



### 'PUBLIC FIGURES CAN BE FILMED'

Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak defended the police officer who filmed Sulu Sou's interview inside the AL

P7



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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

## WORLD BRIEFS



**NEPAL** An alliance of two major communist parties, one Maoist and the other Marxist-Leninist, is leading parliamentary election results in Nepal and could be forming the next government in the Himalayan nation.

**VIETNAM** Police have arrested a senior Communist Party official for alleged wrongdoing while he was head of energy giant PetroVietnam, official media said.

**RUSSIA** Authorities denied that a radioactivity spike in the air over Europe this fall resulted from a nuclear fuel processing plant leak in the Ural mountains, saying their probe has found no release of radioactivity there.

**INDIA-PAKISTAN** A Pakistani human rights activist who has campaigned for friendly ties with India has gone missing in the eastern city of Lahore.



**IRAN-BRITAIN** British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson raised the case yesterday of a dual national detained for allegedly plotting against Iran's government, when he met with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani during a two-day trip to Tehran.

More on backpage

## GAMING

# Galaxy planning resort in Boracay, Philippines

P4



## Arab ministers demand reversal of Trump's Jerusalem decision

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## Taivex/Malo Day Hospital to be evicted from Venetian Macao

On Saturday, Sands China confirmed that Taivex/Malo Day Hospital will be closed permanently and asked to move out of its Venetian Macao premises, following the suspension of its license by Macau's Health Bureau on the back of suspected illegal medical operations. The decision is likely to mean that Malo Clinic, which shares a license with the hospital, will also be forced to relocate. According to public broadcaster TDM, Sands China said it was taking preemptive measures after learning of the license suspension, in order to show its "commitment to the highest standards." The Taivex/Malo Day Hospital is expected to receive an eviction notice from The Venetian Macao shortly, after which it will have 40 days to leave the premises. The founder of the Malo Clinic Group told TDM that he was not aware of any eviction notice as of the weekend.

## Queensland Youth Symphony finishes Macau leg of tour

The Queensland Youth Symphony recently performed three concerts in Macau, Shenzhen and Hong Kong. The concerts are part of the 95-member orchestra's 13th international tour since 1972, and were their first ever performances in Macau and Shenzhen. The orchestra collaborated with local youth orchestras for joint rehearsals and performances during this leg of the tour, including the Macau Youth Symphony Orchestra. The band's performances were led by John Curro, the 85-year-old Italian-born Australian conductor who founded the Queensland Youth Symphony. The orchestra performs a series of annual concerts focusing on late 19th- and 20th-century works, as well as pieces by contemporary Australian composers.

## Albergue to hold ink, ceramic exhibition

To celebrate the 18th anniversary of Macau's handover to China, Albergue SCM will present "Exhibition by Zuo Zheng Yao" on December 13. The exhibition will showcase 49 ink and ceramic works, according to a press release by Albergue SCM. Hubei-born Zuo Zheng Yao is currently a professor at the Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts, as well as a member of the Ceramic Art Commission of China Artists Association. According to Albergue SCM, the exhibition aims to introduce Zuo's art to the public to foster cultural exchange between Macau and mainland China.

# Pacquiao says fight with McGregor may happen in Macau

**BOXER**-turned-senator Manny Pacquiao says he has opened talks on fighting mixed martial arts star Conor McGregor in April, when he takes a break from the Philippine legislature. He has also said that his next bout could be in Malaysia, Dubai or Macau.

The Philippine boxer, who is treated like a national hero in his home country, stressed that no fight has been finalized and it would depend on his April scheduling.

He emphasized McGregor is just one of many possible opponents when he returns to the ring for the first time since his defeat to Jeff Horn. "It depends who they can finalize as my opponent by April," he said. "If we can



Manny Pacquiao

negotiate it, I have no problem. It is okay with both of us."

But Pacquiao added that there are other possible opponents, including Horn

who took the World Boxing Organization (WBO) welterweight title in July, or American Keith Thurman, who holds the World Boxing Association (WBA) su-

per welterweight title and the World Boxing Council (WBC) welterweight title.

Both Pacquiao and McGregor lost high-profile, Las Vegas fights to the unbeaten Floyd Mayweather in 2015 and 2017 respectively.

Both were extremely hyped bouts, with McGregor vs. Mayweather dubbed the "Fight of the Century." That August fight was the mixed martial artist McGregor's first foray into boxing.

Last month, Pacquiao suggested on social media that a match might be in the works. He posted a message to McGregor on Twitter and Instagram, saying: "Happy Thanksgiving! Stay fit my friend. #realboxingmatch #2018 @thenotoriousmma."

## COURTS

# Man convicted for assault on smoking inspectors

**THE** Court of First Instance (TJB) have sentenced an offender with a term of nine months' imprisonment, suspended from execution for two years, in addition to requiring the offender to pay medical expenses and other compensations (a total of over MOP20,000) to the victims.

The case goes back to mid-May 2015 when two smoke inspectors were assaulted and insulted by the offender while they were performing a regular inspection at the Border Gate Bus Terminus.

At the time, the inspectors from the Health Bureau (SSM) witnessed the man smoking illegally on the mentioned venue and approached him, asking him to stop the action and cooperate with the issuing of his fine. The smoker did not cooperate with the agents, and tried to escape by pushing the smoke inspectors, causing them injuries while offending them verbally.

The police was called to intervene in the case and now the TJB has judged that the conduct of the offender constitutes both a "crime of resistance and coercion" and a "crime of disobedience," referred to in the Criminal Code of Macau, and consequently have applied a cumulative sentence of a nine months in prison.

The accused must also compensate the inspectors for their medical expenses as well as for other material and non-pecuniary damages, legal fees attached to the case, in a total amount of over MOP20,000. A revised version of the Smoking Prevention and Control Regime will enter into force on January 1, 2018, that, among other things, extends the smoking area ban to 10 meters away from bus stops and sees the fines for infractions committed to this regime increased from MOP600 to MOP1,500.

## MUSIC

# Macau Orchestra participates in event to mark Nanjing Massacre

**THE** Macao Orchestra (OM) was invited by the Jiangsu Centre for the Performing Arts to participate in the rehearsals and performance of the Grand Original Opera – The Diaries of John Rabe, in Nanjing from November 27 to December 16, in order to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the Nanjing Massacre. Eighteen OM musicians, including Section Principals, will join hands with members of famous arts groups from Jiangsu Province, offering local citizens an artistic performance of great significance.

The Grand Original Opera – The Diaries of John Rabe comprises a group of elite artists, including Chinese composer Tang Jianping, young writer Zhou Ke, opera director Elijah Moshinsky, OM's musical director and Principal Conductor, Lu Jia, several artists from China, the United Kingdom, the USA, Germany and Australia, as well as many stage design, props and lighting professionals from internationally renowned leading companies.

In addition, art troupes involved in the opera include the



Jiangsu Center for Performing Arts

Jiangsu Performing Arts Group (JPAG) Symphony Orchestra, the Opera and Dance Drama Theatre of the JPAG, the Student Choir Group of the School of Music of the Nanjing Normal University and the Macao Orchestra. The opera has a strong cast and it will undoubtedly be a high-quality, large-scale event.

The opera is based on John Rabe's eponymous book, a collection of the author's personal experiences during the Nanjing Massacre, which has great historical and literary value and is also an important source for historians. This extraordinary performance will debut on the National Memorial Day for the Victims of the Nanjing Massacre on December 13 at the Jiangsu Centre for the Performing Arts.

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# Appointment of Cecilia Tse to IC cautiously weighted, CE says

**T**HE Chief Executive (CE) said yesterday that he didn't suggest any name for the position of director of the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), following last week's resignation of IC director Leung Hio Ming and deputy director Chan Peng Fai. Chui said that he agreed with the appointment of the former deputy director of Tourism Office, Cecilia Tse, following a suggestion made by the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam.

Speaking during the "Walk for a Million" event, Chui remarked that Tam and his office made a "cautious choice," taking into consideration Tse's qualifications, professional experience and ability, noting that by today, all the administrative formalities will be concluded and Tse can take office.

Questioned on the appointment of a person to a position, when that person does not possess a deep knowledge of the field, the CE said, "in management, there are two perspectives, one of which is to appoint a person with



Chui Sai On (center) during the "Walk for a Million" event

professional experience and management qualifications [to perform the task], another would pass to appoint someone from the lower management level to support management."

Last week, Tam's office explained that the changes in the IC presidency are a direct result of the March re-

port from the Commission Against Corruption highlighting several unlawful hiring practices at the IC. The report was issued just weeks after a leadership change at the IC, in which former president Ung Vai Meng quit unexpectedly and was replaced by Leung Hio Ming.

After the "Charity Walk,"

the Secretary for Administration and Justice, Sonia Chan also spoke to the media. Regarding the disciplinary measures to be enforced on the former IC leaders, she noted, "the process is still on appeal phase, so the Pension Fund will await the final outcome in order to adopt the necessary measures."

## National Anthem Law draft to be concluded next month

The Secretary for Administration and Justice, Sonia Chan, said on Saturday that the Legal Affairs Bureau (DSAJ) is currently finalizing the legislative procedures of the "National Anthem Law". According to Chan, such procedures should be completed before the end of January next year. The Secretary added, "the DSAJ has been in communication with other relevant government departments, such as the Secretariat for Social Affairs and Culture, Government Information Bureau and Protocol, Public Relations and External Affairs Office with the purpose to prepare in advance regarding issues that might arise in the application of such law in the MSAR." She reaffirmed once more that the base principles of the law will be the ones from China's National Anthem Law with the necessary adjustments in its application to Macau.

## UM co-organizes conference on int'l law

Co-organized by the University of Macau (UM) and the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), the UNCITRAL-UM Joint Conference 2017 will be held today and tomorrow at the World Trade Center Macau. Titled "Modernization of National Commercial Laws and the Role of Legal Harmonization in International Commerce", the two-day conference will feature 40 experts from Australia, the United Kingdom, Hungary, Japan, Singapore, India, Bangladesh, mainland China, Hong Kong, and Macau, according to a statement issued by UM. The scholars will discuss different contemporary and emerging issues in the areas of international trade law and commercial law. The conference will be conducted in English.

AD

Macau Daily Times contest



Question for readers:

How many Tony Awards has the musical won?

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.



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 20 talented youngsters from Macao and Hong Kong playing the Von Trapp family children.

THE SOUND OF MUSIC



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.



Daniela Wei

## GAMING

**G**ALAXY Entertainment Group Ltd. is planning to develop a resort in the Philippines as casino operators seek out new markets for growth.

Galaxy's billionaire Deputy Chairman Francis Lui met with Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte last week to discuss gaming opportunities, Lui said in an email. Galaxy and its Philippines partner, Leisure & Resorts World Corp., plan to open a USD300 million to \$500 million casino on the resort island of Boracay, Philippine Amusement & Gaming Chairman Andrea Domingo said Thursday. The companies are applying for a license, she said.

Casino operators are fanning across Asia to build new gaming resorts, and the Philippines' loose regulation of gaming and young population has made it an attractive destination. President Rodrigo Duterte's bid to ease tensions with China is also helping to draw in gamblers from the mainland.

"Galaxy would like to play a role in the One Belt One Road initiative and we strongly believe the Philippines has great potential

and offers attractive opportunities," Lui said, referring to China's economic and diplomatic program to increase trade with countries in the region.

## Casino operators are fanning across Asia to build new gaming resorts

Melco Resorts & Entertainment Ltd. is now the only Macau-based operator that has a footprint in the Philippines. Its \$1 billion City of Dreams Manila, operated by the local unit of the operator, opened in Manila's Entertainment City in 2015. **Bloomberg**



A visitor walks past a flight of stairs in a lobby at the Galaxy Macau resort

## Gaming promotion law to take effect by 2018



Paulo Martins Chan

**T**HE current regulatory regime governing gaming promotion, first enacted in 2002, is facing amendments to tighten the activity of gaming promoters, according to Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau director Paulo Martins Chan on the sidelines of a gaming conference last week.

Back in 2015, the region's 126 junkets faced tighter regulations on gaming promotion. Chan said the regulations will "definitely enter the legislation process next year."

Additional reports noted that the government is proposing a higher capital deposit for licensed casino junkets that have just registered in Macau.

With the amendment bill, the government will also examine junkets' shareholder structure, suitability and financial strength.

Lawyer Jorge Neto Valente, a guest speaker at the conference, regarded tighter regulations as a positive development, but added that such restrictions would not discourage operators from applying for gaming licenses.

"I think it was time for the junkets' activity to be controlled, at least at a minimum. It was not good for the development of the activity, nor for the government or society, to [let it run wild] for so many years, but it's better now than never," Valente told the press.

"No one can say the gaming promoters are out of this race or the current licensed ones are going to keep their license. The truth is, if there's a tender, the gaming promoters can apply for it," he continued.

Valente also questioned the services that junkets can offer, given the limitations of land resources.

He argued that future gaming operators would be challenged to devise different service offerings beyond the standard hotels and gaming tables.

## HEALTH

## SSM investigating isolated 'legionella' case

**T**HE Health Bureau (SSM) has released a statement, informing the public of their current investigation of the allegedly isolated case of "legionella pneumophila," the bacteria responsible for the Legionnaires' disease.

According to the Bureau, on "December 5, [the SSM] detected an isolated case of legionella pneumophila and subsequently conducted a detailed epidemiological investigation, collecting samples of water suspected of contamination."

The patient, who lives in the Mei Keng Building, a five storey building, located near Luís de Camões Square, had no history of recent travel or a recent visit to the local hotel where legionella was found recently (The Parisian Macao) or the commercial area adjacent to the venue that was recently affected by the bacteria outbreak during the legionella incubation period.

The SSM also informed that on December 7, samples were collected at the water outlet points of the bathroom and kitchen in the patient's apartment and in three other apartments in the same building. They noted that the water supply system to the building runs directly from the public water supply network system and concluded that residents of other buildings should not be worried.

Since the building on the line is located near the Luís de Camões Garden, the SSM also collected water samples for analysis in the artificial waterfall and fountains of the garden and the preliminary results are expected to be known within two weeks' time. The Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) has also taken preventive measures in the garden, suspending the operation of the waterfall and fountains.

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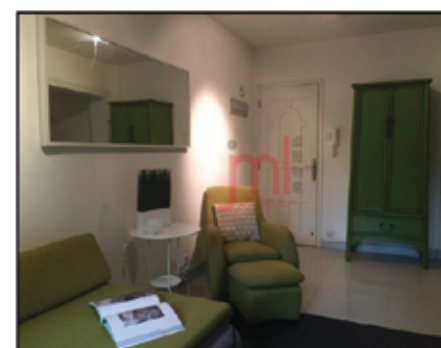
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(Ref: 17085533)

638 sq.ft. HKD 4.25M

Rate: HKD 6,661

Lovely apartment on the third floor of a five storey building in Taipa Village. Renovated 3 years ago the apartment has two good size bedrooms and separate walk in shower room. The apartment has been well maintained and managed by JML of the last eight years, historical maintenance data available on request. The main bedroom has ample space for double bed and plenty of storage.

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**T**HE UK Department for International Trade (DIT) of the British Consulate-General of Hong Kong has expressed its interest in boosting the city's partnership with the UK on creating opportunities for the two regions' creative sectors.

A total of 24 local young filmmakers have participated in the BFI Film Academy Project – a filmmaking training programme co-organized by IFFAM and the British Film Institute (BFI), an initiative of the second edition of the International Film Festival & Awards Macao (IFFAM).

The initiative produced two short films (both made with a low budget) under the guidance of BFI's filmmaking professionals.

Along with the British Film Institute, Paul McComb, the director general of DIT, told the Times that the department aims to produce and foster local film industry professionals.

The bureau also intends to continually attract investors from Hong Kong and Macau as there is a significant market and appetite for innovation and for investing in design, creativity, and film in both regions.

Speaking on the sidelines of the "UK Night" – an event organized by DIT with the aim of showcasing the British film industry – McComb expressed that since the region has ambitions of

IFFAM

## UK official expresses interest in boosting city's creative sector

expanding and diversifying its leisure and tourism sector, investment in films or shows should be carefully considered as a means to show the region to the world and hopefully encourage them to visit the region.

"The big priorities for the team and me is to make sure we make the most of that [investment] for the UK and for Macau," said McComb.

"I'll hopefully be talking to Secretary Alexis Tam later on and we'll discuss this later, as a good area for Macau to consider its investment," he continued.

The director general is positive on its continuous trade relationship with Macau and Hong Kong, adding that the UK has a lot more innovative firms to offer.

The director general also said that compared to many parts of the globe, Hong Kong is by far one of the easiest countries to trade with.

"For a lot of British companies, they are getting excited in bringing innovative technologies, different focus and designs," he said.

Early next year, the UK de-



Paul McComb

partment is set to hold its biggest festival, which will bring companies from the UK to Hong Kong, along with speakers from around the globe.

Also, during the "UK Night," which was organized on Saturday, film screenings of "Journey's End," and "My Generation with the movies" were held and selected cast and crew were present. **LV**

### EQUIPMENT FAILURE AT CINEMATHEQUE PASSION

**DUE TO** equipment failure, the screening of the film "Rashomon" at Cinematheque Passion on Saturday – as part of the second IFFAM – did not proceed as scheduled. However, the IFFAM Organizing Committee announced that the equipment was restored yesterday morning and all public screenings at the theater will be resumed as

scheduled. The new schedule of the film "Rashomon" will be announced at a later time. According to a statement, a few of the affected viewers have chosen to switch to other films in the IFFAM program; while the committee noted that those who still preferred to watch the film at a rescheduled time slot will be notified.

## Security chief says 'public figures can be filmed in public spaces'

**SECRETARY** for Security Wong Sio Chak commented on the case of the police officer that was questioned by lawmaker Sulu Sou last week, while recording Sou speaking to journalists at the Legislative Assembly (AL).

"Public figures can be filmed in public spaces and they are aware of this fact," Wong said, adding, "Image recording is part of the work of safeguarding the order [that is the duty of all officers]."

Questioned by journalists yesterday on the sidelines of the "Walk for a Million," Wong reaffirmed that according to the law, the president of the AL can request support from the police to maintain order, noting that there is an ordinary communication mechanism between the two parties.



Wong Sio Chak (center)

The secretary also commented on the penalties given to the customs officers that hoisted the national flag of China upside-down.

Asked if the punishment of customs agents was too lenient, the secretary replied, "the cases occurred in April and July respectively, and the two officers considered guilty of misconduct in

the July case were punished with a fine. Concerning the case in April, the situation was more serious not only because it was never communicated to the superior officer, but also because it caused a direct response from society, [... justifying the] need for a punishment of suspension of duties." Wong added that he hopes that the

officer will learn from the mistake, and that he will be more responsible and take his duties more seriously in future.

In addition, he also commented on the substitution of the director of the Judiciary Police (PJ). "The replacement of [the director] at the PJ will not affect the normal functioning of the body," he said, noting that the power to appoint a new director is vested in the Chief Executive.

Currently the deputy director, Sit Chong Meng, assumes the position temporarily. Wong recalled that according to the law, the director of the PJ must be someone coming from a magistrate or prosecution background, or a first class inspector with at least five years of experience. **RM**

TOURISM

## Indonesia eyes Macau, Hong Kong markets to boost tourism

**INDONESIA** has planned to hold events to sell tour packages in Macau and Hong Kong on Dec. 12 and Dec. 14 respectively, aimed at further tapping into the two markets, a senior official of the country's Tourism Ministry said.

Deputy Minister for International Marketing Development at the ministry Gde Pitana said the ministry would send 11 sellers from Bali, Surabaya, Lombok, Jakarta, Sabang, North Sulawesi, Papua and Riau Islands to the two events.

Most of Indonesian sellers would highlight marine and undersea tours with several tour packages in Indonesia's prominent diving and snorkeling spots.

Besides Bali, tour packages to be offered for poten-

tial tourists in Macau and Hong Kong among others were Bunaken, Raja Amat, Mansuar Island, Mike's Point and Manta's point.

"Indonesia has plenty of beautiful undersea spots for diving and snorkeling. Indonesia had just earned The Best Dive Destination award in the recent World Travel Market event in London last month," Pitana said recently.

He said the upcoming sales mission events will be held at Macau's Hotel Royal and Hong Kong's Kimberly Hotel and were highly expected to successfully boost tourism.

Indonesia's upcoming tour package sales events were particularly expected to attract more tourists from the Chinese mainland to visit Indonesia via Hong Kong, Pitana added. **MDT/Xinhua**



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# News At Hand



“ THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’ ”



BLOOMBERG



# Never heard of Hoed & Shouders? It's a top seller in Venezuela

Patricia Laya

**Y**OU most likely have tried, or at least heard of, Head & Shoulders shampoo. But Hoed & Shouders? No? How about Max Quattro razors or Aluays pads or Yahnsan's soap?

In the economic basket case that is Venezuela, these are the

hot new consumer products. Very distant relatives of famous American-born brands, they are crowding shelves that earlier this year were pretty much empty of anything, authentic or otherwise, that most people could afford.

Now there's an alternative-universe bonanza of cypcats from China with labels that read like brand names tossed

into a blender.

Shoppers might be fooled by packaging that shamelessly mimics what's for sale in the U.S. The unpronounceable Convenrt, for instance, is in Colgate toothpaste's classic white-on-red script. But flip the containers around, and the fine print discloses that the items hail from Hong Kong, or Guandong, or Fujian

provinces. Some don't list any ingredients; some list a few that are vaguely similar to what's in the original. While these knockoffs would seem to infringe on the intellectual property of companies like Johnson & Johnson and Procter & Gamble Co., legal cases can be tough to pursue in developing countries like Venezuela.

The surge in knockoffs is wel-

come—though not exactly a cause for celebration—in a country where the socialist government's byzantine system of economic controls has sparked acute shortages of toilet paper, antibiotics, bread, and much more. That the clones are on the cheapish side is a plus. Inflation is out of control in Venezuela, running at an annual pace of more than 4,000 percent over the past three months, according to Bloomberg's Cafe Con Leche Index.

■ **Flip the containers around, and the fine print discloses that the items hail from HK, or Guandong, or Fujian provinces**

Head & Shoulders sells for 118,000 bolivares, but Hoed & Shouders is 32,000. That's about half the cost of a filling lunch in Caracas. Not bad, especially if it really makes your scalp stop itching. **Bloomberg**

# Two princes and an emirate: Record Da Vinci spurs many 'buyers'

Katya Kazakina, Nafeesa Syeed

**A**NOTHER day and another high-profile buyer has emerged for the record USD450 million purchase of Leonardo Da Vinci's "Salvator Mundi." In the span of just three days, two princes and an emirate have been named as either buyers, acquirers or proxy purchasers - depending on whom you believe.

Amid the conflicting reports, the Abu Dhabi Department of Culture and Tourism issued a statement Friday that it acquired the painting for display at the country's new museum, Louvre Abu Dhabi. Christie's, the auction house behind the sale, and the Saudi Embassy in Washington separately confirmed the information.

The confusing saga started on Dec. 6 when the Louvre Abu Dhabi tweeted that it was getting the most expensive painting in the world. The news was quickly followed by



People gather around Leonardo da Vinci's "Salvator Mundi" on display at Christie's auction rooms in London

a New York Times story identifying Saudi Prince Bader bin Abdullah bin Mohammed bin Farhan al Saud as the buyer, citing documents it reviewed.

The following day, the Wall Street Journal reported that Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman was the true buyer, citing a source in the U.S. government intelligence community and a Saudi art-world figure familiar with the purchase.

The crown prince has

been silent on the matter. But on Friday, Saudi Arabia's embassy weighed in.

In response to media reports about the sale, the embassy said it contacted the office of Prince Bader, which confirmed the artwork was "acquired" by the Abu Dhabi culture department.

The inquiry revealed that Prince Bader "as a friendly supporter of the Louvre Abu Dhabi, attended its opening ceremony on November 8 and was

subsequently asked by the Abu Dhabi Department of Culture and Tourism to act as an intermediary purchaser for the piece,"

■ **The confusing saga started on Dec. 6 when the Louvre Abu Dhabi tweeted that it was getting the most expensive painting in the world**

according to the statement.

The kerfuffle comes as Saudi Arabia's crown prince is undertaking an anti-corruption campaign. More than 300 people were summoned for questioning and 159 were placed in detention, Saudi Arabia's attorney general has said. Bank accounts of 376 individuals, all of whom are either detainees or people linked to them, have been frozen.

The news of the dueling purchasers has been the talk of the art world during Art Basel Miami Beach, where the world's leading galleries and collectors gathered for the largest contemporary art fair in the U.S.

When Prince Bader's identity was initially revealed, collectors mused whether the painting would be a loan or a gift to the Louvre Abu Dhabi - and how he could be allowed to pursue such a purchase during the kingdom's crackdown on graft.

"The thing is very odd," said Jean Pigozzi, a collector of African art, about Prince Bader's role. "All these rich guys are detained in the hotel and this guy pops up and signs a check for \$450 million?"

Perhaps that explains why the Saudi embassy, in an e-mail to reporters, said: "In light of the erroneous reports on the da Vinci painting purchase, the Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has issued a statement to set the record straight."

The painting, which depicts Jesus Christ holding a glass ball in one hand, was sold at Christie's by Russian billionaire Dmitry Rybolovlev on Nov. 15. Since then, the identity of the buyer has been the most sought-after secret.

"This is not your standard art-market story," art blogger Lee Rosenbaum said today. "You may need to have possession of this crystal ball to be able to predict what happens next." **Bloomberg**



## HONG KONG

# Executives arrested as 'Enigma Network' probe stepped up

Sam Mamudi

**F**IVE months after one of the most dramatic stock crashes in Hong Kong history, the city's authorities are stepping up their investigation into a group of companies that one prominent investor has dubbed the "Enigma Network."

Hong Kong's anti-corruption and securities regulators searched eight locations and arrested three senior company executives on Thursday, the Independent Commission Against Corruption said in a statement. The actions were related to the Enigma Network, a group of 50 listed businesses highlighted by activist investor David Webb for their complex web of cross-shareholdings, according to a person with knowledge of the matter.

Many of those stocks plunged suddenly on June 27, some by as much as 90 percent, in a crash that underscored concerns about wild price swings and concentrated ownership of small-

BLOOMBERG



cap companies in Hong Kong's USD5.1 trillion equity market. The city's regulators have vowed to crack down on stock manipulation, with Securities and Futures Commission enforcement head Tom Atkinson saying in October that "anyone who has

been exploiting investors through this type of scheme should not underestimate our resolve to stop them."

Thursday's actions came two months after the SFC's largest-ever search operation. That raid was also related to the Enigma

Network investigation, said the person with knowledge of the matter, who asked not to be identified because the probe's details aren't public.

Atkinson said in October that the searches were related to "the emergence of nefarious groups

of interrelated companies that work in coordination to extract value from unsuspecting investors." The latest raid by the SFC and ICAC was their first-ever joint operation.

While authorities didn't release the names of companies they searched Thursday, Convoy Global Holdings Ltd., one of the businesses Webb included in the Enigma Network, said in a statement that it had suspended two of its executive directors after they were involved in a law enforcement action. The company halted trading in its shares on Thursday morning.

Lerado Financial Group Co., another firm Webb placed in the network, said Friday it had been "invited to assist" ICAC in an investigation, without giving more details. The company, whose shares have been suspended since June, is providing the agency with documents and records, it said in a statement.

Trading in six of the 50 Enigma stocks has been suspended, Webb said in a phone interview on Friday. He added that, in some instances, the SFC should seek to have the companies liquidated.

"In several of the cases they should go to court and ask for winding up orders to liquidate these companies' assets and return the proceeds to shareholders," Webb said. **Bloomberg**

## Beijing accuses Australian leader of undermining trust

**C**HINA on Friday said Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull has undermined mutual trust by accusing foreign powers of seeking to influence the country's political process.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said Turnbull's remarks were prejudiced against China and had poisoned the atmosphere of China-Australia relations.

"We are astounded by the relevant remarks of the Australian leader. Such remarks simply cater to the irresponsible reports by some Australian media that are without principle and full of bias against China," Geng said at a regularly scheduled briefing.

"It poisons the atmosphere of the China-Australia relationship and undermines the foundation of mutual trust and bilateral cooperation. We express strong dissatisfaction with that and have made a serious complaint with the Australian side," he said.

AP PHOTO



Australia's Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull

China is Australia's largest trading partner and its biggest source of foreign political funds. Australian law has never distinguished between donors from Australia and overseas.

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 on Tuesday.

Under the proposed legislation, it would become a crime for a person to

act on behalf of a foreign principal to influence a political or governmental process in a manner that is either covert or involves deception.

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. Dastyari, who was demoted last week, then misrepresented Australia's

policy on China's sweeping territorial claims in the South China at a news conference held exclusively for Chinese reporters and attended by Huang.

**We are astounded by the relevant remarks of the Australian leader.**

GENG SHUANG  
FOREIGN MINISTRY  
SPOKESMAN

The Chinese Embassy in Australia issued a strongly worded statement on Wednesday accusing Australian media of fabricating stories about Chinese government meddling and vilifying Chinese students and the Chinese community in Australia.

"China has no intention to interfere in Australia's internal affairs or exert influence on its political process through political donations," the statement said. **AP**

## German intelligence warns of increased Chinese cyberspying

**T**HE head of Germany's domestic intelligence agency is warning that China is using social networks to try to cultivate sources of information.

Hans-Georg Maassen said in comments released yesterday that his agency is so far aware of 10,000 German citizens targeted by China, in particular politicians and members of government agencies. Using primarily LinkedIn, Maassen says China's spy agency has established multiple fake profiles to pose as headhunting agencies, consulting firms, think-tanks or researchers.

He says China has also been using so-called "supply-chain attacks" in cyberspace, whereby they target IT workers and others to find a backdoor into the networks of organizations they're interested in.

He says his organization has increased its focus to defend against these threats and published a list of the most prolific fake profiles and organizations.





# Top leaders throw weight behind push to control debt

**C**HINA'S top leaders said they will effectively control leverage next year and prevent major risks, stepping up their pledges to ensure stability amid rising debt.

Authorities will aim to give more support to the real economy and promote higher-quality and more efficient development, according to the official Xinhua News Agency, citing a statement late Friday after a Communist Party Politburo meeting led by President Xi Jinping.

Policy makers mapped out three major tasks, placing risk reduction as the top priority. "Leverage should be effectively controlled,

the financial sector should better support the real economy, and progress should be made in reducing risks," the statement said.

Poverty reduction and cutting pollution were listed as the other two missions. The Politburo also stressed social stability, work safety and property reforms, according to the statement.

The meeting of senior leadership is a prelude to the Central Economic Work Conference expected to be held later this month. There, policy makers have historically established priorities and set the tone for monetary and fiscal policies in the coming year, saying at their December 2016 gathering

they planned prudent and neutral monetary policy in 2017.

"This sets the tone for the upcoming central economic conference, making deleveraging the top priority for 2018," Shen Jianguang, chief Asia economist at Mizuho Securities Asia Ltd. in Hong Kong, said by email Friday. He said policy makers are signaling they may tighten monetary policy.

Bloomberg Economics economists Fielding Chen and Tom Orlik estimate China's total debt will reach 327 percent of gross domestic product by 2022, double the level in 2008.

Ding Shuang, chief economist

for Greater China & North Asia at Standard Chartered Bank Ltd., said by email Friday that the work conference is likely to be held on Dec. 13, basing his expectation on conference dates in previous years.

He pointed out that this year's statement omitted the phrase "appropriately expanding aggregate demand," an expression used in statements of similar meetings in 2015 and 2016. The omission signals more tolerance of slower growth during the deleveraging process, Ding said.

"The government may keep the 2018 growth target at 'around 6.5 percent,' without pledging to beat

the target," he said. That could mean that monetary policy will remain neutral with a slight tightening bias.

"Policy makers are reiterating their commitment to structural adjustments, which would amount to a de-facto policy tightening," said Yao Wei, chief China economist at Societe Generale SA in Paris. "That also means they're de-emphasizing the numeric growth target."

## ■ Poverty reduction and cutting pollution were listed as the other two missions

Xi has reason to be upbeat this year as economists have ratcheted up full-year 2017 economic growth forecasts and now expect a 6.8 percent expansion that would be the first acceleration in seven years. Data earlier Friday showed exports and imports exceeded economist estimates in November, signaling robust demand in the domestic economy.

A separate item carried by Xinhua late Friday cited Xi saying China should "implement new concepts and focus on new targets in its economic work next year." It said Xi spoke at a symposium attended by representatives of non-Communist parties and those without party affiliations on Wednesday.

"The essential feature of the economy at the present stage is that it is in a transitional period from a phase of rapid growth to a stage of high-quality development," Xi said. The shift is imperative to maintain sustainable and healthy growth of the economy and society, he told the gathering. **Bloomberg**

# Audit finds provinces faked data and borrowed illegally

**C**HINA found some local governments inflated revenue levels and raised debt illegally in a nationwide audit, a setback for Beijing in its bid to boost the credibility of economic data after a run of scandals.

Ten cities, counties or districts in the Yunnan, Hunan and Jilin provinces, as well as the southwestern city of Chongqing, inflated fiscal revenues by 1.55 billion yuan (USD234 million), the National Audit Office said in a statement on its

website dated Dec. 8.

Of that, 1.24 billion yuan was from the Wangcheng district in the provincial capital of Hunan, where officials faked the ownership transfer of local government buildings to boost income.

The inspection, which covered the third quarter, also found that five cities or counties in the Jiangxi, Shaanxi, Gansu, Hunan and Hainan provinces raised about 6.43 billion yuan in debts by violating rules, such as offering commitment letters.

The findings are a blow to China's bid to rein in data fraud, which has been widespread in some of the poorer provinces where officials were incentivized to inflate the numbers as a way of advancing their careers.

Concern from investors wanting to be able to trust data out of the world's second-largest economy led to the government trying to crack down on the practice, with President Xi Jinping saying in March

that data fraud "must be throttled," according to the state-run Xinhua News Agency.

Rigid stability in provincial data on growth and employment has long sparked questions from economists, with the rust-belt province of Liaoning, in China's northeast, famously admitting back in January that it had fabricated fiscal data from 2011 to 2014. Some regions and cities in Jilin province and Inner Mongolia also falsified reports,

the Communist Party's Central Commission for Discipline Inspection said in June, without providing details.

## ■ Officials faked the ownership transfer of local government buildings to boost income

Six counties or cities in Jilin listed 110 million yuan of project funds or hospital operating in-

come as administrative income in a bid to bolster the figure, while the Banan district of Chongqing was able to inflate revenue by 20 million yuan by charging two private schools for the use of state-owned assets and promising to return the money at a later date.

A new supervisory body was set up within China's statistics office in April to bolster and ensure data authenticity and quality. The country is also shifting to the latest United Nations-based statistical standard and using computers - rather than local reports - to calculate provincial gross domestic product, the chief economist said in September. **Bloomberg**



# GOP governor sides with Indonesians facing deportation

Michael Casey

SINCE he became governor, Chris Sununu has rarely clashed with President Donald Trump, supporting the travel ban on citizens from several mostly Muslim nations and quick to play up visits he has made the White House.

But when Trump's immigration crackdown reached the state's tiny Indonesian community this year, Sununu wrote a letter to his fellow Republican in October in which he said he was "respectfully requesting your administration reconsider its decision to deport these individuals" and urging it consider a "resolution that would allow them to remain in the United States."

Sununu insisted the case of the Indonesians was different from that of visitors from the Middle East or Syrian refugees hoping to settle in New Hampshire. The Indonesians had been in the state for decades, raising families, working and staying out of trouble, he argues.

"This really isn't an issue of illegal immigration in the traditional sense. That is often what we hear from the Trump administration, and that is an issue that has to be dealt on the national scale," Sununu told The Associated Press in an interview. "What you have here is a unique situation."

Sununu has been praised by



Poppy Sombah (left) and Freddy Sombah listen to an Indonesian community leader at their home in Somersworth

Democrats in New Hampshire who have championed the Indonesians' case while Republicans, and even anti-immigrant Trump supporters, have said little about the decision.

Political experts said there are risks for Sununu in embracing the Indonesians ahead of a re-election bid next year. But in a swing state with a Democratic congressional delegation, the move shouldn't hurt him and shows that he "is independent to make up his own mind based on the facts," said Wayne Lesperance, a political science professor at New England College.

"You could argue this represents a little bit of a risk with the base," Lesperance said. "But the flip side of that [...] is that most

people in New Hampshire, if they reviewed this specific case, would come to the same conclusion that the governor did."

## We were in shock.

POPPY SOMBAH

The nearly 70 Indonesians in New Hampshire and Massachusetts are mostly Christians and fled religious persecution before and after the fall of former dictator Suharto in 1998. In the chaos that followed, riots broke out and mobs targeted ethnic Chinese and other minorities in the

mostly Muslim country.

Many of the Indonesians came to seacoast communities in New Hampshire, where they found jobs and raised families. In a 2009 deal brokered by Democratic U.S. Sen. Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire, they were allowed to stay as long as they regularly reported to Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The agreement was separate from the special refugee program known as temporary protected status and only applied to those living in New Hampshire.

But in past six months, as part of a wider crackdown on immigration since Trump took office, they have been told they had to prepare to leave the country.

Some said they feared returning at a time of growing intolerance and violence against Christians, noting that the Christian governor of Jakarta was imprisoned for blasphemy this year.

Freddy and Poppy Sombah, who fled Indonesia 14 years ago with one of their three children, said that they had endured harassment from their mostly Muslim neighbors, and that Poppy Sombah's family disowned her after she converted to Christianity from Islam.

The couple, both now in their 60s, settled into an apartment complex with other Indonesian families in Somersworth and found factory jobs.

But in July on a routine immigration check-in, they were told

they would have to leave the country and show proof they had bought a plane ticket to Indonesia on their next visit. They were due to leave in September.

"We were in shock," said Poppy Sombah, sitting next to her husband in an apartment filled with family photos and a portrait of Jesus. "I was very sad, but there was nothing we could do."

Their case and others drew the attention of both Democrats and Republicans.

Lawyers for the Indonesians referenced the support of Sununu, as well as members of the state's Democratic congressional delegation, when they persuaded a judge to rule in November that a federal court has the authority to take up their case, allowing the Indonesians to stay — for now.

"It's wonderful, and we are thankful," Poppy Sombah said. "We didn't expect that to happen, that the governor himself would support us. He's a Republican."

New Jersey also has a small Indonesian community at risk, but Republican Gov. Chris Christie has not commented.

In Connecticut, a former Fulbright scholar from Indonesia took sanctuary inside a church in October after he was ordered by ICE to board a plane. Democratic Gov. Dannel P. Malloy did not return messages.

Supporting the Indonesians was an easy decision, Sununu said, and had nothing to do with politics or religion.

"This is simply a humanitarian issue," said Sununu, who met with several Indonesians facing deportation at his office. "It's my job as governor to stand up and fight for constituents when there is a wrong." AP

# Philippines wants money back from Sanofi for dengue vaccine

THE Philippine government will demand a refund of 3.5 billion pesos (USD69.5 million) from vaccine maker Sanofi Pasteur and look at possible legal action after a study showed the vaccine used in a dengue immunization program could expose some people to severe illness, the health chief said Friday.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said the government will also seek compensation for treatment of children who may develop severe dengue. No deaths have been confirmed, but at least one immunized child has developed dengue.

The Department of Health put on hold its dengue immunization drive, which was launched last year

and is the world's first such public program, after France-based Sanofi Pasteur released the study last week.

A small group of protesters called on the government to take action against the health secretaries who supported the vaccination program under the previous and current administrations in a rally at the Department of Health in Manila. The protesters brought a 12-year-old boy who they said received the dengue vaccine.

Former Health Secretary Janette Garin told ABS-CBN TV that there was no warning given by Sanofi in her time that the dengue vaccine Dengvaxia carried a risk for those who have not been infected. She said she was ready to

face a Senate investigation next week.

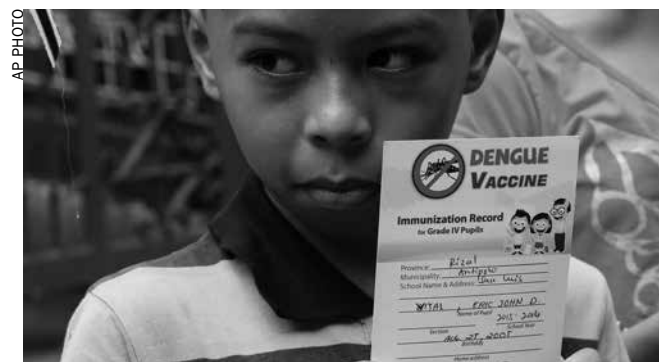
More than 730,000 public school children aged 9 and above in three Philippine regions with high rates of dengue fever have received at least the first dose of Dengvaxia, the first licensed dengue vaccine.

Sanofi Pasteur said its long-term follow-up study of the vaccine showed sustained benefits for up to six years for those who had a previous dengue infection, but that people who never had dengue had an increased risk of a severe case and hospitalization from the third year after immunization.

"We will demand the refund of the 3 billion paid for the Dengvaxia and that Sanofi set up an indemnification fund to cover the hospitalization and medical treatment for all children who might have severe dengue," Duque said at a news conference, adding that a government legal team will also look into Sanofi's accountability.

The pharmaceutical giant initially claimed that the vaccine was safe and effective for all people aged 9 to 45, but later acknowledged that it "is not recommended for people who have had no prior dengue infection" due to the risk of a severe case, Duque said.

At least one 12-year-old from northern Tarlac province developed dengue after being immunized but recovered, Duque said, although he did not say if Dengvaxia caused



Eric John Vital, 12, holds his vaccination record as he joins other protesters at a rally outside the Department of Health

the infection.

Another possible dengue case was being investigated, he said.

Sanofi Pasteur said Friday it's working with Philippine authorities to address fears and share new information about the vaccine, and will cooperate in an ongoing review of the public vaccination program.

Duque said the Philippines will wait for a recommendation to be released next week by a group of immunization experts who provide advice to the

World Health Organization.

WHO says about half the world's population is at risk of dengue, with a recent estimate indicating 390 million infections per year.

Dengue is a mosquito-borne viral infection found in tropical and subtropical climates worldwide. It is a flu-like disease that can cause joint pain, nausea, vomiting and a rash and can cause breathing problems, hemorrhaging and organ failure in severe cases. AP



## Officials from UN, N. Korea agree situation is dangerous

**T**HE United Nations says its political chief and North Korea's foreign minister agree that the current situation on the Korean peninsula is the most dangerous security issue in the world.

U.N. Undersecretary-General for Political Affairs Jeffrey Feltman returned Friday from a four-day visit to North Korea, where he met with officials including North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho.

U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric says Saturday that Feltman and his hosts agreed that the Korean situation is "the most tense and dangerous peace and security issue" in the world today.

Feltman's visit came at a time of high tension between North Korea, South Korea, Japan and the United States, sparked by North Korea's frequent missile launches.

Dujarric says Feltman told the North Koreans there can only be a diplomatic solution. **AP**

## VIETNAM

# American evangelist leads rare event

Yves Dam Van, Hanoi

**M**ORE than 10,000 Vietnamese filled up a stadium in a rare Christian evangelistic event led by the Rev. Franklin Graham, who said he wants the communist government to consider Christians its best citizens.

Despite sweeping economic reforms over the past 30 years that made Vietnam one of the fastest growing countries in the region, the ruling Communist Party maintains strict control over all aspects of society, from media to religions. According to Human Rights Watch, more than 100 Vietnamese are in prison for peaceful religious and political activities.

Graham told The Associated Press that the prayer rally in Hanoi on Friday was unprecedented in size for Vietnam and the government did not attach any conditions for the event, which took a year to organize. Authorities granted permission last week, he said.

"This is unprecedented really for us and for the government," Graham said. "We don't want to do anything that would embarrass the government or the people of Vietnam. Again we're guests, the government has not told me what to say or not say. I'm going to talk about God we are not here to talk about politics."

Graham said he hoped the government through the event will see Christianity in a different way.

"I hope the government will see that Christians are not enemies, but Christians are some of the best citizens in Vietnam and people that they can trust and depend on," he said. "I hope it would be good for the churches and I hope this meeting would be good for the government and they will see us in a different light after this week."

A second prayer rally is scheduled for Saturday night. The government was not available for comment Saturday.

Graham, who is president and

CEO of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and one of the most prominent American preachers, said that religious freedom has gradually improved in Vietnam.

"The fact that we are here today and that I'm going to be preaching Friday and Saturday in Hanoi, the capital of Vietnam, that is huge," he said. "It shows you how much the government has changed in the last 20 years."

Despite some improvements, the U.S. State Department said in its annual global report on religious freedom that authorities continued to limit activities of unrecognized religious groups and those without certificates of registration for religious activities, particularly those groups believed to be engaged in political activity. Some religious leaders reported various forms of harassment, including physical assault, short-term detention, prosecution, monitoring, restrictions on travel, property seizure or destruction, it said.



Evangelical preacher Franklin Graham speaks in front of an audience in Hanoi

Thadeus Nguyen Van Ly, a Roman Catholic priest and founder of the democracy group Bloc 8406, was released last year after serving eight years in prison on charges of conducting anti-government propaganda.

Those attending Friday's rally said they were thrilled.

"It's very impressive," said Nguyen Thi Lan, who watched the event on a large screen set up outside the Quan Ngua Sports Stadium. "I hope through this event, more people would come to know Jesus and believe in God."

There are about 6.5 million Catholics and more than 1 million Protestants among Vietnam's 95 million people, majority of whom are Buddhists. **AP**

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# Arab ministers demand reversal of Trump Jerusalem decision

Hamza Hendawi, Cairo

**A**RAB foreign ministers yesterday demanded that the United States rescind President Donald Trump's decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital, calling it a "grave" development that puts Washington on the same side as "occupation" and the violation of international law.

In a resolution long on rhetoric but short on concrete actions, the ministers also called for the U.N. Security Council to adopt a resolution condemning Trump's decision, but acknowledged that Washington would most likely veto it.

If the U.S. vetoes the resolution, the Arabs would seek a similar resolution in the U.N. General Assembly, Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad Al-Maliki told a pre-dawn news conference in Cairo.

A two-page resolution adopted by the emergency meeting, which began Saturday night, did not include any punitive actions against the United States, like a call for a boycott of American products or suspending or downgrading ties with Washington.

It also appeared to fall short of matching the anger felt by Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and West Bank, which have seen three days of violent protests against Trump's decision.

"We have taken a political decision not meant to reflect [what is going on in] the streets. Political work is responsible work," said Arab League chief Ahmed Aboul-Gheit. "Jerusalem has been occupied for 50 years. This is an extended battle, a battle that will be escalated," he told the news conference.

The resolution said the ministers



Palestinians run away from a sound bomb during clashes with Israeli security forces following a protest against U.S. President Donald Trump's decision

would meet again within a month and held out the possibility that an emergency Arab summit would be held in Jordan to discuss Jerusalem.

Trump's Dec. 6 announcement on Jerusalem, and his intention to move the U.S. Embassy there, triggered denunciations from around the world, with even close allies suggesting he had needlessly stirred more conflict in an already volatile region. Jerusalem's status lies at the core of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and Trump's move was widely perceived as siding with Israel. Even small crises over Jerusalem's status and that of the holy sites in its ancient Old City have sparked deadly bloodshed in the past.

Arab diplomats said some Arab League members had wanted a more hard-line resolution, including punitive measures against countries that follow the U.S.

example and recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

That was considered too radical by moderate Arab nations and eventually dropped, according to the diplomats who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief the media.

But Al-Maliki, the Palestinian Foreign Minister, sought to play down differences, saying the meeting produced "complete" unity among Arab nations.

"There were differences in assessment when we moved to specifying measures," he said. "But in the end we agreed on gradually escalating measures."

Both Aboul-Gheit and Al-Maliki said Arab nations remained committed to a 2002 Arab peace plan that provides for recognition of Israel in exchange for lands occupied by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war.

"That plan is a key reference in the Middle East peace process," Al-Maliki told the news conference.

Trump's decision, according to the Arab resolution, was "illegal" and a "dangerous violation" of international law. "It's a dangerous development that places the United States at a position of bias in favor of the occupation and the violation of international law and resolutions."

Israel occupied and later annexed the eastern part of Jerusalem in the 1967 Middle East war, declaring the holy city its eternal capital. Palestinians want that part to be the capital of their future state.

Trump's decision, said the resolution, also stripped the U.S. of its role as a "sponsor and broker" in the Mideast peace process, and "undermines efforts to bring about peace, deepens tension and will spark anger that will threaten to push the region to the edge of

the abyss of violence, chaos and bloodshed."

The resolution adopted by the ministers reiterated that only the creation of an independent Palestinian state with east Jerusalem as its capital would end the Arab-Israeli conflict. It also mandated the Arab League to launch an "international media campaign" explaining the "gravity" of the American decision.

## ■ Trump's decision, according to the Arab resolution, was 'illegal' and a 'dangerous violation' of international law

During a 2 1/2 hour session carried live on regional and local TV networks, the ministers gave speech after speech on the issue of Jerusalem, with comments ranging from blasting Trump's decision to the need for concrete action to musings on whether fiery speeches would change anything.

"If we do nothing about this one [Trump's decision], there will be many, many more tragedies," warned Iraq's foreign minister, Ibrahim al-Jaafari. "No normalization [with Israel] and no compromises."

Al-Jaafari later told reporters he thought the resolution did not match the seriousness of the situation over Jerusalem and that Baghdad would at a later date lodge its "reservations" with the Arab league.

Addressing the meeting, Lebanon's foreign minister, Gibran Bassil, suggested that there might be a silver lining in the latest crisis to hit an Arab world locked in conflict with Israel for nearly 70 years.

"Could this calamity bring us together and wake us from our slumber?" he told the meeting. **AP**

HERITAGE | EGYPT

## Archaeologists discover 2 ancient tombs in Luxor

Ahmed Hatem, Luxor

**E**GYPT on Saturday announced the discovery of two small ancient tombs in the southern city Luxor dating back some 3,500 years and hoped it will help the country's efforts to revive its ailing tourism sector.

The tombs, located on the west bank of the river Nile in a cemetery for noblemen and top officials, are the latest discovery in the city famed for its temples and tombs spanning different dynasties of ancient Egyptian history.

"It's truly an exceptional day," Antiquities Minister Khaled al-Anani said. "The 18th dynasty private tombs were already known. But it's the first time to enter inside the two tombs."

Al-Anani said the discoveries are part of the ministry's efforts to promote Egypt's vital tourism industry, partially driven by antiquities sightseeing, that was hit hard by extremist attacks and political turmoil following the 2011 uprising.

The ministry said one tomb has a courtyard lined with mud-brick and

stone walls and contains a six-meter burial shaft leading to four side chambers. The artifacts found inside were mostly fragments of wooden coffins. Wall inscriptions and paintings suggest it belongs to era between the reigns of King Amenhotep II and King Thutmose IV, both pharaohs of the 18th dynasty.

The other tomb has five entrances leading to a rectangular hall and contains two burial shafts located in the northern and southern sides of the tomb.

Among the artifacts found

inside are funerary cones, painted wooden funerary masks, clay vessels, a collection of some 450 statues and a mummy wrapped in linen who was likely a top official. A cartouche carved on the ceiling bears the name of King Thutmose I of the early 18th dynasty, the ministry said.

Afterward, al-Anani headed to a nearby site where the famous Mortuary Temple of Hatshepsut is located to open for the first time the temple's main sanctuary known as the "Holy of Holies."



An Egyptian guard stands next to a funeral mural inside a newly discovered tomb on Luxor's West Bank

Since the beginning of 2017, the Antiquities Ministry has made a string of discoveries in several provinces across Egypt — including the tomb of

a royal goldsmith, in the same area and belonging to the same dynasty, whose work was dedicated to the ancient Egyptian god Amun. **AP**



## ITALY

# Left rallies to warn that fascism could return

**I**TALY'S governing Democrats led a rally Saturday to warn about fascism making a comeback in the nation that once suffered under fascist dictator Benito Mussolini and which is now seeing a rash of right-wing protests against migrants.

Several thousand people turned out in Como, a lakeside town in northern Italy where right-wing extremists calling themselves the Veneto Skinhead Front recently barged into a meeting about migrant housing and railed about the "invasion" of foreigners.

Veneto, a region in northeast Italy, is a stronghold of the anti-migrant Northern League Party, which hopes to take power in Italy via an electoral alliance with former Premier Silvio Berlusconi's conservatives after the 2018 election.

On Friday night, two brothers burst into a Veneto residence housing Nigerian asylum-seekers, one of them claiming to be a policeman, the Italian news



People gather during a demonstration staged by the Democratic party

agency ANSA reported, citing Italy's Carabinieri police.

Earlier this week, masked supporters of the neo-fascist Forza Nuova party also attacked the Rome headquarters of the liberal paper La Repubblica and the newsweekly L'Espresso.

Fearing clashes on Saturday, authorities in Como refused to allow a Forza Nuova counter-rally.

Instead, Forza Nuova proponents gathered at a Como hotel, where leader Roberto Fiore contended that the Democrats, La Repub-

blica and L'Espresso were fostering a "climate of hate" against his party. Fiore defended the Veneto Skinhead Front's action as "a peaceful act, a demonstration against the business of immigration."

The post-war Italian Constitution, adopted a few years after the demise of Mussolini's regime, outlaws the return of fascist organizations.

Chamber of Deputies President Laura Boldrini said it was the "duty of all democratic forces, of civil society, of citizens" to oppose fascism.

"We're not dealing with pranks, but faced with organized groups who want to threaten the order and values of our democracy [and] we must seriously" deal with the situation, Boldrini told reporters in Como.

A Democratic party leader and government minister, Maurizio Martina, warned at the Como rally that there was a "danger of underestimating" the extreme-right violence.

"There are people who don't want to look the other way in front of xenophobia and racism," he declared.

Two political parties shunned the Como rally — the populist opposition 5-Star Movement, which recent opinion polls peg as Italy's No. 1 party before the 2018 election, and Berlusconi's Forza Italia party.

Under former Premier Matteo Renzi's leadership, the Democratic Party has splintered into factions and tiny new parties, weakening his prospects in a national election to be held in early 2018.

Opposition leaders accuse the Democrat-led government of being too accommodating toward migrants, who have arrived by the hundreds of thousands in the last few years after being rescued at sea from smugglers' boats that left the lawless shores of Libya. **AP**

## Iran says 'good relations' possible if Saudis change

President Hassan Rouhani says Iran is ready to restore ties with Saudi Arabia if it stops bombing Yemen and cuts its alleged ties with Israel. In a speech broadcast yesterday, Rouhani said the regional rivals could have "good relations" if the Saudis end their "misguided friendship" with Israel and halt the "inhuman bombardment" of Yemen, where a Saudi-led coalition is battling Iranian-allied rebels known as Houthis. Saudi Arabia severed diplomatic relations with Iran in January 2016 after Iranian demonstrators attacked Saudi diplomatic missions in response to the Saudi execution of a prominent Shiite dissident cleric.

## Three arrested in fire-bomb attack on synagogue

Three people have been arrested for allegedly throwing firebombs at a synagogue in the Swedish city of Goteborg. No one was injured in the attack late Saturday during a youth event at the synagogue and the adjacent Jewish center in Sweden's second-largest city. Goteborg police spokesman Peter Nordengard said yesterday it is being investigated as an attempted arson. No injuries were reported. Officials have increased security around the synagogue and at a Jewish center in capital of Stockholm.

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## what's ON



## PATANE LIBRARY AN OASIS OF FILM AND MUSIC LORE

TIME: pm-8:30pm (Mondays)

9:30am-8:30pm (Tuesdays to Sundays; closed on public holidays)

ADDRESS: No. 69 - 81, Rua da Ribeira do Patane

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2825 9220

## TREASURE OF SACRED ART OF ST. JOSEPH'S SEMINARY

TIME: 10am-5pm (Closed on Wednesdays, open on public holidays)

VENUE: St. Joseph's Seminary and Church, Rua do Seminário

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911

## MONKEY KING

TIME: 4pm &amp; 8pm daily (Except on Thursdays)

VENUE: Sands Cotai Theatre

ADMISSION: MOP420, MOP480, MOP680, MOP880, MOP1080

COTAI TICKETING: (853) 2882 8818

KONG SENG TICKETING: (853) 2855 5555

## MANDARIN'S HOUSE

TIME: 10am-6pm daily (Last admission at 5:30pm; closed on Wednesdays, open on public holidays)

ADDRESS: No. 10, Travessa de António da Silva

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2896 8820

## LAI CHI VUN REBIRTH — ARTWORKS EXHIBITION OF LAI CHI VUN SHIPYARDS AREA

TIME: 11am-10pm

UNTIL: December 31, 2017

VENUE: Lakeside Gallery, Anim'Arte Nam Van

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRES: (853) 2836 6866

## EXHIBITION "FICTION AND DRIFT - PAINTINGS BY JORGE MARTINS"

TIME: 10am-9pm daily

UNTIL: March 4, 201

VENUE: Tap Seac Gallery, No. 95, Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4017

## Offbeat

## GETAWAY CAR RAN OUT OF GAS AFTER ROBBERY, 2 ARRESTED

Police say a getaway car ran out of gas after an armed robbery near Atlanta, leading to the speedy arrest of two suspects.

Gwinnett County police Cpl. Michele Pihera says 18-year-old Najee Logan and 21-year-old Justin Larry were charged with armed robbery after their arrest early Tuesday after officers found the car on empty.

Pihera's statement says the victim surrendered a wallet to two men at gunpoint in a grocery store parking lot about 1 a.m. Tuesday in a greater Atlanta suburb. Police say officers found the car about 15 minutes later with Logan and Larry inside.

Both men were jailed, and police didn't say if they have lawyers.

Pihera says it's fortunate the victim wasn't hurt, chalking up the arrests to what she called "poor planning" by the suspects.

## TV canal macau



|       |  |
|-------|--|
| 13:00 | TDM News (Repeated)                              |
| 13:30 | RTPi News (Delayed Broadcast)                    |
| 16:40 | Zig Zag  |
| 17:55 | Miscellaneous                                    |
| 18:25 | Brazilian Soap Opera (Repeated)                  |
| 19:15 | Non-daily Portuguese News (Repeated)             |
| 20:30 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report            |
| 21:00 | TDM Sports                                       |
| 22:10 | Brazilian Soap Opera                             |
| 23:00 | TDM News   |
| 23:30 | Champions League Magazine                        |
| 00:06 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated) |
| 00:40 | RTPi Live  |

## cinema



## CINETEATRO

11 DEC - 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 2

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 &amp; Chinese)

Duration: 105min

## this day in history



## 1975 ATTACK ON BRITISH VESSELS HEIGHTENS COD WAR

An Icelandic gunboat has opened fire on unarmed British fishery support vessels in the North Atlantic Sea, it is reported.

The violent clash left the Icelandic coastguard ship, Thor, badly damaged but the three British vessels involved appear to be unaffected.

The Thor is said to have tried to arrest the British Star Aquarius and her sister vessel the Star Polaris as they sheltered from a force nine gale within Iceland's 12 mile territorial waters.

They were taking water and supplies from the Lloyd-smán, an ocean going tug, and the practice is normal for a vessel in distress.

The Royal Navy said Thor moved alongside the British vessels and signalled the Star Aquarius, an oil rig supply vessel of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, should stop or she would shoot.

Reports are confused about which vessel then struck the other but as the Thor broke away the Lloyd-smán surged forward to protect the Star Aquarius.

Captain Albert MacKenzie of the Star Aquarius said the Thor approached from the stern and hit the support vessel, before it veered off and fired a shot from a range of about 100 yards.

But Niels Sigurdsson, the Icelandic Ambassador in London, said the Thor had been firing in self-defence after it had been rammed by British vessels.

The incident comes at a diplomatically sensitive time as foreign secretaries from both countries are attending a two-day Nato conference in Brussels.

Foreign Secretary James Callaghan has criticised the incident and Einar Agustsson, the Icelandic Foreign Minister, said it was a very grave matter.

Both men are due to meet and discuss the cod war which has been plunged into disarray following today's incident.

Iceland has said its decision to allow British fishermen an annual 65,000 ton catch in its territorial waters is non-negotiable.

But Britain is demanding an annual catch of 110,000 and is hoping to broker an agreement somewhere between the two figures.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The dispute lasted for seven months and was the third 'Cod war' Britain and Iceland had fought.

It was triggered by Iceland extending its control over fishing rights from 50 to 200 nautical miles from its coast which affected Britain from November of that year.

Cod fishing was a major part of Britain's economy in Humberside, Fleetwood, Aberdeen and North Shields and the proposed reduction would cost an estimated 9,000 jobs.

For Iceland, with few natural resources, fishing was a massive contributor to its national economy.

Iceland called in Nato to resolve the dispute and it negotiated an end to the war on 6 June 1976.

Britain was limited to using 24 trawlers within a 200-mile zone at any one time for an annual catch of up to 50,000 tonnes.



YOUR STARS

**Aries**  
Mar. 21-Apr. 19

You've been on the warpath for days, and not all that easy to get along with sometimes - especially if you haven't been able to get the answers you're after. You're feeling a bit mellow now.

**Gemini**  
May 21-Jun. 21

You're usually much fonder of moving than of sitting still, no matter what's going on. In fact, even when you're feeling sick, you're not that good at convalescing.

**Leo**  
Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Right now, there's really nothing you can think of that you'd rather do than sit still and enjoy the company of those closest to you - and no one needs to jump up on the table to hold your attention!

**Libra**  
Sep.23-Oct. 22

You're great when it comes to establishing strong working relationships with all kinds of people. Your boss most likely gets along better with you than with their best friend, in fact.

**Sagittarius**  
Nov. 22-Dec. 21

You probably just think everyone is perpetually unsatisfied their lot in life, just like you. Needless to say, 'nothing exceeds like excess' could have been written for you - and you have to deal with suppressing that urge now.

**Aquarius**  
Jan. 20-Feb. 18

When the universe puts you in the mood to spend the day or evening alone or maybe with a guest-list of one, you go for it. Apologize if you break the hearts of the people who were dying to see you, but don't feel guilty.

**Taurus**  
April 20-May 20

You've got a very particular type of honesty that's so straightforward and loaded with integrity that it can often seem intimidating. Don't let anyone tell you it's not the right way to be - especially right now!

**Cancer**  
Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Getting out of the house is next to impossible, especially if you have friends, family or kids on hand. In fact, the more folks you've got there to take care of, the harder it is to even talk to you about leaving.

**Virgo**  
Aug. 23-Sept. 22

When it comes to providing for your people, you're one of the few folks who do more for them than they can do for themselves. At times, this leaves you open to being taken advantage of - like right now, for instance!

**Scorpio**  
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

Someone who's been a bit too distant - emotionally, and perhaps even physically - has been on your mind an awful lot. As so often happens with people as deeply connected as you two are, you've been on their mind, too.

**Capricorn**  
Dec. 22-Jan. 19

When the urge hits (complete with someone just charming and persuasive enough to talk you into letting yourself go), how can you possibly hope to resist? You can't, of course - and you shouldn't.

**Pisces**  
Feb.19-Mar. 20

You don't mind taking care of anything (or anyone) you love. That goes for plants and animals, the possessions you have a special emotional attachment to and - most especially - the loved ones in your life.



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

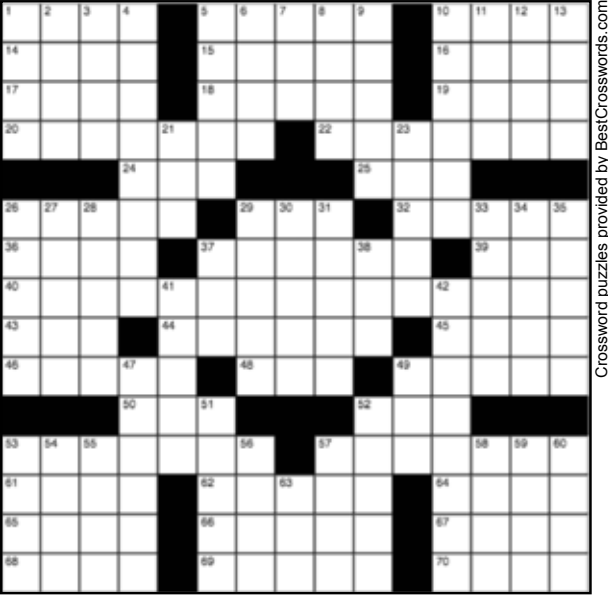
WEATHER

|           | MIN | MAX | CONDITION             |
|-----------|-----|-----|-----------------------|
| CHINA     |     |     |                       |
| Beijing   | -5  | 1   | cloudy                |
| Harbin    | -23 | -18 | cloudy                |
| Tianjin   | -4  | 1   | clear                 |
| Urumqi    | -6  | 0   | clear                 |
| Xi'an     | -2  | 8   | clear/cloudy          |
| Lhasa     | -4  | 13  | clear                 |
| Chengdu   | 4   | 12  | clear/cloudy          |
| Chongqing | 11  | 14  | overcast              |
| Kunming   | 9   | 19  | cloudy                |
| Nanjing   | 0   | 11  | clear                 |
| Shanghai  | 4   | 10  | clear                 |
| Wuhan     | -1  | 12  | clear                 |
| Hangzhou  | 3   | 12  | clear                 |
| Taipei    | 16  | 19  | drizzle/overcast      |
| Guangzhou | 11  | 21  | cloudy                |
| Hong Kong | 15  | 21  | cloudy                |
| WORLD     |     |     |                       |
| Moscow    | 0   | 2   | drizzle               |
| Frankfurt | -1  | 6   | sleet/moderate rain   |
| Paris     | 0   | 7   | drizzle/moderate rain |
| London    | 0   | 2   | sleet/drizzle         |
| New York  | -5  | 1   | cloudy/sleet          |

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Sir Guinness; 5- Greek island; 10- Drinks slowly; 14- Writer Janowitz; 15- Low-budget prefix; 16- River of Flanders; 17- The doctor \_\_\_\_; 18- Rod used to reinforce concrete; 19- Yuri's love; 20- Husky; 22- Apprehensive; 24- Heston's org.; 25- "Michael Collins" actor; 26- Stagnant; 29- Jogged; 32- Map feature; 36- A Chaplin; 37- Excluding; 39- Major-leaguer; 40- In spite of; 43- French pronoun; 44- Ask; 45- Bear in the air; 46- Start of a Shakespeare title; 48- Asian language; 49- Writers of verse; 50- Front part of an apron; 52- June honoree; 53- Brother of Electra; 57- Absence of sound; 61- River in central Switzerland; 62- Performance; 64- Russian refusal; 65- Speaker of note; 66- Japanese immigrant; 67- Meat-grading org.; 68- Tibetan oxen; 69- Choral composition; 70- Run into;

DOWN: 1- Arguing; 2- Whip; 3- Bahrain bigwig; 4- Ecclesiastical law; 5- Sealy rival; 6- \_\_\_\_-deucy; 7- Crowd; 8- \_\_\_\_ epic scale; 9- More tender; 10- Wood spirit; 11- Golfer Aoki; 12- Llama land; 13- Ladies of Sp.; 21- Exist; 23- Prevail; 26- Actress Braga; 27- Implements; 28- Restless; 29- 1986 Indy 500 winner Bobby; 30- Baffled; 31- Dynamite stuff; 33- Steeple; 34- Dadaist Max; 35- Roman garments; 37- Heat meas.; 38- Dundee denial; 41- Words of resignation; 42- Upper part of the intestines; 47- Haunt; 49- Close friend; 51- Darken; 52- Toe or finger; 53- Like Cheerios; 54- \_\_\_\_ avis; 55- Actor Estrada; 56- Fair; 57- Dagger; 58- Wall St. institution; 59- Surrender; 60- Coup d'\_\_\_\_; 63- Believer's suffix;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999

Fire department 28 572 222

PJ (Open line) 993

PJ (Picket) 28 557 775

PSP 28 573 333

Customs 28 559 944

S. J. Hospital 28 313 731

Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333

Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300

IACM 28 387 333

Tourism 28 333 000

Airport 59 888 88
- Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283

Water Supply – Report 2822 0088

Telephone – Report 1000

Electricity – Report 28 339 922

Macau Daily Times 28 716 081



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## LA LIGA

# Ronaldo celebrates Ballon d'Or with 2 goals in Madrid rout

AP PHOTO



Cristiano Ronaldo holds up one of his five Ballon d'Or

**C**RISTIANO Ronaldo celebrated his fifth Ballon d'Or award by leading Real Madrid to victory on Saturday, while Valencia kept the pressure on Spanish league leader Barcelona.

Ronaldo presented his trophy for the best player in football to Real Madrid's fans then scored twice as Sevilla was routed 5-0 at Santiago Bernabeu Stadium.

Ronaldo received the honor on Thursday in Paris, his fifth trophy equaling Barcelona rival Lionel Messi.

After soaking up the ovation before kickoff from his fans, Ronaldo went on to have his best performance in the league this season. His brace earned him another loud round of applause when he was substituted late.

Second-place Valencia needed a late penalty converted by Dani Parejo to see off Celta Vigo 2-1 and pull to within two points of Barcelona before the pacesetter visits Villarreal on Sunday.

Madrid moved into third place, five points behind Barcelona. Sevilla entered the game in the Spanish capital

tied on points with a Madrid side that was without first-choice defenders Sergio Ramos and Dani Carvajal and midfielder Casemiro, who were all suspended for one match, and injured center back Raphael Varane.

But with Ronaldo and company on song, Zinedine Zidane's bunch decided the match with five goals before halftime.

## Ronaldo went on to have his best performance in the league this season

Two of Madrid's reserve players who got starts to patch up its defense, Nacho Fernandez and 19-year-old Achraf Hakimi, scored for the hosts.

"We can be pleased because it's not easy to score five goals against Sevilla," Zidane said. "I am happy for Cristiano and for the players who hadn't played many minutes because they played well."

Madrid will take a break from La Liga and travel to the United Arab Emirates to dispute the Club World Cup next week as the Champions League winner.

Sevilla's nightmare started in the third minute when Simon Kjaer failed to clear a corner kick. Instead, the ball hit teammate Luis Muriel in the shoulder and bounced toward the goal, where Fernandez only had to direct it in.

For his first goal, Ronaldo received a silky smooth pass by Marco Asensio and shot home.

Then a handball by Jesus Navas to block Marcelo's pass in the area sent Ronaldo to the penalty spot. Goalkeeper Sergio Rico anticipated the direction but Ronaldo's powerful shot bounced off his gloves and body before going in.

The goals were only Ronaldo's third and fourth through 11 league games. That low tally contrasts with his performances in the Champions League, where he became the first player to score in all six group matches.

The goals were also Ronaldo's 26th and 27th in 18 career games against Sevilla.

After Rico saved strikes by Luka Modric and Ronaldo he could not deny Toni Kroos. Hakimi rounded off the demolition.

Sevilla defender Gabriel Mercado apologized to the team's supporters for what he agreed was its worst outing of the season. "We ask our fans to forgive us," Mercado said. "We need to be very self-critical to correct what went wrong." AP

AD

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Por ocasião do 18º Aniversário da R.A.E.M.

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13 December 2017 (Wednesday), 6:30 PM

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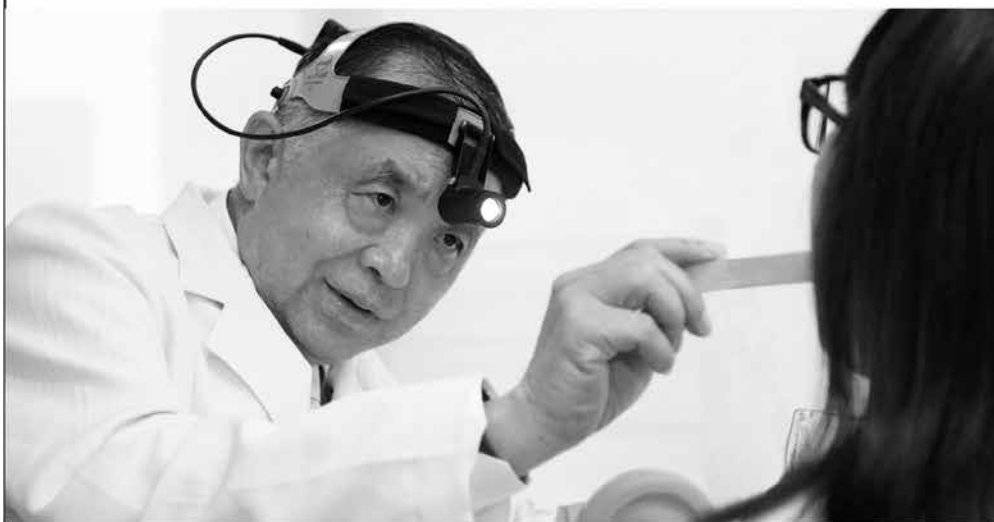
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opinion

Insight

Paulo Barbosa



# Is HENGQIN AN EMPTY PROMISE FOR MACAU?

Hengqin Island has undergone massive development over the past few years. When I first visited the neighboring island in 2009, there was almost nothing there besides some rustic restaurants serving tasty oysters.

Eight years after that visit, Hengqin's development is quite visible from Taipa and Coloane. It is actually almost oppressing to see residential towers growing in Hengqin's shoreline adjacent to Macau, almost like they are trying to keep up with the Joneses.

The latest news about Hengqin shows that the island is very rapidly becoming a tourist attraction, with theme parks like the Chimelong Ocean Kingdom standing as proof. Just recently, Real Madrid announced it would open an interactive virtual reality complex in Hengqin. Media reports dubbed the island as "China's answer to Florida's Orlando." Consequently, property prices have more than doubled over the past two years.

These are fantastic developments to an island that was left undeveloped for centuries. Up until World War II, the Portuguese had some military and religious outposts in three islands that stood very close to the Macau peninsula: D. João (known as Xiao Hengqin to the Chinese), Montanha (Da Hengqin) and Lapa (Wanzai). Territorial claims were abandoned in 1947 during the Chinese Civil War, when Macau governor Albano Rodrigues de Oliveira signed bilateral agreements with the Nationalists.

These historical claims and the rugged terrain partly explains why Hengqin was left undeveloped until 2009, when I first visited. "At its closest point to Macau, Hengqin is only 200 meters away, although it remains almost in its natural state, like it belongs to a faraway and undeveloped country," I wrote back then. Those times are long gone.

Seen from Macau, the cooperation between Hengqin and Macau doesn't match the initial expectations. Macau is spending huge amounts of money to develop Hengqin. What is it getting in return? Let's recall: In June 2009, Beijing agreed that the new campus of University of Macau could be established in Hengqin, under a lease valid for a period of 40 years. The campus is already operating and the Cotai border has opened to 24-hour operation. Those are the only evident benefits to this region. I don't see advantages coming from the Chinese Medicine Park, which, according to the director-general of the Hengqin New Area Administrative Committee, Niu Jing, was "paid for by Macau, while Hengqin gave the land."

Around the time the campus was announced, other measures with far reaching consequences were hinted. Those measures indicated that the Chinese central government wanted Macau to play a major role in Hengqin's development. But there are shortcomings that signal that the role of Macau is being minimized.

In 2010, English leaflets were distributed to foreign investors indicating that "a bilateral agreement will allow cars with Macau license to enter and leave Hengqin."

In March 2011, when an agreement between Guangdong and the MSAR was signed in Beijing, Alexis Tam, who was the government spokesperson at the time, commented: "In a while, Macau residents will be able to go to Hengqin, inclusively taking their cars, and benefit from all the infrastructure that will be developed there, effectively opening to the [local] society to a space that is three times larger than Macau, and creating development opportunities that were never possible to have before."

The initial intention from Beijing seemed to be generous to Macau. If people and vehicles could go to Hengqin without having the hassle of border controls (via a simple and automated system, like the one in used by residents to travel between SARs), that would mean that the region would gain the breathing space it needs.

The authorities of the "Hengqin Area of Zhuhai" don't seem to have the same cooperative strategy. For now, what we can see is that only the rich and the investors can benefit. See the ridiculous first phase of the scheme for Macau-registered vehicles to enter the island, implemented one year ago. The regulations were so restrictive that only a few car owners were eligible.

## THE HONG KONG IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT SMASHES BOGUS MARRIAGE SYNDICATE

The Hong Kong Immigration Department on Friday said a bogus marriage syndicate was smashed in an operation in Hong Kong last week, when five people were arrested.

The department spokesman said the arrested people were suspected to have committed the offences of conspiracy to defraud, as well as aiding and abetting others in making false representation to immigration officers.

"In the premises of the mastermind and core

members, investigators seized a number of documents relating to bogus marriage as well as mobile phones and more," the spokesman said, adding that the operation is still ongoing and more arrests may be made. Under the laws of Hong Kong, it is an offence to make false representation to immigration officers. Offenders are liable to prosecution and to a maximum fine of HKD150,000 and imprisonment for 14 years. Aiders and abettors are also liable to prosecution and the same penalties.

## LAS VEGAS

# Shooting survivors thank first responders with baskets

Regina Garcia Cano, Las Vegas

EMERGENCY room workers insisted they were just doing their jobs on that tragic October night as survivors of the mass shooting in Las Vegas expressed their gratitude Friday with tears and gift baskets.

The survivors who stopped at the emergency room west of the Las Vegas Strip are part of a group that is meeting this week with first responders at hospitals, fire and police stations and other sites to hand out gift baskets as a gesture of appreciation. The individuals, some of whom traveled from Colorado and California, raised more than USD40,000 to assemble 1,000 baskets.

Nurse Carolyn Hafen, the director of the emergency room at Spring Valley Hospital, choked up as she thanked the survivors in the same waiting room that two months earlier had seen chaos as patient after patient arrived. The facility treated more than 50 victims.

"We don't need a thank you. This is what we signed up to do," she said. "It was an honor to be able to help in any way that we could."

On Oct. 1, a high-stakes gambler killed 58 people and injured hundreds more after he shattered windows of



his hotel suite on the 32nd floor of the Mandalay Bay hotel-casino and unleashed withering gunfire at a crowd of 22,000 people gathered at the Route 91 Harvest music festival below. He then killed himself.

Emergency rooms were inundated with patients, some dropped off by emergency personnel and others by Good Samaritans who turned their vehicles into makeshift ambulances.

Outside the break room of the Spring Valley Hospital ER, thank-you notes are on a bulletin board that also says "Vegas Strong." One came from emergency personnel who responded to the shooting at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida, another one

was sent from a hospital that tended to victims of the shooting at Virginia Tech. Hafen on Friday was handed a stack of cards from survivors.

Denver resident Jenna Hutchins escaped the festival venue uninjured. Sporting a T-shirt that reads "Route 91 Harvest Country Music Festival Survivor," she said she found it "therapeutic" to work with about 100 other people last week to assemble the baskets, which have a book, essential-oil diffuser and other items.

"It's an honor to be here in front of the people that were behind the scenes at that moment," she said as she wiped tears from her face. "Without these people, it would have been much worse." AP

## THE DECISIVE MOMENT



People take photos with Christmas and New Year lights decoration in Senado Square. Over 70 places in Macau are decorated with festive lights to greet the upcoming Christmas and the New Year.

| Station                       | Air quality       |  |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Roadside                      | 60-80<br>Moderate |  |
| High Density Residential Area | 60-80<br>Moderate |  |
| Ambient                       | 60-80<br>Moderate |  |

SOURCE: DSMG

## WORLD BRIEFS

**IRAQ** After more than three years of combat operations, Iraq has announced that the fight against the Islamic State group is over after the country's security forces drove the extremists from all of the territory they once held. Iraqi and American officials warned, however, that key challenges remain despite the military victory.

**SOUTH SUDAN** Over 1.2 million people in war-torn South Sudan are one step away from famine — twice as many as at the same time last year — and in early 2018 half the country's population will be reliant on emergency food aid, the U.N. humanitarian chief said.



**ITALY**'s governing Democrats led a rally Saturday to warn about fascism making a comeback in the nation that once suffered under fascist dictator Benito Mussolini and which is now seeing a rash of right-wing protests against migrants. More on p15

**SPAIN AND PORTUGAL** have issued warnings of high winds and heavy rain as a storm reaches the Iberian Peninsula from the Atlantic.



**US** A commercial fishing vessel carrying foreign workers that ran aground and later burned and leaked fuel just off the beaches of Waikiki, Hawaii was towed out to sea and sunk by a team of salvage workers.

**BRAZIL** President Michel Temer lost a key liaison in Congress Friday as he struggles to corral enough votes to push through an ambitious pension reform.