

DELTA BRIDGE NEARS COMPLETION



P5



UPDATED WARNING SYSTEM

Authorities revealed yesterday that typhoon warnings will now be issued three hours earlier than before

P4 AL PLENARY



TRUMP 'FURIOUS,' WITH BANNON OVER BOOK

The White House said Donald Trump was left feeling "furious" and "disgusted" after claims by his former top adviser

P20

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STEVE VICKERS

Gov't taking terrorism 'more seriously'

P7 MDT REPORT

WORLD BRIEFS



INDONESIA Security forces have retaken control of a prison in the country's west following a riot yesterday, an official said. The riot began when three inmates refused to be transferred to another prison. Other inmates joined in the protest before it turned violent. More on p12

VIETNAM Police said they arrested a business tycoon wanted for revealing state secrets after he was deported by Singapore yesterday.



JAPAN-N. KOREA North Korea should shift course and drop its nuclear program and missile tests to become a wealthier nation, Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said yesterday.

More on backpage



Extra

times
weekend Guide
INSIDE

Airport sets traffic record in 2017

P3

Lynzy Valles

THE France Macau Chamber of Commerce (FMCC) will celebrate its 10th Anniversary Charity Gala Dinner with the theme "Extravagance au Moulin Rouge" on January 26, and will give the funds that are raised to the Macao Fok Sin Association.

FMCC, previously known as the French Macau Business Association (FMBA), aspires to reach MOP50,000 to MOP60,000 to support the local association's project, "Visit the Elderly."

The project aims to provide visits and useful gifts to underprivileged elderly residents with low mobility, who do not have families and who lack emotional and financial support.

The association will provide essential items including food, winter clothes and articles such as walking sticks and eyeglasses as part of the project.

Speaking at a press conference yesterday, FMCC chairman Rutger Verschuren explained to the press that its target amount would greatly benefit the population of disadvantaged elderly residents in the region, particularly those who have yet to fully recover from Typhoon Hato.

"In previous years, we are talking in a range of MOP50,000 to MOP60,000. If we reach that, we're quite



Karen Wong (left) and Rutger Verschuren

FMCC to raise funds for 'Visit the Elderly' project

happy and we can make a big difference for the underprivileged elderly residents. That would be the target," said Verschuren.

Last year, FMCC raised over MOP48,000 to support Archi-

ecture Sans Frontière Macau (ASF-M) to revamp the local Good Shepherd Sisters Center.

The chamber raised funds for ASF-M at its 2016 and 2017 gala dinner.

"We did a great project [and] this year, we're looking for a change. We found this association that is a really down-to-earth charity [which will donate] immediately," said the chairman.

"This charity is also close to our personal sentiments as well, and it is not just one corporate donation," he continued.

Macao Fok Sin Association provides a platform for young residents to participate in community works, while expanding their social network.

"We have to understand and accept that the unfortunate and underprivileged are a part of the community," said Karen Wong, who represents the association.

The local association will organize visits during the Chinese New Year, which will take at least 30 minutes per group.

During the gala dinner, the two parties will raise funds through sales of raffle tickets, while the association will retail handmade silk balls that symbolize happiness, luck, safety and good health.

Meanwhile, Verschuren disclosed that the chamber would now act as a "magnet for companies in France who want to expand their services to Macau."

The chairman noted that the chamber has received several enquiries from French companies about how to conduct business in the region and host visits to the SAR.

FMCC pledged to host more activities and business events, and provide further opportunities for its members now that it has transitioned from an association to a chamber.

HERITAGE

IC publishes book on St Joseph's Seminary

THE Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) has published a book by art historian and Macau Ricci Institute researcher Cesar Guillen-Nunez, titled "Macao's College and Church of St Joseph: Splendor of the Baroque in China".

The book focuses on the church and the adjacent Jesuit College – now more commonly known as St Joseph's Seminary – which was perhaps the most important 18th-century complex of the early days of the Socie-

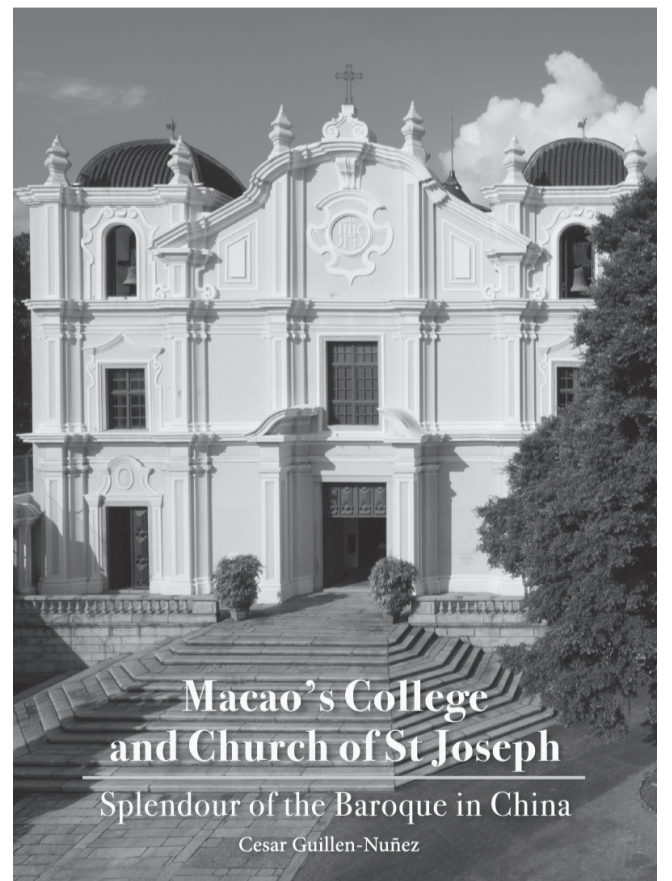
ty of Jesus in China, and among the most prominent in Macau. The buildings are part of UNESCO's List of Cultural Heritage and are part of the group of four main churches built by the Jesuits in China during the Qing Dynasty. The structures were conceived and built when the Baroque art style and architecture were already in decline in Europe, but were flourishing in the areas controlled by both the Spanish in Latin America and the Portuguese in

Macau, respectively. Guillen-Nunez's book is divided into two central sections. The first presents a historical perspective that analyzes the period and the influence of the Jesuit missionaries in China on French intellectuals and other thinkers such as Leibniz. The second section focuses on the iconography of St Joseph and the architecture of the seminary, examining not only the architectural projects but also the interior decoration and religious art dis-

played in the building.

The author – who is passionate about baroque art and architecture from Spain, Portugal and Latin America – has studied numerous buildings and works of art from the 17th and 18th century across Europe and the Americas. His research led him to study Portuguese colonial art in Macau and Southeast Asia, as well as the Jesuits' role in the cultural exchange between China and the West in the Society of Jesus's early days.

The book is priced at MOP180 and is available at several bookshops across Macau, as well as at the Public Information Centers and the Archives of Macao.



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EDUCATION

Polytechnic Institute will hold Open Day tomorrow

THE Macau Polytechnic Institute (IPM) is holding its annual Open Day tomorrow at its main campus on Gomez Street, featuring explanations and demonstrations of its teaching and management philosophy.

The Open Day will present IPM's teaching and research facilities, programs and courses, and information about its admission policies and processes to the public.

According to a statement issued by the university, the 2018/19 academic year will cater to students interested in a range of Bachelor Degree programs including Chinese-Portuguese/Portuguese-Chinese Translation & Interpretation, Chinese-English/English-Chinese Translation & Interpretation, and International Chinese Language Education.

In addition to the above, Portuguese Language, Computing, Social Work, Public Administration and

Sino-Lusophone Trade Relations courses are also offered.

The Open Day will feature a guided tour of the campus, teaching exhibitions and showcases of the institution's research achievements, trial tests of physical fitness, and performance and interactive activities.

Art workshops, nursing demonstrations, experiment demonstrations, talent shows, library tours and hands-on trials with teaching equipment will also be held.

IPM noted that on-site applications are strongly encouraged and will be processed immediately, although the application period will continue until January 19.

The university recommends that interested students visit the Exhibition of Programs & Curriculum in the Chi Un Building and enjoy other thematic exhibitions in the IPM Library in the Wui Chi Building.

Airport records highest traffic volume last year

THE Macau International Airport (MIA) achieved a record high volume of traffic last year, with 7.16 million arriving and departing passengers amounting to an increase of 8 percent year-on-year, the MIA said yesterday in a press release.

The airport handled over 58,000 aircraft movements last year, representing an increase of 2.8 percent.

"It is the highest passenger traffic MIA has achieved in a year in its 22 years of operation, the airport stated, adding that the number of incoming and outgoing passengers equated to over 11 times the local population.

During Christmas and the New Year holiday, a total of 29 airlines were operating at MIA, connecting Macau to some 46 destinations covering the Chinese mainland, Taiwan, Southeast Asia and Northeast Asia.

In 2017, the local airport added six new routes, including flights to Sihanoukville of Cambodia, Siem Reap (Cambodia), Jakarta (Indonesia) and Johor Bahru (Malaysia). It also launched a regular transit flight from Macau to Lisbon via Beijing.

Reviewing the achievements of last year, the MIA statement



claims that five new airlines expanded their flights to Macau, namely, Lanmei Airlines, Indonesia Air Asia, Beijing Capital Airlines, JC Cambodia International Airlines and JSC Royal Flight Airlines.

In 2017, the Taiwan market for airline travel remained stable, while the Southeast Asia market and mainland China market increased by 10 percent and 15 percent respectively. There was

There was a growth of 32pct in passengers choosing low-cost airlines

a growth of 32 percent in passengers choosing to fly with low-cost airlines.

The press release anticipates the targets for this year. Local airport management pledges to "fully develop a long-haul route, aiming to increase and change the current passenger market structure, thus attracting more international and local travelers flying to and from MIA."

In addition, the airport intends to keep upgrading its hardware and software. A number of infrastructure projects are expected to be completed in 2018, including the north terminal building expansion project. Upon completion, the airport capacity will increase to 7.5 million passengers per year.

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AL PLENARY

Authorities promise steadfast reaction to storms, updated warning system

Renato Marques

THE consequences of Typhoon Hato and the responsibilities of government officials in the wake of the typhoon were the main topic of discussion during yesterday's plenary session at the Legislative Assembly. The meeting was convened to discuss 16 spoken enquiries posed by several lawmakers around October last year.

Lawmaker Ng Kuok Cheong called on the government to explain what actions had been taken to remedy the "notable shortcomings" in the alert and prevention system used by the Macao Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG). Ng also asked how the government plans to improve their ability to evaluate and attribute an appropriate degree of responsibility to the relevant officials. Ng also noted flaws in the operation of the Committee for Responding to Unforeseen Incidents, a committee that is led by the Chief Executive (CE), and raised questions about weaknesses in the drainage infrastructure in the Inner Harbor area.

Lawmaker Ella Lei wanted to know more about the government's response concerning the measures that were proposed to address the serious flaws which became apparent during the passage of Typhoon Hato.

The commissioner-general of the Unitary Police Services, Ma Io Kun, and the interim director of the SMG, Raymond Tam, responded that a decision had been made to categorize storm surges as a more severe threat, reflected as an alert level of five, (instead of an alert level of three).

Tam also noted the cooperation with cartography services to review the altimetry (the science

of measuring altitudes) quotas regarding potential flood risks. Tam highlighted that typhoon warnings will now be issued three hours earlier than has been done previously, as this extra time will "allow the population to prepare itself for the storms." This measure is undertaken in conjunction with an "increase in cooperation with Guangdong authorities," said Tam.

In response to the two lawmakers, the director of the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT) Li Canfeng, also noted that the government is "evaluating" whether there is a possibility to elevate the existing structures, so that they will be able to successfully prevent flooding.

■ Typhoon warnings will now be issued three hours earlier than has been done previously

As noted by Li, there were issues not only in the Inner Harbor; the dikes in the areas of Areia Preta and Coloane were also not high enough to contain the tides. "In the Inner Harbor we have the additional problem with drainage. We are finding locations to proceed with the necessary works to improve in this matter," Li added.

One of the other measures noted was the change to the policy concerning the frequency of wind speed evaluation by the SMG. SMG will be required to

RENATO MARQUES



Raimundo do Rosário (left) and Wong Sio Chak

evaluate the changes in wind speed at more regular intervals and these changes will need to be reported to the public every 10 minutes, instead of every hour.

On the second round of questions, Ng reaffirmed that there was a tendency from higher government officials, including the CE, to "hide". Ng noted the retirement of former SMG head Fong Soi Kun, whom he said lacked transparency. Ng feels that his criticism was "confirmed later with the suspension of the process [of retirement]." Further, Ng noted that the contingency plan from the government "has not been effective and has caused suffering to victims."

The Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak replied to Ng's accusations, "we never had any intention to cover one thing with another thing [responsibility with retirement]. There were already installed disciplinary procedures to the leaders on the line. We are still in [too] early [a]

stage to be able to attribute responsibilities."

Wong also took the opportunity to mention that the "surveillance system" installed recently in the streets will be "integrated" as one of the mechanisms that the new Civil Protection Bureau can resort to to prevent and respond to emergencies. This surveillance will be in addition to the existing communications system.

"We will distribute 60 walkie-talkies through the community associations in order to establish close contact with the authorities in case other kinds of communication experience difficulties or fail," Wong said, noting that such equipment is already being prepared. Wong also refuted the idea that the CE is "hiding from responsibilities", noting that he has been leading the process since the start and that he has "recognized since the first moment our insufficiencies."

As the debate opened to the in-

tervention of other lawmakers, several proposals were then aired. The first came from Zheng Anting, who noted that the "major issue" was with the alert system. According to Zheng, "we should follow what the neighboring regions [in mainland China] did the previous day [August 22], which was to evacuate the populations from the lower and most vulnerable areas." Zheng claimed that such measures could have saved lives and prevented major destruction.

Lawmakers Pereira Coutinho and Pang Chuan proposed that the automatic activation of the Civil Protection Service, which happens when typhoon signal eight is issued should have happened at an earlier stage. They also proposed that the automatic activation should be lowered to a signal three warning in order to give enough time for authorities to convene and discuss what measures to take before a signal eight is issued.

Rosário refutes criticism over public housing

ON one the highlighted topics of the plenary meeting at the Legislative Assembly yesterday, Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raimundo do Rosário refuted the criticism of several lawmakers alleging the government had overlooked the needs of youngsters, public servants and others citizens included in the so-called "sandwich class" in terms of public housing

studies.

Replying directly to spoken enquiries by lawmakers Song Pek Kei and Ho Ion Sang, but also to the interventions of Pereira Coutinho and Angela Leong, Rosário said, "you keep calling me to find solutions for this and that [youngsters and civil servants] but you seem to forget that there is no law to support this. Everything is possible as long as there is a law to support [it]."

he remarked.

Similarly to what transpired during the discussion on the consequences of Typhoon Hato, the Secretary reminded that "in four days [on January 8] there is a meeting held by the Housing Bureau that aims to provide clarification over the public housing study held by the government. The responsible people from the consultancy firm that performed the study will be present in

order to clarify to all of you how was it done and why."

Rosário also refuted the idea aired by lawmaker Song that the government was "reserving" half of the housing units initially planned for construction in Zone A of the new landfills.

"No, we don't have such an idea. We will disclose all the plans of Zone A as well as the Avenida de Wai Long and the land plot of the

former Thermal Power plant," he answered. "I believe that, at least for the last one, we can start the construction works by the end of this year." Adding to the reply, the director of the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau, Li Canfeng, explained that the work at Zone A "is being split into several phases [...] including the housing units as well as other public installations and facilities."

Leong once more wanted the Secretary to say if the land plot of the Macau (Yat Yuen) Canidrome will be used for residential purposes, but Rosário refused to answer.

"I'm not going to say anything about the Canidrome. It will be the chief executive who will say what is going to be built there. Only in the second quarter of the year, I will be able to inform on that." **RM**

HEALTH

Flu virus affecting more people in Macau

THE Health Bureau (SSM) has announced that the influenza (flu) virus is affecting more people in Macau, based on its analysis of the virus' spread during the last week of 2017.

According to the bureau, the incidence of the virus during that period hiked 154 percent from the same week in 2016, with the number of registered flu cases up to 33 per 1,000 people from 13 the previous year.

The number of cases registered in the Pediatric Emergency room is currently 123 cases per 1,000 people, a slight year-on-year increase from 105 in 2016 and 106 in the 51st week of 2017.

According to the SSM's laboratory analysis of the pathogenic agents, the majority of the respiratory viruses observed in cases over the last week

of 2017 are not influenza-induced, bringing the overall positive rate of the influenza virus to 14.2 percent. The "flu-like" symptoms were mostly due to rhinovirus (26.4 percent) and adenovirus (9.4 percent). The SSM has stated that its data indicates the influenza virus is becoming more active, noting that it has not reached its peak period yet. The SSM's services are closely monitoring the incidence of respiratory diseases, especially in schools and communities. It has called for residents to take preventive measures such as vaccination against seasonal flu, maintaining good ventilation and environmental hygiene in their homes and workplaces, and using masks if they develop flu-like symptoms or come into contact with potential patients.



Main section of HKZMB expected to be completed in February

WORK on the main section of the Hong Kong - Zhuhai - Macao bridge (HKZMB) is due to be completed in early February, according to the new schedule released by Su Quanke, chief engineer of the HKZMB Authority, in statements given to the China Daily newspaper. The schedule is the first update since the official announcement made

several months ago, that indicated that work on the main section of the bridge would be completed before the end of 2017. Su told the newspaper that the "HKZMB Authority" will announce the completion date of the main section of the bridge before the Lunar New Year, which this year will fall on February 16. The completed bridge will have a

total length of 55 kilometers, and the latest estimate of the building costs is RMB120 billion (USD18.4 billion), according to the financial director of the HKZMB Authority, Su Yi. China Daily also reported that neither Su Quanke nor Su Yi specified a date for opening the bridge to traffic, which is a matter that will be decided by the Chinese central government. **MDT/Macauhub**

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SECURITY

Steve Vickers praises 'more serious' approach to threat of terrorism

HONG Kong-based risk consultancy Steve Vickers & Associates has released its annual Asia Risk Assessment report, finding that Macau's "political outlook for 2018 promises stability" and that "the economy should stay solid." Chief Executive Officer Steve Vickers also praised the efforts of local security officials in strengthening anti-terrorism mechanisms in the unlikely event of an attack.

The annual report covers 13 jurisdictions in the Asia-Pacific region, including mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau. The entry for the MSAR is titled "Two Cheers for Macau", comparably more optimistic than Hong Kong's "A Tighter Grip" and Taiwan's "Walking the Tightrope".

Speaking to the Times last night, Vickers explained that the recent growth in gaming revenue was a strong sign of stability in the SAR, but the reliance on the VIP market

was a slight cause for concern. For that reason, he said, "Macau gets two stars [cheers], instead of three."

Vickers also reiterated concerns of a marginal threat of terrorist activity in Macau – as in previous reports – given the "nexus of Chinese, American and Jewish interests in the gaming sector." Gaming tycoons Sheldon Adelson and Steve Wynn are both American and have Jewish origins.

The risk analyst said that the biggest threat comes from China's Muslim-majority Xinjiang Province; the believed origin of a number of recent attacks on Chinese soil including a 2014 knife attack at the Guangzhou Train Station Plaza.

Vickers praised recent efforts by Macau law enforcement agencies in stepping up security and anti-

terrorism drills, but stressed that incidents such as October's Las Vegas mass shooting and June's arson attack in a Philippine casino still remain a possible, albeit unlikely, occurrence in Macau. This is in part due to the difficulty in acquiring firearms and explosives in the city, the report notes.

"I am happy to see Macau authorities taking this threat more seriously," he told the Times.

In terms of the economy, Vickers highlighted the strong recovery seen last year in Macau's gaming sector and concurred with analyst predictions of continued strength into this year.

However, growth in gaming revenues may yet be stifled by Xi Jinping's ongoing anti-corruption campaign, as well as recent poli-



The beefed up security follows occurrences such as the June 2017 attack on Resorts World Manila

cies to curb capital outflows from the mainland.

Moreover, the gaming concessionaire negotiations due to be held between 2020 and 2022 will be of particular concern to U.S. operators, the report noted, as "each applicant must submit a formal tender, meaning American companies' interests may possibly become hostage to volatile Sino-U.S. relations."

CCM calls on local filmmakers for proposals

THE Macao Cultural Centre (CCM) is calling on local filmmakers to submit their new cinematic views to be produced and screened in a new edition of "Local View Power".

Candidates willing to share their perspectives about Macau can present their proposals until January 22, according to a statement issued by CCM.

With an overall budget of

more than MOP1 million across all categories, this year's edition will support up to 17 individual proposals.

The competition welcomes candidates from three

levels of experience, from "Advanced" and "Open" levels aimed at directors aged 18 or above, to "Freshmen", a section for filmmakers under the age of 18.

Participants may sub-

mit proposals in the documentary, short feature, or animation categories, each of which will be assessed by a panel composed of three audio-visual professionals.

"Local View Power" began in 2007, and has since had ten editions, attracting over

500 proposals that have resulted in 104 finalized works.

Selected teams will be given technical and financial support to complete their productions, including a mentorship scheme devised by guest professionals.

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Juliet Risdon is a Director of JML Property and a property investor. Having been established in 1994, JML Property offers investment property & homes. It specializes in managing properties for owners and investors, and providing attractive and comfortable homes for tenants.



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Real estate has been around as humanity. There has never been a time where we did not need shelter and a place to live. All of us have lived in properties in one form or another, and are aware of the benefits of having four walls and a roof to protect us from the elements, store our other possessions and provide a sense of privacy homeliness. But besides its basic function as a place of abode, real estate has a number of other important roles in today's society which we will explore today.

Enables economic activity

Besides the obvious function of providing commercial space for businesses to operate, the real estate industry supports economic activity by acting as a common form of security to finance entrepreneurial ventures. Innovation and business ownership financed and supported

by loans taken out on property enables a dynamic and healthy economy.

Provides employment

The real estate industry itself is huge and thus provides employment for a significant portion of the working population. Employment takes the form of construction workers, architects, maintenance personnel and surveyors, contractors, real estate agents and consultants. In Q317, DSEC states that the construction industry employed 32,300 people while the 'Real Estate and Business Activities' sector employed 29,700 people in Macau.

Supports institutional funds and retirees

The real estate market has always acted as a secure and attractive asset class for institutional investors such as pension funds, REITs and insurance companies to invest in. Although it has had its share of hiccups, the real

estate market has traditionally been less volatile than the financial markets, providing a good foundation for institutional investors.

Acts as an instrument of personal financial investment, wealth storage and accumulation

If you've been in Macau for a while you probably know someone who has made money from the property market, if you haven't done so yourself. Property investment is one of the most common ways for people to invest and grow their wealth. But without knowing the key concepts, you're just guessing when you try to figure out whether property is a good investment. Over the next few articles I would like to introduce you to some basic concepts of property investing, starting with the 'The 4 Ways to Make Money in Real Estate'.

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Lucas Shaw

INVESTORS are finally getting a crack at the resurgent music business. Spotify, owner of the world's largest paid music service, plans to begin trading on the New York Stock Exchange this quarter, passing up a traditional public offering for what's called a direct listing. The debut will test whether investors are ready to buy into the music industry, which was left for dead just a few years ago.

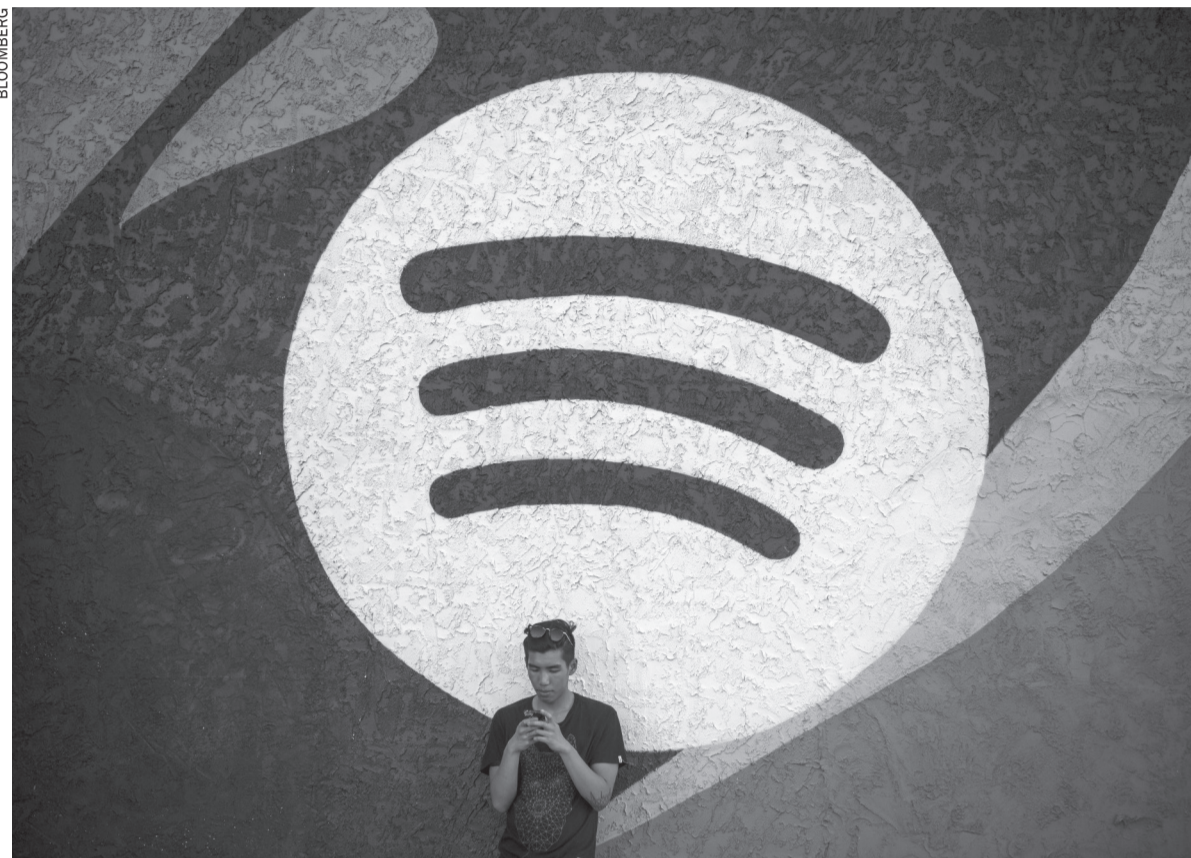
Record industry sales have increased for three years in a row thanks to the legions of consumers paying to listen on Spotify and Apple Music. Their spending has far outstripped shrinking album sales in retail outlets and online stores like iTunes, allowing the USD15.7 billion global business to prosper again after years of decline. Analysts project revenue could more than double over the next decade.

Investors have few direct opportunities to tap this potential growth. All three major music companies are part of larger concerns or closely held. Vivendi SA owns Universal Music, while Sony Music is part of the Japanese media and tech conglomerate and billionaire Len Blavatnik owns Warner Music. Music accounts for a small share of business for the industry's biggest retailers, like Apple Inc. and Wal-Mart Stores Inc.

Spotify built the most popular on-demand music service in the world, outflanking the largest technology companies, including Apple. The company has signed up more than 60 million subscribers and is trying to prove a music service can prosper without being a vehicle to sell mobile phones or other products.

"If you look at the leaders in each form of media, music is the last uncaptured sector," said Rohit Kulkarni, an analyst

Spotify tests whether investors believe in music's resurgence



at SharesPost Inc. "Players 30 times bigger than Spotify took stabs at it, but none has won."

Newfound optimism about the future of the music business has boosted the value of catalogs in recent years. Kobalt Capital Ltd. raised \$600 million to buy music rights in November and promptly agreed to acquire the collection of Songs Music Publishing for about \$150 million. Imagem,

which holds rights to 250,000 songs including Daft Punk, Pink Floyd and Stravinsky, was sold to Concord Bicycle Music in a deal Billboard valued at \$600 million.

Vivendi, the French media company, has weighed a public offering of Universal Music, the world's largest music company, to tap investor enthusiasm.

For now though, Spotify is the biggest opportunity. The com-

pany was valued at \$8.5 billion when it raised money in March 2016, and has since been pegged at more than \$15 billion.

A direct listing, usually done by much smaller companies, is risky, and Spotify is trying to pull off the biggest one ever. Most would-be stock issuers hire investment bankers to underwrite their shares and go on a roadshow where they raise money by touting their future to potential investors.

Spotify isn't trying to raise capital. It's seeking a listing so existing investors can begin selling their shares. Without the roadshow, the company and its bankers won't have much control over where

the shares begin trading or as much insight into the thinking of investors.

"There is no example of a successful music-streaming service from a financial standpoint," said Greg Howard, co-founder of TuneCore and Music Audience Exchange, and associate professor at the Berklee College of Music.

Spotify believes it is well-known, and investors can also look at limited financial results that have been posted publicly. Yet the company isn't a sure bet. Music industry growth could slow, and the company can't predict how many people worldwide will pay for a service.

Pandora Media Inc., an online radio service, went public in June 2011 at \$16 a share via a traditional offering. The stock peaked above \$40 in March 2014 but now trades below \$5, felled by accumulated losses and management turmoil.

Spotify lost \$601 million in 2016, thanks largely to contracts that require it to pay the majority of its sales to music rights holders. High content costs hampered Pandora before it began losing customers.

Spotify has since negotiated new contracts with major music companies that reduce its costs provided it reaches certain performance targets. Those deals have improved its margins, according to Kulkarni, who says the only clear threat to the company is Google's YouTube, which is itself developing a paid subscription service.

"Spotify is the only reason for hope in the music business," Kulkarni said. **Bloomberg**

Spotify built the most popular on-demand music service in the world, outflanking the largest technology companies

corporate bits

WYNN SIGNS OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY CHARTER



Wynn Resorts (Macau), S.A. signed the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Charter yesterday, witnessed by the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL). The move strengthens the gaming operator's commitment to promoting occupational safety.

The gaming operator also organized a roadshow in its back-of-house area to promote a positive health and safety culture and to increase team members' awareness of OHS. The signing ceremony for the Charter took place in the Learning Room in the back-of-house area of Wynn Palace. Witnessed by Wong Chi Hong, director of DSAL, the charter was signed by Zuleika Mok, senior vice president of Human Resources of Wynn Macau Limited, alongside employee representatives of Wynn Macau and Wynn Palace.

Following the ceremony, a group of distinguished guests were led on a tour of the Wynn Facilities Academy, which opened in September of last year. Following the establishment of the Wynn Academy and the Food & Beverage Academy, the Wynn Facilities Academy was set up to "develop more local professionals who are interested in the field of facilities management through a comprehensive and standardized curriculum," according to a press release issued by Wynn.

The Academy combines the curricula and technical certifications provided by DSAL, allowing trainees to accumulate relevant experience during a 24-month course. Following the principle of "First-Hire-Then-Train", trainees are not only offered a job and an

opportunity to learn a professional skill, but are also able to obtain a technical qualification through participation in the course. They can then develop a career by pursuing the various career opportunities provided by the company.

On the day of the signing ceremony, the OSH team and Employee Services department of Wynn Macau and Wynn Palace, together with DSAL, jointly organized a roadshow to promote OHS culture in the back-of-house area. The roadshow communicated the importance of OHS to team members through entertaining booth games, and also included an OSH information panel display provided by DSAL. In addition, Wynn will organize four other roadshows in January that are expected to draw the participation of over 4,000 team members.

TASHI WANGCHUK

Court tries Tibetan language advocate featured in NY Times

AN activist promoting the Tibetan language stood trial yesterday in western China for inciting separatism after he appeared in a documentary video produced by The New York Times, highlighting the risks that Chinese citizens often face when speaking to the foreign media on sensitive issues.

Tashi Wangchuk's lawyer Liang Xiaojun told The Associated Press that a judge in Qinghai province heard oral arguments for four hours and will issue a verdict at an unspecified date.

Tashi, 32, has pleaded not guilty. If convicted, he could face a prison term of five years or as many as 15 years, Liang said.

Liang says prosecutors presented evidence focused on a nine-minute video the Times made in 2015 that told of how Tashi tried to sue local officials for denying Tibetans language and culture education. The Times' website is blocked in China.

Tashi was detained in Ja-



FREETIBET.ORG

Tashi Wangchuk

nuary 2016, two months after The Times published its video and accompanying article. Liang said Tashi, who has been in jail for two years while awaiting trial, was treated well in detention and in good mental condition.

Liang added that he was given ample time to present his defense, which hinged on the argument that appearing in the documentary did not amount to separatist activity.

"The prosecutors are ideolo-

gically too strong," said Liang. "Their main evidence was this video — just nine minutes and 13 seconds."

In the documentary, Tashi, who was also described as a shopkeeper, speaks extensively in Mandarin about the "pressure and fear" felt by Tibetans and his worry that their culture is being wiped out through the steady erosion of their language.

He notes that 140 Tibetans have died from self-immola-

tions since 2009 and says he believes they were also protesting the disappearance of their culture under Beijing's rule.

"I want to try to use the People's Republic of China's laws to solve the problem," Tashi says in the documentary.

Tashi, 32, has pleaded not guilty

He added that if the courts refused to hear his case, it would prove that issues surrounding Tibetan rights would not be solved through the Chinese legal system. "If this comes to an end and I'm locked up and cannot proceed with what I'm doing and they force me to say or do things I don't want to say, I will choose suicide," he added.

He is shown seeking redress through official channels as he travels to Beijing, where he tries, unsuccessfully, to file a

lawsuit against local officials and convince journalists at China's powerful state broadcaster, CCTV, to cover his case. Minority rights are protected under China's constitution, as is the right to sue government officials, he says in the video.

"All Tashi Wangchuk has done is peacefully advocate for constitutionally guaranteed rights," said Human Rights Watch China director Sophie Richardson. "If Chinese authorities consider that 'inciting separatism,' it's hard to tell what isn't."

China's ruling Communist Party often equates advocacy for greater autonomy or rights for its ethnic minority Tibetans, Uighurs and Mongolians with outright separatism. And its courts often hand down particularly harsh punishment to those criticizing the government's ethnic policies relative to other issues.

Rights groups around the world widely condemned China after it issued a life sentence in 2014 to Ilham Tohti, a moderate though outspoken Uighur critic of Beijing's policies in Xinjiang, the region that is home to the Uighurs. He was convicted of fanning ethnic hatred, advocating violence and instigating terror through his classroom teaching and a website on Uighur issues. **AP**

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PROSECUTORS in Taiwan said they're investigating a man suspected of involvement in illegal oil sales to North Korea.

In a statement, prosecutors said they questioned a man surnamed Chen before releasing him on bail of 1.5 million New Taiwan dollars (USD51,000) while they continue their investigation.

The prosecutor's office in southern Kaohsiung began its investigation after reports last week that South Korean authorities seized a Hong Kong-flagged ship for violating U.N. sanctions by selling oil to North Korea and that a Taiwan company was involved.

During questioning, they discovered the man, who owns a fishery company, knew the oil shipment would be sold in international waters but falsely declared its destination as Hong Kong.

South Korean officials believe the ship, the Lighthouse Winmore, transferred about 600 tons of refined petroleum products to a North Korean vessel, the Sam Jong 2, in the East China Sea in October.

South Korea impounded the ship, and a second one registered in Panama days later, after new United Nations Security Council sanctions on North Korea came into effect last month that let member states seize, inspect and freeze vessels suspected of transferring banned goods to the country.

Another set of U.N. sanctions adopted in September limits oil imports and includes measures aimed at stopping high-seas smuggling.

North Korea has faced increasingly tight sanctions as it steps

AP PHOTO



In this Dec. 29, 2017 file photo, the Lighthouse Winmore, a Hong Kong-flagged ship, is seen in waters off Yeosu, South Korea

LIGHTHOUSE WINMORE

Taiwan investigates man over illegal North Korean oil sales

up efforts to expand its nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles program. In recent months, Pyongyang carried out its most powerful nuclear test to date and flight-tested intercontinental ballistic missiles three times, raising concerns it's closer than ever toward gaining a military arsenal that can viably target the United States.

South Korea's Foreign Ministry said this week that a Taiwanese company incorporated in

the Marshall Islands chartered the Lighthouse Winmore while a Netherlands-based commodities trader, Trafigura, consigned the oil shipment.

Trafigura denied it ordered

the shipment, saying in a statement that it sold the cargo on a "free on board" basis to a Hong Kong-based company, Global Commodities Consultants.

Global Commodities Con-

sultants said it in turn sold the oil to another company called Oceanic Enterprises on an "arm's length" basis and wasn't involved in any onward sales.

The prosecutor's statement said Chen founded a company with a similar name that was now dissolved.

Both Trafigura and Global Commodities Consultants said their sales contracts prohibit sales that breach sanctions. **AP**

■ [The suspect] knew the oil shipment would be sold in int'l waters but falsely declared its destination as Hong Kong

DIPLOMACY

Macron heading to China to strengthen economic ties

FRENCH President Emmanuel Macron will head to China next week to strengthen commercial ties with the world's second-largest economy.

It will be Macron's first state visit to China since he won election last year.

According to the Elysee, Macron will meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping on Jan. 9 after visiting the ancient imperial capital of Xi'an.

Talks also will focus on North Korea, the fight against terror financing and international efforts against climate change.

Macron's office yesterday said a number of commercial deals are

expected to be signed during the three-day visit but they have yet to be finalized. A Franco-Chinese investment fund worth more than a billion euros (USD1.2 billion) also should be announced.

France says China has a major role to play in the North Korea nuclear crisis and Macron hopes that good cooperation between France and China could improve chances of a denuclearization agreement.

While in Xi'an, an eastern departure point of the ancient Silk Road, Macron will deliver a speech on the Franco-Chinese relationship from an historical standpoint.

The second day of his

■ A Franco-Chinese investment fund worth more than a billion euros should be announced

trip is expected to feature a visit to Beijing's Forbidden City. Macron also will meet with French and Chinese entrepreneurs and sign deals with Xi before a state dinner.

The Elysee said China is France's leading com-

mercial partner in Asia, but France's trade deficit with China reaches about 30 billion euros (\$36.2 billion). Macron, who will travel with representatives of large French companies, wants to secure new deals that would guarantee reciprocal market access.

In terms of agriculture exports, French authorities want to open a market for beef products and will ask China to abolish non-tariff barriers to trade on wine and spirits, which represent 50 percent of French exports.

The final day of Macron's visit will include talks on the fight against climate change and meetings with



French President Emmanuel Macron

Chinese artists. France especially after President Donald Trump announced the United States' withdrawal from the agreement. **AP**

SOUTH KOREA

President Moon apologizes to ex-sex slaves over Japan deal

Hyung-Jin Kim, Seoul

South Korea's president yesterday apologized to Korean women forced into sexual slavery by Japan's imperial army in World War II over what he called a flawed 2015 deal with Tokyo to settle long-running disputes over the issue.

President Moon Jae-in issued the apology during a meeting with nine former sexual slavery victims, all of them now elderly women. It's the first time that Moon has apologized over the deal, which was struck before he took office last May.

"I feel sorry for the fact that the deal was reached without listening to your opinions and was against your wills. I'm offering words of apology as president," Moon said.

Last week, a state-appointed panel concluded Seoul's previous conservative government failed to properly communicate with the victims before reaching the deal. Moon later ordered officials to map out measures to meet the victims' demands, though he said the issues over history shouldn't affect the efforts to build "future-oriented"



South Korean President Moon Jae-in (right) meets with South Korean Kim Bok-dong who was forced into sexual slavery by Japan's military at a hospital in Seoul yesterday

relations between the countries.

Moon's moves placed the prospect for the deal into doubt, with Tokyo warning that any attempt to revise the accord would make bilateral relations "unmanageable" and "unacceptable."

In December 2015, the government of Moon's conservative predecessor, Park Geun-hye, agreed to settle the sex slavery dispute in return for an apology from Japan's prime minister and a pledge of 1 billion yen (USD8.8

million). Park was later removed from office over a separate corruption scandal and is now on a trial.

Some experts say it's unlikely that Moon will completely scrap the deal and trigger a major di-

plomatic row with Japan at a time when they are working closely with the United States to resolve the standoff over North Korea's nuclear program.

Historians say tens of thousands of women from around Asia, many of them Korean, were sent to front-line military brothels to provide sex to Japanese soldiers. Japan colonized the Korean Peninsula from 1910-45, before it was divided into North and South Korea later.

I feel sorry for the fact that the deal was reached without listening to your opinions.

MOON JAE-IN
PRESIDENT

A total of 239 South Korean women have officially registered themselves as former sex slaves with authorities, a status that makes them eligible for state subsidy and benefits. Thirty two of them are still alive. Experts say many other former sex slaves haven't come forward largely out of worries about social stigma in a conservative country that had long prized women's chastity. **AP**

INDONESIA

Inmates riot, set fires at prison in Aceh

INDONESIAN security forces have retaken control of a prison in the country's west following a riot yesterday, an official said.

The riot began when three inmates refused to be transferred to another prison, said Edy Hardoyo, the head of Aceh province correctional office. Other inmates joined in the protest before it turned violent.

He said the three inmates who started the riot were angry that they will be transferred to a prison in neighboring province of North Sumatra, far from their families.

Angered inmates torched the Banda Aceh prison, which has a capacity to house 400 inmates but now has more than 540 inmates.

Eight fire trucks were mobilized to extinguish the fire while hundreds



Fire fighters use a hose to extinguish a room in a prison resulting from a riot in Aceh province yesterday

of police and soldiers were being deployed around the prison to prevent prisoners from escaping.

"The situation is now under control," Hardoyo said, adding that no one was hurt.

Riots and jailbreaks are common in Indonesia, where overcrowding has become a problem in facilities that are struggling to cope with poor funding and an influx of people arrested in a war on drugs. Most pris-

oners have been convicted on drug charges.

Last year, more than 440 prisoners escaped from a penitentiary in neighboring Riau province when they were let out of their cells to take part in Friday Muslim prayers.

In July 2013, about 240 prisoners, including several convicted terrorists, escaped during a deadly riot at a prison in Medan, the capital of North Sumatra province. **AP**

MH370

Sub-equipped ship departs South Africa to search for missing plane

A U.S.-based company has dispatched a ship into the Indian Ocean in hopes of quickly resuming the search for missing Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 if it soon secures a contract to do the job.

The search vessel named Seabed Constructor left the South African port of Durban earlier this week as part of the Ocean Infinity company's plan to look for debris in the southern Indian Ocean. The ship has unmanned submarines that can descend deep into the ocean.

Ocean Infinity was taking advantage of favorable weather to move the vessel toward "the vicinity of the possible search zone," the company said in a statement.

"This is designed to save time should the contract award be forthcoming, as hoped," it

said. "We will confirm as and when the contract is awarded and the search can resume."

The Malaysian government is negotiating with Ocean Infinity and will make an announcement next week, Transport Minister Liow Tiong Lai said on Wednesday.

The Malaysia Airlines Boeing 777 disappeared soon into its flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing on March 8, 2014. The plane was carrying 227 passengers and 12 crew.

The governments of Malaysia, China and Australia called off the 1,046-day official search on Jan. 17 last year. The Australian Transport Safety Bureau's final report on the search conceded that authorities were no closer to knowing the reasons for the plane's disappearance, or its exact location.

Australia ran the original search on behalf of Malaysia because the airliner is thought to have crashed in the vast area of Australian search and rescue responsibility.

New Australian Transport Minister Barnaby Joyce told Australian Broadcasting Corp. yesterday that the decision on whether to resume the search was Malaysia's.

"I can understand how Malaysians are incredibly driven by finding the wreckage," said Joyce, who became transport minister two weeks ago. "I have, to be quite frank, some concerns as to whether it will be found," he added.

Search conditions are best during the current southern hemisphere summer, before the colder months bring storm-force winds and mountainous seas. **AP**

Zarar Khan, Islamabad

PAKISTAN

After Trump tweet, minister talks of 'response' to US action

PAKISTAN is ready to face any U.S. action in the wake of President Donald Trump's tweet on New Year's Day threatening the country, the defense minister and the army spokesman said.

Defense Minister Khurram Dastagir said yesterday there should be "no doubt or fear as the defense of Pakistan is in competent and strong hands." Earlier, army spokesman Maj. Gen. Asif Ghafoor said Pakistan's response will be in line with the wishes of the Pakistani people.

Trump has accused Islamabad of providing a safe haven for terrorists. On Monday, he tweeted that the United States had "foolishly" given Pakistan more than USD33 billion in aid in the last 15 years and had gotten nothing in return but "lies & deceit."

Washington confirmed it will withhold \$255 million in U.S. military aid to Pakistan this year, a threat first issued last August when Trump announced his Afghan policy, which took aim at Pakistan and demanded an end to Islamabad's alleged support for the Afghan Taliban.

Pakistan denies supporting militants, pointing to its own war against extremist groups battling to overthrow the government.

In contrast to recent visits by U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Defense Secretary

Jim Mattis who spoke of "engagement and trust-building during their visits here [...] now President Trump and Vice President Pence are talking of threats, insults and 'putting Pakistan on notice,'" Dastagir said. "We have to develop our strategy cool-headedly, after analyzing the both sides of U.S. administration."

Ayaz Sadiq, speaker of the lower house of parliament, told reporters after a closed-door meeting of the parliament's national security committee that they discussed the situation following Trump's tweet and that a follow-up meeting will decide on the "strategy."

"A balanced response is needed that would preserve the country's dignity while engaging with the U.S.," Sadiq said. "We have to look as to why questions were raised about" Pakistan.

On Wednesday night, Ghafoor told local Geo TV that Pakistan wants to continue cooperation with the U.S. but will not "compromise on national interests and prestige."

AP PHOTO



Pakistan's army spokesman Maj. Gen. Asif Ghafoor

"Allies don't fight," he said, adding that "the U.S. should realize how Pakistan has been cooperative in the war against terror."

Pakistan says much of the money it received from the U.S.

came as reimbursement in coalition support for services the country provided in the war on terror. It says the U.S. still owes Pakistan \$9 billion in the coalition support fund.

The uneasy U.S.-Pakistan relationship has been on a downward spiral since the 2011 U.S. operation that killed Osama bin Laden in his hideout in the Pakistani town of Abbottabad. AP

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Margaret Talev, Erik Wasson
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AP PHOTO

A wave of protests against the Iranian government is adding new urgency to President Donald Trump's deliberations over whether to rip up the nuclear deal with Tehran that he has long threatened to cast aside.

Trump faces a series of key decisions starting next week - foremost, whether to honor part the 2015 agreement that lifted restrictions on Iran's banking, oil and shipping industries. He could opt to re-impose the sanctions and risk collapse of the accord, a move that could isolate the U.S.

The protests and crackdown give Trump an unexpected opportunity to turn sustained negative attention on the Iranian government. He could use the violence to pressure a divided Congress to back new sanctions legislation. He could also urge European allies to take tougher action on Iran along with the U.S., such as new measures targeting individuals or entities that censor or harm demonstrators.

But walking away from the nuclear deal - known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and signed by six countries and the European Union - would likely take those opportunities off the table.

"The U.S., if we chose to re-impose sanctions under the JCPOA at this point, we would be alone in doing that," said Michael Singh, managing director of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy and a former senior director for Middle East affairs under President George W. Bush.

"While I don't think you can say that they would be ineffective," Singh said, "I think it's hard to imagine that they would generate the results that we would be looking for."

NEW SANCTIONS

For administration officials and lawmakers who want to keep the U.S. in the accord, those pending decisions have added momentum to a push for new sanctions legislation in Congress that could give the president enough political cover to keep the deal alive.

Senator Bob Corker, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, is spearheading an effort to forge a bipartisan compromise that would tighten restrictions on Iran while preserving the deal, in a way that would be palatable to European partners. Yet, Corker, a Tennessee Republican, cautioned that the protests shouldn't determine the fate of the deal and that the U.S. should avoid becoming involved in the discord.

"I would hope that we would not make ourselves the focus of that," Corker said. "That



ANALYSIS

Iran protests could give Trump an advantage on nuclear deal

just gives them an outside force to focus on and divert people's interest or interest towards us instead of towards the Iranian government itself."

Corker said he will meet Thursday with White House officials to discuss Iran. He has been working with Senator Ben Cardin of Maryland, the senior Democrat on the Foreign Relations Committee, for months on the measure.

Cardin said he doesn't yet have a sense of Trump's thinking on the "complicated" decision, and that he also plans to discuss the issue this week with White House officials. "We're more than willing to be helpful, provided that Europe is O.K. with it, and we don't violate the agreement," he said.

'FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS'

Europeans are standing by the nuclear agreement even as they have criticized the crackdown on protesters.

"Breaking all contact would lead to the risk of strengthening the extremists," French President Emmanuel Macron said yesterday [Macau time] in Paris. He urged a coordinated response by the Euro-

pean Union that stresses the importance of human rights without calling into question the Iran nuclear accord.

One European diplomat at the United Nations, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that preserving the agreement is of utmost importance and is separate from the protests.

The European Union, in a statement released Tuesday, said "peaceful demonstration and freedom of expression are fundamental rights that apply to every country, and Iran is no exception." The statement didn't mention the nuclear agreement.

Germany's government has been talking with the Trump administration in recent days and isn't considering restoring sanctions against Iran, according to a government official in Berlin. They plan to uphold the deal and the aim of using trade to promote change in Iran, said the official, who asked not to be identified discussing details of policy making.

Singh said European leaders want to minimize instability in the Middle East and are invested in the idea that Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and his foreign minister,

Javad Zarif, could eventually bring Iranian behavior more in line with expectations of the international community.

'U.S. INTERVENTIONIST'

In a letter to the UN Security Council and the UN secretary-general, Iran cited what it called "U.S. interventionist" efforts, saying that the Americans were employing "devious" measures to skirt the nuclear agreement and hurt Iran economically. In the context of the demonstrations, Iran accused Trump of inserting the U.S. "in a grotesque way in Iran's internal affairs under the pretext of providing support for sporadic protests."

U.S. officials said they did not have a hand in generating the protests and were surprised by them. But officials say they are seeking to learn what they can about how these protests differ from the demonstrations of 1978 and in 2009 and what that says about the stability of the Tehran regime.

Trump hasn't decided what course to take on the nuclear agreement, according to U.S. officials familiar with the discussions who spoke on condition of anonymity. Options addressing the future of the deal and the U.S. response to

the crackdown on protesters will be presented to the president in the coming days, the officials said.

One official said the administration has previously taken a comprehensive view of Iran, suggesting the crackdown on demonstrators is likely to be a factor in Trump's decision. Trump's view is that the U.S. can play a role in deterring violence against the protesters, the official said. He voiced his support for protesters Wednesday, telling them in a tweet that the U.S. "will be with you at the appropriate time!"

Trump has long criticized the nuclear agreement, which was forged by his predecessor former President Barack Obama. In addition to Iran and the U.S., the signatories include China, France, Russia, the U.K., Germany and the European Union. In October, Trump refused to certify that it was in the U.S.'s interest, and, he's expected to do so again next week.

Corker cautioned he was not certain he could get an agreement in time for next week's deadline but expressed hope for patience "as long as the president knows that progress is being made." **Bloomberg**

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FRIDAY

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Miscellaneous
17:25	Zig Zag
18:20	Brazilian Soap Opera (Repeated)
19:10	TDM Talk Show (Repeated)
19:45	Non-daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
19:50	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:20	Portuguese Serie
22:10	Brazilian Soap Opera
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Movie: Apollo 18
01:00	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:50	RTPi Live

SATURDAY

10:30	Moon Circus
11:30	Boonie Bears
12:30	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast (PT)
15:00	Portuguese Serie (Resume)
18:15	Miscellaneous
19:20	Luis de Matos - Magic Show
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (PT)
21:00	Drama (PT)
21:45	Portuguese Serie
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:35	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:05	RTPi Live

SUNDAY

11:00	Sunday Mass (Live)
12:00	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Zig Zag
15:45	Pop Lusa Sr 2
16:45	Brainstorm
19:40	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (PT)
21:00	Non-daily Portuguese News
22:00	Documentary
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Bocage
00:20	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:55	RTPi Live

Offbeat

MAN ARRESTED 30 TIMES IN TRAIN, BUS THEFTS MAY TAKE DEAL

A man who has been arrested 30 times for stealing buses and trains may be taking a plea deal in his latest escapade that would send him to a mental institution.

Darius McCollum, 52, had been charged with criminal impersonation and grand larceny in his latest arrest, a 2015 case where he was caught behind the wheel of a Greyhound bus. He has told the AP he was feeling hopeless and depressed at the time.

McCollum has an autism spectrum disorder, which often includes repetitive behaviors and a difficulty with impulse control, and he has said he needs help. He doesn't want to plead guilty to any charge that will send him to prison and at one point said he would rather go to trial — his first ever.

At a contentious court hearing Wednesday, lawyers tried to hammer out the deal that started off with an offer of up to seven years behind bars, but may end with McCollum saying he is not guilty by reasons of mental defect and then being sent to a mental institution for treatment. They will return to court Monday.

At age 15, McCollum was caught driving a subway train only because someone noticed him. He had been letting off passengers and moving along the route from Penn Station to World Trade Center as if he were a transit worker.

His story has been in newspapers and magazines for decades. A documentary about his life, "Off the Rails," was released in 2016. A feature film, tentatively titled "Train Man" and to star Julia Roberts as McCollum's attorney, was in the works, but Roberts is no longer attached and the movie is now in limbo.

The attorney, Sally Butler, has been McCollum's lawyer since his last guilty plea for stealing a Trailways bus in 2010, and she has become something of a caretaker for him over the past five years.

Prosecutors yesterday suggested Butler had a vested interest in the seeing the case go to trial because of the feature film, and asked a judge to have another attorney present the plea deal to McCollum.

Butler was visibly upset by the suggestion.

cinema



CINETEATRO

04 JAN - 08 JAN



COCO

ROOM 1

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

Director: Lee Unkrich

Starring: Anthony Gonzalez, Gael García Bernal, Benjamin Bratt

Language: Cantonese (English)

Duration: 105 min



JUMANJI: WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE

ROOM 2

09:30pm

Director: Jake Kasdan

Starring: Dwayne Johnson, Jack Black, Karen Gillan, Kevin Hart

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 119 min



INSIDIUS: CHAPTER 4

ROOM 2

02:30, 04:30, 07:30, 9:30pm

Director: Adam Robitel

Starring: Lin Shaye, Angus Sampson, Leigh Whannell, Josh Stewart

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 103 min



AJIN

ROOM 3

02:30, 04:30, 07:30, 9:30pm

Director: Katsuyuki Motohi

Starring: Takeru Satoh, Go Ayano, Testuji Tamayama, Yu Shiota

Language: Japanese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 105 min

this day in history



1985 ISRAEL ENDS MAJOR ETHIOPIAN RESCUE MISSION

Israel has airlifted thousands of Jewish Ethiopian refugees out of Sudan, it has emerged.

Operation Moses, which has been taking place in secret since 21 November 1984, has been suspended since news of the covert airlift became public.

Press leaks have forced the Israeli Government to admit that about 8,000 Ethiopians fleeing famine-struck Ethiopia have now arrived in Israel.

The Arab world has been angered by Khartoum's decision to co-operate with Israel and allow charter planes to fly from Sudan - which does not recognise the country.

The Israeli Prime Minister, Shimon Peres, has insisted that Operation Moses will continue.

Jewish people from Ethiopia are said to be able to trace their lineage back almost 3,000 years and may be the descendants of King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba.

They are a minority in Ethiopia where the major religions are Christianity and Islam.

The Jewish community has suffered discrimination, particularly in recent years under Marxist President Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam who prohibited the practice of Judaism and the teaching of Hebrew.

The operation began following reports last September that more Jewish refugees from Ethiopia were arriving in Sudan, and many were dying from malnutrition.

Some of them, who now live in Israel, claim that details of Operation Moses was leaked by Israelis who have been alarmed at the number of Jewish refugees from Ethiopia arriving in the country.

Until recently they were not given Jewish status and public opinion in Israel on the government's motives for launching Operation Moses are mixed.

Some believe its reasons are humanitarian, but others think the refugees from Ethiopia are simply the latest immigrants to settle in Israel and raise the numbers now living there.

There are now between 10,000 and 15,000 Jewish people from Ethiopia living in Israel.

Estimates suggest there is still a similar figure living in famine-hit villages in the Ethiopian province of Gondar and 1,000 in refugee camps in Sudan.

Jewish people from Ethiopia who live in Israel claim the publicity surrounding the operation has endangered the safety of refugees in Sudan.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

It is estimated that around 4,000 Jewish people from Ethiopia died making the journey by foot to Sudan.

The US completed the airlift when it launched Operation Joshua in the same year.

In 1991, Israel launched Operation Solomon and airlifted 15,000 Ethiopian Jewish people.

There are now around 80,000 Jewish people from Ethiopia living in Israel, but they have faced difficulties assimilating into society.

According to a government report in 1999, many cannot write Hebrew and the unemployment rate among the Ethiopian community in Israel is at least three times the national average.

An independent report has said that Jewish people from Ethiopia were "no longer viewed as a curiosity, but as a familiar part of Israel's ethnic mosaic".

In January 2004, the Israeli government announced that it would speed up the removal of 18,000 Jewish people still living in Ethiopia.

The Falasha Mura community, as they are known, say they are the last remaining Jewish community in Ethiopia and have long been persecuted for their beliefs.

YOUR STARS

Aries
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Give a fire some air and you can really feel the heat. Right now you and someone new are sparking off of each other all over, especially when you add your flirtatious rambling into the mix.

Taurus
April 20-May 20
Are you eating because you need sustenance - or chowing down for other, maybe more emotional, reasons? As one of the earthier people out there, you can sometimes respond to stress through your body.

Gemini
May 21-Jun. 21
You're full of ideas now, and it's a good thing, too - because you've got more than you know what to do with! Delegate all the stupid details (and the follow-up) to others for now.

Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
From answering ancient messages to replying to old invites, you're the master of tying up loose ends now. It's not just communication matters, either.

Leo
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Are you stuck in the mire of dealing with career needs and other necessary, but taxing, responsibilities? Your energy has a major change of plans in store for you.

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22
Unanswered questions sometimes spark your creativity, but right now you're better off sticking to the basics and taking care of any details that come up. You find that once you're in the groove.

Libra
Sep.23-Oct. 22
Though you're normally the apex of sociability and grace, right now, you rise to even greater heights of social genius with barely any provocation. Indulge your curiosity about different people, places, and things.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
Even your best-laid plans need to be double-checked, confirmed and then (sigh) triple-checked before you're sure that everything should work out right. Your energy demands caution in all business and financial matters.

Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Boredom is not on your schedule right now, thank heavens. Curiosity and competitiveness are taking up too much room to allow anything else! Take advantage of this buzzing energy to get a lot of things moving.

Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Immunize yourself against a dangerous case of flakiness that's making the rounds by ensuring that your communication style is direct and to the point. Others may have a hard time expressing their feelings.

Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Sparks fly - in the best possible way - when you and the right person get clicking. All partnerships (from romantic to business and beyond) really get moving thanks to today's energy.

Pisces
Feb.19-Mar. 20
If you felt that certain elements of life were carved in stone, today is the day to shake things up in a big way. Your personal energy is pushing you to stick with generalities, rather than trying to nail anything down.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	-7	3	overcast/cloudy
Harbin	-20	-9	clear/cloudy
Tianjin	-3	3	overcast/clear
Urumqi	-19	-13	cloudy/clear
Xi'an	-6	-4	cloudy
Lhasa	-9	6	clear
Chengdu	2	5	overcast
Chongqing	5	7	overcast/drizzle
Kunming	5	17	clear
Nanjing	-4	1	moderate snow
Shanghai	4	7	drizzle/overcast
Wuhan	-3	0	sleet/overcast
Hangzhou	3	6	drizzle
Taipei	16	20	drizzle
Guangzhou	14	19	drizzle
Hong Kong	17	22	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	-1	1	sleet
Frankfurt	3	6	drizzle
Paris	6	9	drizzle
London	5	8	cloudy/drizzle
New York	-8	-4	moderate snow

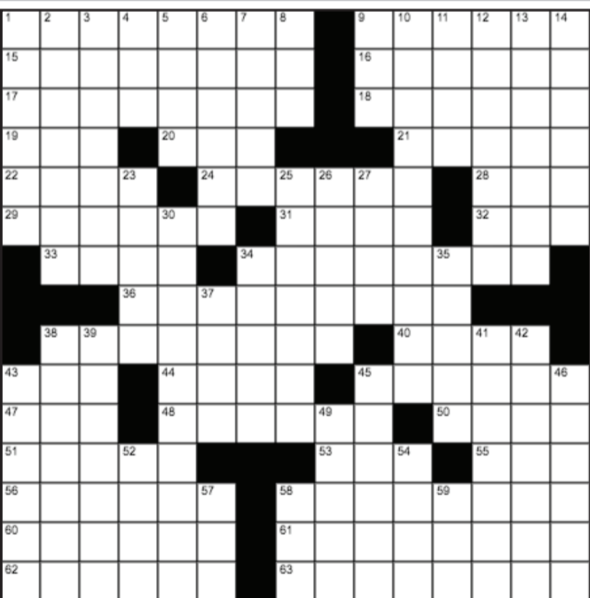
CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Long-finned tuna; 9- Ad astra per ____; 15- Interlocution; 16- Frightens; 17- Piano composition; 18- Biblical dancing girl; 19- Mandela's org.; 20- Shade of green; 21- ____ your life!; 22- Eye drop; 24- John of "Full House"; 28- Fingers; 29- Bars legally; 31- Extinct flightless bird; 32- Bee follower; 33- Shrivelled, without moisture; 34- Textile fabric; 36- Mayfly; 38- Pertaining to time; 40- ____ Romeo; 43- Bleat of a sheep; 44- ____ go brag!; 45- Begg; 47- Naval rank, briefly; 48- Hunting cat; 50- Blind piece; 51- Room at the top; 53- Droop; 55- EMT's skill; 56- Fit with clothes; 58- Renounce; 60- Cantankerous; 61- Produces milk; 62- Disease of livestock; 63- Soft-shell clams;

DOWN: 1- Congenitally attached; 2- Pride woman; 3- Berrylike; 4- High-pitched; 5- ____ d'etat; 6- Female beast; 7- Attack; 8- Wide shoe size; 9- Pompous sort; 10- Adapted for climbing; 11- ____ Alto, CA; 12- Blue books?; 13- Reconstruct; 14- In ____ (sort of); 23- Composer Ned; 25- Inflexible; 26- Highway stop; 27- Baltic feeder; 30- Mill morsel; 34- Reason for a raise; 35- Runs without moving; 37- Israeli dance; 38- Blast of a trumpet; 39- Shifting eastward; 41- Hooked; 42- Power plug transformer; 43- English photographer; 45- Caper; 46- Emphasis; 49- Convocation of witches; 52- Intestinal sections; 54- "____ grip!"; 57- Scandinavian rug; 58- Gore and Hirt; 59- Leg, slangily;

Yesterday's solution

A	B	B	E	M	A	R	D	I	R	S	V	P
P	U	P	S	A	T	E	I	N	O	P	I	E
T	R	O	C	N	A	M	E	S	M	O	N	T
A	T	E	A	M	I	T	E	R	A	T	E	S
A	L	O	P	E	C	I	A	B	I	G	O	T
D	E	N	T	A	S	T	E	Y	A	R	D	S
E	T	A	T	A	L	I	B	I	N	A	D	A
L	A	I	R	S	E	L	E	G	Y	P	E	R
A	T	R	E	E	T	R	O	U	S	E	R	S
A	T	O	P	T	R	A	P					
S	C	I	S	S	O	R	S	N	I	N	E	S
T	O	F	U	Z	A	I	R	E	D	I	M	E
A	L	A	R	E	T	T	A	S	E	L	I	A
G	A	T	E	D	E	E	D	S	R	S	T	U



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

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- PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
- PSP 28 573 333
- Customs 28 559 944
- S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
- Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
- Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
- IACM 28 387 333
- Tourism 28 333 000
- Airport 59 888 88
- Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
- Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
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- Electricity - Report 28 339 922
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Dan Gelston, Philadelphia

JOEL Embiid went from doubtful to dominant, using a sprained right hand that nearly sidelined him to instead rock the rim, swat shots and stop the Spurs.

"I want to be out there with them. I don't want to quit on them," Embiid said.

Ruled out by the 76ers before tipoff, Embiid made the call to push through and play, and then dealt San Antonio a rare bad hand in Philadelphia. Embiid had 21 points and 11 rebounds to lead the 76ers to a 112-106 win over the Spurs on Wednesday night.

The Sixers needed all 35 minutes from Embiid to knock off short-handed San Antonio and snap a 12-game losing streak to the Spurs.

It was the same old Embiid during the 76ers' fast start. He grabbed a rebound and had a putback for the first score of the game and had six points and six rebounds in the first quarter.

He slammed home an alley-oop in the third and never even looked at his hand as he sank a free throw to finish the play.

"I was fine. Nothing to worry about," Embiid said.

Embiid, who blocked four shots, sat by his locker and had several minutes of treatment to try and prevent further swelling. He had an anti-inflammatory gel gently massaged into the palm of his massive hand. Embiid's flexed his fingers before his bruised hand was wrapped in ice.

"That's a gutsy effort," coach Brett Brown said.

Brown fleeced his good friend and former boss, Spurs coach Gregg Popovich, on the condition of his cornerstone center during their pregame chat. Popovich learned only minutes before tipoff that Embiid — and not listed center Amir Johnson — was in the lineup.

"I'm glad he played," Popovich said. "I want to see him play. He's great."

Embiid suffered the injury in a hard fall Saturday against the Suns and had said before the



San Antonio Spurs' Joffrey Lauvergne (77) goes up for a shot past Philadelphia 76ers' Joel Embiid (21)

BASKETBALL | NBA

Embiid shakes off sprained hand, Sixers edge Spurs

game his hand was swollen and he couldn't shoot. But he used a soft touch to sink a couple of jumpers during pregame drills, and that was enough to convince the Sixers he could play.

The Sixers blew a 16-point lead and might have been thumped from the outset had the Spurs not sat five players.

Spurs coach Gregg Popovich benched Manu Ginobili, Danny Green, Kawhi Leonard, Tony Parker and Rudy Gay with his team playing the second of back-to-back games.

Ben Simmons put the Sixers ahead 106-103 on a goaltended basket and free throw. JJ Redick buried a long jumper — with an assist from Embiid — and Simmons shook the rim with a dunk that brought the fans to their feet and sealed the win.

"It's a team that didn't have a

full-strength roster," Brown said, "but it in my eyes, it's still the San Antonio Spurs."

TIP-INS

Spurs: Patty Mills led the Spurs with 26 points and LaMarcus Aldridge had 24 points and 14 rebounds.

76ers: Soccer star Carli Lloyd rang the ceremonial Liberty Bell to start the game. [...] Simmons had 26 points and Redick scored 20.

FULTZ UPDATE

Markelle Fultz, the No. 1 pick of the 2017 draft, appears close to playing again after missing two months with right shoulder soreness. Fultz has played in only four games this season, all as a reserve. He participated in both 4-on-4 half-court drills and light 1-on-1 work this week

at practice. Fultz struggled with his mechanics when he did play, and his shooting form was widely mocked around the NBA.

Brown said he had not determined how Fultz would be worked into the rotation when he did return.

"I'm excited because he completely connects the dots to what we don't have," Brown said. "Anybody that can create their own shot, anybody that can create something for somebody else is of extreme value to the collection of what we do. That is his skillset."

GOOD FRIENDS

Brown was all smiles when he caught up with Popovich. Brown joined the Spurs as a member of their basketball operations department in 1998-99 and was a member of the Spurs organization for the first four of their

championship seasons (1999, 2003, 2005 and 2007).

Brown had been 0-8 vs. Popovich.

Popovich said Brown was the right coach for the job and to handle the painful, ongoing rebuild in Philadelphia

"It's the fortitude, the patience that he's exhibited in such a consistent manner in tough circumstances for several years," Popovich said. "I don't know of a coach that I've ever run into that could handle that adversity and stay so positive and continue to teach."

Brown has a 93-272 career record in four-plus seasons with the Sixers.

UP NEXT

Spurs: Host Phoenix on Friday. 76ers: Host Detroit on Friday. AP

TENNIS

Sharapova, Halep advance to semifinals at Shenzhen Open

MARIA Sharapova continued her preparations for an Australian Open return by beating Zarina Diyas 6-3, 6-3 yesterday to advance to the Shenzhen Open semifinals along with top-seeded Simona Halep.

The five-time major winner dictated play against Diyas, hitting 24 winners and five aces to clinch vic-

tory in just under 90 minutes.

"I didn't play my best tennis, and there's certainly a lot of things to improve on," Sharapova said. "The great thing is that I'm through and have another chance to play tomorrow."

She will play either defending champion and No.6-seeded Katerina Siniakova

or Kristyna Pliskova for a place in the final.

Sharapova missed the last Australian Open during a doping ban that dated back to a failed test for meldonium at Melbourne Park in 2016, and is keen to make a return to the season's opening major which starts Jan. 15.

Top-ranked Halep also eased into the semifinals

with a 6-2, 6-2 win over Aryna Sabalenka.

Halep's 3-6, 6-1, 6-2 win over local favorite Duan Yingying on Wednesday ensured she will retain the No. 1 ranking for the Australian Open.

Irina-Camelia Begu advanced to the Shenzhen semifinals earlier yesterday with a 7-5, 7-5 win over Timea Babos. AP



Maria Sharapova of Russia returns the ball during a quarter final match against Zarina Diyas of Kazakhstan at the WTA Shenzhen Open tennis tournament

opinion

Kapok
 Eric Sautédé



APOLOGIES WARRANTED

New Year greetings is a must for a politician and even more so for a statesman: it provides the perfect occasion to reflect on past deeds and put achievements as well as setbacks in a different light, when one is not only judged on his action but also on his capacity to reflect upon his action; it corresponds also to a new beginning, a form of rejuvenation stemming from the course one is capable to draw for the future, with clarity of mind and rigor of assessment, striking a fine balance between what is desirable and what is feasible. Ultimately, this is an opportune time to mend fractures, heal wounds and bring the community together, especially because it also corresponds to a time of rejoicing, even though Christmas in our part of the world tends to be overly concerned with its highly consumerist side. But in Macao we are lucky: handover day falls on December 20th, and so everything is about values and virtues, with handover celebration speeches extending their long shadow over the final two weeks of the year.

As it is often the case in Chinese, Mr Chui Sai On chose an adage in four characters — two times four actually — to title his New Year wishes: “bai zhe bu nao, ying nan er shang,” that can roughly be translated by “being undaunted by repeated setbacks and meeting the challenges head on.” It conveys the virtues of perseverance, and the capacity to surmount any kind of adversity. No doubt that this is fitting after the disaster brought about by the devastating typhoon Hato in August that claimed 10 lives, maimed more than 240 others and caused more than 11 billion in physical damage. Mr Chui makes no ambiguity about it as he devotes a lengthy paragraph making up one fifth of his greetings to the matter. To say what exactly?

First, that this was the worst typhoon since 1953 and that everybody had been taken by surprise as the community had grown complacent as it had not been confronted with such upheavals in the “relatively peaceful past decades.” Then, Mr Chui goes on in praising the remarkable traditional virtues displayed by the Macao people, especially the ones of “inclusiveness” and “mutual assistance”, overcoming the difficulties thanks to a remarkable sense of solidarity. Had Mr Chui stop there, I don't think I would have even bothered writing this column: after all, the rest of the greetings is just one big exercise in stuffing as many slogans as possible — “one belt, one road”, five-year plan, “centre for tourism and leisure”, “economic and trade co-operation platform for China and Portuguese-speaking countries”, etc. And then, Mr Chui's greetings appear in the Chinese language “Macao Daily News” next to the ones of the director of the Liaison Office in Macao, on page 7, in which Zheng Xiaosong provides a long commentary on the vision provided by the just concluded 19th Party Congress in Beijing. No wonder then that Mr Chui would make five references to the “one country, two systems” formula whereas he mentions only once the “high degree of autonomy” in his short recitation.

Even the overemphasis on the element of surprise and the common (and yet wrong) understanding that one cannot anticipate the unexpected are not that shocking after all: one cannot blame Mr Chui for not having read Emile de Girardin whose words should serve as the incipit of any policy address — “To govern is to foresee” (Gouverner c'est prévoir).

But when one fails to anticipate, when one promises repeatedly to build adequate infrastructure to fight flooding and natural disasters and yet one fails to deliver and is thus indirectly responsible for the death of 10 people, what should one do at the very least? Apologize! Not a word asking for forgiveness in Mr Chui's sermon. Is being indomitable grounded in a total lack of empathy and sympathy? Isn't Mr Chui aware that he is running the most reviled government since 1999?

THE BUZZ GUTERRES WELCOMES KOREAS' COMMUNICATIONS LINK REOPENING

The U.N. is welcoming the reopening of a key cross-border communication channel between North Korea and South Korea.

A spokesman for Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said that “it is always a positive development to have dialogue” between the Koreas.

Spokesman Farhan Haq also notes that the U.N. remains committed to seeing the Korean Peninsula free of nuclear weapons and hopes

“enhanced diplomatic initiatives” will help achieve that goal.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un reopened the communication link Wednesday for the first time in nearly two years as the rivals explored the possibility of talks.

On Tuesday, South Korea offered high-level discussions with the North to find ways to cooperate on next month's Winter Olympics in the South and discuss other inter-Korean issues.

Trump left 'furious,' with Bannon over new book

THE White House said President Donald Trump was left feeling “furious” and “disgusted” after claims by his former top adviser Steve Bannon in a new book.

White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders complained yesterday [Macao time] the book contained “outrageous” and “completely false claims against the president, his administration and his family.”

She added that the book, “Fire and Fury: Inside the Trump White House” by Michael Wolff, is filled with “false and misleading accounts from individuals who have no access or influence with the White House.”

The criticism was spurred by Wolff's account that paints Trump as a leader who doesn't understand the weight of the presidency.

A lawyer for President Donald Trump is threatening legal action against former White House strategist Steve Bannon over what he calls “disparaging statements and in some cases outright defamatory statements” in a new book.

Trump attorney Charles Harder has sent a letter to Bannon, saying the former Trump aide violated confidentiality agreements by speaking with reporter Michael Wolff for a book. The letter demands Bannon “cease and desist” any further disclosure of confidential information.



President Donald Trump with ‘thens’: then-National Security Adviser Michael Flynn (center) and then-chief strategist Steve Bannon (right) in the Oval Office in January last year

In the book, Bannon is quoted as describing a June 2016 meeting at Trump Tower between Donald Trump Jr., Trump campaign aides and a Russian lawyer as “treasonous.”

Bannon did not immediately respond to a request for comment. ABC News first reported the letter from Harder.

President Donald Trump is blasting his former chief strategist ahead of the release of a new, unflattering book. Trump says that when Steve Bannon was fired, “he not only lost his job, he lost his mind.”

The new book by Michael Wolff offers a series of explosive revelations and allegations. It paints Trump as a leader who doesn't understand the weight of the presidency and spends his evenings eating cheeseburgers in bed, watching television and talking on the phone to old friends.

Bannon is quoted as describing a June 2016 meeting at Trump Tower between Donald Trump Jr., Trump campaign aides and a Russian lawyer as “treasonous.”

Other Trump's representatives and first lady Melania Trump are also pushing back against the explosive new book that, among other things, says Trump never expected to be elected and that his wife shed tears, but not of joy, on election night. **MDT/AP**

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

AP Photo/Michael Probst



Snow time. A woman battles through a heavy storm on top of the Feldberg mountain near Frankfurt, Germany.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	40-60 Good
High Density Residential Area	40-60 Good
Ambient	30-50 Good

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS

US-PAKISTAN The Trump administration is accusing Pakistan of severe violations of religious freedom in a further sign of deteriorating relations. The State Department has announced that it's placing the South Asian nation on a special watch list, pursuant to 2016 legislation. **More on p13**



SOUTH AFRICA A passenger train carrying people home after the holidays slammed into a truck in rural South Africa yesterday, killing at least 12 people and injuring more than 260 others, the government said.

RUSSIA and four other former Soviet republics have protested a plan to attach an explanatory text about the role of Soviet World War II commander Ivan Konev in history to his monument in Prague. Konev remains a controversial figure for his role in crushing the 1956 anti-Soviet uprising in Hungary.

TURKEY A suggestion by Turkey's state religious affairs body that girls as young as 9 could marry has sparked an outcry, including calls for an inquiry and the dismantling of the scandal-tainted organization.



ITALY Thieves stole precious Indian jewels from the famed Al Thani Collection that were on show in a Venetian palace, making off with a brooch and a pair of earrings by mixing in with the crowd on the final day of the exhibition, police said.

BRAZIL Environmentalists in Brazil say they are trying to figure out why more than 80 gray dolphins have died in less than a month on the coast of Rio de Janeiro state. The Gray Dolphin Institute says it has retrieved five dead dolphins a day but what has caused their deaths is still unknown.