



**SIN FONG GARDEN RECONSTRUCTION BEGINS**  
The reconstruction of the troubled residential building is estimated to take approximately two and a half years

P2



**TRAFFIC SIGNAL CONFUSION AT BRIDGE**

P7 MDT REPORT



**TALK OF CHINA BORDER CHECKS FANS TRADE FEAR**  
Shares of luxury-goods companies fell after social media reports that China is stepping up customs checks

P9



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# Activists fined for Hotel Estoril break-in

P3

## WORLD BRIEFS

**US-CHINA** Vice President Mike Pence accused China yesterday of trying to undermine President Donald Trump as the administration deploys tough new rhetoric over Chinese trade, economic and foreign policies.  
More on p10



**INDIA-RUSSIA** Vladimir Putin arrived in India for a two-day visit during which India is expected to sign a USD5 billion deal to buy Russian S-400 air defense systems despite a new U.S. law ordering sanctions on any country trading with Russia's defense and intelligence sectors.

**PHILIPPINE** President Rodrigo Duterte says he might have cancer as he awaits the result of recent medical tests. Duterte, 73, said in the speech to a military academy alumni group: "I don't know where I'm now physically but I have to wait for that. But I would tell you if it's cancer, it's cancer."

More on backpage



## QUAKE-TSUNAMI

# Indonesia copes with humanitarian crisis

P5,12



Extra times  
**Extra**  
weekend Guide  
INSIDE

## Flood prevention project construction starts

A project to improve flood control at blackspots in Toi San and Ilha Verde started work yesterday. The facility construction is expected to take approximately five months. The Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) will build a 200-meter-long rainwater drainage channel along Av. do Comendador Ho Yin to Patane North Street, in order to reduce rainwater drainage in Canal Dos Patos. Furthermore, IACM will also build manholes in the area to make future water discharge channel clean-ups more convenient.

## Sulu Sou calls for point-based affordable housing system

Lawmaker Sulu Sou has requested the government to return to the prior point-based system for allocating affordable housing to households. In an inquiry written to the government, Sou also asked, "will the government require at least half of the members of a family of an affordable housing application to have already lived in Macau for more than seven years?" Housing Bureau Director Arnaldo dos Santos replied, saying that the government is making a final amendment to the affordable housing law and is proposing a return to point-based system.

## Citi reports Macau October GGR up 5 percent

Citigroup's report showed that Macau's total visitor arrivals rose 14.3 percent yearly to 276,200 on the first two days of the National Day Golden Week. During the first three days of the week, there were more visitors than any day during last year's Golden Week. The broker is forecasting that this will bode well for October mass GGR growth, when it had previously conservatively forecasted only 5 percent growth to MOP28.0 billion.

# Police request apology following Au Kam Sam's accusation

**T**HE Judiciary Police (PJ) has urged lawmaker Au Kam San to apologize to the police authority over a false accusation.

According to the PJ's statement, Au accused the police of illegal interception of a resident who had planned to burn himself inside a police station while he was being interviewed by a local Chinese newspaper.

"Actually, that person had already informed the media to a great extent [before his actions], and he shouted loudly while approaching the police station, threatening that he would burn himself in the station," the statement reads. "the PJ received a notification from the media and nearby residents, upon which it made the due preparations. It was absolutely impossible [for PJ] to have illegally intercepted him."

"The lawmaker ignored the facts and slandered the police for illegal interception, which is serious slander of the person in charge of the PJ at that time, and severely damages the reputation of the person in charge, therefore leaving the public with



Au Kam Sam

a bad feeling towards the PJ and the concerned person. [Au's] behavior consists of a criminal offence," the police said.

"The bureau has already sent a letter to the lawmaker, urging him to issue an open and acceptable apology, within a period of 10 days, to the PJ regarding

his statement. Otherwise, the bureau will initiate criminal proceedings on account of the lawmaker's criminal responsibility," the PJ stated.

In addition, the PJ claims that it has been conducting interceptions but strictly due to Macau's laws and regulations.

According to the same PJ statement, besides intercepting specific criminals or severe crimes, the PJ must first deliver a report to the prosecutor and courts for approval.

"The existence of the so-called illegal interception situation is absolutely impossible," the PJ said.

## Sin Fong Garden reconstruction commencement announced

RENATO MARQUES



**S**IN Fong Garden property owners can finally see the initiation of the house project's reconstruction. Yesterday, the Sin Fong Garden reconstruction project commencement ceremony was held.

Reconstruction is estimated to take approximately two and a half years, about one year of which will be used to demolish the original construction.

According to the president of the Sin Fong Garden property management committee, Wong Man Sang, the Sin Fong Garden will be totally reconstructed according to original plans. This means that no changes will be made to the number of stories, areas and

the directions of each building.

In total, Sin Fong Garden will be comprised of 30 stories, 144 residential units, one shop and 48 parking spaces.

Wong thanked the society for their support of the reconstruction of Sin Fong Garden.

On the sidelines of yesterday's ceremony, honorary chairman of the General Union of Neighborhood Association of Macau (UGAMM) Leong Heng Teng commented that despite the Sin Fong Garden issue being an unhappy case, it nonetheless reflects Macau's social spirit for aid, and it also shows that the government fulfilled its duties while handling the incident.

In October 2012, Sin Fong Garden reported a safety hazard (danger of collapsing) due to structural problems, in particular the poor-quality concrete. More than 200 residents were evacuated urgently.

Previously, the Macau Jiangmen Communal Society and Macau businessman António Ferreira donated MOP100 million and MOP50 million, respectively to the committee for reconstruction. The Bank of China (BOC) is providing loans with discounted interest rates to Sin Fong Garden's owners.

Previously, Chan Pou Sam, executive vice president of the Macau Jiangmen Communal Society, said, "as time passes, the overall cost of the project was updated. It was originally estimated to be more than 100 million patacas, but now it may reach over 200 million patacas."

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# Activists fined for Hotel Estoril trespassing

**T**HE previous president of the New Macau Association (ANM), Scott Chiang, and association member Alin Lam were fined after they were found guilty of trespassing the Hotel Estoril, the Court of First Instance announced the judgment yesterday.

Chiang was fined MOP3,000 and Lam was fined MOP4,500. The two were found not guilty of damages.

In 2016, Chiang and Lam were accused of breaking and entering into Hotel Estoril. They allegedly hoisted a black banner on the hotel (owned by the Financial Services Bureau) with white characters in Chinese reading "Alexis Tam: Heritage Killer" to protest its demolition.

The defendants, accused of damages, and breaking and entering into a private property, claimed that the building was abandoned



The controversial banner (left) that led to the accusations

and this, like many similar cases, should have no criminal consequences.

The judge pointed out that the Hotel Estoril was locked with boarding and barbed wire, so that it was generally understood that the public were not free to enter the Hotel Estoril,

and it is unreasonable for the defendant to argue that they were unclear on these facts.

The judge also noted that the court believes Chiang and Lam entered Hotel Estoril intentionally to film. Additionally, the judge said that it could not

be confirmed that the two hoisted the banner.

Reacting to the verdict outside the court, Scott Chiang acknowledged that the fine "isn't a huge amount" but expressed his disagreement with the outcome of the case. "A lot of people have been in and out of the ruin of the hotel and none of them have seen so much trouble as we did. That tells us something," Chiang said, adding that recently there were several cases brought against him and other activists. "We know that hanging a banner itself is not a crime. And what are they doing? You have to ask yourself."

Chiang criticized the police for "trying to after the people behind the banner" and said that there's "a symphony of retaliations going on in Macau" showing a tendency to "suppress voices that are unwanted."

## CRIME

# Mainland man arrested for arson

**A** mainland man has been arrested following an arson case that took place at Rua dos Pescadores early yesterday morning.

The fire damaged 13 motorbikes, six of which were severely damaged. The remaining seven sustained different levels of damage. It took firefighters approximately two minutes to put out the fire. Nobody was injured or evacuated.

The Fire Services Bureau noticed that the fire may have been started deliberately. Some residents near the scene claimed to have seen a suspect. Three hours after the incident was first reported, the Judiciary Police (PJ) arrested one suspect.

The suspect is a 29-year-old mainland man from Shaoguan (Guangdong province). He admitted having committed the crime. According to the police, he came to Macau with his mother on September 27 and had been living under the roof of a relative since then.

The suspect lit the fire by setting his jacket and some trash underneath the motorbikes alight. He committed the crime because he felt the need to release his anger after a verbal altercation with his mother over food issues.

As of 5 p.m. yesterday, the PJ has contacted eight of the motorbike owners. The victims reported a total loss of MOP 67,000.

In the first half of 2018, 25 arson cases were recorded, 10 of which were due to cigarette butts.

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## Bridal portrait exhibition to open next week

A portrait exhibition "St. Lazarus Brides" by Vera Paz will open to the public on October 10 at D1 Gallery Albergue SCM. The exhibition is an installation of 30 wedding portraits taken with an iPhone4 camera between 2015 and 2018 on the streets of the historic St. Lazarus district, at locations which include the Church of São Lázaro, Adro de São Lázaro, Rua Nova de São Lázaro, and Rua de São Roque. The installation places the bride and groom as "real" characters, in unusual and unexpected moments between staged poses, according to a statement issued by Albergue SCM. Organized by the Cultural Association d'As Entranhas Macau, the exhibition has a soundtrack of classic romantic and contemporary music ranging from the 1940s until now.

## Int'l Translation Day marked by IPM

The Macao Polytechnic Institute (IPM) held a celebration of the International Translation Day on September 27, 2018. Since 1953, the International Federation of Translators and other translation practitioners across the world have celebrated this occasion in many different ways. In 2017, a UN Resolution officially designated September 30 as International Translation Day. During the ceremony held at IPM, three students from the International Chinese Language Education program, Chinese-Portuguese Translation program and Chinese-English Translation program took turns to announce the theme to the audience in three languages: Mandarin, Portuguese and English. The rundown of the celebration included a drama performance entirely written and directed by the students themselves, a poetry recital, and the performance of "A New Story of Liangshanbo and Zhu Yingtai" by students from Portuguese-speaking countries.

## TOURISM

# Group visitors up in August

**VISITORS** on package tours totalled 785,000 in August 2018, up by 12.4 percent year-on-year and 3.3 percent month-to-month. According to information from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC), package tour visitors from mainland China (611,000) rose by 6.8 percent year-on-year, and those from the Republic of Korea (56,000) and Taiwan (63,000) surged by 66.5 percent and 91.1 percent respectively. In the first eight months of 2018, visitors on package tours totalled 5,813,000, up by 10.7 percent year-on-year.

According to DSEC, there were 116 hotels and guesthouses operating at the end of August 2018, an increase of 9 year-on-year. The number of hotels and guesthouses guests in August 2018 rose by 16.8 percent year-on-year to 1,279,000. Guests coming from mainland China (912,000), Hong Kong (140,000) and Taiwan



(42,000) increased by 25.4 percent, 1.4 percent and 7 percent respectively. The average occupancy rate of hotels and guesthouses registered a record high of 93.3 percent since the survey results were first released, a growth of 6.5 percentage points year-on-year.

Outbound residents using the services of travel agencies increased by 20 percent year-on-year to 141,000. But the number of residents travelling on package tours decreased by 8.1 percent to 44,000, with those going to mainland China rising by 10.2 per-

cent to 31,000. However, residents travelling to the Republic of Korea (18,000) tumbled by 66.6 percent year-on-year. In the first eight months of 2018, outbound residents using the services of travel agencies totalled 1,036,000, up by 13.7 percent year-on-year.

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# Indonesian community raises funds for earthquake victims

A church group is holding a fundraising event on October 14 to raise funds for victims of the Indonesia earthquake and tsunami, which devastated the city of Palu, Sulawesi.

The 7.5-magnitude earthquake hit the island on Friday and was followed by a tsunami as high as six meters, destroying homes. Around 1,000 people are still missing.

Local Indonesian church Jesus Alive Ministry is partnering with Pijar TV (an Indonesian Christian television channel) to distribute the funds raised next Sunday.

Pastor Beto Beбето said, "this Christian TV channel is very active in doing relief efforts in areas that are hit by natural disasters. They are going to visit Palu, [the] same thing they did in Lombok, [which was hit by a 6.3 magnitude earthquake in August]."

This is not the first time the local church has organized fundraising events. It also raised funds for the victims of flooding in Sulawesi province.

Held from 4 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. tentatively at the Assembly of



A boy injured during the tsunami is carried by his relative at a makeshift hospital in Palu

God Macau Church, Beбето said that the event would also include performances from the Indonesian community, involving the city's migrant groups.

"Several of the fundraisers we did didn't raise that much, but what matters is the effort that we actually make, being Indonesian. I will not expect [this] in terms of denomination. We focus on investing in this whole thing as a more general idea," said Beбето.

"If they can come and just be there and show compassion by joining [...] it's good enough already. Whatever amount of donations that we arrange and no matter how small it is, I believe it will make a difference," he added.

Meanwhile, the Indonesian Migrant Workers Union started raising funds last Sunday.

According to the union's president, Yosa Wariyanti, the association collaborates with the

Network of Indonesian Migrant Workers, including Muslim organizations.

"We always raise funds for victims of Indonesia's natural disasters. We have also raised funds for the previous earthquake disaster in Lombok and other natural disasters that have occurred in Indonesia," said Wariyanti.

According to Wariyanti, the association promotes these fundraising efforts on the social media pages of the organizers. LV

## 14pct increase in tourist arrivals Oct 1-3



Yesterday the Macao Government Tourism Office announced that during the first three days of the National Day Golden Week, October 1 to 3, the number of visitors in Macau totaled to 424,179 people, an increase of 14 percent year-on-year. Mainland tourists accounted for 85.9 percent of the total with 364,234 people, up 24.1 percent year-on-year. The Gongbei Border Gate collectively recorded a total of over 1.2 million crossings on October 1 to 3. Around 63 percent of visitors entered Macau through the Border Gate.

## Health Bureau to awards blood donors

The Health Bureau (SSM) will be holding a prize ceremony this evening for all regular blood donors, as well as schools, institutions, public services and associations that collaborate with the SSM in blood donation activities. In the ceremony, a total of 1,017 blood donors who have made blood donations on at least 10 occasions by the end of 2017 will be awarded. The ceremony will also host representatives from 56 schools, institutions and associations. The most decorated blood donors will have a special award for donors that have contributed up to 130 times.

## UM holds multimedia performance next Friday

A performance titled 'Lightscape: A Synthesis of Video Animation and Dance', organised by the Centre for Arts and Design, University of Macau (UM), will be held next Friday (12 October) at 8 p.m. in the UM University Hall (N2). Created and produced by members of the Centre for Arts and Design, the performance is a synthesis of video animation and dance. Participants in the performance come from the Yanjinzi Gao's Beijing Contemporary Dance Company, Xinghai Conservatory of Music from Guangzhou, as well as various dance troupes in Macau.

## AIPIM announces Int'l Press Card for members

FOLLOWING deliberations, the General Assembly of the Macau Portuguese and English Press Association (AIPIM) announced the establishment of a new committee to analyze the feasibility of an International Press Card issued by the International Federation of Journalists. The measures are part of the association's 2018 action plan, which includes the extension of the international accreditation to Macau and AIPIM members as one of its main goals.

José Carlos Matias, AIPIM president of the Board of Directors, said on TDM Radio: "It is a path that we had been building and is now reaching an effectuation moment." The purpose of the accreditation comes "in a perspective of self-regulation and in an independent perspective," and the fact that the card is association-based "could possess several benefits, [extending] to the jurisdictions which recognize it [and value it]."



According to information made available by AIPIM, the new mechanism will come into effect the day after the announcement. All the members of the association have already received instructions on applying for the Press Card.

The Accreditation Committee is composed of several people with experience in local journalism and is presided over by veteran lawyer Frederico Rato, and includes the journalists João Guedes and José Carlos Matias.

According to committee

bylaws and procedure rules, applications will be subject to a review according to the regulations and the Journalist Statute.

The application period is now open and will close on October 31.

The International Press Card costs MOP550 and it is valid for a period of two years. According to the committee, a new application period for accreditation will be available during the first half of 2019, depending on the number of new AIPIM members who show interest in applying.

### ARTS

## Traditional Chinese artwork exhibition opens today

AN exhibition featuring a variety of traditional Chinese artworks is slated to open today at 6.30 p.m. at the Nam Van Old Court Building.

The "Paths Crisscrossed into Imagery"-themed exhibition showcases 176 recent works by three generations of members of the Macao Artists Society, who jointly organized the exhibition together with the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC).

The works on display reflect a variety of styles, from traditional landscapes, flowers and birds to abstract works and comics, using different mediums such as watercolor, oils, sketching, Chinese painting, calligraphy and lacquer among others, and offers the public a chance to appreciate excellent local artwork.

The Macao Artists Society was created several decades ago, with the ethos of "insisting on tradition while encouraging creativity, and [are] committed to training new talents and [strives] to promote the development of Macau's art circles," according to a statement issued by the IC.

The exhibition is open daily from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. including on public holidays, and is closed on Mondays. It will be open until November 14 and admission is free.



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# Signage outlawing crossing bridge on foot causes confusion

RENATO MARQUES



Renato Marques

A sign prohibiting the of circulation of pedestrians through the Governador Nobre de Carvalho Bridge has raised concerns, since the road link is the only one that allows people to walk between Macau and Taipa. Pedestrians are not allowed to cross the other two bridges, Friendship and Sai Van. Many pedestrians – particularly runners – use the bridge's sidewalk to cross.

The Times questioned the Transport Bureau (DSAT) in order to clarify the placement of the sign, and if the rule would be permanent or temporary.

In reply, the DSAT informed, "the said road sign was installed on June 14. It was covered with a dark plastic bag after the installation," adding, "it was installed for the bridge's closing policy during typhoons. Once the typhoon no. 8 signal is hoisted, the sign will be uncovered and the bridge will be closed to pedestrians[s]. If the typhoon no. 3 signal or below is hoisted, the sign will be covered and the bridge will be open to pedestrians."

According to the bureau's reply, the signpost cover on the Taipa side at the bridge entrance disappeared by either mistake or accident. This revealed the fact that the prohibition does not apply in all other moments, besides the ones where the typhoon no. 8 signal is hoisted.

During Typhoon Mangkhut's passage in mid-September police detained five people after they were caught trying to jump the barricade blocking Governador Nobre de Carvalho Bridge. At the time, the civil protection authority said the behavior of the detained persons constituted an illegal act.

# Hong Kong taxi drivers express mixed feelings about HKZMB

BLOOMBERG



Opening soon, the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HKZMB) has been widely touted as a potential development source and business boost. Across the Pearl River Delta however, Hong Kong taxi drivers have been expressing mixed feelings about the megastructure's ability to benefit the taxi industry, the South China Morning Post reported.

During a trial run offered to taxi drivers to allow them to get to know the taxi facilities at the bridge's Hong Kong immigration port on an artificial island off Chek Lap Kok, when questioned by the media many of the drivers expressed dim views on the project, which is expected to begin operating before the year ends.

According to participants testing the facilities, in the past two trials they noted several issues related to insufficient shelter space at the taxi stands, as well as flaws with the queue ticket machines.

Vice-chairman of the Association for Taxi Industry Development Ng Kam Wah also questioned the benefits for Hong Kong taxis, saying the journey between the bridge port and Hong Kong International Airport is only about 10 minutes and would represent very low pro-

fit margins on trips.

"At a fare of about HKD45, the journey is shorter than I expected," Ng said, adding, "Travelers heading to the city center would choose to take a cross-border coach directly from their origin outside Hong Kong rather than transferring to a taxi mid-journey."

"My personal view is that the bridge is not really attractive for Hong Kong taxis," said Ng. Urban taxis would not be able to compete with cross-border coaches and those aiming short-haul business will face a "too short journey."

On the other hand, Taxi Dealers and Owners Association chairman Ng Kwan Sing presented a more confident view, highlighting the fact that drivers could cash in on ferrying mainlanders to the airport.

"At present there are not a lot of international flights on the mainland and delays and cancellations are very common. Many mainlanders prefer to take an international flight from Hong Kong. The bridge will create a bigger market," he told the Hong Kong newspaper, noting also that since the trip is short, this would enable a faster turnaround for drivers, allowing more trips with less waiting time.

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## REAL ESTATE MATTERS

### Ideas for Small Spaces

Juliet Risdon is a Director of JML Property and a property investor.

Having been established in 1994, JML Property offers Investment Property & Homes. It specializes in managing properties for owners and investors, and providing attractive and comfortable homes for tenants.

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JULIET RISDON

The reality for many people living in Macau is adapting to spaces far smaller than they are used to. In this article we explore further the idea of creative design for small spaces.

#### Less is more

Furnishing small spaces requires restraint, only furnishing with necessities and avoiding pieces there that are just for show and create clutter.

Here are a few tricks used by Interior Designers when maximizing space usage;

When choosing a sofa, look for one with legs rather than one that touches the floor. It will appear to make the room larger.

This rule also applies to kitchen and bathroom cabinetry. If you can see the floor, the area will appear larger.

Avoid using a central coffee table, and consider using side tables instead, that can be pulled out when you need them. Then the space in front of the sofa remains open, allowing easier circulation in a less cluttered environment.

Consider buying side tables that can double as stools when entertaining.

Multi purpose furniture is not limited to the living area. Think combined dryers and washers, combination microwave and convection ovens, expandable dining tables and bedside drawers instead of a table.

Average cupboards, wardrobes and bookshelves are 1.8 metres tall, leaving lots of neglected space above them. Ordering furniture 2 metres high or floor to ceiling will utilize this space, or if this is not an option, a row of attractive storage boxes on top of the wardrobe will also work.

Open shelving is a comparatively cheap solution. However, unless you're very disciplined, open shelving can create the appearance of more rather than less clutter.

A great space saver is also to wall mount your TV so that you can use shelf space for something else.

#### Mirror, Mirror...

Strategically placing mirrors around the apartment reflects light and enlarges small spaces like you wouldn't believe.

A full height mirror creates the illusion of doubling the space, making the apartment feel far

larger than it really is. Using reflective surfaces such as high-gloss cabinetry where possible will also brighten and enlarge small spaces.

#### A Unified Colour Scheme

A unified colour scheme helps to make a small room seem bigger, but its a popular misconception that white is the ideal solution for a small space.

Colour stamps an interior with individuality and it's one of our most favored tools when rejuvenating a living space. If your stuck with "Macau Chalk White Walls", go for a for a sophisticated neutral look by using different textures, shiny and flat, fluffy and silky etc.

#### Last tips

Housing visitors can cause a real headache in a small unit. One solution is to use the 2nd bedroom as a relaxation area or study during the day, switching to a bedroom in the evening.

Another way to increase sleeping space is to use a sofa that can be turned in to a bed at night.

We hope we have given you some inspiration to put some of the ideas into practice!

## ART MARKET

# Rybolovlev slaps Sotheby's with lawsuit

**T**HE epic international legal drama that has pitted a Russian billionaire against a Swiss art entrepreneur took a new turn this week with Dmitry Rybolovlev slapping Sotheby's auction house with a USD380 million lawsuit in New York.

Rybolovlev, who sold two Russian fertilizer producers for almost \$7.5 billion in 2010 and 2011, has been pursuing Yves Bouvier around the globe for several years, claiming the art dealer owes him more than \$1 billion. Rybolovlev accused Bouvier of overcharging him on 38 artworks that he purchased for \$2 billion over more than a decade.

Rybolovlev's companies sued Sotheby's Tuesday in Manhattan federal court, alleging that the auction house "materially assisted the largest art fraud in history." Rybolovlev says Bouvier lied to him about how much it cost to purchase paintings and pocketed the difference. "Sotheby's was the willing auction house that knowingly and intentionally made the fraud possible" because it knew how much Bouvier paid the sellers, according to the complaint.

Of the 38 works Rybolovlev bought from Bouvier, Sotheby's had a hand in the sale of almost one-third of them to Bouvier, according to the complaint. "Mr. Rybolovlev's latest desperate lawsuit is entirely without merit," Sotheby's said in a statement. "The false allegations that Mr. Rybolovlev is making are already being litigated in the Swiss courts, which is the appropriate ve-



Dmitry Rybolovlev

nue for this case." Sotheby's said it'll ask the New York judge to throw out the lawsuit.

Sotheby's and Bouvier jointly sued Rybolovlev in Geneva in 2017 to block the Russian's planned lawsuit in the U.K. The auction house said it'll pursue the Swiss case, where it's seeking a declaration that it didn't engage in any wrongdoing.

Rybolovlev's lawyers have sought for months a broader airing of documents that Sotheby's produced as part of legal proceedings related to the Rybolovlev-Bouvier feud in Monaco, Singapore and France. Those filings haven't been made public. The New York lawsuit might allow Rybolovlev to use those documents.

Among the transactions that Sotheby's was involved in, according to the new lawsuit, were a nude by Amedeo Modigliani bought by Rybolovlev for \$118 million in 2011; Gustav Klimt's "Wasserschlangen II" bought for \$183.8 million in 2012; and Leonardo da Vinci's "Salvator Mundi" bought for \$127.5 million in 2013.

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RETAIL

# Japan cosmetics, retailers dip on China report on customs checks

**SHARES** of luxury-goods companies from Japan's Shiseido Co. to France's LVMH fell after social media reports that China is stepping up customs checks on citizens bringing in goods from overseas, adding to jitters stemming from a trade war with the U.S.

Chinese consumers make up the lion's share of growth for the luxury business and account for roughly a third of the industry's sales, according to consultancy Bain. Many do the bulk of their high-end shopping during visits to Tokyo, Hong Kong, Paris and other tourist destinations.

Unconfirmed reports on Chinese social networks that authorities are cracking down on bringing home goods like Louis Vuitton totes and Kering SA's Gucci loafers could lower the incentive to concentrate spending in the brands' most profitable flagship stores.

Shiseido, the Japanese maker of high-end cosmetics, dropped 4.7 percent yesterday in Tokyo. The selling spread to Europe, with Kering down as much as 6.5 percent, LVMH falling as much as 4 percent and personal-care giant L'Oreal SA slumping 2.8 percent.

The selloff followed a China National Radio report quoting a Shanghai customs official as saying Chinese citizens returning from overseas trips should declare goods if they exceed travelers' tax-exempt amounts. There's widespread speculation on social media that Shanghai's Pudong Airport recently stepped up checks on goods purchased overseas, said the report, which came amid a weeklong holiday.

There haven't been any of-



ficial policy changes recently, the customs agent said in the report. But investors in luxury companies were already nervous about the sustainability of the boom in Chinese demand for their handbags, dresses, shoes and cosmetics as a trade war between the U.S. and the Asian nation intensifies.

## Chinese citizens returning from overseas trips should declare to customs if the value of the goods exceeds the tax exemption amount

Tougher border controls have been in place since 2015, and recent customs scrutiny has probably focused on travelers

from South Korea, analysts at JPMorgan said in a note. Price differences on luxury goods between China and abroad have eased, they said, reducing the incentive for Chinese tourists to buy while traveling.

If a trade war intensifies, European stocks in the sector could fall 30 percent under a worst-case scenario, analysts at UBS Group AG said in July. After surging over the last year amid runaway demand for Gucci's designs, Kering has fallen nearly 15 percent since mid-June, for example.

South Korean cosmetics makers also declined yesterday as investors reacted to a report earlier in the week that said visitors from China declined.

"Data from Japan, Hong Kong, Macau and Korea points to China passenger traffic growth moderating quite significantly in recent months," Jefferies analysts led by Stephanie Wissink wrote in a note. "Beauty is the No. 1 purchased category by outbound Chinese travelers worldwide, as more than 50 percent make beauty purchases while outside of China." **Bloomberg**

FOOD & BEVERAGE

# Here are the world's top 50 bars - and the best is in London

Richard Vines

**FANCY** a few cocktails at the world's best bar? Better be quick: It's preparing to close. Dandelyan, in the Mondrian, London, yesterday [Macau time] was named the world's finest in the World's 50 Best Bars awards. The victory came just two days after the bar's founder Ryan Chetiyawardna, AKA Mr. Lyan, announced on Instagram that he planned to celebrate Dandelyan's fourth birthday by replacing it with something new.

"We are so excited to have it at this point, to have this pinnacle, and then to look at what we can do next," he said last night on accepting the award at an event attended by bartenders, drinks writers and enthusiasts in the Roundhouse, London. "I made an announcement to you on Monday that we're going to kill Dandelyan, we're going to close it. And it feels so wonderful to do it at this point and move on." He didn't give a date.

Dandelyan first entered the list at No. 50 in 2015, before jumping to No.3 in 2016 and placing second last year. In grabbing the top spot, it toppled the American Bar, at the Savoy hotel in London. Manhattan, Singapore, rose four places to third; The NoMad, New York, slipped one place to fifth. And the Connaught Bar, London, slipped to fifth from fourth.

London has a total of 10 bars on the 2018 list, including newcomers Scout (28), Three Sheets (29), Swift (46) and Coupette (18). The others are Bar Termini (6), Oriole (17) and Happiness Forgets (35).

The U.S. has 10 bars on the list, with The NoMad crowned Best Bar in North America for the second consecutive year. The



others are Dante, New York (9); Attaboy, New York (15); Dead Rabbit, New York (16); Sweet Liberty, Miami (21); Employees Only, New York (26); Tommy's, San Francisco (40); Blacktail, New York (41); Trick Dog, San Francisco (44); and Lost Lake, Chicago (50).

Chetiyawardana has received many accolades in recent years, including World's Best Bartender 2015. He's known for innovative cocktails. His current "Modern Life of Plants" menu "explores industrialisation and large scale food systems," according to the bar's website. It's divided into three sections: Mint, Grape and Hops. Dandelyan has received multiple plaudits.

The World's 50 Best Bars is owned and organized by William Reed Business Media, the group behind the World's 50 Best Restaurants awards. The rankings are based on the votes of 505 drinks writers, bartenders and cocktail aficionados in 55 countries. **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

### SANDS CHINA DONATES MOP1 MILLION TO LOCAL INSTITUTIONS



Sands China Ltd. has made a MOP1 million donation to six Macau tertiary institutions for scholarships and fellowships, which will benefit 100 students.

The donations were presented to representatives of the educational institutions during a cheque presentation ceremony at Sands China's company office in

September.

Since 2006, the gaming operator has contributed nearly MOP10 million toward scholarships and fellowships, including this donation, with nearly 1,200 students benefiting to date, as cited in a press statement issued by Sands China.

"It's our company's privilege to help nurture Macau's local talent in co-operation with educational institutions. Through the successes of these students, Macau's future in development and diversification as a world center of tourism and leisure will be in good hands," said Dr. Wilfred Wong, president of Sands China Ltd.

### LUI CHE WOO PRIZE AWARDS THREE LAUREATES



The LUI Che Woo Prize annual Prize Presentation Ceremony was held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre on Wednesday.

The three laureates receiving the 2018 LUI Che Woo Prize

are Mr. Hans-Josef Fell, the World Meteorological Organization and Pratham Education Foundation.

Dr. Lui Che Woo presented at the ceremony to commemorate the occasion.

"The three laureates this year share the same vision with the LUI Che Woo Prize. [...] They are role models in their fields and have greatly contributed to the world, inspiring more people to participate and jointly create our future. It is our honor to have the three laureates attending in person tonight to accept the prize," he said, as cited in a press statement.

Meanwhile, Chief Executive of Hong Kong Carrie Lam also gave a speech at the ceremony and extended her congratulations to this year's winners.

"The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region is proud to have this home-grown international prize built on Dr. Lui's vision and generosity," Lam said.



Pence gestures to the crowd at the Spokane International Airport

# Pence accuses China of interfering in US policies, politics

Zeke Miller, Washington

**V**ICE President Mike Pence is accusing China of trying to undermine President Donald Trump as the administration deploys tough new rhetoric over Chinese trade, economic and foreign policies.

In prepared remarks for an appearance yesterday at the Hudson Institute, Pence says China is using its power in "more proactive and coercive ways to interfere in the domestic policies and politics of the United States."

"China wants a different American president," Pence says. Pence's speech comes a week after Trump accused China during a meeting of the U.N. Security Council of interfering in American elections to help his Democratic rivals.

"Regrettably, we found that China has been attempting to interfere in our upcoming 2018 election," Trump said. "They do not want me, or us, to win because I am the first president ever to challenge China on trade." As proof, Trump later referenced a paid advertising insert in The Des Moines Register by Chinese government-affiliated entities.

In the prepared remarks provided by his office, Pence charges that China is targeting "industries and states that would play an important role in the 2018 election" as it responds to Trump's protectionist trade tariffs on China. "By one estimate, more than 80 percent of U.S. counties targeted by China voted for President Trump in 2016; now China wants to turn these voters against our admi-

nistration," Pence says.

U.S. intelligence agencies assess that Russia interfered in the 2016 presidential election to boost Trump over his Democratic rival Hillary Clinton through hacking and releasing sensitive documents and social media manipulation.

Trump signed an executive order in September authorizing sanctions against those found to be involved in election interference, but U.S. officials have said repeatedly they have not seen nearly the same level of activity by Russia and others in the midterms as in 2016.

Much of Pence's remarks are meant to inform the public of what the U.S. government terms as China's covert and overt influence campaign.

Since Trump took office last year, his administration has es-

calated pressure on China, most recently with several rounds of tit-for-tat economic trade tariffs on hundreds of billions in goods. And Trump's first national security strategy released last year labeled China a "revisionist power" alongside Russia.

In his prepared remarks, Pence quotes an assessment from the U.S. intelligence community that "China is targeting U.S., state and local governments and officials to exploit any divisions between federal and local levels on policy. It's using wedge issues, like trade tariffs, to advance Beijing's political influence."

Sounding the alarm, Pence warns other nations to be wary of doing business with China, condemning the Asian country's "debt diplomacy" that allows it to draw developing nations into its orbit.

Pence also warns American businesses to be vigilant against Chinese efforts to leverage access to their markets to modify corporate behavior to their liking.

He accuses China of threatening "to deny a business license for a major U.S. corporation if it refused to speak out against our administration's policies."

Pence asserts that China's actions surpass those of Russia in trying to shape American opinion. He says an intelligence official told him that what "the Russians are doing pales in comparison to what China is doing across this country."

**By one estimate, more than 80 percent of U.S. counties targeted by China voted for President Trump in 2016.**

MIKE PENCE

Pence also protests Beijing's construction of military fortresses in the South China Sea as well as Chinese efforts to intercept American ships carrying out naval exercises designed to contest China's territorial expansion. He condemns a Chinese ship passing this week within about 40 meters of the USS Decatur, calling it "reckless harassment."

"The United States Navy will continue to fly, sail and operate wherever international law allows and our national interests demand. We will not be intimidated; we will not stand down," he says. **AP**

## Mike Pompeo to visit Beijing amid tension

**U.S.** Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is due to visit Beijing next week amid tensions over trade and China's territorial claims in the South China Sea.

China's foreign ministry announced Pompeo will visit on Monday for consultations on bilateral and international issues. The ministry gave no details, but based on previous visits by American secretaries of state, he would be likely to meet with China's foreign minister, senior foreign policy advisers and President Xi Jinping.

The visit comes as the U.S. administration is accusing China of trying to



undermine President Donald Trump, who accused China during a meeting of the U.N. Security Council of interfering in American elections to help his De-

mocratic rivals.

"They do not want me, or us, to win because I am the first president ever to challenge China on trade," Trump said, later referen-

cing as evidence an advertising insert in The Des Moines Register paid for by Chinese government-affiliated entities.

Since Trump took office last year, his administration has escalated pressure on China, most recently with several rounds of tit-for-tat economic trade tariffs on hundreds of billions in goods. Trump's first national security strategy released last year also labeled China a "revisionist power" alongside Russia.

Additionally, ties have worsened in recent weeks with a U.S. decision to issue economic sanctions over the purchase of Rus-

sian fighter jets and surface-to-air missile equipment. In response, China summoned the American ambassador and defense attache to deliver a protest, and recalled its navy commander from a U.S. trip.

U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis has since dropped plans to visit China in October for talks.

Meanwhile, a Chinese destroyer came aggressively close to a U.S. Navy ship in the South China Sea, forcing it to maneuver to prevent a collision, the U.S. Pacific Fleet said Tuesday.

The Chinese warship approached the USS De-

cat in an "unsafe and unprofessional maneuver" on Sunday near Gaven Reefs in the South China Sea, said U.S. Pacific Fleet Spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Tim Gorman. At one point, the ships were within 40 meters of each other.

China claims most of the strategic waterway and has built islands on reefs and equipped them with military facilities such as airstrips, radar domes and missile systems.

The Chinese defense ministry said Tuesday it opposes the U.S. warship's entry into the waters "around China's islands and reefs." **AP**

EXPORTS TO CHINA ARE INCREASING

# Myanmar burns ivory, skins to fight illegal wildlife trade

**A**UTHORITIES in Myanmar yesterday destroyed an estimated USD1.3 million worth of confiscated ivory and other parts of endangered animals, days after a conservation group charged that the country's ivory exports to China are increasing.

Myanmar's Natural Resources Ministry said the items destroyed at a burning in the capital, Naypyitaw, included 277 pieces of ivory, 227 bones of elephants and other animals, 1,544 different horns and 25 wildlife skins.

It said the parts were destroyed to raise public awareness about the illegal wildlife trade, to try to deter such activities and to promote international cooperation in suppressing the crime.

A report issued earlier this week by the Kenya-based group Save the Elephants said ivory going to China comes from both poaching within Myanmar as well as pieces ori-

AP PHOTO



ginating in Africa.

China, the world's largest ivory consumer, banned its domestic trade starting this year in what conservationists hope will relieve pressure on Africa's besieged elephant populations.

However, another conservation organization said earlier this year that rising Chinese demand for products made from elephant skin is also driving poaching, especially in Myanmar. The British-based group Ele-

phant Family said their research shows that the elephant's skin is ground into powder and sold in China as a cure for stomach ailments, as well as being fashioned into beads for necklaces, bracelets and pendants.

Myanmar officials say there has been an increase in recent years in the poaching of domestic elephants. From 2010 until now, 108 elephants have been killed, Nyi Nyi Kyaw, director general of Myanmar's Forest Department, said at the burning, according to a statement. Myanmar's population of wild elephants has been estimated at 2,000.

**Kenya-based group Save the Elephants said ivory going to China comes from both poaching within Myanmar as well as pieces originating in Africa**

By weight, the main animal parts destroyed Thursday were elephant ivory, followed by deer and antelope antlers, tiger bones and bear skins. Gallbladders of bears and python, used for traditional Asian medicines, were also destroyed.

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## INDONESIA

# Little but uncertainty, despair in city hit by disasters

Stephen Wright, Palu

**L**IFE is on hold for thousands living in tents and shelters in the Indonesian city hit by a powerful earthquake and tsunami, unsure when they'll be able to rebuild and spending hours each day often futilely trying to secure necessities such as fuel for generators.

Residents whose homes had been destroyed had little but uncertainty yesterday on the seventh day since the disasters. But they also had hope more aid would pour into the city of Palu and the surrounding Donggala district on the island of Sulawesi.

Some residents have taken to digging through reeking piles of sodden food and debris, searching a warehouse wrecked in the tsunami for anything they could salvage: cans of condensed milk, soft drinks, rice, candy and painkillers. Others carted away corrugated metal, wood, piping and other items to build temporary shelters or sell.

National police spokesman Brigadier General Dedi Prasetyo said security will be ramped up in the disaster areas to ensure law and order after 92 people were arrested for looting goods such as motor oil, tires and farming equipment. Authorities earlier allowed desperate villagers to grab food supplies from shops but have warned them not to take other things. He noted that security would be necessary for economic activity to resume.

Andi Rusding, huddled with numerous family members under a tarpaulin, said they'd gotten some aid but distribution was uneven and they felt short-changed.



AP PHOTO

"Please tell the government and the NGOs if they're really willing to help us with some foods please do not give it away through the command posts," he said. "It is better to go directly to each and every tent. Because sometime (the relief goods) didn't distribute evenly."

In the same camp, Masrita Arifin said that more than anything she was afraid because of rumors there'd be another big quake.

Hoax warnings have proliferated since the magnitude 7.5 quake and tsunami Friday, and the national disaster agency has asked people to only rely on credible sources of information.

"I cannot describe it," she said of their living conditions in the camp just a few hundred meters from her family's heavily damaged home. "It's really difficult to find water and we don't have a place to shower, but thank God we got some aid from the government, including a medical checkup."

The official toll has surpassed 1,400 deaths with thousands more injured and more than 70,000 residents displaced from their homes. The number of dead is expected to soar as rescue crews comb through affected areas after being slowed initially by broken, impassable roads and other damage.

The national disaster agency said a South Korean tourist remained missing. It said the health ministry has identified air transportation, water treatment, generators and shelter or tents as key priorities.

International help is pouring in, with Singapore, South Korea, Britain and Japan to send military transport aircraft. Multinational companies such as Google and Apple have also pledged monetary assistance, in addition to USD15 million from the U.N. and millions more from other countries.

Military official Lt. Col. Agus Hariyanto said Palu's airport is expected to re-open for civilian

traffic later yesterday. He said 100 Indonesian marines have landed at Palu airport and 200 more were on their way to help in rescue efforts. The work to retrieve bodies has been hampered by lack of heavy equipment to dig them out.

Villager Bambang said many victims could have survived if help arrive faster. He told local television that he found a friend injured and trapped under debris while searching for his pregnant wife but was unable to help him out. The friend died later.

"He told me to bury him in front of the church. He was still alive then but he died because the evacuation was so slow," Bambang said.

The U.N. estimated that some 200,000 people need assistance and said Indonesia has asked UNICEF to send social workers to support vulnerable children who are alone or became separated from their families.

The Sulawesi coastline spreading out from Palu is a surreal landscape of debris, beached boats, overturned cars and the foundations of obliterated houses. Wrecked homes still standing were spray painted with appeals for aid. The wall of one dwelling was scrawled with the message: "Help us Mr. President."

In some areas, rescuers use sniffer dogs to detect victims buried under tons of mud and debris.

The national disaster agency has called for improvements to cope with future events. With Indonesia sitting on the seismically active Pacific "Ring of Fire," it said 176 tsunamis have been recorded since 1629.

Officials estimated some 148.4 million Indonesians are at risk in earthquake-prone areas while 3.8 million people could be in danger due to tsunamis, it said, adding that there is only a 30-40 minute window to warn villagers to flee a tsunami. **AP**

## NEW ZEALAND

# Government fines travelers who won't unlock secure devices

**VISITORS** to New Zealand can be fined 5,000 New Zealand dollars (USD3,243) for refusing to provide passwords to unlock electronic devices and allow customs officials to examine them under a new law that a civil liberties group yesterday condemned as a grave invasion of privacy.

The law came into effect on Oct. 1 as part of an update of 22-year-old customs legislation. It also

gives customs officials authority to copy data found on searched devices.

"The traveling public is unlikely to notice much difference at the border," the New Zealand Customs Service said in a statement last week.

But the New Zealand Council for Civil Liberties said the law gives customs officials the power to force travelers to unlock their smartphones without justification, and without legal options for

travelers to challenge an order to enter a password.

"Modern smartphones contain a large amount of highly sensitive private information including emails, letters, medical records, personal photos, and very personal photos," council spokesman Thomas Beagle said in a statement.

"Allowing customs to be able to demand the right to examine and capture all this information is a grave invasion of perso-

nal privacy of both the person who owns the device and the people they have communicated with," Beagle said.

Beagle questioned whether the intrusion would catch criminals, who would prefer to pay the fine than expose evidence that could lead to prison.

Criminals could also store their data in the cloud, travel with a wiped phone and restore the data once they passed customs, he said. **AP**



AP PHOTO

KOREAS

# South officials visiting North for summit anniversary

Kim Tong-Hyung, Seoul

A South Korean government delegation arrived in North Korea yesterday for a joint celebration of the anniversary of a 2007 summit and to possibly hold further peace talks.

South Korean Unification Minister Cho Myoung-gyon said the visit is an opportunity to strengthen "reconciliation, cooperation and peace" between the rivals.

Cho's group was greeted at Pyongyang's airport by Ri Son Gwon, chairman of the North Korean agency that handles inter-Korean affairs, who said the agreements produced by the series of inter-Korean summits — two during the 2000s and three in 2018 — have set the "standard for reunification."

In addition to government officials, the South Korean delegation includes lawmakers, civic and religious leaders and the son of late South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun, who participated in the 2007 summit with North Korea's then-leader Kim Jong Il,



the father of current ruler Kim Jong Un.

The visit comes as U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo prepares to make his fourth visit to Pyongyang on Sunday with the aim of setting up a second summit between President Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un.

Kim and Trump met in Singapore in June, where they issued vague aspirations for a nuclear-

free Korean Peninsula without saying when and how it would occur. Follow-up talks between the countries stalled, with Pyongyang accusing Washington of making "unilateral and gangster-like" demands on denuclearization. That left Seoul lobbying hard for a second summit between Trump and Kim to keep alive a positive atmosphere for nuclear diplomacy.

Pompeo said Wednesday he's optimistic he'll come away with a plan for a second summit between Trump and Kim and progress on a "pathway for denuclearization." However, he distanced himself from an earlier stated goal of getting North Korea to abandon its nuclear weapons by the end of Trump's four-year term in January 2021.

During his three-day visit to

Pyongyang, Cho plans to hold talks with Ri to discuss how to carry out the agreements made by Kim and South Korean President Moon Jae-in at a summit in Pyongyang last month. That was Kim and Moon's third meeting this year as they work to resolve the nuclear standoff following a torrid run of North Korean nuclear and missile tests.

The South Korean delegates will also tour major North Korean facilities and attend a performance of the North's iconic mass games. It's unclear whether they will meet Kim before returning home on Saturday.

During their Pyongyang summit, Kim and Moon said they agreed to reduce the conventional military threat between them and hold another summit in Seoul, potentially within the year. North Korea said it would allow outside experts to observe the dismantling of a missile engine test site and a rocket launch pad, and might dismantle its main Nyongbyon nuclear complex if the United States takes unspecified corresponding measures.

Cho told South Korean lawmakers on Monday that North Korea is estimated to have 20 to 60 nuclear weapons, in Seoul's first public comment about the size of the North's weapons arsenal. North Korea's state media on Tuesday issued a commentary urging Washington to lift sanctions if it wants further progress in their stalled nuclear talks. AP

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Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Minister of Foreign Affairs Chrystia Freeland at a press conference

## US-CANADA

# Canadians relieved trade deal done, won't forget Trump attacks

Rob Gillies, Toronto

**U.S.** President Donald Trump vowed to make Canada pay after Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said he wouldn't be bullied in trade talks. Trump called Trudeau "weak" and "dishonest." He threatened tariffs on cars and slapped them on steel.

The unprecedented attacks on America's closest ally left a bitter taste. But Canadians mostly feel relieved after reaching a new trade agreement with Trump. Many said it could have been a lot worse. Canada avoided auto tariffs and maintained access to the all-important American market.

The U.S. made few, if any concessions, while Canada provided more access to its dairy sector and allowed Washington to possibly prevent Canada from reaching a free trade deal with China. Canada also was not able to remove steel and aluminum tariffs.

"We were definitely over the barrel in this negotiation," said Peter MacKay, a former Canadian foreign minister. "We have survived it. We have survived the 14 roller coaster months of a very unpredictable president."

About 75 percent of Canada's exports go to the U.S., so pre-

serving major elements of the North American Free Trade Agreement was crucial. Canada is one of the most trade-dependent countries in the world and Trump's talk of ripping up that deal and imposing a 25 percent tariff on the auto sector posed a serious economic threat.

"We didn't ask to reopen NAFTA. We were dragged into it and we dealt with it the best we could," said Jean Charest, a former Quebec premier.

"We were always on the defensive. We always knew from the outset that we weren't going to be making spectacular gains. We limited the damage and preserved our access to the American market."

Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland, Canada's chief negotiator, called it a victory because it maintains tariff-free access to the U.S. for most of the country's exports. The Trump administration's most contentious demands like its insistence that 50 percent of autos imports be American-made were dropped. Canada also kept at NAFTA dispute-resolution process that the U.S. wanted to jettison.

"The most important gain from this agreement is retaining our access to the U.S. market and Canadians understand that," Freeland said.

But there is a widely shared belief that Canada made concessions and the U.S. did not.

"The concessions were all from Canada and Mexico," MacKay said. "All of them. The only thing that the United States gave up was more demands."

Robert Bothwell, a professor at the University of Toronto, also said the U.S. just reduced their initial demands.

"The deal is not a disaster," Bothwell said. "People will accept it with resignation rather than joy. I trust when the Canadian signs he'll just wash his hands afterward."

Roland Paris, a former foreign policy adviser to Trudeau, expressed relief that the deal is done but worried about the long-term relationship between the two countries.

"Canadians won't forget Trump's disgraceful treatment of Canada. Our economic partnership has been reaffirmed, but trust can't be rebuilt with the stroke of a pen," Paris tweeted.

The agreement reached Sunday shows a give-and-take between the two countries: It gives U.S. farmers slightly greater access to the Canadian dairy market, but provides Canada protection if Trump goes ahead with plans to impose tariffs on

cars and auto parts imported into the U.S.

Canada could have lost 60,000 jobs in a trade war and taken a 1 percentage point hit to its GDP — a significant drop because Canada's economy is projected to grow just 2 percent next year, according to estimates from the C.D. Howe Institute, a Toronto-based think tank.

Ontario's auto industry faced the biggest threat, but the sector welcomed the new agreement. The deal requires that 40 to 45 percent of a car's content be built where workers earn \$16 an hour. That is meant to bring production back to the United States or Canada and away from Mexico, where auto workers earn on average just \$4 to \$5 an hour.

Jerry Dias, president of Canada's largest private-sector union, Unifor, said he was thrilled the auto tariff threat has been lifted.

The agreement also potentially restricts Canada and Mexico from reaching a free trade agreement with China and other "non-market" countries. If Canada or Mexico signed a deal with China, the U.S. could terminate its trade agreement with Canada or Mexico on a six-month notice. That may pose a problem for Canada which is eager to diversify its trade.

"It's bizarre," Charest, the former Quebec premier, said. "I have never seen anything like that in a trade agreement."

Daniel Ujczko, a trade attorney with the Dickinson Wright law firm, said Canada and Mexico also must give the U.S. notice before starting those trade discussions and updates of all proposals made during the negotiations.

"The clause achieves a key policy imperative for the US; namely, shutting China's backdoor to North America through Canada and Mexico," Ujczko said. "Japan and Europe, as well as the rest of the world, should be on notice that this may be the price of admission to a trade deal with the U.S."

The U.S. also pressured Canada and Mexico to raise the duty-free limit on imported goods. Canada, for instance, will allow tax- and duty-free shipments worth up to 40 Canadian dollars (about \$31), up from 20 Canadian dollars (\$16) under NAFTA. The U.S. wanted a higher figure. Store owners like Larry Rosen, chief executive of men's clothing chain Harry Rosen, feared it would drive customers to larger U.S.-based online competitors.

"I am relieved," Rosen said. "It could have been much worse."

Like many other Canadians, Rosen feels Canada hasn't been treated with respect, referring to the personal attacks and steel exports that are still subject to U.S. tariffs over what Trump calls national security concerns.

"I am a Canadian. I am polite and respectful. Even when I'm dealing with a hard business issue I don't belittle people, I don't insult them," Rosen said. "As a Canadian, the whole approach that has been taken (by the U.S.) has been offensive and I don't think Canadians will forget it."

Trump said last week he didn't like Canada's trade negotiator in an apparent reference to Freeland. And, at one point, Trump's trade adviser Peter Navarro said there was "a special place in hell" for Trudeau.

"It has been shocking and disappointing and upsetting," said Bruce Heyman, a former U.S. ambassador to Canada. "It has been traumatic. I just don't think it gets wiped away and resolved with an agreement in principle on the trade agreement."

Trump's mistreatment reinforces a worry among Canadians that their much larger neighbor is taking advantage of Canada, Heyman added.

Bothwell, the University of Toronto professor, warned of lingering damage to relations.

"Trump treated it like a real estate deal when he was a shyster in Atlantic City," Bothwell said.

"But this is nation to nation. And that's different. And it's connected to other things," he added. "Trump really doesn't grasp that and doesn't care." **AP**

NATO SUMMIT

# Russia accused of targeting UN chemical weapons watchdog

Lorne Cook, Brussels

**T**HE Dutch defense minister yesterday accused Russia's military intelligence unit of attempted cybercrimes targeting the U.N. chemical weapons watchdog and the investigation into the 2014 Malaysian Airlines crash over Ukraine.

The Dutch allegations came as British officials blamed Russia's GRU of increasingly "brazen" activities throughout the globe and for trying to cover up its purported participation in events like the nerve agent poisoning in Britain in March and the shooting down of MH17. Russia has consistently denied any involvement.

Dutch Defense Minister Ank Bijleveld said that the GRU's hacking attempts on the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, which she said took place in April, were disrupted by authorities. Four Russian intelligence officers were immediately expelled from the Netherlands, she said.



U.S. Secretary for Defence Jim Mattis (right) talks to Britain's Defence Minister Gavin Williamson before a signing ceremony following a meeting of NATO defence ministers in Brussels

Speaking about Russia's hacking attempts into the MH17 crash investigation, she said: "We have been aware of the interest of Russian intelligence services in this investigation and have taken appropriate measures." She added that "We remain very alert about this."

Britain's ambassador to the Ne-

therlands, Peter Wilson, said the GRU would no longer be allowed to act with impunity. Britain blames the secretive military intelligence unit for the nerve agent attack in March on former Russian spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia in the English city of Salisbury.

He said Russia's actions against

the U.N. chemical agency watchdog came as the agency was conducting an independent analysis of the nerve agent used against the Skripals.

Earlier, British Defense Secretary Gavin Williamson branded a series of global cyberattacks blamed on Russia as the reckless actions of a "pariah state," saying that the U.K. and its NATO allies would uncover such activities in the future.

"Where Russia acts in an indiscriminate and reckless way, where they have done in terms of these cyberattacks, we will be exposing them," Williamson told reporters in Brussels at talks with U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and their NATO counterparts.

His remarks came after British and Australian officials said the Russian military intelligence unit GRU is behind a wave of global cybercrimes. Britain's National Cyber Security Center says four new attacks are associated with the GRU as well as earlier cyberattacks.

It cites attacks on the World

Anti-Doping Agency, Ukrainian transport systems, the 2016 U.S. presidential race and others as very likely the work of the GRU.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova dismissed the new accusations yesterday, calling them "big fantasies."

British officials have blamed the GRU for the March nerve agent attack on Russian ex-spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia in the English city of Salisbury. Russia denies any involvement.

"We are not going to be backward leaning. We are going to actually make it clear that where Russia acts, we are going to be exposing that action," Williamson said.

"This is not the actions of a great power. This is the actions of a pariah state, and we will continue working with allies to isolate them; make them understand they cannot continue to conduct themselves in such a way," he said.

Earlier, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Foreign Minister Marise Payne issued a joint statement that Australian intelligence agencies agreed that GRU "is responsible for this pattern of malicious cyber activity." They said Australia wasn't significantly impacted, but the cyberattacks caused economic damage and disrupted civilian infrastructure in other places. AP

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## TV canal macau

## FRIDAY

13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
16:50	Quem Quer Ser Milionário
18:30	Destinos.pt Sr.1
19:35	Os Nossos Dias Sr.2
20:30	Telejornal
22:10	Volta ao Mundo
22:30	Liberdade 21
23:15	TDM News
01:20	Telejornal (Repetição)
02:05	RTPi Directo

## SATURDAY

11:40	Endereço Desconhecido
12:30	Gostos e Sabores
13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
14:30	A Canção (Repetição)
16:00	Volta ao Mundo
17:10	Hora dos Portugueses
18:20	Lusa Music Box
18:55	Animais Anónimos
19:40	1986
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	Grimm Sr.4 - Fim
23:15	TDM News
00:35	Telejornal (Repetição)
01:20	RTPi Directo

## SUNDAY

11:00	Missa Dominical
13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
16:10	Música Maestro
17:00	Brainstorm
17:45	Got Talent Portugal Sr.4 - Estreia
19:35	Bem-Vindos a Beirais Sr.3
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	Contraponto
22:20	Banco Asiático De Investimento em Infra-Estruturas
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Reportagem (Repetição)
00:10	Magazine Liga Europa 2018/2019
01:05	Telejornal (Repetição)
01:50	RTPi Directo

## Offbeat

## THIS IS NEWS! MAN DETERMINED TO WALK AGAIN AFTER BLOOD INFECTION FROM DOG

A Wisconsin man who lost his hands, feet and parts of his arms and legs to a rare blood infection transmitted by dog saliva was praised by his doctors this week for his positive outlook and determination to walk again with prosthetics.

Greg Manteufel, 48, was discharged two weeks ago from the Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. Since late June, he has undergone at least 10 surgeries during which surgeons amputated parts of each of his limbs because circulation to his extremities shut down due to the infection.

"Through all of this, the real star of the show is Greg. He's had the most positive attitude of any patient I have ever met and he's approached this with a fight that I don't think I've seen in any patient," Dr. Patrick Hettinger, a plastic surgeon, said during a news conference about Manteufel's recovery.

Manteufel, who worked as a house painter before his illness, started feeling sick on June 26, with a fever and pain in his legs. When he was eventually taken to the hospital, doctors found he had contracted a rare blood infection caused by capnocytophaga (cap-noh-seye-TOF'-ah-gah) bacteria that are commonly found in the saliva of cats and dogs and that almost never lead to people getting sick.

Manteufel has a dog, but doctors don't know if it was his pet or another dog that gave him the infection.

"I just couldn't believe it," Manteufel told reporters. "I've been around dogs my whole life. It's hard to take, you know?"

Manteufel's horrific ordeal hasn't changed his love of dogs. His wife, Dawn Manteufel, said one of the first things their dog did when her husband returned home was snuggle up with him to watch the Green Bay Packers.

"I still like dogs," he said.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, up to 74 percent of dogs and up to 57 percent of cats carry capnocytophaga. People also have a different strain of the same bacteria in their mouths.

The CDC doesn't track the number of infections from capnocytophaga because they're so rare.

## cinema

## CINETEATRO

04 - 10 Oct



## VENOM

ROOM 1

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

Director: Ruben Fleischer

Starring: Tom Hardy, Michelle Williams, Riz Ahmed

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 112min



## PROJECT GUTENBERG

ROOM 2

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

Director: Felix Chong

Starring: Chow Yun Fat, Aaron Kwok, Zhang Jingchu

Language: Cantonese (Chinese, english)

Duration: 130min



## A SIMPLE FAVOR

ROOM 3

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

Director: Paul Feig

Starring: Anna Kendrick, Blake Lively, Henry Golding

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 117min



## JOHNNY ENGLISH STRIKES AGAIN

ROOM 3

7:30pm

Director: David Kerr

Starring: Rowan Atkinson, Emma Thompson

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 88min

## this day in history



## 1968 LONDONDERRY MARCH ENDS IN VIOLENCE

Police have used batons and water cannon to break up a civil rights march in Londonderry, Northern Ireland.

At least 30 people, including MP Gerard Fitt and some children, have been injured.

Reports say police tried to disperse the protesters by using their batons indiscriminately and spraying water from hoses on armoured trucks.

The demonstrators retaliated with petrol bombs. A number of bonfires were lit in the Bogside area and when a fire engine arrived, the crowd turned on it and threatened to set it alight.

The march, organised with the support of the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association (NICRA), was held in protest at alleged discrimination against the majority Nationalist (and mainly catholic) population in Londonderry by the mainly Protestant Unionist-controlled local authority.

The trouble began when the march headed for Duke Street, a road declared out of bounds by the Northern Ireland Minister of Home Affairs, William Craig.

When the protesters turned into the street they were confronted by a barricade of police officers, in rows three deep, all armed with batons.

Loudspeakers urged the crowds to disperse but the calls went unheeded.

Violent skirmishes broke out and very quickly the street was filled with police wielding batons against men, women and children

In the chaos the Stormont and Westminster Republican Labour MP for Belfast west, Gerry Fitt, was struck down by a baton. He was hurried to a police car with blood pouring from his head and taken to hospital, where he later received stitches.

Mr Fitt told reporters: "I was a marked man before the march started. These were stormtrooper tactics at their worst. They hit me once, but that wasn't enough - they had to have another go, and this was the cause of the wound which had to be stitched."

Mr Craig has said he is satisfied there was no unnecessary brutality. He rejected suggestions that police had used their batons improperly.

NICRA formed in February 1967 to call for a number of reforms, including an end to the perceived discrimination against Catholics in the allocation of council housing and public sector jobs.

It wants the introduction of one man-one vote, rather than one vote per household, which was also seen as discriminatory against Catholic homes with multiple occupancy and an end to gerrymandering electoral boundaries which in Nationalist areas like Londonderry has led to the return of Unionist-led authorities.

And it wants the repeal of the Special Powers Act, which was aimed at suppressing the IRA and gave police the power to search any property, and was therefore seen as discriminatory against Catholics.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The march of 5 October 1968 is regarded by many as the official start of The Troubles.

It was followed by two more days of serious violence in Londonderry. Reports of the rioting and the brutal way in which it was suppressed by police were broadcast around the world, provoking widespread condemnation and outraging Nationalists.

The Stormont government tried to prevent the situation getting out of control by announcing a series of reforms in November 1968.

The Minister of Home Affairs, William Craig, who publicly branded the civil rights movement a front for Republican activity, was dismissed in December 1968.

But the reforms did not go far enough for civil rights campaigners and divisions began to appear within the movement.

The moderate Derry Citizens Action Committee, of which John Hume was one of the leaders, mounted a series of non-violent protests.

But the extremist People's Democracy, which developed out of student protests in Belfast, organised a march to Londonderry and Newry in January 1969. Both were accompanied by rioting and violence.

As the violence continued, the British Government sent in troops in August 1969 and later supported the introduction of internment. The Bloody Sunday march of January 1972 - against the policy of internment - was the last big civil rights protest in Northern Ireland.



**YOUR STARS**

**♈ Mar. 21-Apr. 19**  
An email brings some strange — but welcome — news today, possibly tonight. You may find that you need to stick with electronic communication today if you want to get anything done.

**♉ Taurus**  
**April 20-May 20**  
Today feels like a colossal waste of time, but still you need to make sure that you're at least going through the motions. Someone close needs your attention, and you may as well give it to them.

**♊ Gemini**  
**May 21-Jun. 21**  
You need to sit down and talk things over with friends or family. It's not like it's the center of the world — far from it — but you've got the right kind of energy to bring people together in a new way.

**♋ Cancer**  
**Jun. 22-Jul. 22**  
It's hard not to feel overwhelmed today — things aren't really going your way, and that could mean that you've got to retreat a bit in order to get a grip on your needs and priorities.

**♌ Leo**  
**Jul. 23-Aug. 22**  
Go to that party today, even if you were on the fence. Your energy should get better and better the more you surround yourself with people. Even folks you don't know well have a lot to offer.

**♍ Virgo**  
**Aug. 23-Sept. 22**  
All you can do is try your best — so don't worry too much about what others are doing. Your own contributions may not matter more than theirs, but they're all that you can control.

**♎ Libra**  
**Sep. 23-Oct. 22**  
Your life is incredibly busy today — so make sure that you're still energized when it's quitting time! You've got the right kind of mental state to handle a wide array of activities, so it shouldn't be hard.

**♏ Scorpio**  
**Oct. 23 - Nov. 21**  
You need to avoid temptation today — but it's everywhere! That may mean you need to withdraw within yourself for a bit, though that brings its own set of weird problems. Persevere and all will be well.

**♐ Sagittarius**  
**Nov. 22-Dec. 21**  
You aren't feeling the same level of ennui your peers are today — in fact, you may be the only one who isn't dying from boredom! Just try to enthuse them with your own passions and see what happens.

**♑ Capricorn**  
**Dec. 22-Jan. 19**  
You've got to get down to business today — and make sure that your people understand what's most important. That could mean cutting conversations short if they start to ramble, but you can do it.

**♒ Aquarius**  
**Jan. 20-Feb. 18**  
Your love life heats up in a big way, thanks in large part to your amazing energy. Try not to worry about where this is all coming from — you need to just enjoy it and ensure that it's mutual.

**♓ Pisces**  
**Feb. 19-Mar. 20**  
If you find yourself at a loss for words — and that is likely — then you need to abandon all pretense of rationality and resort to poetry or performance art to get your point across. It can be fun!

**THE BORN LOSER** by Chip Sansom



**SUDOKU**

**Easy**

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

**Easy+**

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

**Medium**

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

**Hard**

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

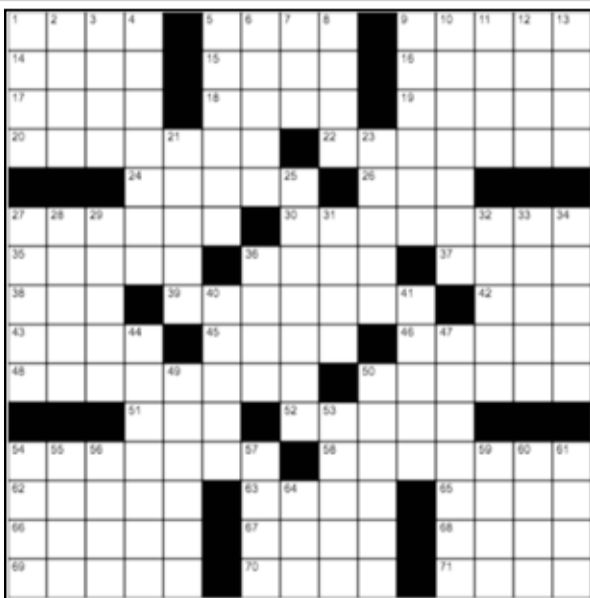
**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	15	27	cloudy
Harbin	9	24	clear
Tianjin	17	27	drizzle/cloudy
Urumqi	10	21	clear
Xi'an	17	24	drizzle/overcast
Lhasa	11	22	shower/cloudy
Chengdu	20	27	shower/clear
Chongqing	24	29	drizzle
Kunming	16	23	shower
Nanjing	24	28	moderate rain
Shanghai	27	31	cloudy/thundershower
Wuhan	23	29	drizzle
Hangzhou	25	33	cloudy/thundershower
Taipei	24	30	clear
Guangzhou	25	34	cloudy
Hong Kong	27	32	cloudy
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	14	22	clear/drizzle
Frankfurt	15	27	clear/cloudy
Paris	15	25	clear/overcast
London	14	22	drizzle/moderate rain
New York	21	28	clear/drizzle

**CROSSWORDS**

**ACROSS:** 1- Very funny; 5- Jacob's first wife; 9- Deep-six; 14- Coup d'...; 15- uncertain terms; 16- Shopworn; 17- Small stream; 18- Grounded jets; 19- Pave over; 20- Actual; 22- Three-pronged weapon; 24- Crystal ball users; 26- Supplement, with "out"; 27- Mediterranean arm; 30- Inaction; 35- Consecrate; 36- Et \_\_\_\_ (and other men); 37- Fork part; 38- Dined; 39- Spirit; 42- Extra-wide shoe size; 43- \_\_\_\_ fide; 45- \_\_\_\_ extra cost; 46- Took a shot at; 48- Involving Plato's cave, e.g.?; 50- Conjecture; 51- Before, to Byron; 52- Messed up; 54- Noblewoman; 58- Worn over the ears in cold weather; 62- Madonna role; 63- Hgt.; 65- Switch ending; 66- In shape; 67- Ascend; 68- Farming prefix; 69- Sows; 70- Believe; 71- Prepared to drive;

**DOWN:** 1- Cattle group; 2- End in \_\_\_\_ (draw); 3- One of two equal parts; 4- Books of maps; 5- Heed; 6- Belgian painter James; 7- Aardvark morsel; 8- Emcee; 9- Hit; 10- Believing; 11- Ceremonial act; 12- \_\_\_\_ all-time high; 13- Chipper; 21- Quit; 23- Museum artifact; 25- Absence of sound; 27- Addis \_\_\_\_; 28- Singer John; 29- Actress Davis; 31- Pebbles's pet; 32- Refrain in a children's song; 33- Scornful look; 34- Run-down; 36- \_\_\_\_ spumante; 40- Wise ones; 41- Early anesthetic; 44- Warned; 47- Beef or lamb; 49- Mountain nymphs; 50- Journey; 53- Pee Wee of the Dodgers; 54- Teachers' favorites; 55- Bacchanalian cry; 56- Mozart's "\_\_\_\_ kleine Nachtmusik"; 57- Slave; 59- Impulse; 60- Golfer's "watch out!"; 61- Nourishment; 64- Whopper;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com


**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

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




AD

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	<p><b>Office For Rent</b> Macau <b>Commercial Office Space</b> <b>Private Executive Offices</b> HKD 18,000 / 1,200 sq ft Ref: 18090200</p>	<p><b>Soi Cheung, Taipa Village</b> Taipa <b>One Bedroom Apartment</b> <b>Fully Furnished</b> HKD 12,800 / 700 sq ft Ref: 18090530</p>	<p><b>Office - Dynasty Plaza</b> Macau <b>Park-Side Work Space</b> <b>Spacious Commercial Space</b> HKD 72,000 / 700 sq ft Ref: 18070685</p>	<p><b>High Floor B Unit</b> In The Buckingham Taipa <b>2 Double Bedroom Fully Furnished</b> HKD 21,800 / 1,433 sq ft Ref: 18090687</p>




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A view of the exterior of Wembley Stadium in London

# World Cup bid at heart of Britain's Brexit sports event plan

Rob Harris, London

**B**RITAIN is looking to host up to 60 major sporting events over the next 15 years, including football's World Cup, to assert global influence and attract trade deals in the uncertainty after Brexit.

The strategy by the UK Sport government agency was announced Wednesday with the country in the midst of a protracted divorce from the European Union to implement the result of the 2016 referendum and strike new international alliances.

Building on the success of the 2012 Olympics in London and the English Premier League, hosting major sporting events is now seen as a key instrument of soft power by British Prime Minister Theresa May's government.

"This is us thinking about [...] where the country finds itself right now and the big challenges it has over the next decade, how we can use sport to help the country," U.K. Sport chief operating officer Simon Morton said. "It feels to me like for the first time in decades our country is going to be in a little bit of nation building."

English football officials have launched a feasibility study into bidding for the FIFA World Cup in 2030 not only in partnership with the rest of the U.K. — Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland — but also Ireland.

"The last five years really for us as a country we've been talking about our own identity, whether it's the strength of our unions the United Kingdom or it's how overseas people see us either in Europe or the rest of the world," Morton said. "So Brexit is a massive factor behind this. We want to think about how we can use sport and sporting events to really

showcase the best of the U.K. to the world."

Drawing on the victory by the United States, Canada and Mexico in landing the 2026 World Cup, a British Isles entry is seen as essential to attracting votes in the new system that gives every football nation a say in the decision.

England last hosted the World Cup in 1966 when it won on home soil. Two bids have failed since then, and there was anger in the English Football Association and British government about the decision to hand the 2018 tournament to Russia. The feasibility study will include an

assessment over whether FIFA's votes can be more trusted since Gianni Infantino replaced Sepp Blatter in 2016 and the electorate was expanded with a public vote.

"We have to recognize that process that FIFA has just used [for the 2026 World Cup] was significantly better than before, significantly more transparent than before," Morton said. "But everybody remembers the process of the last decade. So the FA is doing a feasibility study to look at whether we should bid."

## ■ Hosting major sporting events is now seen as a key instrument of soft power by British authorities

There is less to consider about bids for other world championships. Plans are in place to bring the men's and women's Rugby World Cup back to the country as well as the world championships for athletics, badminton, boxing, canoe slalom, curling and gymnastics.

With British cyclists holding the three titles from the major races for the first time, an attempt will be made to host the starts of the Tour de France, Giro d'Italia and Spanish Vuelta. The Ryder Cup has been held twice in Britain in the last eight years — in Wales and Scotland — and an attempt will be made to stage it again.

Hosting the events is about more than prestige for Britain.

"They are really important in terms of projecting an image to the world as an open nation," Morton said. "In terms of trade it's also important." **AP**

## F1 Hamilton closing on title at Japanese GP

**L**EWIS Hamilton has won five of the last six Formula One races. This week the series is in Suzuka, where Hamilton has won three of the last four Japanese Grand Prix. With five races to go, his fifth world championship is almost in the bag.

"Lewis is hungry, focused, and completely determined to succeed," Mercedes team boss Toto Wolff said yesterday. "It's been great to see the power he has brought to this championship, and how he has taken it to the next level."

After winning the Rus-

sian GP last week, Hamilton leads Sebastian Vettel by 50 points.

Even if Vettel wins all five remaining races, he's not guaranteed to beat Hamilton.

But Vettel, who has had his own success at Suzuka — winning four times over 2009 to 2013 — was far from conceding the championship.

"We need to keep pushing and try," the Ferrari driver said. "Who knows what will happen in the next races?"

The race in Sochi last Sunday was overshadowed by Mercedes or-

dering Valtteri Bottas to pull over and let teammate Hamilton pass to win. Bottas started from pole and was in position for his first win of the year.

Wolff insisted the team order was justified. "The battle with Ferrari remains extremely close, as was underlined by Sebastian's pace on Sunday and the pressure he put us under," Wolff said. "In the end, we left Sochi with a bigger lead. But we know that doesn't mean anything because our fight with Ferrari is far from being over."

Meanwhile, Red Bull's

Max Verstappen remains one to watch, too. On his 21st birthday, Verstappen started 19th in Sochi but charged through the field to finish fifth.

It was another dramatic drive from Verstappen, who over four seasons has firmly established himself as F1's most aggressive and exciting racer, but has never had a car capable of a true title challenge.

Verstappen has fond memories of the Suzuka circuit, having made his F1 debut here by taking part in the first free practice at the 2014 Japanese GP. **AP**



Lewis Hamilton reacts to a baby during a fan meeting at the Suzuka Circuit

opinion

**Kapok**  
Eric Sautédé



**NOT SO FANTASTIC ANYMORE**

One of my fellow columnists with the Times has made the fight against the abusive usage of plastic an all-out effort, very often taking a very personal tone. Contrary to the Belgium song, plastic is not that fantastic anymore and we should actually be considering totally banning it from our life. If Plastic Free July is such a great initiative, it is so not only because it strikingly demonstrates that we can “easily” do without the convenience of organic polymers — cheap, malleable and resistant, and yet awfully and irremediably polluting — but that recycling is not enough and what needs to change is our social and economic behavior at large.

In a ground-breaking study published in *Sciences Advances* in July 2017, a group of researchers was able to estimate that humanity had produced some 6,3 billion metric tons of plastic waste since 1950, and that only 9% of these had effectively been recycled, 12% incinerated, and no less than a staggering 79% accumulated in landfills or the natural environment. By 2025, the cumulative recycling rate should amount to 20%, and projecting the current global waste management trends, even though we will be able to recycle some 44% of our plastic waste by 2050, by then we will have also accumulated some 12 billion metric tons of discarded plastic waste scattered in the midst of mother nature!

The image of a straw stuck in the nose of a turtle might provide a terrific imagination grabber targeted at five-year-olds and their hurried parents — our era oscillates between the empathy for the cute and the indifference to barbarity — but as a more politicized journalist recently remarked: “Coca Cola produces on its own some 128 billion plastic bottles per year! When put one on top of the other, these bottles amount to one hundred times the distance from the Earth to the Moon...” Even though some countries are doing better than others — Norway already recycles 43.4% of its plastic waste — it is indisputable that the ability to recycle everything we manufacture is everything but a chimeric dream. Sorry for all the new evangelists of circular economy, but the future lies in reducing the amount of filth we are dropping on the green planet!

I was thus very proud when on October 2 the French National Assembly approved the law banning single-usage plastic “cutlery, meat picks, box covers, trays, ice-cream pots, salad cups, boxes and stirrers” by January 1 2020. This list complements the cotton sticks and single usage plastic glasses, cups and plates which were already destined to be axed by that date. Fifty micron thick plastic bags had already been removed from cashiers as well as fruits and vegetables stalls respectively in 2016 and 2017. But then, France only recycles 22.2% of its plastic waste and one could argue that being an advanced economy, it had had plenty of time to pollute without really caring.

However, I just came back from India, and guess what? Twenty-five out the country’s twenty-nine states have already put in place various bans on the manufacture, supply, storage and use of plastics! India’s Environment Minister has already announced that by 2022, his country would “eliminate all single use plastics.” In Mumbai, 225 municipal civil servants dressed in purple have been tracking offenders to the law since June 2018, and if this does not sound almighty in a city of 21 million dwellers, those confronted to fines ranging from Rs5,000 (half a median monthly salary) to Rs25,000 for recidivists seem to be taking the scheme seriously, be them manufacturers, distributors or consumers. In Goa, the manufacturing of 50 micron and thinner plastic bags has actually been prohibited by law since 2016, and even political parties have been made responsible for managing the waste generated by their campaign activities!

In Macao, civic groups are mobilizing and taking stock of the filthy wasteful habits registered in the SAR, but why would the territory be left to the goodwill of a few casinos, even with the best of intentions? Is a gold-plated plastic landfill our only horizon?

**THE BUZZ** RONALDO LEFT OFF PORTUGAL SQUAD FOR UPCOMING MATCHES, DENIES RAPE ALLEGATIONS

Cristiano Ronaldo was left off Portugal’s national team squad for a pair of upcoming matches, the decision coming yesterday as the soccer great fights rape allegations in the United States.

Ronaldo has been accused of rape by Kathryn Mayorga, who says the player assaulted her in Las Vegas in 2009. He has denied the accusation.

Ronaldo was left off the squad for Portugal’s

second game in the UEFA Nations League at Poland on Oct. 11 and a friendly match in Glasgow against Scotland three days later.

Portugal coach Fernando Santos said Ronaldo also will not be called up for the next round of international games in November.

Santos said the decision was taken after a three-way conversation between him, Ronaldo and the head of the Portuguese soccer federation.

**Germany’s Merkel tours Holocaust museum on Israel visit**

Aron Heller, Jerusalem

**G**ERMAN Chancellor Angela Merkel kicked off the second day of her two-day visit to Israel yesterday with an emotional tour of the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial and museum.

Israel was established three years after the end of World War II, and the German government has paid billions in reparations to Holocaust survivors and positioned itself as a leader in combatting anti-Semitism. Under Merkel, it has been perhaps Israel’s strongest European ally.

Accompanied by Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev, Merkel took special notice of an exhibited letter that Nazi leader Adolf Hitler sent deployed German soldiers in which he tried to boost their morale by saying they were fighting “a war of existence, a war against communism and its perpetrators, the Jews.”

She then participated in a memorial ceremony for the 6 million victims of the Nazi-led Holocaust.

“The Jews in Germany suffered from hatred and violence that the world did not know was possible,” she wrote in the memorial’s guest book. “What came later is a crime that has no equal — the teardown of civilization — the Holocaust.”

From there, she went to a different ceremony in Jerusalem where she was granted an honorary doctorate from Haifa University and answered questions from local students. She also met Israeli President Reuven Rivlin and toured an innovation exhibit of Israeli and German companies with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

“Today’s market is global and the ability to innovate is what gives us a global competitive edge,” Netanyahu said alongside Merkel. “Each of us does this quite well on our own, but we can succeed much more together.”

Merkel is in Israel for the latest in a series of joint government consultations. She is accompanied by



Merkel visits the Hall of Names in the Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum in Jerusalem yesterday

much of her Cabinet, a large business delegation and a new official in charge of combatting anti-Semitism. The visit is expected to focus on economic issues, with an emphasis on innovation, technology and development projects.

**The Jews in Germany suffered from hatred and violence that the world did not know was possible.**

ANGELA MERKEL  
MESSAGE ON GUEST BOOK

It’s the seventh such joint government meeting since Israel and Germany established the tradition a decade ago.

Merkel met Netanyahu for dinner Wednesday night and their ministers are set to sign a series of new agreements, including scientific exchanges and joint projects in cybersecurity, artificial intelligence and nanotechnology.

Germany is Israel’s largest trading partner in Europe and for the past few decades has been perhaps its staunchest supporter. But differences have been

exacerbated following the election of U.S. President Donald Trump, particularly regarding Israel’s policies toward Iran and the Palestinians.

Netanyahu has been one of Trump’s biggest international backers, lauding him for pulling out of the Iranian nuclear deal that Merkel and other world leaders helped negotiate in 2015. Netanyahu says the deal, which curbed Iran’s nuclear program, does not include enough safeguards to prevent the Islamic Republic from developing a nuclear weapons capability.

Trump also has largely refrained from criticizing Israeli settlement activity in the West Bank — a frequent European complaint — recognizing Jerusalem as its capital and moved the U.S. Embassy there. He also has cut funding to the Palestinians and fully pinned the blame for stalled Mideast peace talks on them.

In contrast, Merkel has continued to champion the traditional approach to Middle East peacemaking, calling for the establishment of a Palestinian state and for Israel to refrain from unilateral steps to undermine its prospect.

Germany has also been among the European countries calling on Israel to refrain from carrying out its plans to demolish a West Bank hamlet that Israel says was illegally built. **AP**

Station	Air quality
Roadside	85-15 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	70-100 Moderate
Ambient	105-135 Bad

SOURCE: DSI/MG

**WORLD BRIEFS**



**MALDIVES** A opposition leader returned home yesterday after being exiled in Germany for months to escape a prison sentence on charges of plotting to overthrow the government.

**NEW ZEALAND** Visitors to the country can be fined 5,000 New Zealand dollars for refusing to provide passwords to unlock electronic devices and allow customs officials to examine them under a new law that a civil liberties group condemned as a grave invasion of privacy.

More on p12



**JAPANESE** fisheries officials said they will revise one of the country’s two main research whaling programs after an international organization said selling meat from killed sei whales violates a convention protecting endangered species.

**VIETNAM**’s ruling Communist Party has nominated its general secretary for the additional post of president, succeeding President Tran Dai Quang, who died last month, and ending a decades-long policy of separating top leadership positions.



**BRAZIL** The top leftist candidate for Brazil’s presidency accused front-runner Jairo Bolsonaro of spreading falsehoods about him and his family on social media, as new polls showed the far-right candidate’s lead widening with days before the vote.



**IRAN**’s supreme leader says the Islamic Republic will “slap” the United States by defeating new American sanctions targeting the nation. Ayatollah Ali Khamenei made the comments yesterday in a speech in Tehran.