



'THIS IS MY CITY' RETURNS

Interview with Manuel Correia da Silva, co-founder of This Is My City and current director of production

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LACTALIS 'NOT IMPORTED TO MACAU'

French baby-milk maker Lactalis has ordered a global recall of millions of products over fears of contamination

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US POLITICS COULD UNDERMINE SCIENCE

A scientist who shared this year's Nobel Prize for medicine said that U.S. scientists are facing funding cutbacks that will hurt research

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WONG SIO CHAK

Law won't endanger internet freedom

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BLOOMBERG

WORLD BRIEFS



PHILIPPINES President Rodrigo Duterte asked Congress yesterday to extend the martial law he declared in the country's south by one year to ensure the "total eradication" of pro-Islamic State group extremists, warning they plan more uprisings after an unsuccessful but disastrous siege of Marawi city. [More on p12](#)

INDONESIA Police are hunting for an American citizen who escaped yesterday from an overcrowded and understaffed prison on the Indonesian resort island of Bali. [More on p13](#)



INDIA's main opposition Congress party yesterday named Rahul Gandhi, the scion of the country's Nehru-Gandhi political dynasty, as party president. [More on backpage](#)



Macau Prison considering surveillance cameras in private cells

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CRIME

Phone scams continue to find victims among university students

Renato Marques

TELEPHONE scams continue to find victims among university students. According to the figures presented in the third quarter crime statistics, almost all the victims of phone scams have in common the fact that they are originally from mainland China, are of a young age (18-23) and are studying in the region's tertiary institutions.

During yesterday's joint press conference by the Judiciary Police (PJ) and the Public Security Police Force (PSP), the spokesperson from the PJ reported four similar cases which were brought to the security forces' attention last weekend. In each of the four instances, female students from the mainland studying at the University of Macau (UM) between 18 and 22 years of age, were victims.

In all the cases, the modus operandi was the same. The students received a call from an unknown number in which they were told they were speaking to an officer from the Immigration Department at Pac On. The call was then transferred to another individual who stated that they were from

a mainland provincial authority, claiming that the victim was involved in some kind of "economic crime" and that they needed to transfer a sum of money in order to solve the problem.

In all the cases reported yesterday, the students proceeded with payments, and reported combined losses of over RMB175,000.

In the first case alone, an 18-year-old student bank-transferred

RMB49,100, as well as providing all her personal online banking codes which lead to the loss of an additional RMB100,500, was were in the same bank account.

The other cases also registered loses, however because their accounts did not have as much money, the losses were smaller than those of the first victim.

The police said they believed that the victims are not randomly

chosen but directly targeted as a result of the belief that mainland students in local tertiary institutions come from relatively wealthy families and from a traditional culture in which money solves problems.

In a separate story, a local resident (22) was also involved in a swindle over the acquisition of two tickets for a concert in Hong Kong via a Facebook group.

The woman was part of a group on the social network solely dedicated to the buying and selling of tickets for concerts. In this group she saw a person allegedly from the neighboring region of Hong Kong who was advertising special VIP tickets at a discount price for a concert happening on December 3.

She contacted the seller and she reportedly said he even sent her a photo of "his" Hong Kong identification card in order to gain her trust. Then she transferred the requested amount of Hong Kong\$1,460 to an account in Hong Kong.

On the concert day she headed to Hong Kong and waited at the arranged location for the seller, who never showed up. After unsuccessfully attempting to contact him, she decided to present a complaint to the PJ upon her return from Hong Kong.

Another swindle case also occurred through the internet. A male resident (32) reportedly lost the sum of RMB5,200.

According to his story told to the police force, on December 10 he was playing an online game where he met another player. After exchanging WeChat accounts, they continued to communicate and the suspect told him that he could make "easy investments" of money with a guaranteed ten-fold return within a couple of hours or days.

The swindler then sent to the local man photographs of receipts allegedly proving the transference of the money to other users, and he agreed to transfer the aforementioned amount to him.

After that the victim noticed that the swindler had blocked him from We Chat and he realized that he had been scammed, thus going to present his claim to the PJ.

Police targets Mongolian shoplifters

THE PSP performed several operations in order to tackle the alleged criminal activities of several Mongolian nationals operating in Macau. The PSP ran these operations as a "security response" acting on a "tip-off" from sources they declined to reveal.

The PSP spokesperson mentioned that both cases occurred on December 9 (Saturday) around the same area in NAPE.

In the first case, the police officers approached a Mongolian woman, aged 43, who was said to be acting suspiciously in Rua de Malaca around 6 p.m.

The officers searched her handbag and found a ticket for the luggage storage of a hotel located in the area which they proceeded to investigate.

The search revealed that inside the luggage were a large number of brand-new clothing items (with tags still on) as well as perfumes and handbags worth a total of MOP12,100.

The PSP said the woman admitted later that all the merchandise had been stolen from several shops across town. The PSP visited those stores and spoke to the managers in order to identify the stolen items. In seven cases, the shops indicated that they were intending to take legal action against the woman.

In a separate case, at 4 p.m. at Avenida Amizade in the surroundings of the Golden Lotus Plaza, PSP officers reportedly found another two suspects, also of Mongolian nationality of 33 and 31 years.

A search in their luggage revealed a total of 40 clothing items that originated from

three shops located at a Cotai area shopping mall. The items were worth a total of about MOP17,000.

Further investigation revealed that there was an accomplice to the crimes who is still on the run.

All three women that were taken into custody by the PSP were charged with theft and presented to the Public Prosecutions Office. Additionally, the same spokesperson said that the 31-year-old woman was also charged for presenting false declarations on the identity form that she filled in at the police station.

According to the police, several pieces of information and personal data that she wrote on the forms did not match with her documents, nor her official records.

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Public consultation on cyber security law runs until Jan 24

THE 45 day public consultation period on a proposed cyber security law runs until January 24. In a press conference that took place yesterday, Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak clarified that the law will not lead to the government monitoring online content.

According to Wong Sio Chak, "when, in the future, the responsible department upholds the law, the government will only assess, in legal terms, the security risks associated with the size of the flow of computer data and the different types of network attacks in order to issue alerts and instructions that guarantee the security of the network."

"[The government] is not and will not be carrying out supervision activities over the information that flows in the network. Because of this, the government will have no way to build restrictions [...] on the freedom of expression of the population," added Wong.

Wong also emphasized that unless the security force is authorized by the court, they will be prevented from interfering



Wong Sio Chak (center)

with any content on the network, and they will not be able to decode information.

The consultation document proposes definitions for service providers related to internet infrastructure and relevant concerns for daily life, such as key infrastructure operators. These operators are the parties being primarily targeted for protection provided by the cyber security regime.

The key infrastructure operators primarily include go-

vernment departments, public departments, and certain branches of the private sector such as those in the energy and transport sectors.

The law draft proposed the establishment of a cyber security standing committee and a cyber security incident alert system, as well as an emergency center to deal with any cyber security threats. Moreover, the draft proposes that 11 public departments supervise specific institutions or build-

ings that are similar in nature. For example, the bill suggests that the Health Bureau supervise private hospitals, the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau supervise the gaming sector, and the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau supervise the wholesale sector.

During the consultation period, eight consultation meetings will be held, five of which will involve representatives from key infrastructure operators.

Chan Hong proposes alcohol purchase ban for minors

Lawmaker Chan Hong proposed to the Macau government that they prevent underage residents from purchasing alcoholic beverages. Chan pointed out that currently, Macau does not have any regulations on the sale of alcoholic products. The lawmaker added that minors are only restricted from entering bars and karaoke venues. However, people under the age of adulthood are able to buy alcoholic products anywhere else. Chan also noted that many countries all over the world have clear regulations on a legal minimum age for the purchase of alcoholic beverages. The lawmaker questioned whether the Macau government will consider banning youth below 18 years old from purchasing these products.

Free vaccine extended to all Macau residents

From yesterday, the Health Bureau is providing free flu vaccines to all Macau residents, instead of only a few, as was previously the case. Lam Chong, director of the SSM's Center for Disease Control and Prevention, said that more than 80,000 people have already been vaccinated this year, 8,000 more than at the same time last year.

AD

Macau Daily Times contest



Question for readers:
What's the story of The Sound of Music show?

Please email the answers to:
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 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.

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.

Q&A MANUEL CORREIA DA SILVA
CO-FOUNDER OF THIS IS MY CITY

This Is My City festival looks across the border to lively Shenzhen

Daniel Beittler

THIS Is My City, a local arts festival now in its 11th edition, is reaching across the border for the first time with several shows planned for nearby Shenzhen on the Chinese mainland.

The festival, which brings high-profile Portuguese artists to Macau on an annual basis, is shifting to a pan-Pearl River Delta scope as it tries to keep up with the regional integration that the Macau SAR now faces.

Why Shenzhen and not neighboring Zhuhai? Organizers say that Shenzhen is a more viable 'sister city' due to its international reach and thriving creative scene. But they also attest to a growing demand in Shenzhen for Portuguese culture, and This Is My City aims to be the platform linking this giant metropolis with Lusophone culture.

The Times spoke to Manuel Correia da Silva, co-founder of This Is My City and current director of production, to understand more about the festival's rejuvenation.

Macau Daily Times (MDT) - This Is My City is expanding outside of Macau for the first time this year. Given the name and nature of the festival, does the expansion indicate a crisis in identity?

Manuel Correia da Silva (MCS) - I wouldn't call it a crisis; I think we have already survived a crisis and that we are now in a post-crisis situation where we have adapted and found a solution. This year is the end of a cycle in a way. Last year was our 10th edition and we were reflecting on the last decade and what has changed in the city of Macau. The festival was born into an environment of a city that no longer exists in the same way. In response [to this], we decided to make it more of a regional edition – reflecting the change [that Macau has undergone] – starting with the city of Shenzhen. We are becoming more connected with the rest of the [Pearl River] Delta region and we felt that should be reflected in the festival.

MDT - Why choose Shenzhen and not neighboring Zhuhai?

MCS - We felt that Shenzhen has a growth relating to the creative and technology industries and is now connected to



the rest of the world [in a way that Zhuhai is still not]. We wanted to be involved in some way with that. More importantly, the people in Shenzhen wanted to be involved in the production of this festival and they were [also] interested in the events.

“We felt that Shenzhen – as opposed to Zhuhai – has a growth relating to the creative and technology industries.”

MDT - How much of the Shenzhen component is being organized by locals from that city, as opposed to the core team in Macau?

MCS - We [the Macau team] are very in control of the content. [The Shenzhen team] work in terms of networking and production. There was a huge interest in the artists that we bring from Portugal. Peo-

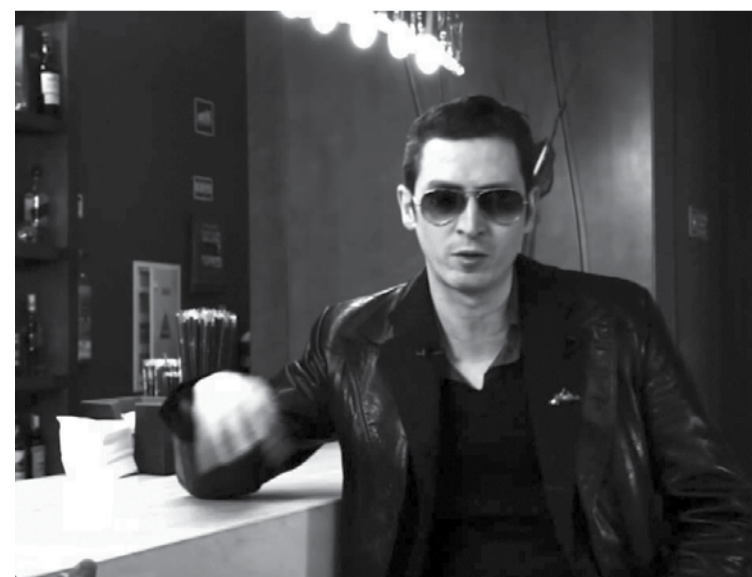
ple in Shenzhen know Macau and its links with the Portuguese-speaking world. But they must still [travel] to Macau to see that. We are providing a window into Portuguese culture [through the production in Shenzhen]. More specifically, we are providing a window into

Portuguese contemporary culture – not just heritage. It's not always about looking back into the past.

MDT - The “Legendary Tigerman”, a famous Portuguese musician, is headlining this year's festival

Headline acts from Portugal and Macau

THIS Is My City features headline act Paulo Furtado - also known as the “Legendary Tigerman” - who will present a cine-concert with a projection of images digitally manipulated in real-time, while the artist plays the accompanying music. Returning to Macau, Furtado is known for playing blues music in a one-man band, combining his vocals with guitar, harmonica and drums. He will play two concerts in Shenzhen and Macau on December 15 and 16 respectively. Other notable acts include The Beatbombers, namely duo DJ Ride and Sterrossaur, who are acclaimed Portuguese world champions of scratch and turntablism. Meanwhile, electronic band Fase Lane and jazz musician



Paulo Furtado, also known as the “Legendary Tigerman”

Paulo Pereira will represent Macau. Commissioned by festival organizers, Pereira will present a project that

seeks to combine western musical traditions and eastern heritage through the medium of jazz.

with an unusual performance. What can we expect?

MCS - He is coming back, not with his normal [performances] but with a project, “How to become nothing”. It is a cine-concert show with music made and performed by Paulo Furtado [the Legendary Tigerman]. His show is an impressive and different experience, in an entirely new format. He plays the music live, while the screening is a recorded film. When I [initially] saw it in Portugal, it had the feel of an old silent movie with music [superimposed]. It creates a minimalistic but powerful impression. [...] If I was to recommend one show to attend this year, this would be it.

MDT - Will you use the same outdoor venue as last year, Largo do Pagode do Bazar, for the cine-concert?

MCS - Unfortunately, no. This year our production was delayed and the venue was booked [by the time we were ready]. For the first time, we are not using that public space and the festival will move indoors instead of how it is usually outdoors. We do believe that we are missing something [by not using that space]. For some of our visiting artists coming to Asia for the first time, facing the temple while they perform is a very beautiful experience for them.

Macau delegates for the 13th NPC to be elected soon

THE Macau delegates at the 13th National People's Congress (NPC) will be elected on December 27, according to the announcement made by the spokesperson for the presidium of the NPC.

The second session of the presidium of the election meeting of the 13th NPC was held yesterday at the East Asian Games Dome.

During the session, the meeting approved the list of 19 candidates for Macau delegates of the 13th NPC which was collated between November 26 and December 6. Of the 19, 15 candidates were approved because they were the ones who had properly delivered their registration forms and candidacy letters.

On the morning of December 17, the election meeting will hold its second plenary meeting to decide who will be the Macau representatives at the 13th NPC. A total of 12 candidates will be elected.

Chief Executive Chui Sai On,



The NPC meeting in 2015

who is also the chairman of the standing committee of the presidium, presented a report regarding the candidates for the 13th NPC.

The candidates include Legislative Assembly chairperson Ho Iat Seng, lawmakers Chui Sai Peng, Si Ka Lon, Sio Chi Wai and Kou Hoi In. Other candidates include Kevin Ho (nephew of former Chief Executive Edmund Ho), Wong Ian Man, Lai Sai

Kei, Fong Ka Fai, president of the Macau General Union of Neighborhood Association (UGAMM) Ng Siu Lai, Ho Sut Heng, Paula Ling, Lao Ngai Leong, Lok Po, and Iong Weng Ian.

The main emphasis of some of the applications was the promotion of communication and co-development between Macau and mainland China.

Si Ka Long said that he will prioritize the employment

and retirement circumstances of Macau residents living in mainland China, as well as the development of Macau youth in mainland China.

Sio Chi Wai promised to focus on the equal treatment of Macau residents to mainland Chinese residents in their home territory.

Ho Iat Seng expressed the hope that both Macau and the mainland will communicate more regarding their respective laws, while Lao Ngai Leong promised to concentrate on regional cooperation within the Greater Bay Area.

Chui Sai Peng hoped that mainland China would grant Macau further opportunities to develop special financing, commercial operations, and industrial diversification, so Macau can grow as a world tourism and leisure center.

Ho Sut Heng will focus primarily on issues about Macau, despite her reservations about the mainland's income contribution, food safety and education equality. **JZ**

Sonia Chan joins 'Korea-Macau Friendship Night'

Secretary for Administration and Justice, Sonia Chan, yesterday participated in the "Korea-Macau Friendship Night," where she represented the Macau government.

Noting that "Macau and Korea have long enjoyed a mutually beneficial relationship," Chan alluded in her speech to the fact that South Korea is a popular tourist destination for Macau residents. "Many Macau citizens are interested in Korean culture, traditions and products. Reciprocally, the number of Korean visitors to Macau has more than tripled since 2009, staying as the top non-Chinese visitors in recent years. This mutual interest forms a solid foundation for our friendship," she noted.



Two journalists win Orient Foundation prize

Journalists Catarina Vaz and Fátima Almeida won ex-aequo the Fundação Oriente (Orient Foundation) Journalism Award. TDM's Catarina Vaz was chosen for the story "The Air We Breathe," broadcast by Canal Macau on April 29, 2017. Fátima Almeida won for the report "Forgotten in a corner of the city - an old patio where the youth reaches," published by Jornal Tribuna de Macau on April 26, 2016. The accolade includes a MOP50,000 cash prize. The prizes will be presented at the Orient Foundation delegation in Macau (Casa Garden) on January 11 at 7 p.m.

AD

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SOUND & IMAGE CHALLENGE

Swedish film 'Bitchboy' takes best film award at festival



A still from "Bitchboy"

THE 8th edition of the Sound & Image Challenge International Festival wrapped up on Sunday, with the awards for Best Film and Best Fiction both going to "Bitchboy" by Swedish director Måns Berthas.

The Macau Cultural Identity Award went to "Smell the Smell" by Chu Hio Tong, which beat out three other shorts in the category; "Luggage", "Soul Walker" and "A Page."

Of the 44 shorts submitted to the festival, the public's pick went to "56" by Spanish director Marco Huertas, while the award for best documentary went to "Nobody Dies

Here" by France's Simon Panay. "Schirkoa" by Ishan Shukla won the best animation award.

The festival celebrates groundbreaking work in local and international films, through two competitions named "Shorts" and "Volume" for short films and music videos respectively.

Dozens of films were entered into the competitions across the two submission periods during the spring and summer, and the selected films and music videos were screened during the festival from December 5 to December 11 at Dom Pedro V Theater and Ci-

nematheque Passion.

The juries for the international competitions were comprised of local and international winners from previous years of the Sound & Image Challenge International Festival, professionals in the film and music industry, and festival organizers.

The festival is jointly organized by Creative Macau and the Institute of European Studies Macau. According to organizer Creative Macau, the festival aims to "grow into a benchmark in the realm of festivals of its kinds."

The program included the screenings of films brought to Macau by invited curators, as well as the finalist short films and music videos of the competition segment. Workshops, master classes and other events were also held during the December festival.

This year, a third competition titled "Festival Poster" was introduced, inviting graphic designers to submit their works for award consideration.

COLOANE PRISON

Gov't considering surveillance cameras in private cells

THE Correctional Services Bureau, the agency responsible for maintaining Macau's detention services and inmates, is proposing that the government installs surveillance cameras in private cells at the Coloane prison.

While the proposal is still being studied for its "feasibility," the chief of the bureau admits that cameras in private cells might conflict with privacy rules.

"We are going to study the feasibility of installing surveillance cameras in the prison's individual cells and we will see if it goes against [violates] the relevant laws", said

the director of the Correctional Services Bureau, Cheng Fong Meng, according to public broadcaster TDM. "Of course, we won't install the cameras in toilets and bathrooms."

Cheng added that he believes installing the cameras in private cells "won't conflict with existing privacy rules."

The move comes after a mainland prisoner at the facility was found to have hung himself in the fourth such suicide case at the Coloane prison in the past decade.

According to TDM, the prisoner had been incarcerated on December 2, but had also been subject to three weeks



of medical isolation after contracting a communicable disease.

The bureau head also expressed his condolences yesterday to the deceased's family members.

FRENCH baby-milk maker Lactalis has ordered a global recall of millions of products over fears of salmonella bacteria contamination. Contacted by the Times, the Health Bureau revealed that Lactalis products "are not imported to Macau."

Lactalis, one of the largest dairy products group in the world, said it has been warned by health authorities in France that 26 infants have become sick since Dec. 1.

Spokesman company Michel Nalet told AP yesterday that the "precautionary" recall both in France and abroad affects "several million" products made since mid-February.

Lactalis said in a statement it is "sincerely sorry for the concern generated by the situation and expresses its compassion and support to the families whose children fell ill."

The company said a



A general view of the Lactalis headquarters in Laval, western France

Health Bureau: Lactalis 'not imported to Macau'

possible source of the outbreak has been identified in a tower used to dry out the milk at a production site in May. Disinfection and cleaning measures have been put in place at the suspected site in western France.

The health scare started earlier this month when Lactalis was told that 20 infants under six months of age had been diagnosed with salmonella infection.

The company ordered a first recall that has been extended to more products following new cases of infections on request of French authorities.

Lactalis employs 75,000 employees in 85 countries, with a turnover of 17 billion euros (USD20 billion.)

The symptoms of salmonella infection include abdominal cramps, diarrhea and fever. **MDT/Agencies**

corporate bits

MGM RECEIVES AWARD IN HOSPITALITY COMPETITION



MGM Golden Lion Team members were recognized with a total of three Gold Pin Awards, the gaming operator said in a statement yesterday.

This announcement made MGM Macau one of the hotels to win the most awards in this year's "Macau Occupational Skills Recognition

System" (MORS) Gold Pin Competition.

The competition, provides a platform for contestants to demonstrate their professional skills and pit their talent against the best in the industry.

In this year's competition there were a total of 333 contestants representing

38 companies in Macau. Of this number, 69 contestants were shortlisted for the finals. MGM had 16 team members participating in the competition, and six finalists successfully entered the Final Rounds.

The MORS participants from MGM spent around 500 hours preparing for the competition, and their success is the culmination of the past few months of hard work and dedication of both the participants and their trainers.

MORS was launched in 2001 as a joint effort of the tourism industry of Macau and IFT, with the main objective to upgrade human resources services in the industry through the introduction of a certification scheme for a number of hospitality and tourism professions.

LONGINES ANNOUNCES AMBASSADOR OF ELEGANCE



The Swiss watch brand Longines has returned for the sixth consecutive year as Title Partner and Official Timekeeper of the Longines

Hong Kong International Races.

Longines rewarded the winners of the four international Group 1 races with

elegant Longines timepieces.

Longines also welcomed its Ambassador of Elegance Eddie Peng at the 2017 Longines Hong Kong International Races, the company announced in a statement.

Reflecting the brand's motto "Elegance is an Attitude", the Taiwanese actor presented the Longines Prize for Elegance.

Eddie Peng received the Official Watch of the Longines Hong Kong International Races, a model from the Record Collection.

This timepiece, which combines "classic elegance and excellence," as well as Eddie Peng, are featured in the brand's latest TV advertisement, which is currently being broadcast in the Asian region.



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Kelvin Chan, Hong Kong

Asian investors embrace bitcoin, but regulators are wary

THE weekend launch of a U.S. futures contract for bitcoin reflects widespread acceptance of the virtual currency, especially among investors in Asia, though regulators are wary.

Japan and South Korea are among the world's top five markets for bitcoin trading, according to sites that track trading volume by currency. Here's a glance at the digital currency's rise in some of the region's major markets:

JAPAN

Japan was home to one of the earliest bitcoin communities, but it was started by expatriate residents and kept a low profile. Until a few years ago, bitcoin and other virtual currencies were left alone by regulators.

Following the failure of a bitcoin exchange called Mt. Gox, new laws were enacted to regulate bitcoin and other virtual currencies. Japan is the only major advanced economy with a licensing regime for digital currency intermediaries such as exchanges and payment providers.

That has helped make Japan the world's biggest market for speculative virtual currency trading, said Thomas Glucksmann, Hong Kong-based head of marketing for Gatecoin, a virtual currency exchange.

"There was very little interest back than at all and now it's a complete 360," said Glucksmann. "It's the biggest market, everybody's talking about it."

Big Japanese banks have gotten involved, investing in bitcoin exchanges or letting them open bank accounts while developing their own related services. Some retailers accept payment in bitcoin.

Many Japanese are familiar with currency trading since Japan is the world's biggest retail foreign exchange market.

"You have people like hairdressers and housewives, people like that investing in crypto, in addition to the bigger players in Japan," said Glucksmann, who used to work at a bitcoin exchange in Japan. "So the regulations have helped to fuel a lot of the legitimacy in the Japanese market."



SOUTH KOREA

About a year and half ago, South Korea emerged as a very large market for speculative trading activities thanks to investors' high risk appetite and fears of missing out.

Now, just as the government prepares to regulate virtual currencies, big financial institutions are starting to get in on the action. Shinhan Bank is planning to offer virtual currency services like a bitcoin wallet.

Worried over risks of speculative trading, in September South Korea banned initial coin offerings, or raising money through bitcoin or other virtual currencies.

Senior officials at South Korea's financial watchdog have compared speculative trading in bitcoin to a "Ponzi scheme" and say they are mulling a ban.

"We will not let financial institutions handle transactions related to virtual currencies," said Kim Yongbeom, vice chairman at Financial Services Commission, according to a media pool report Monday. "The price of virtual currencies rises because of the expectation that the next person will buy it at the desired price and this is quite like a Ponzi scheme."

Chairman Choi Jong-gu said one option is a total ban on virtual currencies, which would require revising existing legislation or enacting new laws.

Still, bitcoin sells for a 20-30 percent premium in South Korea compared to other places, and this has spurred offshore trading to take advantage of arbitrage opportunities as South Koreans buy bitcoin overseas and sell them back home.

Senior officials at South Korea's financial watchdog have compared speculative trading in bitcoin to a 'Ponzi scheme'

CHINA

For a brief time, China dominated bitcoin trading, at one point reportedly accounting for as much as 90 percent

of volume. That dried up after Beijing tightened controls.

The lively bitcoin market had been set up by bitcoin miners, who had set up data centers taking advantage of China's cheap electricity and hardware to handle the intensive computing processes needed to "mine" new bitcoin.

China started cracked down on such activities last year just as the price of bitcoin began to surge. In September, regulators ordered all exchanges to shut down, banning initial coin offerings.

China's bitcoin ex-

changes have since migrated overseas or shifted to over-the-counter trading where exchanges match buyers and sellers who then connect through chat apps like Telegram. Payment is made in cash or through bank transfers and the exchange collects a fee.

Some mainland China exchanges have refocused their efforts on their Hong Kong operations, said Leo Weese, president of the Bitcoin Association of Hong Kong. He estimates there are about 10,000 bitcoin users in the Asian financial hub, including 1,000-2,000 active in-

vestors who have significant holdings or work for bitcoin related companies.

Weese estimates that bitcoin prices are 5-8 percent higher in mainland China than Hong Kong. Speculators who can get around China's strict capital controls to profit from the price difference are driving some trading activity in the city, Weese said.

"For them it's a way to make money," he said. "They can buy the bitcoin in Hong Kong cheaply and they can sell them at a premium in China."

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Bitcoin's rising popularity in Indonesia has alarmed the country's central bank, which said last week it would ban it as a payment method next year.

Bank Indonesia spokesman Agusman Zainal said more a "assertive rule" on virtual currencies is planned.

He said the bank is concerned bitcoin might be used for fraud or other illegal activities like terrorism, money laundering, prostitution, drug trafficking.

"In the context of the payment system, bitcoin is not a valid means of payment," Zainal said. "The reason for prohibiting is in order to implement prudential principles, safeguard business competition, risk control and consumer protection." AP

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Chinese regulator cracks down on booming hedge-fund industry

CHINA'S securities regulator is cracking down on the fast-growing hedge-fund industry, investigating 10 cases of alleged wrongdoing.

Officials are probing private fund practices including market manipulation, misappropriation of client funds, insider trading and trading by managers using their personal accounts, the China Securities Regulatory Commission said in a statement on its website

Friday. Some funds used the Hong Kong-Shanghai stock connect to manipulate prices and some employees sought personal gain by exploiting the hedging mechanism for stock index futures, it said.

China's booming money-management industry includes private securities investment funds, which take money from wealthy investors and employ hedge-fund like strategies. They're different from mu-

tual funds, which are open to the general public, or vehicles that invest in private companies.

Already hit by scandals including the jailing of "hedge fund brother No. 1" Xu Xiang for market manipulation, the private funds industry is facing a rising tide of legal breaches, according to the CSRC. Talking generally, the regulator said many funds registered with false information,

illegally raised money or misappropriated assets, while others manipulated markets and traded on inside information.

The crackdown comes as China mounts a campaign to limit financial dangers lurking in the economy. Last month, the securities regulator shelved applications for some mutual funds that plan to allocate at least 80 percent of their portfolios to Hong

Kong-traded stocks as part of this drive.

At the same time, China is also opening up its financial industry to foreign firms. Global money managers including Man Group Plc, UBS Asset Management and Fidelity International have gotten approval to start private securities funds following regulators' decision to open the market to international managers last year.

■ The crackdown comes as China mounts a campaign to limit financial dangers lurking in the economy

The enforcement effort related to private funds is intended to contain a "trend of rising legal violations," the regulator said, adding it was cracking down "severely."

A total of 8,294 hedge fund companies managed about 2.3 trillion yuan (USD348 billion) as of Nov. 30 in private securities investment funds, according to data from the Asset Management Association of China. While assets under management slipped this year, the industry has had rapid growth after only beginning in 2004.

In March, the CSRC fined an individual for offences including using the Shanghai-Hong Kong connect to manipulate a Shanghai stock. Former hedge fund manager Xu, the high-flying "Brother No. 1," was jailed for five-and-a-half years in January for market manipulation. **Bloomberg**

ECONOMY

November auto sales growth flat

CHINA'S auto sales were flat in November compared with a year earlier, leaving total purchases in the world's biggest market up an anemic 1.9 percent for the first 11 months of 2017, an industry group reported yesterday.

Chinese drivers bought 2.6 million sedans, SUVs and minivans, according to the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers. Total vehicle sales, including trucks and buses, edged up 0.7 percent to just under 3 million vehicles.

Chinese auto sales have struggled this year after a temporary tax cut boosted 2016's growth to 15 percent. Sales contracted in April and May before growing feebly in recent months.

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

In November, SUV sales rose 8.9 percent over a year earlier to 11 million, while sedan purchases

shrank 4.8 percent to 12.2 million. For the first 11 months of the year, sales totaled 22.1 million.

Chinese demand has weakened as economic growth slowed and Beijing and other major cities tightened restrictions on ownership to curb smog and congestion.

Sales by Chinese domestic brands overall rose 5 percent to 1.2 million vehicles, according to CAAM. Their share of the market expanded by 1.6 percentage points to 45.8 percent.

— General Motors Co.,

which competes with Volkswagen AG for the status of China's most popular automaker, said sales by the company and its Chinese manufacturing partners rose 13 percent from a year earlier to 418,225 vehicles.

— Ford Motor Co. sales fell 8 percent to 117,593 vehicles. Year-to-date sales were off 6 percent at just under 1.1 million.

— Nissan Motor Co., the most popular Japanese brand in China, said monthly sales rose 21.8 percent to 165,384 vehicles. Sales through November



were up 12 percent at 1.3 million.

— Toyota Motor Co. sales gained 9.9 percent to 109,600. Year-to-date sales grew 10.7 percent to

1.2 million.

— BMW AG said November sales rose 12 percent to 55,293 vehicles. Year-to-date sales were up 14.7 percent to 542,362. **AP**



F, 22, who says she was raped by members of Myanmar's armed forces in June and again in September, cries as she speaks to The Associated Press in her tent in Kutupalong refugee camp in Bangladesh

INVESTIGATION

Rape of Rohingya sweeping, methodical

Kristen Gelineau, Ukhia

THE newlyweds were asleep in their home in western Myanmar in June when seven soldiers charged in.

The woman, a Rohingya Muslim who agreed to be identified by her first initial, F, knew the military had been attacking Rohingya villages, as part of what the United Nations has called ethnic cleansing in the mostly Buddhist nation. She heard just days before that soldiers had killed her parents and that her brother was missing.

Now they had come for her. The men bound her husband with rope, and tied her scarf around his mouth. They yanked off her jewelry and tore off her clothes. They threw her to the floor.

And then, she says, the first soldier began to rape her.

She struggled against him, but four men held her down and beat her with sticks. Her husband finally wriggled the gag out of his mouth and screamed.

And then she watched as a soldier fired a bullet into the chest of the man she had married only one month before. Another soldier slit his throat.

Her mind grew fuzzy. When

the soldiers were finished, they dragged her outside and set her bamboo house ablaze.

It would be two months before she realized her misery was far from over: She was pregnant.

The rape of Rohingya women by Myanmar's security forces has been sweeping and methodical, the Associated Press found in interviews with 29 women and girls who fled to neighboring Bangladesh. These sexual assault survivors from several refugee camps were interviewed separately and extensively. The women gave AP their names, but agreed to be publicly identified only by their first initial, citing fears they or their families would be killed by Myanmar's military. They ranged in age from 13 to 35, came from a wide swath of villages in Myanmar's Rakhine state and described assaults between October 2016 and mid-September.

Yet there was a sickening sameness to their stories, with distinct patterns in their accounts, their assailants' uniforms and the details of the rapes themselves.

The testimonies bolster the U.N.'s contention that Myanmar's armed forces are systematically employing rape as a "calculated tool of terror" aimed at exterminating the Rohingya people. The Myanmar

armed forces did not respond to multiple requests from the AP for comment, but an internal military investigation last month concluded that none of the assaults ever took place. When journalists asked about rape allegations during a government-organized trip to Rakhine in September, Rakhine's minister for border affairs, Phone Tint, replied: "These women were claiming they were raped, but look at their appearances — do you think they are that attractive to be raped?"

Doctors and aid workers, however, say they are stunned at the sheer volume of rapes, and suspect only a fraction of women have come forward. Medecins Sans Frontieres doctors have treated 113 sexual violence survivors since August, a third of them under 18. The youngest was 9.

Each woman interviewed by the AP described attacks that involved groups of men, often coupled with other forms of extreme violence. Every woman except one said the assailants wore military-style uniforms, generally dark green or camouflage. The lone woman who described her attackers as wearing plain clothes said her neighbors recognized them from the local military outpost.

Many women said the uniforms bore various patches featuring stars or, in a couple cases, arrows. Such patches represent the different units of Myanmar's army.

Though the scale of these attacks is new, the use of sexual violence by Myanmar's security forces is not. Before she became Myanmar's civilian leader, Aung San Suu Kyi herself said Myanmar's armed forces used rape as a weapon to intimidate ethnic nationalities.

When the soldiers were finished, they dragged her outside and set her bamboo house ablaze

Yet Suu Kyi's government has not only failed to condemn the recent accounts of rape, it has dismissed the accounts as lies. In Dec. 2016, the government issued a press release disputing Rohingya women's reports of sexual assaults, accompanied by an image that said "Fake Rape."

More than three months after the men burst into F's home, she was living with her neighbors — a couple and their 5-year-old son. The timing of her rape left little doubt that the baby growing inside her belonged to one of the men who had caused all her grief.

She could only pray that things would not get worse. And then, one night in mid-September,

they did.

The men broke down the door. There were five of them this time, F remembers. They slashed the boy's throat, and killed the man.

Then they turned to the man's wife, and to F. And her nightmare began again.

They stripped off the women's clothes and threw them to the floor. F's friend fought back, and the men beat her so viciously the skin on her thighs began to peel away.

But the fight had gone out of F. She felt her body go soft, felt the blood run between her legs as the first man forced himself on her, and then the second. Three men savaged her friend.

When it was over, the women lay on the floor for days.

Finally, F hauled herself to her feet, pulling her friend up with her. Hand in hand, the women stumbled to the next village, and then began the 10-day journey to Bangladesh.

Which is where F lives now, in a tiny bamboo shelter between two filthy latrines. And it is here that F prays her baby will be a boy — because this world is no place for a girl.

The child will be the only family F has left. For her, the most haunting reminder of the agony she endured also, somehow, represents her last chance at happiness.

"Everybody has died," she says. "I don't have anyone to care for me. If I give this baby away, what will I have left? There will be nothing to live for." **AP**

Editor's Note: The Associated Press reported this story with a grant from the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting.

ANALYSIS

Complex questions accompany diplomatic options on North Korea

Matthew Pennington, Washington

WHEN President Donald Trump's U.N. ambassador recently urged the world to sever diplomatic ties with North Korea, she was sketchy on the details: Should all embassies close? How about those providing the U.S. intelligence from the largely inscrutable country? And what of Sweden, which helps with imprisoned Americans?

Nikki Haley's recent call to action underscores the challenge for the United States as it tries to advance a nonmilitary strategy for resolving the nuclear standoff with North Korea. Isolating the reclusive, totalitarian state has been a central component of the U.S. plan, even though Washington says it remains open to talks.

Like international economic penalties, the Trump administration believes the diplomatic isolation serves two purposes.

It's designed to punish North Korean leader Kim Jong Un for developing an atomic arsenal of bombs and intercontinental missiles that potentially could deliver nuclear warheads anywhere in the United States. U.S. officials also contend that freezing out North Korea could drive Kim's government to seek negotiations.

"We do know they care a lot about their international reputation," said Mark Tokola, a former No. 2 at the U.S. Embassy in South Korea.

Trump's team has chalked up



US Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley

some successes in narrowing the North's diplomatic reach. Mexico, Peru, Italy, Spain, and Kuwait have expelled North Korean ambassadors from their countries. Haley said Portugal and the United Arab Emirates have suspended diplomatic relations. Others have cut trade and security ties.

But North Korea isn't and won't be completely isolated.

Last month, China, whose once-close relationship with North Korea has been strained by its adoption of tough U.N. sanctions, sent its highest level envoy to Pyongyang in two years. North Korea also recently welcomed a Russian parliamentary delegation, in a sign of increasing contacts between the former Cold War partners. And the North just hosted the most senior U.N. official to visit in years:

Jeffrey Feltman, the undersecretary-general for political affairs.

Even before he departed, experts played down expectations that Feltman, formerly a senior American diplomat, could offer a breakthrough as the standoff over the North's nuclear weapons threatens to spiral into war. Feltman carried no message from Washington, State Department spokesman Heather Nauert said.

Yet Feltman's visit, which included an audience with Kim's foreign minister, added to questions about how effectively the U.S. can isolate North Korea. Feltman left Pyongyang on Saturday after four days of talks with the North Korean Foreign Ministry. "I have to brief the secretary-general first," he said when asked for details of his trip.

Also unresolved is whether Trump and his top advisers have a game plan for the second half of a strategy they've called "maximum pressure and engagement." If North Korea signals a willingness to negotiate, now that Kim has declared that he has "realized the great historic cause of completing the state nuclear force," how will the U.S. respond?

"This is probably as good a time as any to try to pivot to engagement," said Suzanne DiMaggio at the New America think tank, who has been involved in several rounds of unofficial talks with North Korean officials. She said the administration has focused almost completely on pressure.

Kim's declaration followed North Korea's test last month of its most powerful intercontinental missile yet, which led Haley, at an emergency U.N. Security Council meeting, to speak of a world "closer to war." At the same time, she pushed for others to cut trade and diplomatic ties with Pyongyang.

U.S. officials say doing so would stop North Korea from abusing diplomatic privileges that allow it to raise revenues or conduct illegal business in support of its nuclear and missile programs. It's also intended to exploit North Korean sensitivity to its international standing.

But the U.S. has given mixed messages on what form concretely the isolation should take.

Haley called on all governments to sever ties. Other U.S. officials say

the emphasis is on getting North Korean diplomats expelled from overseas postings, not on closing foreign embassies in Pyongyang. To date, no embassies have shut down in the North Korean capital as a result of the U.S. campaign.

According to research by the Washington-based East-West Center and the National Committee on North Korea, North Korea maintains diplomatic relations with 167 countries. It has embassies in 47 foreign capitals. Twenty-four countries have embassies in Pyongyang, and those include American rivals and friends.

Trump's team has chalked up some successes in narrowing the North's diplomatic reach

"If the U.S. is really serious about depriving North Korea of diplomatic relations, it must start with its own closest ally, Great Britain," said Artyom Lukin, a North Korea expert at Far Eastern Federal University in Vladivostok, Russia.

Since the U.S. has no diplomatic presence of its own in North Korea — the two sides remain technically in a state of war — it relies to some extent on Britain, Germany and other partners to stay abreast of what's happening there. Most critically, it needs Sweden, its protecting power, to assist three currently detained Americans in North Korea, on the rare occasions when Kim's government allows consular access. **AP**

PHILIPPINES

Duterte asks Congress to extend martial law in Mindanao

PHILIPPINE President Rodrigo Duterte asked Congress yesterday to extend the martial law he declared in the country's south by one year to ensure the "total eradication" of pro-Islamic State group extremists, warning they plan more uprisings after an unsuccessful but disastrous siege of Marawi city.

Duterte said the remaining militants still hope to establish a caliphate in the Philippines and Southeast Asia after government forces killed more than 900 fighters and quelled the five-month Marawi siege in October.

Left-wing and pro-democracy groups have protes-

ted Duterte's imposition of martial law because of human rights concerns, but the Supreme Court has upheld its legality.

In a letter to the Senate and the House of Representatives, Duterte said extending martial law in the southern Mindanao region through the end of 2018 would allow government forces to press offensives against other armed groups, including the Abu Sayyaf and communist guerrillas, who have intensified attacks.

Despite the killing of Isnilon Hapilon, long wanted by the United States and the Philippines, and other leaders of the Marawi attack, "the remnants of their

groups have continued to rebuild their organization through the recruitment and training of new members and fighters to carry on the rebellion," Duterte said in his letter, which was provided to reporters.

Rep. Edcel Lagman said Congress should reject Duterte's request because there was no more constitutionally outlined ground for martial law after the president declared Marawi has been freed from terrorist influence. Congress, which is dominated by Duterte's allies, approved Duterte's martial law declaration this year. The Senate and House will meet jointly on Wednesday to decide.

Duterte's request for a martial law extension amounts to a "patent violation of the safeguards which the 1987 constitution imposes for the limited grounds and duration of martial law and its extension," Lagman said.

The Marawi violence displaced about half a million people and turned mosque-studded Marawi's central business and residential districts into a smoldering war zone.

The uprising that began on May 23 prompted Duterte to declare martial law and reinforced fears that the Islamic State group was taking steps to gain a foothold in Asia and elsewhere



as it faced battle setbacks in Syria and Iraq.

Some gunmen and commanders managed to escape during the fighting, the military said.

One of the militants who might replace Hapilon, Esmail Abdulmalik, who uses the nom de guerre Abu Turraife, has been monitored to be planning bombings in the south, Duterte said. An IS-linked faction in another militant band, the Bangsamoro Islamic Free-

dom Group, has intensified roadside bombings and attacks on troops.

Communist New People's Army guerrillas, meanwhile, have taken advantage of the military's preoccupation with Muslim extremists and increased their attacks on troops and businesses in the south, killing 41 government security personnel and destroying at least 2.2 billion pesos (USD43 million) in property, Duterte said. **AP**

INDONESIA

American man escapes from Bali prison

INDONESIAN police are hunting for an American citizen who escaped yesterday from an overcrowded and understaffed prison on the Indonesian resort island of Bali.

Head of Kerobokan prison Tonny Nainggolan said Christian Beasley, 32, is believed to have escaped at around 4 a.m. by sawing through a ceiling and then jumping over a 6-meter-high wall behind the prison.

Beasley was arrested in August at a post office in the Kuta tourist area of Bali with a package containing 5.7 grams of hashish.

Nainggolan said another American inmate, Paul Anthony Hoffman, 57, who has been serving a 20-month prison sentence since July for robbery, was captured while trying to escape.

An investigation was underway to determine if prison guards were involved in the escape, said Surung Pasaribu of the local office of the Law and Human Rights Ministry. He also said there is a shortage of guards for the prison, which was built to accommodate about 300 people but has nearly 1,600 inmates.

It was the second escape from the prison in Bali's capital, Denpasar, since June, when four foreign inmates escaped through a drainage tunnel. **AP**

INDONESIA

Protestors burn US flags in fourth day of Jerusalem protests

ACTIVISTS burned U.S. and Israeli flags in front of the American embassy in Jakarta yesterday in a fourth day of protests in Indonesia against President Donald Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

Several hundred protesters from an Islamic youth group rallied outside the embassy, burning flags and images of Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Wearing white robes, the protesters unfurled banners reading "U.S. Embassy, Get Out from Al-Quds" and "We are with the Palestinians." Al-Quds is the Arabic name for Jerusalem, the historic Middle East city that is a holy site for Jews, Christians and Muslims.

A weekend protest at the embassy attracted several thousand people and similar protests have been held in



Protesters burn a poster of U.S. President Donald Trump during a rally outside the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta yesterday

other cities around Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation.

Indonesian President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo has strongly condemned Trump's move, which he described as a violation of U.N. resolutions.

Indonesia does not have di-

plomatic ties with Israel and has long been a strong supporter of Palestinian aspirations for statehood.

Trump's announcement last week overturned decades of U.S. policy, and a longstanding international consensus, that the fate of Jerusalem be

decided as a part of a peace deal between Israel and Palestine.

Israeli and Palestinian claims to the city's eastern sector form the core of their conflict, and Trump's announcement was seen as siding with the Israelis. **AP**

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NOBEL PRIZE

Laureate fears US politics could undermine science

AN American scientist who shared this year's Nobel Prize for medicine bluntly criticized political developments at home in his address at the awards' gala banquet, saying that U.S. scientists are facing funding cutbacks that will hurt research.

Michael Rosbash, who was honored for his work on circadian rhythms — commonly called the body clock — expressed concern that U.S. government funding such as that received by him and Nobel colleagues Jeffrey Hall and Michael Young is endangered. "We benefited from an enlightened period in the postwar United States. Our National Institutes of Health have enthusiastically and generously supported basic research [... but] the current climate in the U.S. is a warning that continued support cannot be taken for granted," Rosbash said in a short speech Sunday night at Stockholm's ornate city hall.

The 2018 federal budget proposed by President Donald Trump calls for cutting science funding by billions of dollars.

"Also in danger is the pluralistic America into which all three of us of born were born and raised after World War II," Rosbash said. "Immigrants and foreigners have always been an indispensable part of our country, including its great record in scientific research."

Literature laureate Kazuo Ishiguro of Britain expressed concern about increasing tensions between social factions.

"We live today in a time of growing tribal enmities of communities fracturing into bitterly opposed groups," said Ishiguro, who was born in Japan.

He said Nobel prizes can counterbalance such animosity.

"The pride we feel when someone from our nation wins a

Nobel prize is different from the one we feel witnessing one of our athletes winning an Olympic medal. We don't feel the pride of our tribe demonstrating superiority over other tribes. Rather it's the pride that from knowing that one of us has made a significant contribution to our common human endeavor," he said.

In the Norwegian capital of Oslo, a survivor of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima compared her struggle to survive in 1945 to the objectives of the group awarded this year's Nobel's Peace Prize.

Setsuko Thurlow, who was 13 when the U.S. bomb devastated her Japanese city during the final weeks of World War II, spoke as a leading activist with the Nobel-winning International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons.

Thurlow said the Hiroshima blast left her buried under the rubble, but she was able to see light and crawl to safety. In



Michael Rosbash, laureate in Medicine 2017 delivers a speech, during the Nobel banquet in the City Hall in Stockholm

the same way, the campaign to which she belongs is a driving force behind an international treaty to ban nuclear weapons, she said after ICAN received the Nobel prize it won in October.

"Our light now is the ban treaty," Thurlow said. "I repeat those words that I heard called to me in the ruins of Hiroshima: 'Don't give up. Keep pushing. See the light? Crawl toward it.'"

The treaty has been signed by 56 countries — none of them nuclear powers — and ratified by only three. To become binding it requires rati-

fication by 50 countries.

ICAN Executive Director Beatrice Fihn, who accepted the prize along with Thurlow, said that while the treaty is far from ratification "now, at long last, we have an unequivocal norm against nuclear weapons."

"This is the way forward. There is only one way to prevent the use of nuclear weapons — prohibit and eliminate them," Fihn said.

The prize winners were announced in October. All except the peace prize were awarded in Sweden yesterday [Macau time]. AP

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Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR

Sam, I left a copy of my ID documents and itinerary with the family. I've also prepared a list of emergency contacts.

Ann, and I've prepared enough cash, credit cards and took care of the travel insurance too!

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Select activities that are within your capabilities
Make sure the equipment for your activities are in good condition
Make sure that the safety equipment is complete

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Contact your family
Contact the 24-Hour Tourism Hotline +853-2833 3000 or the Global Emergency Call Center for Consular Protection and Services of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
24-Hour Hotline: +86-10-12308

旅遊危機處理辦公室
Tourism Crisis Management Office

Lorne Cook, Brussels

ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu urged the European Union yesterday to back a new U.S. peace initiative in the Middle East, after President Donald Trump's unilateral decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital met with widespread condemnation and triggered clashes in the Palestinian territories.

Netanyahu, on a first official visit to the EU by an Israeli premier in 22 years, told reporters in Brussels that recognizing Jerusalem was merely stating the reality on the ground. He said he expected many European countries to follow Trump's lead in the future.

But European officials say they have heard no details about the U.S. plan to relaunch moribund Mideast peace efforts.

"We should give peace a chance. I think we should see what is presented and see if we can advance this peace," Netanyahu said, before a meeting with EU foreign ministers, chaired by the bloc's foreign policy chief, Federica Mogherini.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said the Europeans are impatient to hear details of any new U.S. peace move. None were forthcoming

AP PHOTO



BRUSSELS

Israel urges EU to back US Mideast peace moves

when Secretary of State Rex Tillerson was in Brussels last week.

"They've announced to us some kind of American initiative. We've been waiting for several months. If it's not the case, then perhaps the European Union should take the initiative, but it's too early to say," Le Drian said.

"Everyone knows that the resolution of the Middle East crisis goes through negotiations and the recognition of two states," he said.

"[Jerusalem] could be the capital of Israel and a future Pa-

lestinian state but that has to be negotiated between the two parties," said Belgian Foreign Minister Didier Reynders.

Reynders said that, as the biggest aid donor to the Palestinians and a major partner of Israel, the EU has "a particular role to play" in the dispute.

We should give peace a chance.

BENJAMIN NETANYAHU
ISRAEL PM

Netanyahu insisted, however, that "what President Trump has done is put facts squarely on the table. Peace is based on reality."

"Jerusalem is Israel's capital, no one can deny it. It doesn't obviate peace it makes peace possible," he said, adding that he believed most European countries will now "move their embassies to Jerusalem, recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital."

Netanyahu was also due to discuss Israel's relations with the EU, which have been tense, particularly over the EU's insistence on labeling Israeli products made in Jewish settlements. AP

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what's ON



CELEBRATION OF THE 18TH ANNIVERSARY OF MACAU HANDOVER TO CHINA - EXHIBITION BY ZUO ZHENG YAO

TIME: 12pm-8pm (Tuesdays to Sundays)

3pm-8pm (Monday)

UNTIL: February 4, 2018

ADMISSION: Free

ORGANIZER: Albergue SCM - A2 Gallery, Calçada da Igreja de São Lázaro No.8, Macau

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2550

TEAMLAB FUTURE PARK

TIME: 1:30pm-10pm (Mondays to Fridays)

10:30am-10pm (Saturdays, Sundays and

public holidays; 90 minutes per session, maximum capacity is 150 people at one time)

UNTIL: February 28, 2018

VENUE: MGM Art Space

ADMISSION: MOP150 (MOP120 for Macau

residents; free admission for children aged 2 or under)

A CONTRIBUTION TO THE HISTORY OF MACAU EXHIBITION

TIME: 10:30am-5:30pm (Closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: March 31, 2018

ADMISSION: Free

ORGANIZER: Macau Post and Telecommunications Bureau

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8396 8305

COMMUNICATIONS MUSEUM

TIME: 9am-5:30pm daily (Ticket sales is closed 30 minutes prior to closing; closed on public holidays)

ADDRESS: No. 7, Estrada de D. Maria II

ADMISSION: MOP10

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2871 8063; 2871 8570

Offbeat

SNOW BREAKS HAVOC ON TRAVELERS IN BRITAIN, SCHOOLS CLOSED



Snow and wintry weather are still wreaking havoc on travelers in Britain, with flights cancelled, roads sheathed in ice and rail travel disrupted.

With temperatures dropping overnight as low as minus 11.6 Celsius, hundreds of schools were closed yesterday. Europe's largest airport, Heathrow, warned that some flights would be cancelled as it cleared the backlog of flights delayed by Sunday's snowfall.

Heathrow asked travelers to check with their airlines. In the world of interconnected air travel, any extended disruption quickly leaves planes and flight crews out of position, knocking them out of rotation for their next assignments.

National Rail said poor weather conditions are affecting travel across England and Wales. Trains on Chiltern Railways, Cross-Country, Great Western, and Virgin Trains will all also be affected.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	RTPi News (Delayed Broadcast)
15:00	Miscellaneous
15:45	Zig Zag
16:10	NOS League: Setubal x Porto (Repeated)
17:50	Brazilian Soap Opera (Repeated)
18:40	TDM Sports (Repeated)
19:50	Portuguese Serie (Repeated)
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Interview
21:30	Grimm Sr. 2
22:10	Brazilian Soap Opera
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:05	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 23

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

Director: Martin Campbell

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

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 113min



WONDER

ROOM 2

7:15pm

Director: Stephen Chbosky

Starring: Julia Roberts, Owen Wilson, Jacob Tremblay

Language: Chinese (English)

Duration: 113min

TAKE ME TO THE MOON

ROOM 3

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

Director: Chun Yi Hsieh

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

Language: Mandarin (English & Chinese)

Duration: 105min

this day in history



1992 PRINCESS ROYAL REMARRIES

Princess Anne today became Mrs Timothy Laurence after a small family wedding in Scotland.

The 42-year-old arrived at Crathie church near Balmoral Castle accompanied by her father Prince Philip, and her daughter and bridesmaid 11-year-old Zara.

Before a small family congregation she and the groom, Commander Laurence, 37, exchanged vows to stay together "until God shall separate us by death."

Anne, dressed in a simple white suit with white blossoms in her hair, and Mr Laurence, in a Royal Navy uniform, emerged from the church to cheers from about 500 well wishers.

The newlyweds are expected to join the rest of the royal family for a short celebration at Craigowan Lodge on the Balmoral estate.

Among the guests were the Queen, the Queen Mother, Princess Margaret and Anne's son from her first marriage Peter, 15.

Anne married Mark Phillips in 1973 at Westminster Abbey and they divorced this year.

But this is the first marriage for her groom whom she met during a tour of duty on the Royal Yacht Britannia.

In 1986, he was appointed an equerry to the Queen. Their relationship became known in April 1989 when letters from the Commander were stolen from Anne's briefcase and given to newspapers.

Four months later Anne announced her separation from Mark Phillips.

It is hoped Anne's wedding celebrations will end a turbulent year for the Royal Family.

It was announced this week Prince Charles and the Princess of Wales have separated and Diana chose not to attend today's ceremony.

The Queen's second son, Prince Andrew, also separated from his wife the Duchess of York this year.

Both brothers accompanied Prince Edward at today's ceremony.

The palace would not reveal if there are any plans for a honeymoon.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Rumours Princess Anne and Commander Laurence were leading separate lives surfaced in 2001 but received no comment from the Royal Family.

Princess Anne's no fuss approach to royal duties has won her much admiration as the hardest working royal - with 655 engagements in her diary in 2001 - but also criticism for being too severe.

She was criticised at Christmas 2000 for apparently berating a well wisher in her seventies who had waited to greet the royal family as they completed a traditional celebration at St Mary Magdalen church on the Sandringham Estate.

The princess apparently took a basket handmade by the woman and said: "What a ridiculous thing to do."

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 When you're faced with equal but different kinds of pleasure, what do you do? First, you can cackle with glee at your fabulous so-called problem. Next, keep quiet about it.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Are you and someone close acting more like enemies? Whether it's a friend, colleague or the love of your life, relations might have a certain dangerous vibe right now. It's easy enough to defuse, though.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You're like a master chef, except that you excel at cooking up tasty social events. It may be a tete-a-tete for two or a larger-scale happening involving hundreds, but you're able to mix and blend all the ingredients.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You feel like the lead in your own personal drama - with the entire world as your audience! You do love to be the center of attention sometimes, and everyone else always does enjoy watching.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Don't sit at home surfing channels when your energy is pushing you to surf crowds! Everyone needs time to decompress, of course, but your good energy has given you an extra dose of charm and energy.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Fools rush in where angels fear to tread - but it's also true that sometimes angels are just a bunch of old scary-cats who don't know how to loosen up and have a good time.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Any long-term plans you're brewing up right now should get the thumbs up, so don't be afraid to dream - and dream big. Why stop at just a few turrets - why not add a double-wide moat and some errant knights riding around the place?

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Blessings can sometimes wear the weirdest disguises in order to see if we're paying attention. Something good that comes along today might wear the guise of a frustrated boss or an angry mate.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 A gale force wind of change is blowing into town today. You might just be lifted up out of some sweet, comfortable surroundings and dumped somewhere utterly fantastic.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You're a deeply thoughtful and somewhat complicated person, while those closest to you might be more about the simple life. Is this a case of irreconcilable differences? Of course not!

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 With certain friends and loved ones, even the most casual of conversations can become a big, challenging game of Telephone - your 'Let's eat out tonight' might suddenly become 'Let's spend some time apart.'

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Reality shows can be fun to watch on TV, but who wants to live that way? If you're thinking about indulging in any of the staples of reality TV - alliances, backbiting, gossip, hysteria - don't.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

5x5 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle with numbers 1-5.

Easy+

5x5 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle with numbers 1-5.

Medium

5x5 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle with numbers 1-5.

Hard

5x5 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle with numbers 1-5.

WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION

CHINA

Table listing weather for various Chinese cities: Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, Urumqi, Xi'an, Lhasa, Chengdu, Chongqing, Kunming, Nanjing, Shanghai, Wuhan, Hangzhou, Taipei, Guangzhou, Hong Kong.

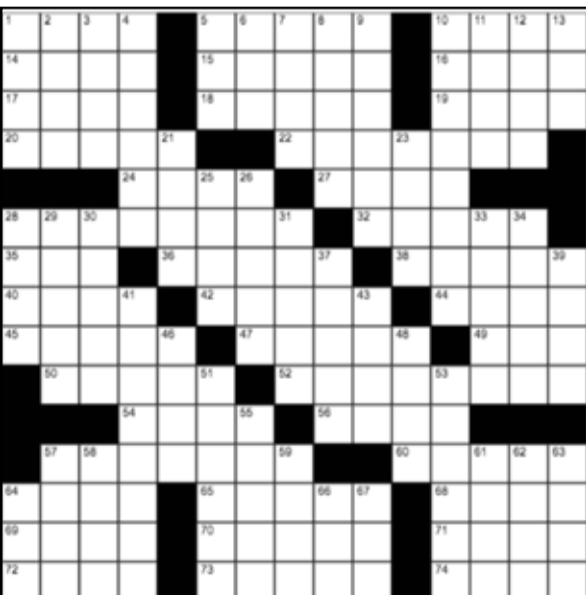
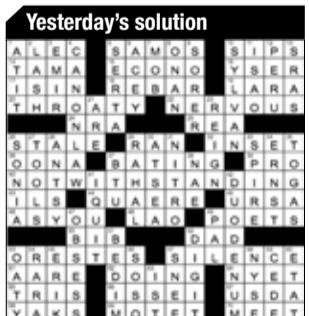
WORLD

Table listing weather for various world cities: Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Matador's flourish medium?; 5- Actor's parts; 10- Word that can succeed building, web or burial; 14- Stuck, after "in"; 15- Alley Oop's girlfriend; 16- Drew on; 17- 9th letter of the Hebrew alphabet; 18- Heavy footwear; 19- Grandma; 20- Fertile area in a desert; 22- Drunkard; 24- Dove sounds; 27- At hand; 28- Cracks; 32- Reduces speed; 35- Some; 36- ___-car; 38- Rich cake; 40- Trading center; 42- Smells; 44- Froth; 45- Accustom; 47- Cassette half; 49- Part of TNT; 50- Sporting blades; 52- Gearwheel; 54- Slaughter in Cooperstown; 56- ___ avis; 57- Frog's perch; 60- Klondike territory; 64- Calf-length skirt; 65- Takes on; 68- State bird of Hawaii; 69- Wild; 70- Bellybutton type; 71- Tax experts; Abbr.; 72- Ad word; 73- Make up; 74- Clue;

DOWN: 1- Roman statesman; 2- District; 3- Places; 4- Morals; 5- Hold up; 6- "Hollywood Squares" win; 7- Booty; 8- Singer John; 9- Talks back to; 10- Impervious to sunlight; 11- Golfer Aoki; 12- Camp sight; 13- Author Le Shan; 21- Tart; 23- Preservative; 25- Hydrox rival; 26- Dispatches; 28- Renown; 29- Senseless; 30- Thick sweet liquid; 31- Unemotional; 33- Penned; 34- Gaze fixedly; 37- Passion; 39- Pianist Gilels; 41- Dendroid; 43- Nintendo rival; 46- Start of a counting rhyme; 48- Out of kilter; 51- Actress Loren; 53- Hindquarter; 55- Person of exceptional holiness; 57- Capital city of Peru; 58- Billy ___ had a hit song with "White Wedding"; 59- Bond classic; 61- Foreign Legion cap; 62- ___ even keel; 63- Resting place; 64- Bell and Barker; 66- Ich bin ___ Berliner; 67- Call on;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



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News At Hand



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EPL

Record-setting City wins derby for 11-point championship lead

Steve Douglas, Manchester

CHANTS of "Ole!" rang out from a boisterous corner of Old Trafford as Manchester City saw out a record 14th straight Premier League win by keeping possession right in front of its jubilant fans.

Manchester United just couldn't get the ball off City near the corner flag in those painful last few minutes. One final humiliation on a day when City's players opened up a close-to-unassailable 11-point lead and again highlighted the gulf between them and the rest of the league. All at the home of their biggest rival, too.

City won the Manchester derby 2-1 yesterday [Macau time] to set an English record for consecutive top-flight victories in a single season and hand United its first loss at Old Trafford in any competition since September. City was the winner then, too.

With 16 games gone, City is unbeaten in the league — having dropped only two points against Everton — and looking unstoppable as it goes for its first league title under Pep Guardiola. Third-place Chelsea is 14 points off the pace, with its coach Antonio Conte having already given up on defending the trophy.

United manager Jose Mouri-



Nicolas Otamendi (right) scores his side's second goal

nho, whose team remains City's closest challenger, said the title race was "probably" over, too, despite the season not having reached the halfway stage

"You cannot be champions in December," Guardiola said, attempting to downplay expectations. "But it's important for our confidence to feel that we can compete on big stages with huge personality." Just like City did in beating Chelsea 1-0 at Stamford Bridge and thrashing Liverpool 5-0 at home.

City capitalized on two defensive mistakes by United striker Romelu Lukaku at set pieces to score its goals, with David Silva and Nicolas Otamendi applying close-range finishes in the 43rd and 54th minutes.

Marcus Rashford equalized for United, from another defensive mistake, but the meeting of the league's top two teams was one-sided. Guardiola said only once had any of his teams — Barcelona, Bayern Munich or City — played better than that against United down the years, picking out Barcelona's win in the Champions League final at Wembley Stadium in 2011.

Mourinho, who fell to a ninth loss in 20 head-to-heads with coaching rival Guardiola, pointed to two major incidents in the final 10 minutes of normal time: The failure to award United a penalty for Otamendi's challenge on Ander Herrera and then City goalkeeper Ederson Moraes's double save from Lukaku

and Juan Mata.

"Manchester City are a very good team and they are protected by the luck," Mourinho said. "The gods of football are behind them."

The game kicked off in light snowfall and, until being caught cold by Rashford's equalizer, City overran United at times, just like in last season's 2-1 win at Old Trafford. Kevin De Bruyne and Silva, in particular, were given so much time in central midfield with opposite numbers Nemanja Matic and Herrera unsure whether to close down or retreat in front of their defense.

It meant City was getting quite easily to the edge of United's box before encountering a wall of red jerseys. The final pass was

the only thing lacking and invariably the opening goal came from a source at which United was supposed to have the advantage: The set piece.

De Bruyne's outswinging corner hit Lukaku as the United striker challenged for the ball with Otamendi, and Silva was on hand to guide the loose ball past stranded goalkeeper David De Gea from just inside the six-yard box.

City's players switched off in the final moments of the half and United made them pay. De Bruyne had already wasted a three-on-two breakaway when Otamendi failed to deal with a routine long ball forward from United center back Marcos Rojo, who was bandaged up after a clash of heads with Silva.

Otamendi misjudged the flight of the ball and succeeded only in glancing a header backward, behind his flat-footed left back Fabian Delph. Rashford was more alert, driving a first-time shot low past Ederson.

Both teams were forced into halftime substitutions in defense — Vincent Kompany off for City, Rojo for United — but the shape of the game didn't change.

Lukaku barely threatened up front for United but he again unintentionally made his presence felt at the other end of the field. He had time and space to deal with Silva's floated free kick in the 54th, yet managed to smash his attempted clearance into the back of teammate Chris Smalling. Just like with the first goal, the ball dropped kindly for a City player, with Otamendi this time powering home the finish.

"We won because we were better," Guardiola said. "In all departments, we were better." AP

Russia says its athletes want to compete at the Olympics

RUSSIAN athletes are overwhelmingly in favor of competing at the upcoming Pyeongchang Games despite a ban on the national team, the country's Olympic committee said yesterday.

Sofia Velikaya said the Russian Olympic Committee's athletes' commission, which she chairs, has heard from "all the athletes in all sports" on the Olympic program, with a majority in favor of competing.

Velikaya said no athletes have told the ROC they would rather boycott.

"At the current moment, everyone's training and everyone's hoping to take part in the Olympics," Velikaya said.

The International Olympic Committee last week barred the Russian team from Pyeongchang because of doping offenses at the 2014 Sochi Games, but is allowing Russians to compete under a neutral flag as "Olympic Athletes from Russia."

Last week, Russian President Vladimir Putin said the government won't stand in their way. ROC spokesman Konstantin Vyborno said teams from biathlon and snowboard had recorded videos affirming their desire to compete, while the men's hockey team has written "a collective letter."

Some Russian hardliners believe it is shameful for athletes to compete at the

Olympics without their national flag. But Velikaya defended the athletes, saying everyone watching will know who is from Russia.

"The choice of competing at the Olympics is strictly individual," Velikaya said. "I call on Russian society to treat athletes' decisions with understanding and respect."

With the IOC due to send out invitations to individual Russians over the next two months, Velikaya said Russian sports officials would put together lists of their preferred teams. Those rosters, she said, would stop the IOC from inviting "numbers five and six" in the Russian team while leaving

out genuine medal contenders.

Russia is pushing back against some IOC conditions, however, backing appeals by Russian athletes banned for doping at the 2014 Sochi Olympics.

Velikaya also said her commission will ask the IOC to remove a condition stopping athletes from being invited to Pyeongchang if they have been suspended for doping in the past. That affects a few athletes with earlier offenses unconnected to the Sochi Olympics, including biathletes banned for using the blood-booster EPO and speedskating world champion Denis Yuskov, who was suspended in 2008 after testing



Sergey Ustiugov of Russia skis during the men's 15 km free style race at the cross country World Cup in Davos

positive for marijuana.

Forcing the Russians to compete as neutral athletes puts the IOC in the uncomfortable position of regulating how they celebrate.

The Russian flag won't be flown at medal ceremonies, but what happens if a Russian winner accepts a flag or a gift from a spectator for a victory lap? Can

Russian athletes fly the flag from their windows in the athletes village? Those are on a list of questions Vyborno said Russia will ask of the IOC.

"A figure skater wins, let's say, and they throw her a teddy bear in Russian uniform onto the ice," Vyborno said. "She picks it up. Can she do that? Or is that an offense?" AP

opinion

Our Desk

Julie Zhu



WHO DROPPED OFF THEIR RECYCLING?

Recently during the morning when I was waiting for the bus to go to work, I saw a man carrying a cardboard box containing glass bottles and pieces of plastic and paper to a recycling trash bin near the bus stop. The man deposited each piece of trash into the correct spot according to its category.

That moment made me wonder just how many people originally came from or grew up in a culture or country where recycling was part of their entire lives, and then, after coming to Macau, put away their good recycling habits, perhaps adapting to the local culture too well.

The Macau government is often blamed for its failure to promote a recycling culture, and is also frequently criticized for its poor management of this issue.

The critics include myself, who came from a place where recycling was not a habit for anyone, where it is still not a habit, and where, probably, it will not be a habit in the long-term.

However, I learned about environmental protection in school, and I try to carry out what I was taught about protecting the environment: not ordering take away food, and always reusing plastic shopping bags, to name just two. Sometimes, when I forget to do so, I feel a strong sense of guilt, which I believe is also felt by many other people who slip up on such matters.

Macau is a place where people of many talents come from all over the world, and a large number of these people come from specific parts of the world where recycling is not only a personal commitment, but also a rule that everybody was educated to follow, even in some places being lawfully obliged to do.

If we are waiting for the government to do something to push other people into recycling while at the same time not recycling ourselves, surely we are being hypocritical? However, when the government does not provide the population with basic recycling guidelines, and consequently we take no action ourselves, how can we address this phenomenon?

If enough of us do the right thing, it creates enough momentum for a change to actually stick. This should be noted by leadership of all types, whether it be the government, or even a specific class in society.

We just need more people to be engaged in the proper mindset. This might have an influence over the remaining people, as one's behavior can be inspired from witnessing other people's actions.

The engine of community change should not be the government. We need each individual to regard themselves as the humble resident who simply believes their contribution to society is what really matters.

In my opinion, that strength, that leadership, unfortunately does not exist in the "traditional and local" Macau community.

People need to always watch the government and compel it to do the right thing. Take for instance matters concerning the salaries and welfare of civil servants.

The government has its own lesson to learn and has its own share of responsibility regarding Macau's devastating recycling issues. However, there are a few things that people can do to make a change, and these should be done by every single one of us.

THE TRIAL BEGINS AGAINST SUSPECTS IN BUZZ IZMIR NIGHTCLUB ATTACK

A trial began yesterday in Turkey against dozens of suspects, including the alleged shooter in the New Year's Eve attack that left 39 people dead in Istanbul.

Some 57 suspects, mostly foreigners and 51 of them behind bars, went on trial near a prison on the outskirts of Istanbul.

Albukadir Masharipov of Uzbekistan — the lead suspect in the case — is charged with membership in a terror group, murder and attempting to over-

throw the constitutional order, among other charges. The prosecutor is seeking multiple aggravated life sentences. The suspect's wife has also been charged.

Early on Jan. 1, an assailant shot his way into Istanbul's Reina nightclub where hundreds were partying, celebrating the New Year. The assailant escaped and the Islamic State group claimed the attack.

Some 79 people were wounded. Most of the dead were foreigners.

Pipe bomb strapped to man explodes in NYC subway, injuring 4

A man with a pipe bomb strapped to his body with Velcro and zip ties set off the crude device in the subway near Times Square yesterday, injuring him and three other people at the height of the morning rush hour.

All four were being treated for non-life-threatening injuries in what the mayor and police labeled an attempted terror attack.

The explosion happened in a long underground passageway that runs a full city block under 42nd Street between 7th and 8th Avenues. The 7:20 a.m. blast caused smoke to fill the passageway, which was crowded with Monday morning commuters.

Mayor Bill de Blasio and Police Commissioner James P. O'Neill labeled it an attempted terror attack.

"Thank God the perpetrator did not achieve his ultimate goals," de Blasio said.

The suspect was identified as 27-year-old Akayed Ullah.

Law enforcement officials said he was inspired by the Islamic State group but had apparently not had any direct contact with the group. The officials said he lives in Brooklyn and may be of Bangladeshi descent. The officials spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about the blast.

Police are investigating whether Ullah intended to set



Authorities said the bomb was a low-tech explosive device. They were investigating how it was made, and combing through surveillance footage that captured the blast on video.

A video posted on social media showed the security footage. In it, a man walks through the crowded pedestrian tunnel and the bomb suddenly going off in a plume of white smoke. Through the smoke, the suspect is then seen sprawled on the ground as bystanders flee.

Fire officials said the suspect had burns to his hands and abdomen. The others who were injured suffered ringing in ears and headaches.

Police are investigating whether Ullah intended to set

off the device in the walkway, or whether he had meant to do it in a busier location.

The explosion triggered a massive response by police and firefighters both above and below ground, tangling subway and bus service at the nearby Port Authority bus terminal.

Everything around the Port Authority area was shut down for a few hours — a surreal scene of still at what would ordinarily be a bustling rush hour. But by 10 a.m., much of the area had returned to normal. Authorities said by evening rush hour everything would be re-opened.

White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders tweeted that President Donald Trump had been briefed on the explosion. MDT/AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



Director's choice. "I, Tonya" is among the five Golden Globe nominees for best motion picture comedy or musical announced yesterday, along with "The Disaster Artist," "Get Out," "The Greatest Showman," and "Lady Bird." "I, Tonya" is showing at CCM on Thursday as part of the "Special Presentation" section of IFFAM curated by Mike Goodridge.

Station	Air quality	Icon
Roadside	65-95 Moderate	☹️
High Density Residential Area	65-95 Moderate	☹️
Ambient	65-95 Moderate	☹️

WORLD BRIEFS

IRAN's Foreign Ministry said yesterday it will raise the case of a detained British-Iranian woman with the judiciary "out of humanitarian concerns" following a visit by Britain's foreign secretary.



SAUDI ARABIA announced yesterday it will allow movie theaters to open in the conservative kingdom next year, for the first time in more than 35 years, in the latest social push by the country's young crown prince.



CONGO The United Nations Deputy Special Representative for Congo says military offenses will be launched against rebels who killed at least 15 Tanzanian U.N. peacekeepers last week in eastern Congo.



US A week of destructive fires in Southern California is ending but danger still looms the region that emerged this spring from a yearslong drought and now has firefighters on edge because of parched conditions.

HONDURAS' electoral court has finished a hand recount of votes in nearly 5,000 ballot boxes, saying results were "extremely consistent" with original data for the presidential election.

VENEZUELA's ruling socialists swept nearly all the races for mayors across the country, and President Nicolas Maduro is now threatening to ban key opposition parties from future elections in the oil-rich country wracked by economic crisis.

SWITZERLAND Real Madrid will now face Paris Saint-Germain in the last 16 of the Champions League. The Champions League last 16 draw took place yesterday in Nyon.