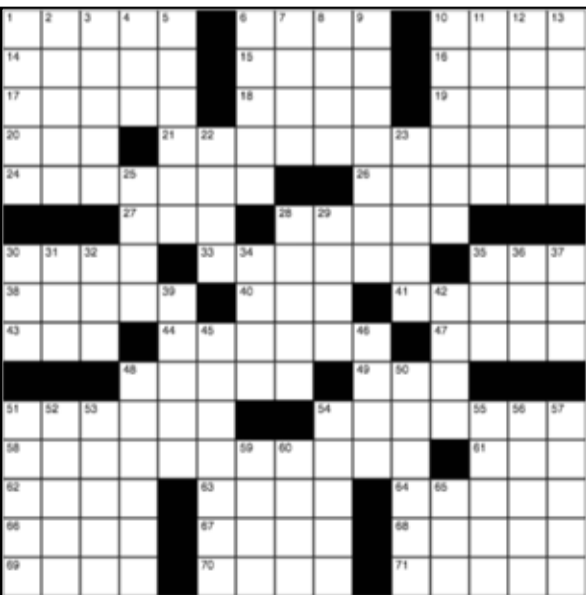
WORLD

Table listing weather conditions for world cities like Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, etc.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Sacred song; 6- Pouches; 10- OPEC units; 14- Up \_\_\_ (trapped); 15- Pile; 16- Part of QED; 17- Damp; 18- A Chaplin; 19- "David Copperfield" wife; 20- Dance step; 21- The study of death; 24- Piggied out; 26- Swaps; 27- Choice; Abbr.; 28- Steel girder; 30- \_\_\_ Only Just Begun; 33- Go with; 35- Addams family cousin; 38- Leaves out; 40- God, biblically; 41- Uncanny; 43- Catchall abbr.; 44- One-celled organism; 47- Fine and delicate; 48- Purchaser; 49- Average mark; 51- Secret stuff; 54- Unoriginal; 58- Capital of Malaysia; 61- \_\_\_ Canals; 62- Business letter abbr.; 63- Growl; 64- Ages between 13 and 19; 66- After the bell; 67- Romeo's last words; 68- Goddesses of the seasons; 69- Squabbling; 70- Top-notch; 71- End of \_\_\_;

DOWN: 1- Argentine plain; 2- Brown ermine; 3- Spring up; 4- \_\_\_ MisA@rables; 5- Spunk; 6- Weaned pig; 7- Long time; 8- Injectable diazepam, in military lingo; 9- Splash; 10- Mad confusion; 11- Young; 12- Big; 13- Remains; 22- Gap; 23- Make a speech; 25- I'd hate to break up \_\_\_; 28- More frigid; 29- Explosive weapon; 30- Heartache; 31- CPR expert; 32- Singer Damone; 34- Foot covering; 35- George Gershwin's brother; 36- Personal quirk; 37- Mystery writer Josephine; 39- Place to sweat it out; 42- Mtn. stat; 45- Pain in the muscles; 46- Rights org.; 48- Theatrical dance; 50- Singer Kitt; 51- Pack leader; 52- Attack; 53- Desert bloomers; 54- Binge; 55- Grenoble's river; 56- Echolocation; 57- Old Testament book; 59- Word processing command; 60- Common street name; 65- Ages and ages;



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

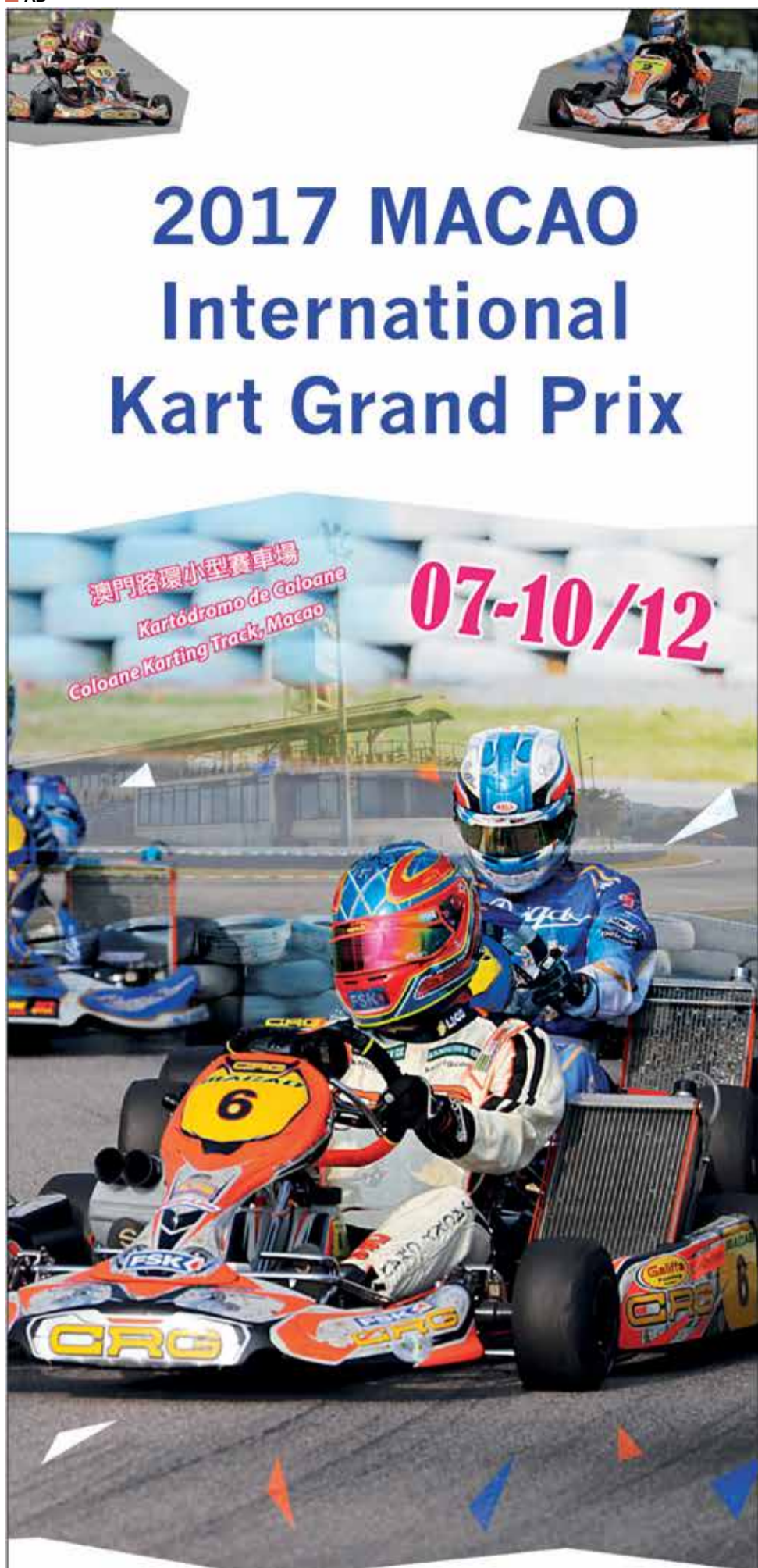
- Emergency calls 999
Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
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Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
IACM 28 387 333
Tourism 28 333 000
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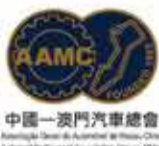
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# Under Olympic flag,



A woman waves a Russian flag outside of the International Olympic Committee

James Ellingworth, Moscow

**T**HE International Olympic Committee has barred the Russian team from competing in Pyeongchang in February over widespread doping at the last edition of the Winter Games in 2014.

However, they will be allowed to compete as "Olympic Athletes from Russia" under the Olympic flag. Gold medalists won't hear the Russian anthem played on the podium.

The IOC says the OAR team will be invitation-only, picked by a panel of anti-doping and medical officials from various organizations.

To be invited, Russian athletes must meet the usual Olympic qualifying standards but also "be considered clean to the satisfaction of the panel," meaning they can't have been previously banned for doping and must face extensive pre-Games drug testing.

It's not yet clear if Russian athletes plan to challenge these requirements in court. An IOC attempt to bar Russians with previous doping bans from last year's Summer Olympics was overturned at the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

Under the current IOC rules, here's a look at how "Olympic Athletes from Russia" might fare in Pyeongchang:

## HOCKEY

Russians have won men's hockey gold under the Olympic flag before.

Back in 1992, shortly after the collapse of the Soviet Union, players from ex-Soviet countries teamed up, including future Stanley

Cup winners Alexei Kovalev and Sergei Zubov. It wasn't a punishment but political expediency in a chaotic political situation.

This time around, Russia's neutrals would have a good shot at gold, in the absence of NHL players. Former NHL star Ilya Kovalchuk, now playing in Russia's Kontinental Hockey League, is keen to play. "We definitely have to go," he told Russian media after the IOC decision.

One obstacle could be KHL leadership, which previously threatened it might pull its players if Russia was punished over doping.

Russia's women's hockey team might be a contender for bronze but struggles to compete against the top two squads, the U.S. and Canada. Some women's players have also been accused of doping offenses related to tampering with their 2014 Olympic samples, so eligibility is an issue.

## FIGURE SKATING

Russia sent just one athlete to appeal to the IOC board on Tuesday, 18-year-old skating prodigy Evgenia Medvedeva.

It's easy to see why. Unbeaten in two years, Medvedeva is the clear favorite for women's skating gold and in a sport where careers are short, "I don't know if I'll have another Games in my life after Pyeongchang," she told the board.

She's also not connected to any doping offenses from 2014, when she was just 14.

If Medvedeva goes to February's Olympics, she'd be joined by potential Russian medalists like pairs skaters Evgenia Tarasova and Vladimir Morozov.

## ALPINE SKIING

Russia has never been an Alpine skiing power, but might have an outside shot at a medal under the Olympic flag.

Slalom specialist Alexander Khoroshilov in 2015 became the only Russian skier to win a World Cup event since 1981, when Russians still competed as part of the Soviet Union.

Three podiums last season show he could threaten the top three in Pyeongchang under the right conditions. Khoroshilov is based in Switzerland.

## CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

Key Russian skiers from the 2014 Olympics have already been banned by the IOC for doping, with four of Russia's five medals stripped.

Of the three Russian skiers who swept the podium in the 50-kilometer race on the final day in Sochi, the only one left is bronze medalist Ilya Chernousov, who now faces a possible upgrade to gold subject to IOC confirmation.

Still, a new generation of athletes could challenge for gold in Pyeongchang, led by Sergei Ustyugov, who won five medals at this year's world championships. IOC bans on skiers from Sochi will weaken Russia's strength in depth for relay events, which make up one-third of the program.

## BIATHLON

Under the IOC criteria, Russia should be able to field nearly a full team in biathlon, the country's most-watched winter sport.

Russia has been stripped of two medals from the Sochi Olympics, with three of the

# Russia can win medals



Russia's Sports Minister Vitaly Mutko

women's relay team banned, but the athletes concerned had already retired.

Seven-time world championship medalist Anton Shipulin could be the key medal contender for Russia, though he's started the new season slowly.

IOC rules could block Ale-

xander Loginov, who returned from a two-year doping ban last season to win a world championship relay bronze.

### BOBSLEIGH

Individual doping bans from the IOC have already devastated Russian medal

hopes in the bobsleigh and stripped the country of two gold medals won in Sochi.

Russia's sleds were already depleted by retirements since Sochi, even before the top Russian pilot in the two-man and four-man events, Ale-

xander Kasyanov, was handed an IOC lifetime Olympic ban earlier this month.

In a detail unlikely to impress the IOC, a former athlete banned in the Sochi doping investigation, Alexander Zubkov, is now in charge of the Russian

Bobsled Federation and will oversee athletes' preparation.

### SKELETON

Russia had been counting on Sochi gold medalist Alexander Tretyakov and bronze medalist Elena Nikitina to repeat their success in Pyeongchang, but both were banned by the IOC earlier this month.

The top Russian with hopes of competing as a neutral is Nikita Tregubov, who won a silver medal in a World Cup race Nov. 25 and dedicated it to his banned teammates. On the women's side, medal hopes appear remote.

### SPEEDSKATING

The IOC's rules on previous doping bans could rule out Russian skating star Denis Yuskov for a sanction he received after testing positive for marijuana in 2008, even though it's not a performance-enhancing substance.

Tuesday's ruling opens the way for six-time Olympic short-track champion Viktor Ahn to return to South Korea and contend for more medals.

Previously known as Ahn Hyun-soo, he switched allegiance to Russia after

failing to make the South Korean team for the 2010 Winter Olympics, and his return in Pyeongchang will be hotly anticipated, regardless of which flag he competes under.

Women's skater Olga Fatkulina is ruled out after the IOC stripped her of her silver medal in the 500 meters from the Sochi Olympics earlier this month and banned her for life from the Games.

### SNOWBOARD

Two of Russia's gold medalists from the Sochi Olympics, the slalom snowboarders and married couple Vic Wild and Alyona Zavarzina, could make a return as neutrals, though they've yet to comment on the IOC decision.

Medals are potentially possible in other disciplines such as big air or snowboard cross.

### OTHER SPORTS

There could be outside medal chances for "Olympic Athletes from Russia" in freestyle skiing, luge and women's curling.

Whether or not they compete under their own flag, ski jumping and Nordic combined seem unlikely to result in any medals for Russians. AP

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opinion

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Jenny Lao-Phillips



HOT POT SEASON

It may be a bit hard to say exactly if winter is here, with the weather these days. However, one thing we can be sure of is that it is the season for 火鍋 (Huo Wo = Hot Pot).

It is true that hot pot restaurants are open everywhere, and with restaurants serving hot pot even when it is 35 degrees outside with the air conditioning turned to the maximum, eating hot pot in winter may have lost its significance. Still, when the temperature goes down and sweaters are brought out, we cannot help but think of a steamy pot of savory soup with a variety of meat and fish and vegetables.

Hot pot is not only delicious and easy to prepare, it is said to represent the Chinese culture. According to my research, the tradition of eating hot pot could date back to six thousand years ago. Ancient pots found by archeologists showed that when our ancestors were living in caves, they were already using pots that were believed to be put over fire, filled with water in which to boil food. Whether or not these theories were true, the consumption of hot pot dates back to at least one thousand and seven hundred years ago, judging from the references to hot pot in the literature of the time.

Hot pot is not just a kind of dish in Chinese cuisine. It represents both solidarity and individualism, and is not to be eaten alone; it is a type of food that needs to be shared among family and friends. In ancient China, neighbors would join together on cold days to enjoy hot pot for warmth and for social gatherings. At the same time, everyone can bring their favorite foods to be boiled together in a large pot of soup, allowing individuals to have their own choice of food while still sharing the meal.

Nowadays, hot pots are still eaten on casual social occasions. They are not served at important events even if lobster and oysters are served in the pot. It is not intended as an extravagant meal, but represents a form of sharing and harmony for occasions of warmth and friendship. For hot pot gatherings, the group chooses the soup base together, but the taste of the food can be different as each one mixes their own sauce for their food. While there is togetherness, everyone at the table still gets to choose how they like their food, not unlike the neighborhood hot pot of ancient times.

Although there are dedicated hot pot restaurants, hot pot is also a good opportunity to invite family and friends over for dinner. When there are multiple diners, the host need not worry about what each of the guests would like to eat, and no one needs to run around to cook and serve. With hot pot, the hosts only need to buy a variety of meat, fish, and veggies, and everyone can do their own cooking while chatting and sharing stories. Moreover, on cold winter days, the hot pot may serve as central heating as well.

Therefore, I believe that hot pot is one of the best Chinese inventions for social gatherings. We don't have to worry about moments of silence when no one is talking, since everyone can be kept busy by cooking their food. One need not be a good chef to invite people over for dinner; just owning a pot will do.

THE RARE SKELETON SHOWN OF HUMAN ANCESTOR, 3.6 MILLION YEARS OLD

Researchers in South Africa have unveiled what they call "by far the most complete skeleton of a human ancestor older than 1.5 million years ever found."

The University of the Witwatersrand displayed the virtually complete Australopithecus fossil yesterday.

The skeleton dates back 3.6 million years. Its discovery is expected to help researchers better understand

the human ancestor's appearance and movement.

The researchers say it has taken 20 years to excavate, clean, reconstruct and analyze the fragile skeleton.

The skeleton, dubbed Little Foot, was discovered in the Sterkfontein caves, about 40 kilometers northwest of Johannesburg when small foot bones were found in rock blasted by miners.



SOURCE: DSMG

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

WORLD BRIEFS

**QATAR** A planned two-day summit of Gulf Arab countries fell apart within hours of starting over the ongoing boycott of Qatar, underscoring the difficulty of ending the crisis and suggesting that unifying the bloc of U.S. allies is slipping further from reach.



**YEMEN** Rebel forces have dispersed a protest staged by dozens of women in the capital, Sanaa, demanding the handover of the body of slain former President Ali Abdullah Saleh for burial.

**MALTA** A court charged three men with the car-bomb slaying of investigative journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia, as details from the investigation indicated she was killed by a remote-controlled explosion of TNT.

**SPAIN** has announced its second-biggest cocaine seizure ever, a near six metric-ton haul with a street value estimated at 210 million euros (USD250 million).



**VENEZUELA's** former oil czar resigned as ambassador to the United Nations on what he said were orders from President Nicolas Maduro, a sign of growing divisions in the ruling socialist party amid a deepening economic crisis.

**ARGENTINA** A human rights group says DNA tests have determined the identity of another person taken from parents by the country's former dictator, bringing the number of such cases to 126. An estimated 30,000 people were jailed, tortured and killed or forcibly disappeared during the brutal 1976-1983 dictatorship.

Rock icon Johnny Hallyday, known as French Elvis, dies at 74

Elaine Ganley & Angela Charlton, Paris

**JOHNNY** Hallyday, France's biggest rock star for more than half a century and an icon who packed sports stadiums and all but lit up the Eiffel Tower with his pumping pelvis and high-voltage tunes, has died. He was 74.

President Emmanuel Macron announced his death in a statement yesterday, saying "he brought a part of America into our national pantheon." Macron's office said the president spoke with Hallyday's family but did not provide details about where the rocker died or the circumstances.

Hallyday had had lung cancer and repeated health scares in recent years that dominated national news, yet he continued performing as recently as this summer.

Celine Dion was among stars sharing condolences for a rocker with a famously gravelly voice who sold more than 100 million records, filled concert halls and split his time between Los Angeles and Paris.

Hallyday fashioned his glitzy stage aura from Elvis Presley, drew musical inspiration from Chuck Berry and Buddy Holly, performed with Jimi Hendrix, and made an album in country music's capital, Nashville, Tennessee.

His stardom largely ended at the French-speaking world, yet in France itself, he was an institution, with a postage stamp in his honor. He was the country's top rock 'n' roll star through more than five decades and eight presidents, and it



AP PHOTO

was no exaggeration when Macron wrote "the whole country is in mourning."

"We all have something of Johnny Hallyday in us," Macron said, praising "a sincerity and authenticity that kept alive the flame that he ignited in the public's heart."

The antithesis of a French hero right down to his Elvis-style glitter and un-French name, Hallyday was among the most familiar faces and voices in France, which knew him simply as Johnny, pronounced with a slight French accent and beloved across generations.

He released his last album "Rester Vivant" — or "Staying Alive" — last year, and performed this summer as part of the "Old Crooks" tour with long-time friends and veteran French musicians Eddy Mitchell and Jacques Dutronc.

Former President Nicolas Sarkozy, as mayor of

the rich enclave of Neuilly-sur-Seine on the western edge of Paris, presided in 1996 over the entertainer's marriage to his fourth wife, Laeticia.

"For each of us, he means something personal. Memories, happy moments, songs and music," Sarkozy said in 2009, days after Hallyday, then 66, was hospitalized in Los Angeles. Sarkozy called the Hallyday family during an EU summit and gave updates on the singer's condition during news conferences.

The health problems came amid a national tour that included a Bastille Day mega-concert July 14 at the Eiffel Tower with spectacular fireworks.

Hallyday sang some songs in English, including "Hot Legs" and "House of the Rising Sun," — the melody of which was also used for one of his most famous songs, the 1964 "Le Penitencier."

He was born in Paris on June 15, 1943, during the dark days of World War II with a less glamorous name, Jean-Philippe Smet. His parents had separated by the end of the year. The young Smet followed his father's sisters to London, where he met Ketchman.

Hallyday gave his first professional concert in 1960, under the name Johnny, and put out his first album a year later. AP



AP PHOTO

In this Sept. 27, 1971, file photo, French pop singer Johnny Hallyday performs at the Palais des Sports in Paris