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The Macau passport become the joint 29th strongest passport ranking in the world, according to a survey

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# Times

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

**WORLD BRIEFS**

**US-CHINA** The Trump administration has renewed its threat to place 25 percent tariffs on USD50 billion of Chinese goods in retaliation for what it says are China's unfair trade practices. *More on p11*



**ITALY** The specter of a financial crisis came back to haunt Italy yesterday, as its markets plunged on fears that it is heading toward another election that could shape up to be a referendum on whether to stay in the common currency.



**INDIA** Tony Fernandes, the chief of AirAsia, is being investigated by the Indian federal police for allegedly paying bribes to influence local policy, an Indian official told reporters. India's Central Bureau of Investigation has named Fernandes and other officials from AirAsia and its Indian unit in its investigation

**MYANMAR** Ethnic cleansing targeting Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar has not stopped despite growing condemnation from the international community, the Trump administration said yesterday.

**INDONESIA** At least 10 passengers on a flight preparing to take off from Borneo island were injured, most of them with broken bones and head wounds, after panicked ensued when a man claimed there was a bomb on board, Indonesian police said yesterday.

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**GUILTY AS CHARGED**

# Sou, Chiang sentenced to hefty fines

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# Four-year hunt for missing MH370 plane ends, mystery remains

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ANALYSIS | LAWMAKER OR LAWBREAKER?

# Sulu's road to Assembly back in sights

Daniel Beitler

**MAVERICK** lawmaker Sulu Sou narrowly avoided permanent disqualification from the Legislative Assembly yesterday after the Court of First Instance found him guilty of the lesser crime of "unlawful assembly" and sentenced him and fellow democratic activist Scott Chiang to fines worth 120 days.

The controversial case had threatened to permanently bar Sou from the legislature if he was found guilty and sentenced to more than 30 days in prison. With a lesser penalty, the young democrat's path back to the Legislative Assembly is now, in theory, wide open.

But questions remain over how his return will be digested by the powers that be. Most critically, it is unclear whether Sou will have his lawmaker status automatically reinstated, or whether his return will require the consent of his peers in the Legislative Assembly.

Macau analysts were divided yesterday in their view of the Court's decision, what it says about the city's judiciary and how Sou's reinstatement might play out.

Social affairs commentator Larry So hailed the decision as balanced and as a sign of judicial independence in Macau.

"The decision of the courts was quite balanced; Sou did make an offence but the judge came to a rational, independent view of the case," he told the Times yesterday. "I'm not saying that [the sentence] was a surprise, but I am really glad that the outcome shows we still have judicial independence in Macau."

As a consequence, the government also emerges from the case a winner, added So, even if "the government's ultimate objective is to DQ Sou," he said, referring to Cantonese slang widely used in Hong Kong media to mean 'disqualify'.

But legal expert and academic António Katchi holds a contrary view, describing the decision as "frightening".

"It indicates the judiciary is adhering to an authoritarian attitude towards demonstrations and minor incidents that naturally occur during demonstrations," he explained. "A peaceful attempt to resist police

RENATO MARQUES



From left to right: Jorge Menezes, Sulu Sou, Scott Chiang and Pedro Leal

**I am really glad that the outcome shows we still have judicial independence in Macau.**

LARRY SO

orders in such a heated atmosphere, especially when those orders are perceived as arbitrary, is something so natural that it is usually tolerated in a free society."

"Of course everybody is disappointed in the most liberal camp in Macau," added political scientist Eric Sautédé. "Nobody felt that Sulu was guilty of anything. It would have been really outrageous if he had been [sentenced] to prison, so I think it shows some kind of restraint. [...] Of course, justice must prevail [and] it is for the judge to decide. But ultimately there is this sense [...] of relief that he won't be suspended."

After the sentence was delivered early yesterday evening, Sulu Sou told reporters that he expects his suspension from the legislature to be automatically revoked, providing that there is no appeal and that the 120-day fine is settled in a timely manner. He will have to wait 20 days for the appeal period to conclude and then a further 10 days in which the fines may be settled.

This was also the legal view of Katchi, who told the Times that he believes Sou may retake his seat in the Legislative Assembly "as soon as the court's decision becomes final."

However, given the unprecedented nature of a lawmaker's return after suspension, it is not entirely clear how and if the suspension will be lifted. This is especially the case since the courts decided earlier this year that they have no authority to rule on "political acts" undertaken by the Legislative Assembly.

For example, social affairs commentator Larry So believes that the ultimate decision will rest with the other 32 lawmakers of the Legislative Assembly. Asked about the process in an interview with Times yesterday, Sou reasoned that

**Nobody felt that Sulu was guilty of anything. It would have been really outrageous if he had been [sentenced] to prison.**

ERIC SAUTÉDÉ

"the lawmakers will have to vote on whether Sou can return."

Sautédé said he would expect some form of resistance should this turn out to be the case. "There is a general feeling that [Sou] was so disruptive to the status quo of the [Legislative] Assembly that there is [now] a kind of coalition of interests that will try to prevent him returning," the political scientist said.

There is also the question of several other criminal cases

that Macau police authorities claim to hold over Sou. In order to bring him back to the courtroom, Sou's lawmaker immunity would have to be revoked once more via suspension.

"If the pro-establishment lawmakers want to suspend him again due to the other cases pending against him, they will have to initiate a new procedure to that end," argued Katchi.

However, should an appeal be lodged at any point within the next 20 days, then the question of Sou's return will have to be postponed. That appeal is perhaps most likely to come from the prosecution, who in earlier court sessions were pleading with the judge to apply the maximum penalty of a prison sentence.

"There is the possibility that the Prosecutor-General might appeal and that might look very vengeful," said Sautédé. "I think that would be a mistake, because even among the younger generation in Macau, there is a feeling of unfairness and injustice. This is what triggered the massive [anti-compensation bill] demonstration of 2014 – the idea that things were so disproportionate."

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# Sou, Chiang sentenced to 120-day fine

Renato Marques

**T**HE Court of First Instance (TJB) found suspended lawmaker Sulu Sou and activist Scott Chiang guilty of a co-authored act of unlawful assembly, which was charged under the framework of aggravated disobedience.

The two defendants were sentenced with a 120-day fine each. That amounts to a fine of MOP40,800 for Sou and MOP27,600 for Chiang, with the difference explained by a one-third reduction for Chiang because of his current financial situation.

The sentence was known yesterday evening when the court gathered to present the conclusion and sentence after the trial.

It took approximately one hour for the judge in charge of the process to explain the conclusions reached by the court, which considered the large majority of the accusations as proved, with the exception of a few details.

During the reading of the sentence, the judge repeatedly referred to the "intentions" of



Sulu Sou speaks to reporters while exiting the TJB

the defendants to have the demonstration take place close to the Santa Sancha Palace, the

official residence of the Chief Executive (CE). Judge Cheong Weng Tong said it was "clear since Chiang applied for the demonstration to the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau that he aimed to reach this location."

Besides the intentions of the defendants, the judge also noted that both Chiang and Sou were already experienced in organizing demonstrations and they should be well aware of the law and the fact they were "breaking" it by changing the route of the protest and by not following the orders of the police.

In fact, and as mentioned also by Judge Cheong, the crime for which Sou and Chiang were sentenced relates to the organization and leadership of an

unlawful assembly at the area of the CE's official residence, as opposed to the more broad charge of aggravated disobedience. "They knew it and they continued," she said, recalling that previous sentences from the Court of Final Appeal have already defined clearly the concept of "unlawful assembly."

The awareness of the "unlawful" nature of their activities, together with their intentions, show some premeditation. This led the court to conclude that there was a "willful misconduct" from the leaders of the protest who, during the process, "urged" other participants "even if in a veiled way."

As for the justifications given by the defendants, Judge Cheong said they "infringe on

the principles of common sense and are not acceptable by the court."

During the reading, and while Chiang remained standing and looking up, Sou, on several occasions, expressed his disapproval by shaking his head.

**“**Even when we are acting with the purpose of protecting the population of Macau, we must do that in accordance with the law.**”**

CHEONG WENG TONG  
JUDGE

In the end and while noting that the attitude of the defendants "is not praiseworthy," the court also took into account that both had never been convicted for any crimes and that "the conduct was not violent and didn't last for a long period of time." For these reasons that the court considered the penalty of "deprivation of liberty" disproportionate, opposing the proposal of the prosecution that asked for a prison sentence for both.

Closing the session, Judge Cheong left a last piece of advice, delivered in a maternalistic manner. "We have to accept our own conducts," she said, "even when we are acting with the purpose of protecting the population of Macau, we must do that in accordance with the law."

## THREE OTHER NEW MACAU MEMBERS TO BE INVESTIGATED

**ALMOST CLOSING** the court session at the TJB yesterday, it was revealed that three other members of the "New Macau Association," including the president, Kam Sut Leng, will face an investigation and possible prosecution following the case of Sou and Chiang. As the judge of the case mentioned, "a court certificate has been extracted from this case and after this process [it] will be delivered to the Public Prosecutions Office that will open an in-

vestigation procedure." That will fall on Kam and two other New Macau members that have been identified in the process as participants of the "illegal" protest. Commenting on the situation, Sulu Sou said, "we are worried that freedom of speech or of opinion will be tightened [restricted] after this case and that everyone [will feel] they are in a risky [situation] when they express their opinion without permission from the authorities."

## Lawyers express unhappiness and surprise

**EXITING** from the court building yesterday evening, the lawyers representing Sulu Sou and Scott Chiang, Jorge Menezes and Pedro Leal respectively, expressed unhappiness and surprise at the sentence given to the defendants.

Questioned on the outcome, Leal said, "I was not expecting this, in a negative sense. I was expecting for an acquittal [of the accused]," followed by Menezes who expressed "unhappiness" over the result.

To the Times Menezes

added, "I was expecting a not-guilty verdict, and I am disappointed with the ruling: because of its possible impact on the defendants and its possible impact on Macau's civil liberties and rule of law," he said. "I will not comment on the content of the case."

**“**I was expecting a not-guilty verdict, and I am disappointed with the ruling.**”**

JORGE MENEZES

The lawyers also said they will study with their clients the possibility of appealing the sentence; a possibility that "is not yet decided."

As the lawyers mentioned, "We have to see in detail the ruling," noting that the one given yesterday by the court was wri-

ten in Chinese language only.

The lawyers also noted that at moment there are several possible scenarios, including the fact that the "Public Prosecutor might not [want to] appeal the sentence."

Information confirmed to the journalists present by both defendants confirmed that they "haven't yet decided if we will or not appeal [the sentence]," adding, "we will still to discuss this with the lawyer team." Sou added that they need to "analyze first the docu-

ment [ruling] from the court."

Questioned on the sentence from the court Sou said, "from the beginning we always said - and we continue to think - we are not guilty, we were just exercising a fundamental right."

Scott Chiang said he "had no expectations" concerning the outcome of the process. "We were just seeing what happened and we all know this [decision] might not be final," adding, "this is a not [just] a battle; it is a lifelong struggle."

Questioned on the possibility of an upcoming sentence on other cases that would aggravate their situation, Chiang said, "we know we are [always] more or less on the verge of all times [of facing a jail term]. This was just a realization that such risks could become real."

Taking the same Chinese proverb previously mentioned by top-lawyer Neto Valente, Chiang said, "We believe that we are the chicken killed to scare the monkey."

"We could not care less about what happens to the chicken; what we care is that the monkey is not afraid." RM

## UM to hold 5th Macau Symposium on Biomedical Sciences

The Fifth Macau Symposium on Biomedical Sciences, organized by the University of Macau (UM) Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS), will be held between June 8 and 9 at the UM. The theme of this year's symposium is 'Precision'. During the event, participants will discuss advanced research studies and the latest technology in biomedical sciences. Prof Ada Yonath, recipient of the 2009 Nobel Prize in chemistry and honorary doctor of UM, will be one of the keynote speakers. Yonath will give a keynote speech, titled 'Next Generation Species Specific Eco-Friendly Antibiotics and Thoughts about Origin of Life'. Douglas Lowy, MD, a recipient of the Lasker-DeBakey Clinical Medical Research Award, will also give a keynote speech, titled 'Preventing HPV-associated Cancers by Vaccination'. According to a statement issued yesterday by the UM, many internationally renowned scholars, researchers, and experts in the field of biomedical sciences will gather at the symposium to have in-depth discussions on the latest breakthroughs and future trends in the field. The event aims to provide a platform for participants to exchange ideas and explore opportunities for research collaboration.

# Portugal needs experts on Chinese instruments, said scholar

**T**HE absence of Portuguese experts in Chinese music in Portugal remains a challenge, and will continue to be a setback if its institutions don't establish networks with experts in this field.

Énio de Souza, a scholar currently based in Lisbon, said that Portuguese universities that have music departments don't have any seminars or courses on Chinese musical instruments.

Énio de Souza spoke at a seminar and book launch about "Chinese Musical Instruments" in Albergue SCM last week.

The researcher, current organizer and coordinator of the education department of the Macau Scientific and Cultural Center Museum (CCCM) in Lisbon, kicked off his research in November 2011 and continued until February 2015, discovering over 400 Chinese musical instruments held across six collections in Lisbon.

According to the scholar, the significant number of instruments present in Portugal was due to the five centuries

of politics, trading and cultural relationship growth between Portugal and China.

Alongside this research framework, the group also found iconography of Chinese instruments depicted in several Chinese objects, including terracotta, stone, bronze and porcelain.

"This material has great potential for research but it looks like [it's been] neglected from the point of view of studies," the scholar expressed.

Énio de Souza remarked that if Portugal is to be up-to-date in the field of Asian Studies, with a particular emphasis on China as well as its music and organology, the country should work on establishing scientific networks with Asian and western countries that have known competence in the field.

Speaking on the role of the SAR in promoting Chinese instruments in Portugal, he noted, "Macau's [role] was very important because it was [...] the last Portuguese administration that started to send Chinese musical instruments



Énio de Souza

to Portugal."

The scholar recalled that the Macao Chinese Opera performed in many cities in Portugal back in 1987 until its latest performance in the country in 2014, where it held a total of four concerts.

"The Portuguese administration developed and promoted Macau in the West and Asia because many people don't know about this," he said.

"Later on, [since] China had economic power [in] the early millennium... we had many

Chinese citizens in Portugal... leading to further development of Chinese instruments in Portugal," de Souza explained.

Énio de Souza was responsible for launching and organizing the first and second editions of the "Chinese Music and Musical Instruments: Lisbon Conference," held in 2016 and 2017.

Just this month, he also co-organized the 21st Chime international conference on Chinese Music Research held in Lisbon. **LV**

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# Macau climbs seven places on passport index

**T**HE Macau SAR has climbed seven places to become the joint 29th strongest passport in the world, according to the latest Henley Passport Index published by global citizenship and residence advisory firm Henley & Partners.

The Macau SAR passport, which shares the rank with Paraguay, permits visa-free access to 143 countries, compared with 127 in 2017 and 120 the year before.

As of this year, the Japanese passport is now the world's most powerful, allowing visa-free travel to 189 jurisdictions. Germany, the strongest passport in last year's ranking, is tied in second place with Singapore, both allowing access to 188 countries.

Meanwhile, Hong Kong is in 16th pla-

ce with 169 countries, a spot it shares with Bulgaria, Croatia and Romania. Taiwan (148) is a little further down in the ranking in 26th place, while mainland China (70) is 68th.

China was the third biggest climber on this year's index, rising 17 places from last year. Its improvement was surpassed only by Ukraine and Georgia, which rose by 20 and 19 ranks respectively.

Meanwhile, the world's weakest passports included those from Pakistan, Somalia, Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq.

The Henley Passport Index surveys 199 passports from around the world against 227 different travel destinations. Therefore, the maximum score a country can achieve is 226. In last year's index, only 219 destinations were considered.

# 18 arrested in raid for human smuggling

Eighteen people were arrested over the weekend as part of a crackdown on human smuggling, the Judiciary Police (PJ) said at a press conference.

They were arrested on suspicion of being involved in a human smuggling gang which assisted Vietnamese workers in finding work in several construction sites in Macau.

The PJ was working in collaboration with the Macau Customs Service and relevant local authorities of the Chinese mainland, the

spokesman, added. Authorities believe the scheme had been running for at least two years.

According to the PJ spokesperson Leng Kam Lun, the suspects assisted the Vietnamese nationals to travel from Vietnam to Guangxi Province, and then transferred them to their stronghold in Zhuhai.

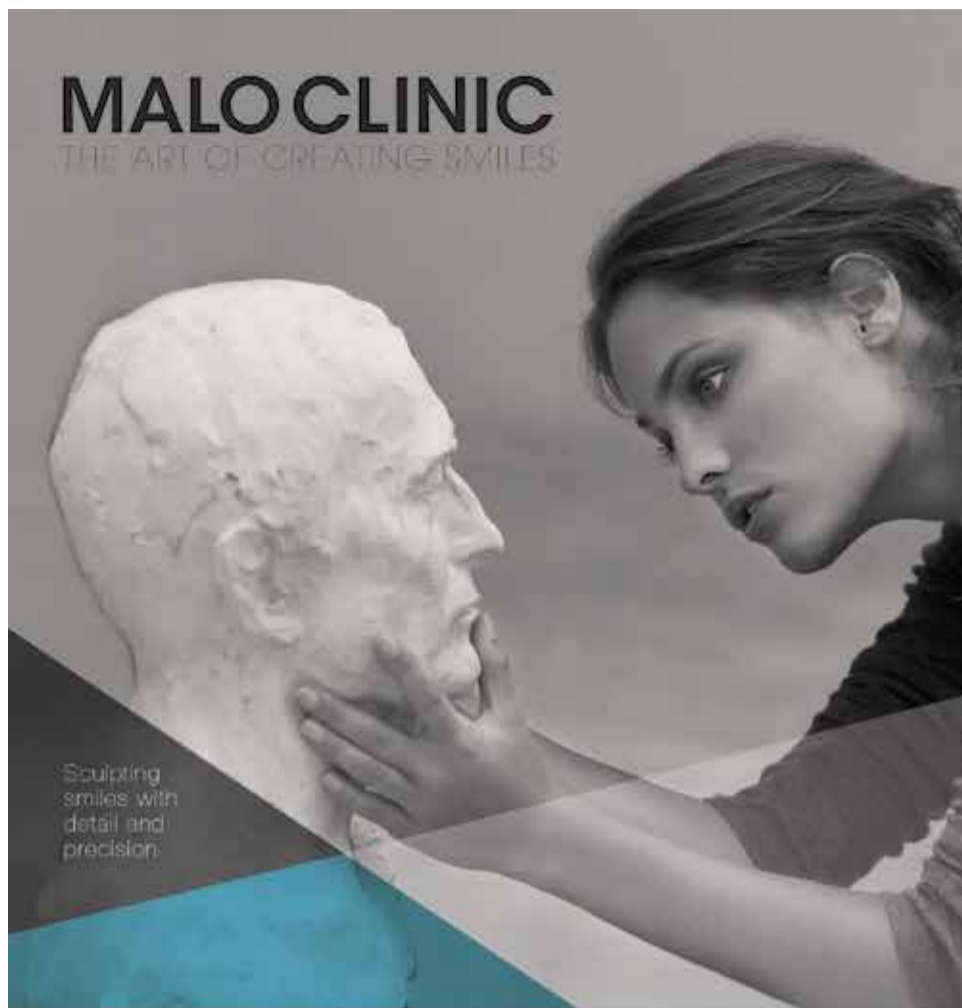
"They were given a little break over there and then, with the help of other suspects, they were arranged to swim into the SAR. The Vietnamese started working

after successfully landing onshore near the Pearl of the Orient, in Avenida da Amizade," Leng said, as cited in a TDM report.

"What's special about this case is that, apart from boarding a boat, the Vietnamese actually swam from Zhuhai to Macau. This is a big challenge to the Macau Customs [service] because it's very difficult to detect them, even with the help of a radar," said Macao Customs service's operations manager Chiang Kin Chong.

Mainland police have also arrested the masterminds of the criminal group in Guangxi and Guangdong province. **MDT/Xinhua**

AD



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**B.** For all patients who will be in Portugal during this period, Macau MALO CLINIC will manage the necessary bookings, follow-up and patients' medical records to our colleagues in any MALO CLINIC in Portugal.

**C.** For those patients who are willing to wait for MALO CLINIC in Macau to proceed with the treatments, we are putting all our efforts in finding a partnering healthcare organization at the moment in order to continue our practice.

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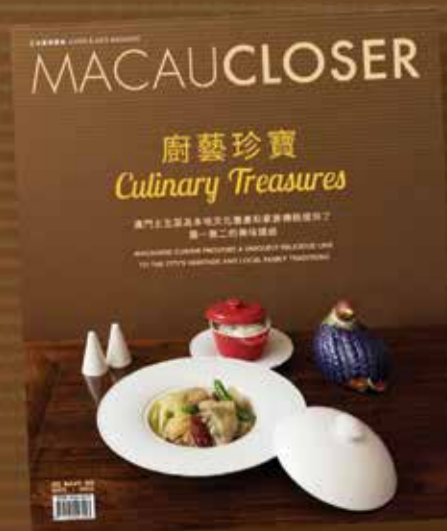
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## IFT Café closed after two-year operation

**T**HE IFT Café has been closed for business since yesterday.

Inaugurated in June 2016, and located next to Nam Van Lake, the café was being run by the IFT as a training

center for its students. In 2016, the city's cultural authorities decided to prepare a public tender to hand the café over to a private operator.

The first round of tender was opened by IFT in March 2017

to invite interested parties from the food and beverage industry to rent and operate two spaces at the lake. The tender culminated in successful leases for two shops in August 2017. One of the bid-

ders started their business in January 2018 while the other is under the licensing process.

IFT proceeded to the second round of the open tender from October 2017 to February 2018 for five other shops designated for food and beverage. There were also two successful bidders in this round of the open tender. The shop, in which the IFT Café was located, will be handed over to the successful bidder on June 1 to run a leisure café, while the other shop will be turned into a restaurant offering burgers, pizzas and similar cuisine. However, the owners of the two restaurants will need to apply for the relevant license before beginning operation, according to a statement issued yesterday.

The remaining shops will be included in the third round of the open tender to call for lease and operation in the near future, possibly starting from next month. The project task force expects to bring a brand new recreational experience to residents and tourists by enriching the food and beverage options in the area and combining them with other facilities, such as the shops selling cultural and creative products and pedal boats.

## Study suggests casinos to increase scale of donations

**T**HE Macau University of Science and Technology and the Macau Tourism Association jointly launched a report on both the 2011-2017 Macau Gaming Corporate Philanthropy Responsibility Development and the 2011-2017 Macau Gaming Enterprise Charity Donations Ranking.

According to the report, between 2011 and 2017, charitable donations from the city's six gaming operations totaled HKD1.557 billion, representing an average increase of 6.48 percent, and accounting for 0.085 percent of these companies' total revenue.

Since 2014, charity donations and gaming operators' revenue have fluctuated, in general, at the same pace.

Traditional charitable organizations or funds, for instance the Tong Sin Tong, Macao Holy House of Mercy and the Macau Daily News readers' charity fund, receive the majority of donations from gaming operators.

Lin Guangzhi, director of the Institute for Social and Cultural Research, said that gaming operators lack consistent standards in terms of their donations.

The report indicates that these donations also need to be more open and transparent.

Moreover, gaming operators are criticized in the sense that they should increase the scale and effectiveness of their donations. The report also noted that donations from local gaming operators to mainland are "rather small."

In conclusion, the report suggests for the SAR government to pay attention to the recognition and evaluation of donations by gaming operators, which should establish further departments, in particular for addressing charity matters.

Between 2011 and 2017, the top three donating gaming operators were Wynn Macau, Galaxy Entertainment Group and Sands China.



The event will be held at Mandarin's House (pictured) and Lilau Square

## IC announces activities for cultural heritage carnival

**T**HE Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) will hold the "Macau's Intangible Cultural Heritage Carnival" at Mandarin's House and Lilau Square on June 9 and 10, in response to the "China Cultural and Natural Heritage Day."

Aiming to raise public awareness and understanding of the city's intangible cultural heritage, this year's carnival will feature a series of activities such as booth games, exhibitions, thematic talks, workshops and performances presented by various cultural and artistic groups.

A stamp-collecting activity will also be available at the carnival for participants to redeem souvenirs in exchange for a specified number of stamps collected after playing games.

In addition, lectures and

workshops will also be arranged during the carnival, including a lecture on the "Overview of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Macau" by the associate professor of the Centre of Sino-Western Cultural Studies, Lam Fat Iam.

A lecture on the "Belief and Customs of Na Tcha" by the heirs of representative items of intangible cultural heritage at the national level, Chiang Kun Kuong and Ip Tat, will also be presented, as well as a workshop on the Craft of Bamboo Scaffolding.

The IC stated that these activities and demonstrations will enable the public to connect with the city's intangible cultural heritage, facilitate exchanges and interactions, and promote the cultural heritage of the SAR.

## Abandoned baby's mother arrested

The mother of an abandoned baby, reported by the Judiciary Police (PJ) on Monday, has been found and arrested, the PJ reported yesterday. The abandoned baby is a 10-month-old boy whose father is a 60-year-old local resident. The arrested mother is a 27-year-old Hong Kong resident. The suspect said that she had a quarrel with the father concerning the boy's foster care, upon which she, on May 26, took the baby from the house of the father's sister, and later abandoned the infant.

## GDP up by 9 percent in first quarter

Macau's gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 9.2 percent year-on-year in real terms in the first quarter of 2018, higher than the 8 percent rise in the previous quarter. Economic growth in the first quarter was mainly driven by exports of services and private consumption. According to information from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC), external demand expanded further, which pushed total exports of services up by 16 percent year-on-year. Domestic demand recovered, with private consumption expenditure and government final consumption expenditure rising by 4.8 percent and 2.2 percent respectively year-on-year. Private consumption was up by 4.8 percent year-on-year, higher than the 2.7 percent rise in the previous quarter. Government final consumption expenditure grew at a slower rate of 2.2 percent year-on-year, down from the 5.1 percent increase in the previous quarter, with compensation of employees and net purchases of goods and services rising by 2.5 percent and 1.6 percent respectively. According to DSEC, imports of goods rose 7 percent year-on-year, while imports of services increased by 34.2 percent year-on-year.

## 381 new tuberculosis cases registered in 2017

In 2017, the Health Bureau (SSM) registered 381 new cases of tuberculosis, with 47 cases concerning non-local residents, the SSM revealed in a statement. The incidence rate is of 58.3 cases per 100,000 inhabitants. There have been 18 fatal cases recorded; the mortality rate is 2.8 cases per 100,000 inhabitants. Among the fatal cases, 12 were people aged 65 years old or over, and six were under 65 years old, with the youngest person aged 42 years old. SSM noted that, similarly to other regions in Asia, tuberculosis is the main factor affecting the health and life of residents.



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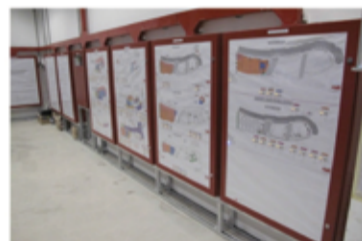


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# Starbucks to close over 8,000 stores in the US for anti-bias training

**S**TARBUCKS is closing more than 8,000 stores nationwide to conduct anti-bias training, the next of many steps the company is taking to try to restore its tarnished image as a hangout where all are welcome.

After the arrests of two black men in Philadelphia last month at one of its stores, the coffee chain's leaders apologized and met with the two men, but also reached out to activists and experts in bias training to put together a curriculum for its 175,000 workers.

That has put a spotlight on the little-known world of "unconscious bias training," which is used by many corporations, police departments and other organizations to help address racism in the workplace. The training is typically designed to get people to open up about implicit biases and stereotypes in encountering people of color, gender or other identities.

The Perception Institute, a consortium of researchers consulting with Starbucks, defines implicit bias as attitudes — positive or negative — or stereotypes someone has toward a person or group without being conscious of it. A common example, according to some of its studies, is a tendency for white people to unknowingly associate black people with criminal behavior.

Many retailers including Walmart and Target said they already offer some racial bias training. Target says it plans to expand that training. Nordstrom has said it plans to enhance its training after issuing an apology to three black teenagers in Missouri who employees falsely accused of shoplifting.

Anti-bias sessions can incorporate personal reflections, explorations of feelings and mental



Demonstrators protest outside the Starbucks cafe in Philadelphia

exercises. But one expert says training of this kind can have the opposite effect if people feel judged.

According to a video previewing the Starbucks training, there will be recorded remarks from Starbucks executives and rapper/activist Common. From there, employees will "move into a real and honest exploration of bias" where, in small groups, they can share how the issue comes up in their daily work life. Starbucks has described it as a "collaborative and engaging experience for store partners to learn together."

Developed with feedback from the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, the Perception Institute and other social advocacy groups, Yesterday's four-hour session gave workers a primer on the history of civil rights from the 1960s to present day. Workers also viewed a short documentary film.

Alexis McGill Johnson, Per-

ception's co-founder and executive director, says anti-bias training is about awareness.

"The work that we want to do is not say you're a bad person because you have a stereotype about a group, but say this is why your brain may have these stereotypes," she said.

Johnson declined to elaborate on the details of the Starbucks training. But she said Perception's workshops typically include mental exercises to show participants how bias creeps into situations. A session can include personal reflections, she said, such as, "I was socialized to think about a group this way."

Johnson said the real work is for employees to apply what they learn in their everyday lives. She likened it to exercising a muscle. Some ways to practice counter-stereotyping, she said, are to look for something unique about a person that is beyond their social identity.

"It could be having a question

that elicits something more interesting than, say, the weather or the traffic," Johnson said, stressing the need to "go well beyond the superficial."

**The work that we want to do is not say you're a bad person because you have a stereotype about a group.**

ALEXIS MCGILL JOHNSON  
PERCEPTION'S CO-FOUNDER

In the Philadelphia incident, Rashon Nelson and Donte Robinson were asked to leave after one was denied access to the bathroom. They were arrested by police minutes after they sat down to await a business meeting. The incident was recorded by cellphones and went viral.

Nelson and Robinson settled with Starbucks this month for an undisclosed sum and an offer of a free education. They also reached a deal with the city of Philadelphia for a symbolic \$1 each and a promise from officials to establish a USD200,000 program for young entrepreneurs.

Starbucks has since announced anyone can use its restrooms even if they are not buying anything. According to documents Starbucks sent to store workers, employees should also think carefully when dealing with disruptive customers. A guide advises staff to consider whether the

actions they take would apply to any customer in the same situation. They should dial 911 only if the situation seems unsafe.

Starbucks said the arrests never should have occurred and announced the mass closures of its stores for the afternoon of training.

Calvin Lai, an assistant professor of psychological and brain sciences at Washington University in St. Louis, said people should not place high expectations on this one day.

"We find that oftentimes diversity training has mixed effects, and in some cases it can even backfire and lead people who are kind of already reactive to these issues to become even more polarized," Lai said.

One afternoon wouldn't really be "moving the needle on the biases," especially when it's a company with as many employees as Starbucks, he said. "A lot of those employees won't be here next year or two years or three years down the line."

Starbucks has said yesterday's sessions serve as "a step in a long-term journey to make Starbucks even more welcoming and safe for all." It is working with volunteer advisers including Heather McGhee, president of social advocacy organization Demos, and Sherrilyn Ifill, president and director-counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund.

"One of the things Starbucks has to wrestle with is how to incorporate this kind of training into the onboarding of every employee," Ifill said.

That takes a sustained effort, McGhee added.

"We have really made it clear that one training is not enough, and this needs to be part of an ongoing review of their policies," McGhee said. "They really need to commit." **MDT/AP**

## Alibaba Leads a USD1.38b investment in delivery giant ZTO

**A**LIBABA Group Holding Ltd. is leading the purchase of 10 percent of Chinese delivery service ZTO Express (Cayman) Inc. for USD1.38 billion, a deal that'll augment the e-commerce giant's ability to ship packages around the globe.

The Alibaba-led investor group includes its own logistics arm Cainiao, the company said in a statement that didn't specify

other buyers. Under an agreement, Cainiao and U.S.-listed ZTO will collaborate on everything from delivery and warehouse management to technology.

Chinese express delivery has ballooned in past years alongside a boom in online shopping, as consumers increasingly demand faster and more reliable shipping. Alibaba and arch-rival JD.com

Inc. are spending billions not just to shore up their networks and shorten delivery windows to a day or less, but also on expensive forays into old-fashioned retail and data computing.

"The growth of e-commerce and new retail in China demands more efficient express delivery and expanded logistics services," Meisong Lai, ZTO's founder and chief executive officer, said in the sta-

tement. "This partnership will enable us to expand our selection of high quality service offerings both in China and internationally."

The cash infusion will bolster ZTO as it expands its network to keep pace with fast-growing rivals. Chinese express-delivery operators are looking to counter rising labor costs in part through automation and more effective

use of capacity. The company was among local services that raised freight charges last year to try and end an intense price war that's hurt profit margins.

ZTO, which debuted in an initial public offering in October 2016, has been a longstanding partner to Alibaba and at one point relied on Alibaba for about three-quarters of parcel volume. But the company, just one among a coterie of players including SF Express and Shanghai Yunda Express Co. in a fragmented market, is looking to invest in automation and its international reach.

Neither Alibaba nor

ZTO outlined specific projects they might explore jointly. The Chinese e-commerce leader already operates a massive logistics player in Cainiao, created with partners with the aim of supporting Alibaba's online operations. It's now a provider of same-day and next-day delivery in nearly 1,500 Chinese districts and counties and operates Cainiao Post: a network of last-mile stations covering neighborhoods in the top 100 cities and around 1,800 university campuses across the country.

**Bloomberg**



The walled city of Dubrovnik, Croatia

# Beijing's reach and Europe's money meet in Balkan outpost

James M. Gomez  
& Jasmina Kuzmanovic

A short hike from the fishing village of Brijesta, where the Croatian mainland's rocky coastline across the bay melts into the Adriatic, a four-story concrete pier scrapes the blue horizon.

The hulking eyesore is part of an abandoned bridge project, an ever-present reminder of how the forces of history and squabbling politicians failed a region of about 100,000 people. It now has become a new symbol: where the benefits of European Union membership converge with China's expanding influence.

Thanks to Croatia's EU entry, the 526 million-euro (USD621 million) plan is being revived. State-owned China Communications Construction Group Ltd. plans to restart the project halted in 2007 this year. The 28-nation bloc agreed to provide 85 percent of the financing, with the Croatian government pitching in the rest. The four-lane bridge, which will cut travel time by several hours to some parts of the Peljesac peninsula, is set to open in 2021.

"The bridge is our salvation," said Zdravko Lazic, 38, as he

tossed freshly harvested oysters into salt-encrusted buckets on Brijesta's small stone dock. "It'll probably be less quiet once the bridge is built, but it will bring tourists and keep people from leaving."

China is already deeply embedded in Europe, owning everything from ports in Spain, Greece, and Belgium to a German airport. It's also pushing into the continent's former Communist East, with investment ranging from wind farms in Poland and a brewery in the Czech Republic to software engineering in Bulgaria and car-part manufacturing in Hungary. Infrastructure projects have been especially popular, including the international airport of the Albanian capital Tirana, a shipping terminal in the Romanian port city of Constanta and a high-speed rail upgrade linking the Hungarian and Serbian capitals.

The bridge project focuses on the Peljesac peninsula, part of the Croatia's southernmost county, most of which is separated from the main bulk of country by a 9-kilometer coastal stretch that gives sea access to Bosnia. What was an administrative quirk when the neighbors were partners within Yugoslavia became a pain after

independence and a major headache after Croatia joined the EU in 2013.

"We're not an island, but we do feel like one," said Vedrana Kelleher, the owner of Savills Plc's Croatian unit who focuses on real estate in the county. "We feel we're not really part of the European Union, we're so aware of this territorial disconnection."

## DIFFICULT ACCESS

It's not that the entire region is a sleepy backwater. The county seat is Dubrovnik, a historic city where tourism is booming in part thanks to its role as King's Landing in HBO's *Game of Thrones* and Canto Bight in *Star Wars VIII*. Even the bustling world heritage site is difficult to reach by car from the rest of Croatia, through ferries and international borders -- and it's still a sharp contrast to the 40-mile-long Peljesac peninsula.

Home to 8,000 people and some of the country's best vineyards, it's also the least developed part of Croatia's winding Adriatic coast, held back by the difficulty of access. The town of Trpanj, for example, is about 10 kilometers from the mainland, but visitors have to drive more than 10

times as much along the coast, dipping in and out of Bosnia, or catch a ferry that runs four times daily and has limited capacity, which could mean being stranded overnight.

"Traveling through two border crossings makes it unpredictable, and in the summer it can take hours," Dubrovnik Mayor Mato Frankovic said. "The bridge will change all that."

## ECONOMIC BOOST

The overseas link will provide instant access. It will add 7.2 percentage points to the region's economic growth over 15 years while raising employment by increasing trade and tourism, according a government study done in 2006 -- officials haven't been able to provide a more recent estimate. Croatia's drive to join the EU's borderless Schengen zone will get a boost and there are benefits to the environment by diverting millions of cars each year away from the congested single-lane Bosnian border.

It will also complete a plan decades in the making. The project first surfaced in the 1990s after Yugoslavia broke up, but there was little progress because of a bloody war that devastated much of the region, including

Dubrovnik. Construction finally began in 2007, with the first two support piers erected on either side. The global economic crisis started the following year, sending Croatia into years of recession, and funding dried up.

"I'm absolutely frustrated that we have waited so long," said Nikola Dobroslavic, the head of Dubrovnik county. "But Croatia at the time didn't have the financial abilities to build the bridge by itself."

On the mainland, the construction is already bringing business to the village of Komarna. Restaurants are expanding, new ones are opening, ready to cater to the builders. Across the bay, it will take a while longer, though the first signs of progress have appeared.

The owners of Saints Hills bought an abandoned stone winery in the center of a lush Peljesac valley in 2006, a year before the first attempt at bridge construction began. It's added climate-controlled cellars, oak casks and stainless-steel machinery and is now pouring money into hospitality for the time when the winery will be more accessible.

But more needs to be done. At Trpanj, the hotel next to the ferry to the mainland has barely changed since the socialist days. Up the peninsula, upscale eateries are scarce even though fresh oyster is abundant.

"Peljesac has remained undeveloped because it was out of an easy reach," said Kelleher of Savills. "When tourists arrive, investors will, too." **Bloomberg**

# US, PRC make world safe for fraud

Anne Stevenson-Yang

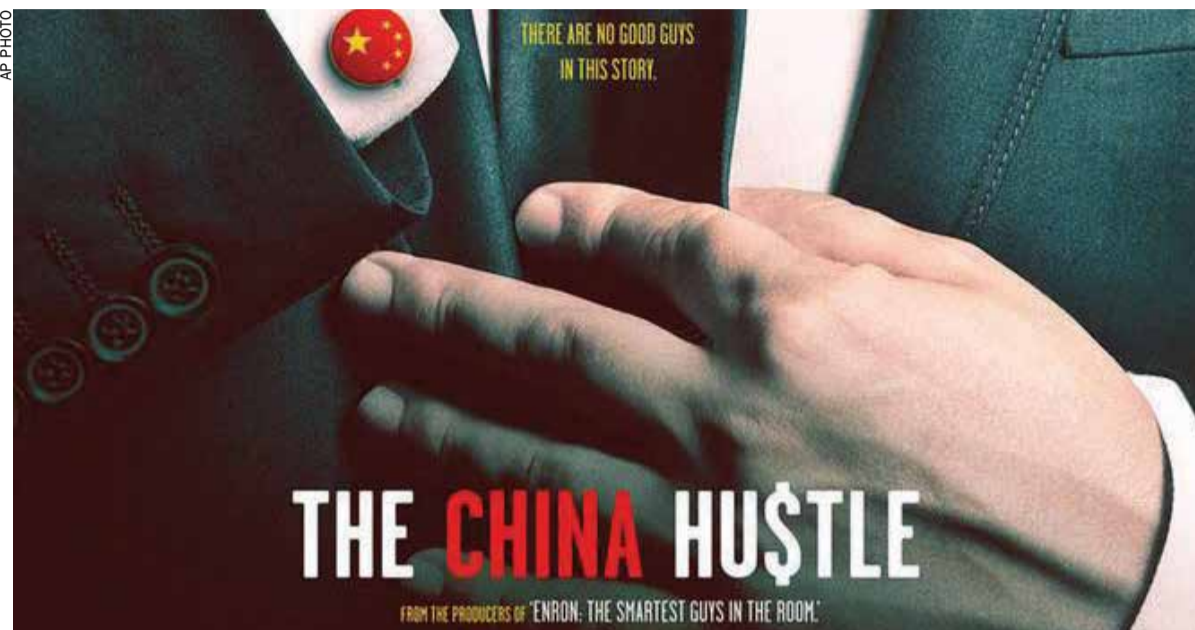
**C**HINA and the U.S. are presenting themselves as exemplars of opposite models of political governance.

China has laid out its vision for a rejuvenated nation: a socialist planned economy, built on data and analytics, that will displace market economies. The U.S. is taking the opposite route: withdrawing government from the marketplace, deregulating the economy through executive orders, starving regulators of funds, and appointing agency heads with records of antagonism to their own agencies' missions.

With both economies breaking away from what was formerly a broad consensus on market governance, the concept of compliance is suddenly in question — as are systems of governance designed to prevent fraud.

The recent documentary "The China Hustle" laid bare the impact of Chinese fraud on U.S. markets. The film made much of backdoor listings, which apply lax standards of review to companies looking to capture capital from public investors. When the companies are Chinese, they fall into a regulatory gap between two systems: Chinese regulators abdicate responsibility, since the investors are American, and U.S. regulators do not have standing to access records in China that might disclose fraud. The move in March to allow Chinese depositary receipts will exacerbate the problem by creating new ways for companies registered in the no man's lands of the Caymans and British Virgin Islands to collect capital from Chinese investors.

What "The China Hustle" fai-



led to do was draw the obvious connection between the blatantly fraudulent Chinese reverse mergers exposed in the 2009 to 2012 period and the practices of the Chinese tech giants and unicorns who are being embraced by investors around the world today. These unicorns have raised marketing exuberance to a scale that could hobble markets by subtracting hundreds of billions and even trillions in "value" in days if checked against more familiar measures of value.

Their misrepresentations are of a different type, more like Enron's and less like Crazy Eddie's. These companies exploit variations in reporting standards that open up opportunities to mislead investors without technically breaking the law: by creating new, unauditable claims, such as gross merchandise value; by obscuring corporate control with structures such as variable interest entities; by hiding ultimate beneficiaries via partner-

ship structures; by using the fig leaf of "national security" to thwart efforts to verify data; and by turning standards for determining income, cash flow, and even "cash and cash equivalents" into debatable issues.

Regulatory arbitrage now allows entities exposed as frauds to fold up their tents and go raise capital elsewhere. Think about it: Not only is there no penalty for bilking public-market investors, but frauds are actually rewarded, because the trail of audited reports a company leaves behind becomes a foundation for a new listing, while the forensic analysis, regulator queries and class-action suits that got them delisted from one market are not even reviewed by the next one. Classic examples include Focus Media, which delisted in the U.S. after devastating revelations of fraud, then relisted at a higher valuation in Shenzhen.

Among the widest regulatory gaps that support Chinese unicor-

ns and decacorns such as Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. and Tencent Holdings Ltd. is lax acquisition accounting, exacerbated by poor access to financial and ownership records across territories. How purchase prices for acquisitions are calculated and how their receipt is verified are almost entirely opaque and, when acquisitions fall below the line of "materiality," investors learn nothing at all about them. Companies such as Alibaba have taken advantage of this by marking up the value of their acquired companies even as those companies lose money. Untested asset value claims on their balance sheets constitute a rapidly growing fraction of their balance sheet assets.

National governance systems are ill-adapted to these challenges, and yet the international order for managing trade and investment has largely broken down, as its biggest champion, the U.S., has demonstrated a clear lack of inte-

rest in complying with rules it was instrumental in writing. Investors seem eerily comfortable with the lack of stabilizing institutions and the predictability for trade and investment norms they provided.

■ The documentary 'The China Hustle' laid bare the impact of Chinese fraud on US markets

It may be that the breakdown of international institutions and the low regard the U.S. government has for its international commitments is, in fact, the next evolutionary stage of globalization. The long post-colonial process of emergence of the world's largest populations would always have challenged the World Trade Organization and the International Monetary Fund, as they were created by developed nations and long served their interests. The Great Game of this century finds its closest analog in the world of social media: beyond regulation, largely invisible from any single viewpoint, shattered into small domains of interest and participation, and brutally competitive for advantage in a world without a recognized, institutional authority.

As the world's largest economies realign before our eyes, a question worth pondering for investors is this: In the new Great Game, who will be the referees? **Bloomberg**

## STUMBLING BLOCKS

# Trump's trade agenda hits China, NAFTA

Ken Thomas, Washington

**P**RESIDENT Donald Trump's hard-line views on trade, a staple of his message long before he entered politics, are beginning to collide with the cold realities of global geopolitics.

Trade talks on China and the North American Free Trade Agreement have hit stumbling blocks, posing a challenge for a president who vowed to make trade deals more equitable for the United States during his 2016 campaign and who famously tweeted that trade wars are "easy to win."

Trump's trade agenda — at least lately — has not been so easy.

Trump's administration announced plans yesterday to slap USD50 billion worth of tariffs on Chinese technology while taking steps to impose new investment restrictions and export controls, aimed at pushing China to remove trade barriers that make it difficult for U.S. companies to do business in China.

The new action came after the administration said earlier this month that it had suspended plans to impose \$150 billion in tar-

riffs for now and the president tweeted last week that a "different structure" would be needed in the trade talks involving the world's two largest economies.

The president has bemoaned the massive U.S. trade deficit with China — USD337 billion last year — as evidence that Beijing has been complicit in abusive trading practices and outsmarted his predecessors.

Pointing to a pause in the trade dispute, the adminis-

tration had pointed to China's plans to "significantly increase" its purchases of U.S. goods and services and make "meaningful increases" in U.S. exports of agriculture and energy products. Financial markets, wary of a calamitous trade war, were relieved.

But Beijing did not agree to any specific dollar amounts, despite the Trump administration's push to lower the U.S. trade deficit by at least \$200 billion. And doubts remain about whether China will address allegations the Chinese engage in cyber-theft of trade secrets, force U.S. companies to transfer some of their technology in exchange for market access or back away from its Chi-

na 2025 plan to dominate emerging technologies.

Separately, on Friday, the U.S. reached a deal on ZTE Corp. that will allow the Chinese telecommunications giant to remain in business. Under the deal, ZTE will oust its management team, hire American compliance officers and pay a fine — on top of the \$1 billion it's already paid for selling equipment to North Korea and Iran in violation of U.S. sanctions. In return, the U.S. Commerce Department will lift a seven-year ban on ZTE buying components from U.S. companies. The ban, imposed this month, threatened to put ZTE out of business.

Trump said earlier that a resolution would help U.S.

firms that supply ZTE with components, but members of Congress, including several Republicans, warned that the U.S. is being too lenient on a company that has violated U.S. sanctions.

"ZTE presents a national security threat to the United States — and nothing in this reported deal addresses that fundamental fact," said Sen. Chris Van Hollen, a Maryland Democrat. "If President Trump won't put our security before Chinese jobs, Congress will act on a bipartisan basis to stop him."

Trump's team, meanwhile, has hit an impasse with Canada and Mexico on negotiations over NAFTA. The president has sought to overhaul NAFTA as a way of returning automobile production to the U.S. and reduce America's trade deficit with Mexico. **AP**

■ Trump announced plans yesterday to slap USD50 billion worth of tariffs on Chinese technology



In this image made from video, Kim Yong Chol, in white, a former military intelligence chief who is now Kim Jong Un's top official on inter-Korean relations, walks upon arrival at Beijing airport

## TRUMP-KIM

# Diplomacy heats up before summit, with trips by US, N. Korea

Kim Tong-Hyung, Seoul

**DIPLOMACY** accelerated yesterday ahead of a potential summit between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un as a team of American diplomats involved in preparatory discussions left a Seoul hotel, possibly to continue talks with their North Korean counterparts.

Meanwhile, in Beijing, South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported that senior North Korean official Kim Yong Chol planned to head to the United States, potentially for more talks to set up the summit over the future of North Korea's nuclear weapons program. He would be the most senior North Korean official to visit the United States in 18 years.

It's possible the trip could be a reciprocal visit after U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo traveled to Pyongyang, North Korea's capital, twice in recent weeks for meetings with Kim Jong Un, after which he said there was a "shared understanding" between the two sides about what they hope to achieve in the summit. It remains unclear whom Kim Yong Chol would meet in the United States if he goes.

South Korean media also reported that a North Korean

delegation arrived in Singapore on Monday night for likely summit preparations with U.S. officials. Seoul did not confirm reports that the North Korean officials were headed by Kim Chang Son, Kim Jong Un's close associate, and that his American counterpart would likely be White House deputy chief of staff for operations Joe Hagin.

South Korea's Foreign Ministry said Washington and Pyongyang were engaging in "working-level" talks to arrange the possible summit, but said it couldn't confirm specifics. Ministry spokesman Noh Kyu-duk also did not say whether Seoul knew of any U.S. plans regarding Kim Yong Chol's possible visit, such as whether he and Pompeo have plans to meet.

Yonhap said Kim Yong Chol's name was on the passenger list for a flight today from Beijing to New York. It earlier reported that he was heading straight to Washington, but later said he changed his flight to New York. South Korean officials couldn't immediately confirm the report. Kim was seen in the Beijing airport yesterday by Associated Press Television.

Kim is a former military intelligence chief and now a vice chairman of the North Korean

ruling party's central committee tasked with inter-Korean relations. A visit to the United States would be the highest-level North Korean official visit since 2000, when late National Defense Commission First Vice Chairman Jo Myong Rok visited Washington, South Korea's Unification Ministry said.

In South Korea, it wasn't immediately clear whether the American officials, including Sung Kim, the U.S. ambassador to Manila, were heading to the Korean village of Panmunjom, which straddles the border inside the Demilitarized Zone, where they met with North Korean officials on Sunday. Sung Kim is a former U.S. ambassador to South Korea and was a top negotiator with North Korea in past nuclear talks.

■ **Kim Yong Chol planned to head to the United States, potentially for more talks to set up the summit**

Trump withdrew from a planned June 12 summit with Kim Jong Un last week, citing hostile North Korean comments, but has since said the meeting in Singapore could still happen. South Korean President Moon Jae-in, who has lobbied hard for nuclear negotiations between Trump and Kim, met with the North Korean leader in a surprise meeting on Saturday in an effort to keep the summit alive.

In their second meeting in a month, Moon said Kim expressed willingness to cooperate to end confrontation and work toward peace for the sake of a successful summit with Trump. But Kim also said he was unsure whether he could trust the United States over its promise to end hostile policies against North Korea and provide security assurances if the country does abandon its nuclear weapons, according to Moon.

At their first meeting on April 27, Kim and Moon announced vague aspirations for a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula and permanent peace, which Seoul has tried to sell as a meaningful breakthrough that increases the chances of successful talks between Kim and Trump.

Their second meeting came after inter-Korean relations

had chilled in recent weeks, with North Korea canceling a high-level meeting with Seoul over South Korea's participation in a two-week military exercise with the United States that ended last week. The Koreans have agreed to put high-level discussions back on track with a meeting on Friday. But that did not stop North Korea's state media from continuing its criticism of allied military exercises, saying if Washington "sincerely hopes for the talks, it should stop the acts of threatening its dialogue partner by force."

Since the 1970s, the United States and South Korea have been holding a major summertime exercise called Uchi Freedom Guardian that involves tens of thousands of troops. South Korea's Defense Ministry said there have been no discussions yet between Washington and Seoul on modifying the drills, which usually take place in August.

Despite Kim's apparent eagerness for a summit with Trump, there are lingering doubts about whether he will fully relinquish his nuclear weapons, which he may see as his only guarantee of survival. Moon has insisted Kim can be persuaded to abandon his nuclear facilities, materials and bombs in a verifiable and irreversible way in exchange for credible security and economic guarantees.

U.S. and South Korean officials haven't confirmed the details of the pre-summit negotiations between Washington and Pyongyang at the border.

The officials may discuss bridging the gap between the two sides on what a deal on the North's nuclear weapons would look like. There's also speculation that American officials are trying to persuade the North Koreans to export a certain number of their nuclear warheads overseas at an early stage as proof of their commitment to denuclearize.

U.S. officials have talked about a comprehensive one-shot deal in which North Korea eliminates its nukes first and receives rewards later. But Kim, through two summits with Chinese President Xi Jinping in March and May, has called for a phased and synchronized process in which every action he takes is met with a reciprocal reward from the United States.

Seoul has been advocating an alternative approach in which the North's comprehensive commitment and credible actions toward denuclearization are followed by a phased but compressed process of inspection and verifiable dismantling. Before he canceled the summit, Trump did not rule out an incremental approach that would provide incentives along the way to the North. **AP**



## JAPAN

## Navy spots suspected China ship next to N. Korea tanker

**J**APAN'S Foreign Ministry said yesterday that a Japanese navy surveillance aircraft has spotted a suspected Chinese-flagged ship apparently transferring fuel to a North Korean tanker on the open seas.

A ministry statement said that the two vessels were suspected of engaging in offshore ship-to-ship transfers banned under U.N. Security Council resolutions.

It said Japan has informed the U.N. Security Council of the May 19 sighting of the North Korean-flagged tanker, Ji Song 6, moored alongside the ship carrying a flag believed to be Chinese in open seas in the East China Sea.

Four photos taken by the Maritime Self-Defense Force were released, including two showing the ships alongside each other, connected by a hose.

The U.N. has blacklisted the North Korean tanker.

The disclosure of the alleged offshore transfer comes as preparations for an expected summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un appeared to be in their final stages.

U.N. sanctions on the North limit energy trade and ban offshore transfers of goods to North Korean ships as part of international efforts to pressure Pyongyang into giving up its nuclear weapons.

Japan and the U.S. have said the sanctions must be enforced strictly to be effective, and asked China in particular to tighten enforcement. **AP**

## MH370

## Leader of failed wreckage hunt hopes to search again



## Rob McGuirk, Canberra

**T**HE head of a U.S. technology company that scoured the Indian Ocean seabed for more than three months looking for Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 said yesterday he was disappointed the hunt failed to find wreckage and hoped to take part in some future search.

Malaysia said last week the search by Texas-based Ocean Infinity would end this week after two extensions of the original 90-day time limit.

Ocean Infinity chief executive Oliver Plunkett said the search would soon end after covering more than 112,000 square kilometers of remote ocean floor — an area more than four times larger than the zone targeted by experts as the most likely crash site.

"I would firstly like to extend the thoughts of everyone at Ocean Infinity to the families of those who have lost loved ones on MH370. Part of our motivation for renewing the search was to try to provide some answers to those affected," Plunkett said in a statement.

"It is therefore with a heavy heart that we end our current search without having achieved that aim," he added.

Plunkett said he was pleased to hear the new Malaysian government had made

finding the Boeing 777 that vanished with 239 people aboard a priority.

"Whilst clearly the outcome so far is extremely disappointing, as a company, we are truly proud of what we have achieved both in terms of the quality of data we've produced and the speed with which we covered such a vast area," Plunkett said.

"We sincerely hope that we will be able to again offer our services in the search for MH370 in the future," he added.

Malaysia signed a "no cure, no fee" deal with Ocean Infinity in January to resume the hunt for the plane, a year after the official search in the southern Indian Ocean by Australia, Malaysia and China was called off. Ocean Infinity stood to be paid \$70 million if it had found the wreckage or black boxes. No other search is scheduled.

Australian Transport Minister Michael McCormack said the four-year search had been the largest in aviation history and tested the limits of technology and the capacity of experts and people at sea.

"We will always remain hopeful that one day the aircraft will be located," McCormack's office said in a statement.

Australia, Malaysia and China agreed in 2016 that an official search would only resume if the three countries had

credible evidence that identified a specific location for the wreckage.

Flight 370 vanished on March 8, 2014, while flying from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to Beijing. The original search focused on the South China Sea before analysis revealed that the plane had made an unexpected turn west and then south.

Australia coordinated an official search on Malaysia's behalf that scoured 120,000 square kilometers and cost 200 million Australian dollars (USD150 million) before it ended last year.

Experts used drift analysis of wreckage found washed ashore on the west coasts of the Indian Ocean to define the new search area that Ocean Infinity. The most likely crash site was only 25,000 square kilometers, roughly the size of Vermont.

Ocean Infinity ship Seabed Contractor made quick progress operating up to eight remotely controlled underwater sonar drones.

Danica Weeks, an Australian resident who lost her husband on Flight 370, urged Foreign Minister Julie Bishop to call on Malaysia's new government to be more transparent about what they knew about the mysterious disappearance.

"There've been so many theories and rumors and

[...] we don't know what is true and what isn't," Weeks told Australian Broadcasting Corp.

"I want Julie Bishop to say to the Malaysian counterparts now: What do you have? Where is the investigation at?" she added.

The director of the official seabed hunt that ended last year, Peter Foley, told an Australian Senate committee hearing last week that he still hoped that Ocean Infinity would be successful.

"If they're not, of course, that would be a great sadness for all of us," Foley said.

Jiang Hui of China, whose mother was on board the plane, said he appreciated Ocean Infinity's efforts but still hoped for more information on the possible reasons for the disappearance.

The recent seating of a new Malaysian government under Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad could offer the prospects of new data becoming available, Jiang told The Associated Press last week.

"I don't believe a corrupted government can be efficient or fair," he said, referring to the administration of Najib Razak, who was Malaysia's prime minister when the flight disappeared and who has been questioned by police in a money-laundering scandal that tainted his government. **AP**



Josh Holt (right) is greeted by family and friends upon returning to Salt Lake City

USA

# American freed from Venezuela jail returns home to Salt Lake

Joshua Goodman  
& Brady McCombs, Salt Lake City

**N**EARLY two years after a trip to meet the woman he loved turned into an imprisonment in a Venezuelan jail, an exhausted but grateful Utah man arrived home with his wife.

Josh Holt arrived at the Salt Lake City airport yesterday [Macau time] to a tearful, cheering crowd holding signs in his favorite color, green, with messages such as: "We never gave up." His grandmother draped an American flag around his shoulders as he exchanged long hugs with person after person while the crowd sang "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Holt spoke briefly to thank everyone who helped him and his wife, Thamara Caleno, get released from jail but said they were exhausted, feeling like they'd gotten "maybe four hours of sleep in four days."

Standing nearby were his parents, celebrating a homecoming they'd worked tirelessly to bring about.

Laurie and Jason Holt woke at 4:30 a.m. last Saturday to a phone call they had been anxiously anticipating for two years.

Their son, Josh Holt, now 26, traveled to Caracas in June 2016 to marry a fellow Mormon he had met online while looking to improve his Spanish. The two

were waiting for Caleno's U.S. visa when they were arrested at her family's apartment in a government housing complex.

Josh Holt and his Venezuelan wife were locked in a Caracas jail alongside some of the country's most-hardened criminals — and President Nicolas Maduro's top opponents — for what the U.S. government argued were bogus charges of stockpiling weapons.

The Salt Lake City parents had been through the emotional rollercoaster of believing their son would be released only to watch mediation efforts unravel at the last minute on at least three occasions. So they braced for another disappointment after an Associated Press reporter informed the couple Friday that Sen. Bob Corker, the powerful chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, had popped up unexpectedly in Caracas to push for Holt's freedom.

But then they got the fateful call from Republican Sen. Orrin Hatch's office.

"They called us at 4:30 a.m. and said, 'You need to be on the plane. Josh is coming home,'" said Laurie Holt, recalling how they had to pack and get to the airport in 90 minutes. "This was the first time they actually said: 'Get to DC, he's being freed.'"

Now, Laurie Holt said she can't wait to sit down with her son. While there was a long hug Sa-

turday evening she said they've had very little time to speak to her son. The whole family was whisked away to the White House for a meeting with President Donald Trump before Josh Holt and his wife checked into a government hospital for a battery of medical tests.

## Josh Holt and his Venezuelan wife were locked in a Caracas jail alongside some of the most hardened criminals

Laurie Holt said her son is in good health but lost weight, suffered a number of bronchial problems in prison and has a rotten tooth that needed checking out. Caleno has more serious pain issues on one side of her body.

Experts in treating people who have been held in captivity have debriefed the couple so that they can begin dealing with the emotions from their long ordeal.

"He's not the same Josh that left," said Laurie Holt. "He just

doesn't quite have that sparkle back yet in his eyes. He'll come back, I know he will. We just have to give him time."

His Salt Lake City welcoming committee included Caleno's daughter from a previous relationship, 7-year-old Nathalia Carrasco, who has been living at Laurie Holt's home since February. Caleno's other daughter, Marian, traveled with the couple from Caracas.

Laurie Holt said she thinks Maduro — fearing retaliation from the U.S. — decided to finally act after her son appeared in a clandestinely-shot video from jail on the eve of this month's presidential election railing against the Venezuelan government, saying his life had been threatened in a prison riot.

After communications between the U.S. senators' offices and the Venezuelan government, "I think his heart was softened," Laurie Holt said of Maduro.

Maduro never publicly mentioned Holt's imprisonment even as it became a major irritant in relations between the already-hostile governments.

Laurie Holt said she's also appreciative of Corker's Venezuelan counterpart in the talks, Rafael Lacava, a governor close to Maduro who escorted the Tennessee senator and Holt back to Washington on a jet

belonging to Venezuela's state-owned oil company. In a photograph taken at the airport in Caracas, Holt can be seen standing alongside Lacava holding a Venezuela national soccer team jersey emblazoned with the governor's name.

Last week, Trump called Corker in Caracas and spoke to Lacava briefly to express his appreciation for Holt's release, according to two U.S. officials with knowledge of the call. They spoke on the condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss the private conversation.

Finally, Laurie Holt credits Wilmer Ruperti, a government-connected Venezuelan shipping magnate, with keeping her son safe in jail. Ruperti flew to Salt Lake to meet her family and had been paying for Holt's lawyers. But when his involvement in the case was revealed by the AP it was met with skepticism because he had also been funding the defense of two nephews of First Lady Cilia Flores who were convicted in New York in 2016 of drug trafficking.

Corker said that when Lacava traveled to Washington in March the possibility of the nephews' release was discussed, as well as some sort of sanctions relief at a time Trump was threatening an oil embargo on the OPEC nation.

"All of those things were discussed but we told them it could not happen," Corker said in an interview, insisting that "nothing was asked, nothing was given" in exchange for Holt's freedom.

The nephews are still imprisoned.

Corker said he's not sure where U.S.-Venezuelan relations are heading and declined to comment on bipartisan legislation before his committee that aims to further isolate Venezuela's government and provide humanitarian assistance. But the Republican, who is retiring this year, said it's important for the U.S. to continue to speak out against the "many, many bad things" the Maduro government has done.

Nonetheless, he said the hardliner approach can only go so far and dialogue with adversaries, as demonstrated by the Trump administration's willingness to talk with North Korea's leader, can deliver tangible benefits.

"In my conversations privately, I could not be more strident in my criticisms of the way the Venezuela government has handled itself. I've seen in Venezuela people lined up outside grocery stores just to buy toilet paper," Corker said. "But if we are engaging with Kim Jong Un, who executes his relatives with high-power artillery at close range, then it would seem to me that engaging with Venezuela, while keeping on all the pressure that we have, would also make some sense." AP

Aron Heller, Jerusalem

MIDDLE EAST

# Israel military: More than 25 mortar shells fired from Gaza

**G**AZA militants fired more than 25 mortar shells toward communities in southern Israel yesterday, the Israeli military said, in what appeared to be the largest single barrage fired since the 2014 Israel-Hamas war.

No one was hurt and the military said most were intercepted by the Iron Dome defense system. But the high volume of projectiles came as tensions have been running high along the Israel-Gaza border.

Israeli media reported that one of the shells landed near a kindergarten shortly before it opened.

There was no immediate comment on the shelling from Hamas, the militant Islamic group that runs the Gaza Strip. Hamas has said a boatful of students and medical patients would set sail out of Gaza City's port, aiming to break 11 years of naval blockade that Egypt and Israel imposed after the militants violently took control of the coastal territory.

The expedition would be a new way of challenging the blockade but also raises the possibility of more confrontation and violence as Israel bars any boats from Gaza reaching farther out than 6 miles into the Mediterranean Sea.

AP PHOTO



A Palestinian man inspects a military observation post that was hit by an Israeli tank shell in Khan Younis, southern Gaza Strip

In southern Israel, angry residents complained about how vulnerable they felt after 15 years of rocket fire threats from neighboring Gaza, which will likely put pressure on the government to retaliate harshly.

Adva Klein, a resident of Ki-

bbutz Kfar Aza, said she only got about two hours of sleep because of the frequent incoming fire and the sirens warning of them. Other residents reported machine gun fire from Gaza as well.

"It's been a really scary morning," said Adele Raemer, a resi-

dent of Kibbutz Nirim.

Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman said he was convening the top military brass at his Tel Aviv headquarters to discuss the situation.

The border area has been tense in recent weeks as the Pales-

tinians have held mass protests aimed at lifting a blockade imposed by Israel and Egypt after Hamas seized power in 2007.

Israeli fire has killed more than 110 Palestinians, most of them during the Hamas-led protests, which climaxed on May 14.

On Sunday, Israeli shelling killed three Palestinian militants from the smaller Islamic Jihad group after the troops found a bomb planted along the border. The Islamic Jihad vowed retaliation.

On Monday, a tank fired at a Hamas position in the Gaza Strip, killing one man and wounding another, after Israeli troops came under fire on the frontier while apprehending two armed Palestinians.

Hamas has vowed to continue the border rallies. Israel says it is defending its border as well as its communities nearby. It accuses Hamas of trying to carry out attacks under the cover of protests. AP

AD

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## what's ON



## LA PARISIENNE – CABARET FRANCAISE

TIME: 8pm (Tuesdays to Fridays)  
2pm & 8pm (Saturdays)  
2pm & 5pm (Sundays)

UNTIL: June 17, 2018

VENUE: Parisian Theatre, Parisian Macau

ADMISSION: MOP188, MOP388, MOP488

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2882 8818 / 2855 5555

## DISCOVER MACAU: MUSEUM OF TAIPA AND COLOANE HISTORY

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

ADDRESS: Rua Correia da Silva, Taipa

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

## THE EXHIBITION "SWISS STYLE NOW"

TIME: 10am-9pm

UNTIL: June 17, 2018

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

## TAIPA ANCHORAGE: NAMES OF THE PAST AND THE PRESENT

TIME: 10am-7pm (Closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: June 18, 2018

VENUE: Taipa Houses – Nostalgic House

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

## CATALOGUE EXHIBITION IN CELEBRATION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF MACAO MUSEUM

TIME: 10am-6pm (closed on Fridays)

UNTIL: August 30, 2018

VENUE: Kun Iam Ecumenical Centre

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2875 1516

## Offbeat

AP PHOTO



## STING RECEIVES HONORARY DEGREE, SINGS AT BROWN UNIVERSITY

English musician Sting sang "My One and Only Love" at Brown University after he and his wife Trudie Styler accepted honorary degrees.

Brown presented them with the degrees last weekend at its 250th commencement. Nobel Prize-winning physicist J. Michael Kosterlitz was among the other honorees.

Sting in 1977 formed the pioneering British rock band The Police with Stewart Copeland and Andy Summers. He and Styler co-founded an environmental organization, the Rainforest Fund, to protect the world's rainforests.

The university conferred a total of 2,795 degrees to undergraduate, graduate, medical and honorary students.

Before commencement, students walked from the Brown campus to the First Baptist Church in America. Located in Providence, it's the oldest Baptist church congregation in the U.S.

## TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Miscellaneous
15:40	Miscellaneous
17:40	Miscellaneous
18:30	Brazilian Soap Opera (Repeated)
19:15	TDM Interview (Repeated)
19:50	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Portuguese Program
22:10	Brazilian Soap Opera
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Road to the 2018 FIFA World Cup
00:15	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:50	RTPi Live

## cinema



## CINETEATRO

24 - 30 May



## SOLO: A STAR WARS STORY

ROOM 1

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

Director: Ron Howard

Starring: Alden Ehrenreich, Woody Harrelson, Emilia Clarke

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 135min

## THE CRIMES THAT BIND

ROOM 2

2:30, 4:45 7:00pm

Director: Katsuo Fukuzawa

Starring: Hiroshi Abe, Nanaki Matsushima, Junpei Mizobata

Language: Japanese (Chinese &amp; English)

Duration: 119min



## AVENGERS: INFINITY WAR

ROOM 2

2:30, 6:00, 9:00pm

Director: Anthony Russo, Joe Russo

Starring: Robert Downey Jr, Chris Evans, Chris Hemsworth

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 149min



## I CAN ONLY IMAGINE

ROOM 3

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

Director: Jon Erwin &amp; Andrew Erwin

Starring: Dennis Quaid, J. Michael Finley, Madeline Carroll

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 110min

## DESTINY: THE TALE OF KAMAKURA

ROOM 3

7:15pm

Director: Takashi Yamazaki

Starring: Masato Sakai, Mitsuki Takahata

Language: English (Chinese)

## this day in history



## 2001 FRENCH EX-MINISTER JAILED OVER SLEAZE

Former French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas has been jailed for six months in the country's biggest sleaze scandal in recent history.

The 78-year-old judge and close confidant of the late President Francois Mitterrand was found guilty of illegally receiving funds from oil giant Elf Aquitaine between 1989 and 1992.

His ex-lover, Christine Deviers-Joncour, and two top Elf executives were also jailed for misusing funds in the embezzlement scandal.

Ms Deviers-Joncour sank into her chair, head in hands, as the sentence was announced - three-years' imprisonment, half of which is suspended.

Former company president Loik Le Floch-Prigent, 57, was sentenced to three-and-a-half years in prison. Alfred Sirven, 74, his former second-in-command and controller of the company slush fund - got four years.

Both men were also ordered to pay fines of two million French francs (\$270,000). Mr Dumas must pay one million francs.

The trial that has gripped the nation focused on allegations of corruption arising from the \$9m which Elf is said to have paid to Ms Deviers-Joncour for her work as a consultant and lobbyist in support of the firm's world-wide sales effort.

Mr Dumas has said he played a part, for the sake of France, in what he called "a subtle game of shadows and light", but denied that he made any personal gain.

The trial produced more headline-grabbing details about the lavish lifestyles of the accused, and the many gifts allegedly given to Mr Dumas by his lover in an attempt to influence government decisions.

And in a major dramatic twist Sirven, on trial in his absence, was captured in the Philippines after four years on the run. He was brought back amid fevered expectation of what he might reveal about the affair, as the former controller of the Elf purse-strings. But in the end he refused to testify.

The ripples from the case have spread across the border into Germany, where Elf embarked on controversial expansion projects in Helmut Kohl's era as Chancellor.

Both Dumas and his former lover will remain free while their appeals are heard - which could take years.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

Roland Dumas was cleared in January 2003.

His initial trial and sentence were widely regarded in France as a sign the French government was ready to rid itself of corruption. But subsequent attempts to prosecute politicians collapsed. In October 2001 President Jacques Chirac won his right to maintain immunity from prosecution on allegations of misappropriating public funds.

In the same month prosecutors dropped their case against Dominique Strauss-Kahn - the popular former finance minister in Socialist Prime Minister Lionel Jospin's cabinet - for forgery and misappropriation of funds.

In February 2002 French magistrates published a report ending an eight-year investigation led by magistrate Eva Joly into corruption involving French politicians and the once state-owned company Elf Aquitaine.

In 2003 37 people, including three senior Elf executives, were sentenced to spend up to five years in prison for their part in the corruption scandal.



YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Don't be surprised if you find a way to create some. Before it all happens, be very sure that you can handle the repercussions...

Taurus April 20-May 20 No matter what you're spending your money on now, you'll definitely want it to be worth your while. That means you won't settle for anything less than what you want...

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Whatever you're asked to voice your opinion about now will mean a great deal to you. In fact, even if you didn't have a strong opinion when you started, you'll certainly have one by the time you finish making your case.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 If you can manage to stay objective and unbiased, you'll end up doing a far better service for you both. That may mean clearing your mind (and your throat) before you speak...

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 The younger folks in your life - which includes children, younger relatives, and friends who look up to you - will take up quite a bit of your time today. In fact, their needs will probably override your own.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Whatever you're up to today, let's just say you're going to be quite into it, and quite involved with it. That means your dear ones will have to take a backseat to what you're doing...

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Holding hands with someone will be a very major thing for you to do at this point. In fact, no matter what you plan to do with another person, it won't happen if you don't feel it right down to your toes.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 You'll be quite ready to become intimate with someone today, on a variety of levels. Whether you choose a conversation, an exchange of secrets or a physical encounter to do it.

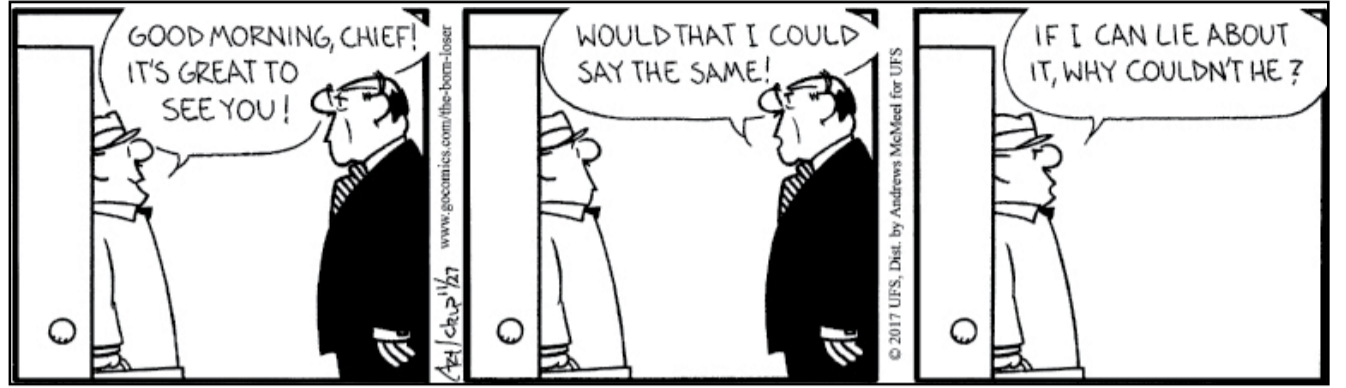
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You're not known for doing anything 'just a little.' As far as the rest of the world is concerned, that pertains mostly to fun things, but in truth, you can't even do the more serious things 'just a little,' either.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 If you find yourself in a public situation now, you'll probably feel a bit uncomfortable - but for nothing but pleasant reasons. Others will want to know more about you, to examine your life...

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Your friends will want a lot more from you now than just platonic, casual chitchat. They'll be asking for depth, intensity and a level of focus you probably haven't invested in your encounters for quite some time.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Your urge to spend some time in private with someone near and dear to you won't be easily dismissed. In fact, you'll be willing to cut yourself loose from anyone or anything to do just that.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzles categorized by difficulty: Easy, Easy+, Medium, and Hard. Each category contains a 9x9 grid with some numbers pre-filled.

WEATHER

Weather forecast table with columns for MIN, MAX, and CONDITION. It lists weather for various cities in CHINA and the WORLD.

CROSSWORDS

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a 'Yesterday's solution' section with a completed grid and word list.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

List of useful telephone numbers including Emergency calls, Fire department, PJ (Open line), PJ (Picket), PSP, Customs, S. J. Hospital, Kiang Wu Hospital, Commission Against Corruption (CCAC), IACM, Tourism, and Airport.



Real estate advertisement for JML Property, featuring 'FOR SALE' and 'FOR RENT' sections with contact information.

Real estate listings for various properties in Macau, including Treasure Garden Tower 2, Nam Hong Studio Apartment, St Pauls Ruins, and Cattleya Court, Ocean Gardens.

JML Property logo and branding, including the text '卓雅物業' and 'since 1994'.



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AP PHOTO



## FOOTBALL

# Russian hooligans in World Cup crackdown after 2016 rampage

James Ellingworth, Moscow

**A**T their peak, Russian hooligans felt like gods. “We’re on Mount Olympus right now and it had to be done,” is how one veteran hooligan from Moscow recounts his part in brawls with English fans at the 2016 European Championship. “We went for the English, who were kings, to knock them off their throne.”

But ahead of the World Cup, Russian authorities are cracking down on the hooligan culture in football. Groups which wreaked havoc two years ago report surveillance and threats from law enforcement.

Leading hooligans from each club face lengthy prison sentences on old or trumped-up charges if there’s trouble at the World Cup, even if they aren’t personally involved, the Moscow hooligan — a large, muscular man with scars on his knuckles — told The Associated Press. He likened their situation to that of “hostages” and said the hooligan scene in Russia “is finished.”

“All the leaders get called in for chats,” he said, imitating an officer: “On behalf of our state security service, I’ll explain that if there are problems, then those guys are in prison and you’ll be joining them. We need everything to go quietly.’ It’s been done precisely so that everyone understands that even if there’s no case against you, your guys

will get it in your place.”

Speaking on condition of anonymity to describe numerous illegal acts, he said he traveled to Marseille in 2016 specifically to take part in fights with the English at the European Championships. England’s hooligans of the 1980s and 1990s inspired many Russian groups — most still bear English names — but in Marseille the Russians wanted to snuff out that reputation.

“For a long time the English were considered the strongest,” he said, but they were no match for Russians with martial-arts training. “There were guys sitting there with a Birmingham banner and we went up to them. ‘Either we’re taking your banner or you stand up and fight for it.’ The Birmingham guys decided they didn’t need the banner that much.”

The violence on Marseille’s streets and in the stadium was greeted with jokes and even praise from some Russian lawmakers and officials. President Vladimir Putin called the fighting “sad,” then questioned “how 200 Russian fans could beat up several thousand English,” to laughter from his audience.

Other sources with knowledge of the fan scene described the Russian crackdown since Marseille.

Alexander Shprygin ran a fan group which worked with the government on World Cup planning, and had been photographed with Putin. He has rapi-

dly fallen from grace.

Shprygin was twice deported from France during the 2016 tournament and two of his organization’s board members were imprisoned in Marseille over the disorder. He denies any role. Three months later, Russian police arrested him in a toilet at the national football federation’s conference, seeking to question him over an earlier brawl in Russia, and dragged him out past waiting media. His organization has been dormant since then.

Shprygin told the AP his friends in the hardcore fan scene have been summoned by Russia’s Federal Security Service, the heir to the Soviet-era KGB, for “preventative conversations” and many want to go abroad during the World Cup.

“Many of them think like that because, God forbid, if anything happens, they won’t face questions,” he said. “They can just show their passport, that they weren’t in Russia.”

Russia has an official blacklist of fans banned from games by court orders for violent and non-violent offenses, but at 451 names it’s much smaller than equivalents in other large European countries.

Many more fans are barred from games using processes which aren’t publicly recorded and have little oversight.

World Cup tickets are worthless without a Russian government-issued “Fan ID”. Applicants are vetted by the Russian securi-

ty services, who have denied several thousand Russian fans ID to see games at the World Cup and last year’s Confederations Cup, according to Oleg Semyonov, formerly a leader of the Spartak Moscow fan scene, who now runs a legal advice hotline for supporters.

## Leading hooligans from each club face lengthy prison sentences on old charges if there’s trouble at the WC

Semyonov says authorities are using “a big database” to exclude people accused of taking part in football-related disorder — including Shprygin, whose ID was canceled two hours before a Confederations Cup game — but also some with convictions dating back 20 years for minor offenses like jaywalking or public drunkenness.

Most top Russian clubs have so-called “curators” from the security services “who work with the fan organizations” and have warned them off disorder, Semyonov added.

Russian police and the Federal Security Service did not respond

to requests for comment.

Semyonov also suspects that Russian authorities tipped off German police about two Spartak fans who were arrested in February when traveling to a Europa League game. They are being detained in Marseille, reportedly in connection with the 2016 violence.

If there’s trouble at the World Cup, people with knowledge of the Russian fan scene said, it could involve visiting hooligans from Poland, Sweden or Croatia, or locals angered by what they see as foreigners’ obnoxious behavior.

“My prognosis is that if there are brawls, because football is all about emotions, they will be local and quickly defused. They won’t be on the same scale as Marseille,” Shprygin said, adding the Russian police can deal with violent resistance. “Football fans obviously aren’t opposition protests. Football fans are a bit more active. But the police have been training very hard for this for two years.”

Amid the crackdown, the Russian fan scene is increasingly split.

So-called “ultras” focus on coordinated chants, lighting flares and staging elaborate displays at games, but can defend themselves if needed. The hardcore fighters mostly stick to pre-arranged brawls in forests because of tight stadium surveillance. Some fighters are drifting away from football to mixed martial arts events to make money from their hobby.

“The respected guy in the movement” is now an athlete, not a street-fighter, Semyonov said. “Most of [the forest fighters] can’t even name five players from the club they’ve been fighting for,” Shprygin said.

The Moscow hooligan lamented the end of hooliganism’s golden era, when battles between rival clubs in Moscow came down to tactics as much as strength.

“You have to place young girls around by the entrances to buildings so they sit and wait for your enemies to leave the house and follow them to where they’re meeting,” he said. “You have to put people at different subway stations to find where they’re going to be, where the enemy is gathering, get there first and beat them up. It’s not just a matter of numbers. It’s always a game and back then it was the best.”

Hooliganism offers a brotherhood, even for those like the Moscow hooligan, who has a university education and a traditionally middle-class job. A world dominated by football’s brawlers would have a simple, honorable way to solve disputes, he argued.

“It always goes by the rule of the fist. If you’re stronger, you’re right,” he said. “If there were more people like that, maybe people wouldn’t be building missiles.” AP

opinion

**Animal Farm**

Albano Martins



**THE DIVINE RULE OF THREE!**

In 2013 the Macao Government decided to set a ceiling of growth in gaming tables at three percent. Economically, for the industry and for the government coffers, this measure makes no sense. However, we might well presume the origin of the brilliant authorship and the logic of this impost. A magic rule that fell from the sky? Of course not.

It was, however, so magical that nobody has been able to determine even today why it was three, not four, five or any other percentage number.

As the Government says nothing - and I believe it doesn't know - this magic formula has become a divine decree!

The industry does not dispute this decision - for obvious reasons of course: not to displease the power. They do however look to their huge investment of tens of billions in new casinos just to be stuck with a dozen miserable tables!

Who should decide the number of tables should be the entrepreneur, just as those selling cars decide how many cars to import!

In an economy that likes to call itself free, such an imposition is absurd and an attack on the rules of a free market and the foundation of economic efficiency. Such an imposition has, moreover, a pernicious effect on income lost by the Macao Government itself!

This brilliant idea was conceived to stop competitors from advancing along Cotai, so as to prevent the growth of the operators in an area where everything indicated the most investments would be made. Today this aberration bothers the intelligence of ordinary mortals!

Thus, there were 5,485 gambling tables in Macau in 2012, as per the official numbers on the DICJ website! Of course it is not difficult to know where they all were.

In the first quarter of 2018, there were 6,586 tables distributed across all operators. Curiously, the DICJ that reveals the number of annual casinos per operator, does not reveal the number of tables each one has! Discounting the tables that existed in 2012 in the hands of a single operator, it is easy to realize that today, in 2018, in almost six full years, only 1,101 tables will have been distributed to the remaining five!

If we apply the Machiavellian formula of the three percent annual growth of the tables, by the year 2023 the total number of tables will be around 7,595, something like 2,110 more than in the period before the liberalization of the gaming industry.

Today, at the end of the first quarter of 2018, 35 more tables (6,586) were already distributed more than were supposed to be at the end of the year (6,567)! We can conclude that there is yet to be distributed by late 2023 something like 1,009 tables, which gives, if all the operators receive equally, which is unlikely, something like 168 tables per operator. That is, about 28 tables / year per operator, if equality prevails!

The magic will be turned against the sorcerer when later this year or into the next the palace is complete.

Theoretically there are only 162 tables remaining to be distributed by the end of 2019!

So many billions of investment for just over a hundred tables? Ridiculous!

I guess there will be a lot of fight by these tribes, as the transfer of tables from other casinos to the palace will place the Secretary of Security in a position to have to put around the place more CCTVs. Or else we may have a fire on our hands!

Nothing is created, everything is transformed, said Lavoisier, guillotined on May 8, 1794, 224 years ago, by order of the presiding judge of the court that judged him, Jean-Baptiste Coffinhal, who uttered a sentence that made history: "France does not need scientists."

The mathematician Joseph-Louis Lagrange summed up this loss; Lavoisier being thrown into a common grave: "It took them only an instant to cut off that head, but France may not produce another like it in a century."

It's those mathematicians we need!

**THE STUDY: DEADLY PESTICIDE USE INCREASES AT ILLEGAL POT FARMS**

Researchers and federal authorities are finding what they say is an alarming increase in the use of a powerful pesticide at illegal marijuana farms hidden on public land in California.

The pesticide residue is showing up in about 30 percent of the plants themselves, researcher Mourad Gabriel told The Associated Press.

Most of the illegally grown California pot is destined for Midwestern and Eastern states,

federal prosecutors said. Federal and state authorities are announcing that they will target the illegal grows with USD2.5 million in federal money.

Researchers found the highly toxic pesticide Carbofuran at 72 percent of grow sites last year, up from 15 percent in 2012, said Gabriel, executive director and senior ecologist at Integral Ecology Research Center and one of the few researchers studying the ecological impact of illicit grow sites.

**BELGIUM**

**Man kills three in Liege with guns of stabbed police officers**



Police investigate the scene of a shooting in Liege, yesterday

**Raf Casert & Sylvain Plazy, Liege**

A knife-wielding man stabbed two police officers yesterday in the Belgian city of Liege, stole their weapons and shot them and a bystander dead in an attack that prosecutors fear could be terror-related.

The attacker, who was later killed by police, was an inmate who had been granted a few hours release Monday but failed to return to prison, officials said. It wasn't immediately clear why he was imprisoned, but media reports say that he's a known drug offender.

Liege prosecutors' spokesman Philippe Dulieu said the man approached two police officers from behind carrying a knife and stabbed them several times.

"He then took their weapons. He used the weapons on the officers, who died," Dulieu told reporters.

Dulieu said the attacker then shot dead a 22-year-old man in a vehicle that was just leaving a parking

place outside a nearby high school. The attacker then took a woman hostage inside the school.

"Liege police intervened. He came out firing at police, wounding a number of them, notably in the legs. He was shot dead," the spokesman said.

A senior official at the federal prosecutor's office told The Associated Press that "there are indications it could be a terror attack."

Despite this, Belgium's crisis center said it saw no reason to raise the country's terror threat alert for now.

When asked about the report that the attack was terror-related, Liege city hall Michel Firket spokesman told the AP: "I know nothing formal about that. The police is doing its investigation. There are no formal conclusions."

A spokeswoman for the city mayor's office, Laurence Comminette, told the AP that the children at the school were all safe.

Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel said only that "there was a serious incident." He later met

with Liege city officials.

Yves Stevens of Belgium's federal crisis center said that security in Liege is now under control, and that there was no reason yet to raise the national terror threat level.

"There is absolutely no confirmation yet that the incident is terror-related," Stevens told the AP.

Video posted on Twitter by a person claiming to be a witness showed people running in the area. About six gunshots could be heard.

Belgian police and military have been on alert since suicide bombers killed 32 people at the Brussels airport and subway system in 2016.

It's not the first time Liege has been hit by a similarly violent attack. In December 2011, a man with a history of weapons and drug offenses left home with hand grenades and guns before he lobbed the grenades into a square filled with Christmas shoppers and fired on those who escaped. Five were killed, including the assailant. AP

Station	Air quality	Icon
Roadside	50-70 Moderate	☹️
High Density Residential Area	50-70 Moderate	☹️
Ambient	50-70 Moderate	☹️

SOURCE: DSMG

**WORLD BRIEFS**



**BRAZIL**'s government declared the end of a devastating truckers' strike on several occasions over the past week. And yet protests continue for a ninth day and much of Latin America's largest economy remains strangled.



**ISRAEL** jets bombed targets in the Gaza Strip hours after militants from the territory fired more than 25 mortar shells toward communities in southern Israel in what appeared to be the largest single barrage since the 2014 war. More on p15



**LIBYA** Rival Libyan leaders meeting in Paris yesterday tentatively agreed on a roadmap leading to parliamentary and presidential elections on Dec. 10, but the plan faces major obstacles in the North African country, where rival authorities rely on an array of unruly militias.

**RWANDA**'s government defended its USD39 million sponsorship deal with the Arsenal football club as some aid donors and rights activists raised an outcry. "Visit Rwanda" will be emblazoned on the left sleeve of players in Arsenal's first, under-23 and women's teams.



**ITALY** Officials at the Pompeii archaeological site have announced a dramatic new discovery, the skeleton of a man crushed by an enormous stone while trying to flee the explosion of Mt. Vesuvius in 79 A.D.