

## IN GRATITUDE

ON THE OCCASION OF THE CELEBRATION OF  
THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF THE VENETIAN MACAO  
OUR SINCERE THANKS AND APPRECIATION TO THE OFFICIATING GUESTS

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### MORE PEOPLE FALL FOR PHONE SCAMS

The police reported three more phone scams, in which three people suffered financial losses

P4 CRIME



### ALEXIS TAM MOTORCYCLE GP TO STAY

P5



### MUGABE FACES IMPEACHMENT

Zimbabwean lawmakers are set to begin impeachment proceedings against President Robert Mugabe

P11,20

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AL PLENARY

## Sou's latest affair involves FB post

P6

### WORLD BRIEFS

AP PHOTO



#### MYANMAR leader

Aung San Suu Kyi said yesterday that the world is facing instability and conflict in part because illegal immigration spreads terrorism, as her country faces accusations of violently pushing out hundreds of thousands of unwanted Rohingya Muslims. More on p13

**JAPAN** U.S. military personnel in Okinawa have been restricted to base and banned from drinking alcohol after a Marine was arrested over a crash that killed a Japanese man.

AP PHOTO



**INDONESIA** Hundreds more people have left villages in Papua that were at the center of clashes with separatists, Indonesian police said yesterday. It was the second evacuation from the region near the U.S.-owned Grasberg gold and copper mine in a week. More on p12

More on backpage



## Sands celebrates 10th anniversary of The Venetian with pomp

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## CRIME

# Three more people fall for phone scams

Julie Zhu

**T**HE Judiciary Police (PJ), in a joint police conference yesterday, reported three more phone scams, in which three people suffered financial losses.

A local woman was the victim of the first case discussed by the police yesterday. On November 17, she received a phone call from mainland China. The suspect, who called the victim, claimed to be one of her friends, and said that he needed financial help because he had been arrested by the mainland police.

On the same day, the victim transferred RMB30,000 to a mainland bank account provided by the suspect. Later, her real friend contacted her, upon which the victim reported the case to the police.

In the second case, a local male resident lost RMB10,500. On November 16, the victim received a phone call from the mainland. The person who called him claimed to be his relative and said that he was



currently arrested by mainland police. The suspect then asked the victim to transfer said amount of money to a mainland account. The victim did so, only realizing afterwards that it was a fraud.

The third victim was a mainland resident working in Macau who lost MOP6,800 to a phone scam. The victim reported that, on November 17, he received a call from mainland China.

The victim followed the voice instructions and reached a suspect who claimed to be an officer from the Public Security Police Force (PSP).

The con artist acting as a PSP officer told the victim that he had not accepted an email from PSP, and, consequently, the police would have to implement border control restrictions over him. Later, the con artist fabricated another case,

which the victim denied being a part of.

After several conversations, the victim then transferred MOP6,800 to a mainland bank account. The suspect kept asking for money from the victim. The victim went to his friend for financial help and it was his friend who then reminded him about phone scams, which led the victim to report the case to the police.

## Man sexually harasses same victim twice

**A** local man has been arrested for sexual harassment, the Public Security Police Force (PSP) said during yesterday's police conference.

The suspect is a local man, surnamed Ho, in his 20's. The victim is a local 20-year-old female university student. The suspect was arrested on his second instance of sexually harassing the victim.

At 1:30 p.m., on November 12, the suspect spotted the victim for the first time near a supermarket located at the Estrada de Coelho do Amaral.

After observing the victim entering a building nearby said supermarket, Ho followed her, then

sexually harassed her at the building's stairs. Terrified, the victim did not report the incident to the police.

On November 15, around 6 p.m., Ho saw the victim again at the Estrada de Coelho do Amaral. Ho followed the victim to the same building, where he sexually harassed her again.

The victim only noticed the suspect when she entered her house and was about to close her door. She then reported the incidents to the police.

The suspect is said to be working for an exhibition company.

### MAINLANDER DETAINED FOR TICKET TOUTING

**A MAINLAND** man is being prosecuted for illegally reselling tickets for the Macau Grand Prix. The mainland man, aged 40 years old, is surnamed Wu. On Sunday morning, Wu bought two tickets, each worth MOP900, for the Macau Grand Prix. He then attempt-

ed to sell the two tickets to another two people for MOP1,200 each. Eventually, he sold the tickets for MOP1,000 each but he was caught in the act. The man refused to cooperate with the police and in the process damaged the badge of one of the police officers.

## EDUCATION

## IPM hosts delegation from Coimbra University

**T**HE Macao Polytechnic Institute (IPM) and a group of representatives from the University of Coimbra in Portugal recently discussed methods to strengthen ties with Portuguese tertiary institutions and improve academic exchange through student exchange.

Led by António José Mendes, who oversees the University of Coimbra's foreign exchange programs, the group comprised a sports coach and students of various academic disciplines.

IPM said in a press release that it held a week-long schedule of acade-

mic and cultural exchange intermingled with sports training sessions.

The purpose of the visit was to facilitate mutual communication and deepen bilateral relations to explore greater avenues for cooperation.

IPM vice president Im Sio Kei Marcus remarked

that the Institute and the University have worked together on numerous academic projects and that the institutions' student exchange agreements will cover degree programs.

IPM said it would continue fostering close ties with other Portuguese

se institutions, refining its teaching methods and encouraging its undergraduates to study abroad.

The discussion was attended by international and exchange students at IPM majoring in computing and Portuguese-Chinese translation, among

other disciplines.

Mendes noted that the University of Coimbra represents one of Portugal's largest international student communities, with approximately 16 percent of its student body coming from 90 different countries and regions.

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF (DIRECTOR) Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com  
MANAGING EDITOR Paulo Barbosa paulo.barbosa@macaudailytimes.com  
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS Eric Sautedé, Leanda Lee, Severo Portela

NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS Albano Martins, Annabel Jackson, Daniel Beitler, Emilie Tran, Grace Yu, Ivo Carneiro de Sousa, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Lao-Phillips, João Palla Martins, Joseph Cheung, Julie Zhu, Juliet Risdon, Lynzy Valles, Renato Marques, Richard Whitfield, Rodrigo de Matos (cartoonist), Viviana Segui  
DESIGNERS Eva Bucho, Miguel Bandeira | ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS JML Property, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars, Ruan Du Toit Bester | NEWS AGENCIES Associated Press, Bloomberg, Financial Times, MacauHub, MacauNews, Xinhua | SECRETARY Yang Dongxiao arry@macaudailytimes.com

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ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

SECRETARY Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR Telephones: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84

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### DSE detects four problematic disaster relief applications

**M**ACAO Economic Services (DSE) has found four applications for the special financial supports offered by the Macau government to the SMEs in the wake of Typhoon Hato contained incorrect information.



The day after Typhoon Hato

DSE Director Tai Kin Ip reported this situation yesterday. According to Tai, DSE seized evidence regarding these four cases and will report them to the prosecution authority.

In the aftermath of Typhoon Hato, the government has established two special disaster relief programs to help local SMEs. Tai revealed that DSE has already granted two billion patacas through the two programs.

DSE reached an agreement with the Macau Association of Banks; the agreement was that banks would help the SMEs to provide their financial records concerning losses incurred because of the typhoon.

DSE received more than 21,000 applications for spe-

cial financial support. Tai said that this number is equal to the total number of applications for SME supportive programs which DSE has granted during the last 20 years.

Currently, DSE has already approved 17,000 applications out of the 21,000. The bureau intends to run through the remaining 4,000 by the end of the year.

To prevent people from abusing the special financial support, DSE has been deploying human resources to different districts to inspect the physical damage caused by the typhoon.

Tai emphasized that only the businesses which were damaged by the typhoon are eligible to apply for these programs.

# GP organizers will not consider canceling motorcycle race

**S**ECRETARY for Social Affairs and Culture Alexis Tam says that the Macau Grand Prix organization will not consider cancelling motorcycle races during the MGP event schedule.

Following the end of the Grand Prix races on Sunday, Tam was questioned by the media about the future of the motorcycle race following the death of British motorcycle driver Daniel Hegarty on Saturday.

Tam, who is the president of the Macau Grand Prix Organizing Committee (MGPOC), noted that the organizer will improve safety procedures, but it will not shut down races.

Tam emphasized that what happened to Daniel Hegarty was an accident due to "bad luck." He then expressed his sincere condolences to the late driver's family.

The secretary pointed out that the organizers were adequately



Daniel Hegarty

prepared to ensure the safety of the Guia Circuit. Tam wanted the public to understand that competitions of speed, in particular motorsports, are relatively dangerous and full of challenges.

President of the Macau Sports Bureau Pun Weng Kun also ple-

dged that "[I] can assure [you] that our roads are absolutely safe."

The sports authority president also guaranteed that the circuit was not affected by typhoons and added that the organizer's first task is to uphold racers' safety.

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## News At Hand



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Sulu Sou



Ma Chi Seng

## AL PLENARY

# War of words at the Legislative Assembly

Renato Marques

**T**HE tensions from the last couple of weeks between newly elected lawmaker Sulu Sou and some lawmakers, (namely the appointed ones and those from the most conservative wing), have apparently evolved from yesterday into a new chapter. A direct war of words and a heated exchange of arguments started during and after the plenary session.

The spark that started the fire appears to be Sulu Sou's recent publication on his Facebook

page. He published content related to a meeting of the Legislative Assembly (AL) House Rules Committee. Sou participated, even though he was advised not to do so by the president of the AL, Ho Iat Seng.

In the post, Sou explained in some detail the content of the meeting; the meeting that aimed to discuss the method to be used by the AL regarding the vote on whether they should suspend him to allow him to stand trial (lawmakers are granted immunity from criminal prosecution). A criminal

case of aggravated disobedience is running in the courts against him regarding his behavior during the demonstration held on May 2016, organized by the New Macau Association, over the RMB100 million donation from the Macau Foundation to Jinan University.

On the same post, Sou also added information regarding the positions expressed by several committee members on this topic, individually citing their names.

During the period before the

agenda yesterday, by the initiative of lawmakers Kou Hoi In (the lawmaker who also presides over the AL House Rules Committee) and Vong Hin Fai, a spoken enquiry was presented. It aimed to criticize lawmaker Sou's attitude. The complainants recalled that the meeting was held behind closed doors, by decision of the members, noting that such a meeting has a "restricted or secret nature and that the lawmakers participating from the meetings cannot reveal any details as well as political positions expressed."

The spoken enquiry from the two lawmakers considered Sou's attitude "disgraceful" and accused him of failing to comply with Article 4 of the Regiment of the AL (regarding the fulfillment of the deliberations of the plenary) as well as the article 38 of the statutory regime of the lawmakers.

Kou presented the enquiry and remarked, "until now, all the lawmakers fulfilled the regiment and we had never registered situations like this." He continued by expressing their "strong dissatisfaction and defending that such an act should be censured."

Later in the session, Sou made his reply. He presented a spoken enquiry that called for the fulfillment of the law and for the increase of transparency by the publication of reports regarding finance arrangements and subsidies

attributed by the Macau Foundation (FM) to the associations. Sou recalled the case of the subsidy conceded by the FM to Jinan University to say that more than 18 months after that event, the situation that allowed it is continuing undisturbed. He accused the Chief Executive (CE) of ignoring the calls of the people for more procedural transparency and noted that "until now he [the CE] gave no reply." In his allotted time, Sou still had time to respond to the spoken enquiry of the lawmakers Kou and Vong. He said in response that he has been acting in line with his duties and in the name of transparency and honesty. He insisted that these values are what characterizes his role as a political representative. He also made the point that his actions and the values underpinning them are in line with what the population would like to see in their representation.

Although the works of the AL proceeded with a certain degree of normality, several lawmakers moved in and out of the plenary session and this reflected the unusual nature of the session. Chui Sai Cheong, Chan Chak Mo and Ma Chi Seng were only some of those that exited the plenary room during and right after the presentation of Sou's spoken enquiry; they returned after he concluded his presentation.

The discussion of the first topic of the agenda (concerning the 2018 Budget Law), ran over its allotted time and led into the break time. At the start of the break, when most of the lawmakers and media were already out of the plenary room, two lawmakers including Ma approached Sou at his seat to continue to exchange arguments, mostly on the fact that he cited the names of the committee members identifying them clearly. Visibly upset, the two lawmakers left the room after a few minutes and the sharp exchange of words that were audible across the room. Some of their comments anticipated that the dissatisfaction of some lawmakers with Sou might have reached an all new level.

## Budget Law approved after long discussion

**T**HE Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, presented yesterday at the AL the bill the aimed to discuss and approve the Budget Law for 2018.

Although the bill was passed at the first reading unanimously with all 31 votes in favor, as everyone would expect, the debate over the budget was, maybe unexpectedly, filled with several interventions from the lawmaker. These interventions forced Leong and his team to several explanations and justifications.

On the line were several significant increases presented on the budget for 2018, namely concerning the government's expenses regarding the salaries of civil servants.

Mak Soi Kun, Ella Lei and Au Kam San where just some of the lawmakers that questioned civil servants' salaries, with Mak noting, "[t]his had already happened in 2017, looks like there is a great hike on the staff [civil servants] what apparently goes against the police for the rationalization of staff members."

Lei also questioned the rise of the expenses with staff that she noted is "well above of the salary update announced by the government," she said, adding, "I've been paying attention to this [matter] since 2016, we have to take in note what happened with IC [Cultural Affairs Bureau]."

Lei also remarked that it was necessary to explain why some bureaus are growing a lot in terms of staff while others that apparently have

many departments and perform several duties are reducing. She included examples and noted, "this will represent an increase on more than MOP10 billion just in expenses with staff."

Au Kam San also remarked that for the first time the annual budget is passing the barrier of MOP100 billion, saying, "It passed from MOP80 billion to more than MOP100 billion very fast." Au Kam San also questioned whether such progress would be considered normal.

Replying, Leong explained that the almost 10 percent of the increase on the government staff expenses are not only related with the salary updates but also, "with promotions and growth in the number of staff." The Secretary remarked that back in 2015, "we launched austerity measures due to economic adjustment. At that time it was imposed through a control over the growth of staff to barely zero [noting that does not mean that staff were not needed]," Leong added. "The new 85 square kilometers of maritime area also presents challenges and leads to a significant increase on the personnel of the Customs Services," he said as an example.

"There are many other services that we also need to increase staff that are regarding services to people," he concluded, noting that he will be able to provide in a detailed manner, if needed, all the departments and services that will grow in staff members during the discussion of the budget in the committee.

### SOU REQUESTS TO PRESENT DEFENSE BEFORE SUSPENSION

**LAWMAKER SULU** Sou has formally submitted a letter to the president of the Legislative Assembly (AL) requesting authorization to present his defense prior to the AL vote on whether his mandate will be suspended, as requested by the First Instance Court (TJB). According to a report from Radio Macau, Sou made the request yesterday as a matter of urgency in a letter addressed to both the president of the AL, Ho Iat Seng, and to the chairman of the Committee of the House of

Rules, Kou Hoi Hin. In the letter, Sou requests a 10-day period to prepare his defense with the intention of delaying the distribution to lawmakers of the opinion reached by the Committee, which will shortly be disclosed. Sou is also requesting access to documents on similar cases since 1997, and to be granted access to the communication between the AL and the TJB regarding his case. According to the same source, Ho has not yet replied to Sou's request.

**S**ANDS China celebrated the 10th anniversary of The Venetian Macao yesterday, highlighted by a ceremony at the resort's outdoor lagoon.

Guests enjoyed a masquerade grand parade featuring music and dancing, a light and sound 3D projection on the façade of The Venetian Macao, and a pyrotechnic show. A gala dinner followed, featuring entertainment headlined by Cantopop superstar Joey Yung.

Opened on August 28, 2007, the company's anchor property on the Cotai Strip - dubbed a "world-class business, leisure and family destination" - was once seen as a risky venture by analysts.

But 10 years on, it continues to draw millions of visitors from around the world each year, testament to its tourist appeal.

Wilfred Wong, president of Sands China, hosted the main ceremony yesterday, with government dignitaries and celebrities present. He said he was "grateful to the Macau government, to the local community, and to our team members as we commemorate this important milestone for The Venetian Macao."

# Sands China celebrates 10 years of Venetian Macao

"This property has a very special place in my heart," said Chairman and CEO of Las Vegas Sands and Sands China, Sheldon Adelson, according to a statement released by Sands China.

**This property has a very special place in my heart.**

SHELDON ADELSON

"It was my wife, Miriam, who first had the inspiration to recreate Venice in Las Vegas, and opening The Venetian Macao in 2007 marked the beginning of my vision for the Cotai Strip. Nothing is more fulfilling to an entrepreneur than to see a vision turned into reality. For me, The Venetian Macao repre-

sents exactly that - first a vision and then a reality," he continued in the statement.

"I'm extremely grateful to every person who helped bring this reality to life and I'm humbled by the dedication and support we're still receiving 10 years later."

Adelson had been scheduled to attend the anniversary event, but sustained an injury while traveling to the MSAR. In an announcement, Wong said that the company CEO had fractured three ribs during a ferry ride from Hong Kong. He added that Adelson was in good shape and was expected to make a speedy recovery.

Yesterday's celebration had originally been scheduled to take place on the actual August 28 anniversary date of the resort, however Sands China decided to postpone the event in light of the aftermath of Typhoon Hato.



**MEDIA**

## IFJ grants affiliation to local press association

**T**HE Macau Portuguese and English Press Association (AIPIM) is now an associate member of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), becoming the first Macau journalists' association to join the largest international journalists' organization in the world.

The secretariat of IFJ stated that AIPIM has been accepted as an associate member of the federation during a meeting of IFJ's Executive Commi-

tee, held on November in Tunis, Tunisia, on November 18 and 19.

"AIPIM warmly welcomes this decision with a sense of duty and responsibility. Joining IFJ has been an objective of our members over the years," said AIPIM president José Carlos Matias.

"Becoming a member of IFJ is especially meaningful not only for AIPIM members but for the whole of Macau's journalistic community."

Speaking to the Times, the president noted that the milestone is what the association has been striving for as it aims to strengthen its sense of responsibility and duty.

According to him, full membership in the IFJ would allow the local association to have a closer level of contact with international networks and to strengthen its role in standing for core values such as freedom of the press, access to information, ri-

ght to information, journalists' rights and ethical values.

"We will learn more on how to better the journalists' rights and this could pave a way in the future for international accreditation," said Matias.

For now, the association is awaiting the next step in the process of formalizing the membership.

Matias noted that AIPIM now has an additional role since it is a member of an international

federation. He expanded on this, saying that going forward AIPIM will have "more responsibility and we'll have to improve in many ways and try to have a more active role and we would like to be more representative and welcome more members together."

Meanwhile AIPIM is launching its "AIPIM Training Series," entailing a series of workshops and training programs for journalists focusing on enhancing their skills and

knowledge of pressing issues and challenges facing contemporary journalism.

Its first round of training sessions will address ethical challenges faced by journalists and will be held by a member of the global news management of Agence France-Presse, Eric Wishart, on November 25. On December 9, Portuguese scholar and former journalist Joaquim Fidalgo will address the same topics. **LV**

### corporate bits

#### MGM COTAI 'GRAND OPENING OFFERS' ANNOUNCED



Ahead of its opening on January 29, 2018, MGM Cotai is launching "Grand Opening Offers", a series of packages that are available to be booked, starting today.

MGM Cotai's "Grand Opening Offers" start at HKD/MOP1,398 for guests to en-

joy a one-night stay at the property's Resort Room; they will also receive a MOP500 complimentary resort credit per night to spend in the restaurant, spa and entertainment facilities of their choice.

Additional dining discoun-

ts will also be offered when spending resort credit.

Guests can sign up to M life, MGM's resort membership program; becoming a new member allows extra savings on the "Grand Opening Offers."

Macau members of M life will have an extra 20 percent discount to enjoy the resort experience in Macau.

"As MGM Co will be the most anticipated resort opening of 2018, we are pleased to launch opening offers with great value for all of our guests, inviting them to stay with us and experience our one-of-a-kind offerings first-hand," said Grant Bowie, CEO and executive director of MGM China.

#### MDME CO-LAUNCHES TEAM GENESIS ASIA



The law firms MdME and MLGTS, members of the MLGTS Legal Circle, have launched Team Genesis Asia, a team of legal experts dedicated to supporting young entrepreneurs and innovators.

This initiative represents the internationalization of MLGTS' Team Genesis, founded in 2011 with the goal of advising founders and investors of emerging companies, as cited in a press release issued by

MdME yesterday.

"The primary aim of Team Genesis Asia is to capitalize on the expertise of Team Genesis to support Macau young entrepreneurs and innovators in successfully growing their businesses in a global context", stated Rui Pinto Proença, a Partner at MdME and Team Genesis Asia's coordinator.

Team Genesis Asia will be partnering with incubators and associations of young entrepreneurs in Macau to identify scalable start-ups to support. It will also provide its members with legal mentorship in crucial areas to their business, such as fundraising and intellectual property.

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ANALYSIS

# A Singapore tax increase would be nectar for Hong Kong

ASIA'S two rival financial centers are starting to look very different, and the gap is going to widen.

The divergence of Singapore and Hong Kong is already evident in the quality of their transportation networks. MTR Corp.'s main rail lines in Hong Kong have been glitch-free for 5.6 million kilometers of passenger journeys on average this year, while Singapore's subway operator SMRT Corp., plagued by delays and chaos for six years, plumed the depth of its despair last week when two trains collided, injuring 36 people.

Taxation levels, the other area where the cities have used one another as benchmarks, are becoming increasingly dissimilar. Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong reiterated his finance minister's call for higher tax rates, telling the annual convention of the ruling People's Action Party on Sunday that it's "not a matter of whether, but when." With that, analysts started to foresee an increase in the island's 7 percent goods and services tax, perhaps as soon as next year.

Hong Kong toyed with the idea of a GST in 2006, but

popular opinion was against it. Although there will be another go at solving the "problem of a narrow tax base," it's unclear that a sales tax will ever materialize.

Singapore's GST, introduced in 1994, now accounts for almost one-quarter of the city's tax collection. It has proved a remarkably stable source of revenue, even during sharp downturns. That has its own rewards. Ten years after the global financial crisis, only 10 sovereigns still enjoy a triple-A debt ranking from all three major rating companies. Singapore is one of them.

Although any increase would be unpopular, there are several reasons Lee may want to bump up the levy. Combine a median age of 40 with a low fertility rate, and aging is a serious challenge. At 65, Singaporeans have 19 to 22 years of life expectancy. Retaining people longer in the workforce to keep social-security costs well-funded is one option,



but it has limits.

The robots that are busy cleaning Changi Airport's new Terminal 4 are managed by humans - for now. Once artificial intelligence stops getting confused between cats and guacamole, it will also be able to tell trash from a mislaid Rolex. Taxes on incomes will become an unreliable source globally.

Meanwhile, if the U.S. does lower its levy on corpora-

te profits to 20 percent, and Japan takes its 30 percent rate to 25 percent or below, there'll be little leeway for a small economy like Singapore's to increase its 17 percent rate, especially with Hong Kong at 16.5 percent. It makes sense to raise the level of GST now. Leaving the problem to a future leader who may not have the benefit of a strong economy risks repeating Japan's folly with con-

sumption charges.

Where's Hong Kong in all this? As much as 46 percent of the Chinese territory's tax revenue comes from two sources: corporate profits and land premiums.

If Hong Kong shies away from a sales tax, the administration may become even more dependent on land revenue. In the world's least affordable property market, that could fuel speculative mania around Beijing's vision of a Greater Bay Area, connecting Hong Kong and Macau with China's Guangdong province.

Other options are closed. The top 5 percent of Hong Kong taxpayers account for more than 60 percent of the government's take from salaries. Squeeze them harder, and rich professionals might up and leave - for Singapore. Since these are people who can avoid the trains, a crumbling SMRT won't bother them much.

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**Wednesday, 29/11/2017**

**Doing Business in China**

Speaker: **Dr. Alexander Kocsis**, Of Counsel and Adjunct Professor Of Law and Business

FMCC Breakfast Meeting

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**Introduction:** As one of the world's fastest-growing economies, China continues to offer foreign companies attractive investment and business opportunities. **Dr. Alexander Kocsis** will analyze the implications for companies to be successful in China in light of the recent 19th Congress of the CPC.

**Date:** **Wednesday, 29 November 2017**

**Time:** **9:00 - 10:30am** (Reception: 8:45am)

**Venue:** **Sofitel Macau at Ponte 16**  
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# Alibaba bets USD2.9b on country's top hypermarket player

Lulu Yilun Chen and Daniela Wei

**A**LIBABA Group Holding Ltd. agreed to buy a stake in China's largest operator of Wal-Mart-style hypermarkets for about USD2.9 billion, making its latest bet on the evolution of brick-and-mortar retail.

Alibaba is acquiring 36 percent of Sun Art Retail Group Ltd., which operates about 400 hypermarkets under the Auchan and RT-Mart banners. As part of the deal, France's Auchan Retail SA will raise its stake in Sun Art to a similar level and form an alliance with the internet giant to tackle Chinese food retail.

The deal marks Alibaba's latest investment in old-school shopping, as it pursues an ambition to shake up a \$4 trillion brick-and-mortar retail arena. It's also a major foray into groceries for China's largest e-commerce operator, escalating competition with Wal-Mart Stores Inc. in the hypermarkets that offer everything from fresh produce to electronics across the country.

The agreement grants Sun Art the technology and resources needed to expand into new markets, though Alibaba's getting its stake at a steep 24-percent discount to its target's most recent valuation, itself inflated by speculation about an investment since February. Shares in the hypermarket operator slid as much as 14 percent yesterday - its biggest intraday fall since February - but recovered to trade about 0.7 percent lower.

"Sun Art has a pretty good supply chain so cost-wise it might make more sense than Alibaba doing everything from scratch," said Julia Pan, a Shanghai-based analyst at UOB Kayhian. "The new-retail strategy seems



to be the new trend for e-commerce giants."

Alibaba's investment in Sun Art is the latest acquisition in a spree that's also encompassed Suning Commerce and Intime Retail Group Co. The company's staked much of its future on transforming old-school retail, infusing stores with the technology needed to better manage inventory and boost margins. It's betting that a move into physical commerce will pump-prime the growth of its main online business, rope in millions of new shoppers, and expand its network into a relatively untapped Chinese hinterland.

It's early days in Alibaba's grand retail experiment, but if it works, it could deepen a lead

over Jeff Bezos' Amazon.com Inc. in the fragmented world of physical retail. Jack Ma's company spent billions buying into grocers, shopping malls and even department stores long before Amazon announced its \$13.7 billion acquisition of Whole Foods Market Inc.

The over-arching idea is to connect virtual and offline worlds, boosting online orders while amassing valuable customer purchasing data. Alibaba is trying to franchise a Hema model that combines a supermarket, restaurant and fulfillment center. It's also enlisted 10 percent of China's convenience stores, about 600,000 outlets, to hawk goods and get billions of parcels shipped to customers

nationwide.

The Hangzhou-based company is already starting to see the initiative trickle into the top line: revenue from new retail - mainly its Hema supermarkets and Intime department stores - more than quintupled in the September quarter.

"Sun Art can help Tmall to penetrate into lower tier cities," Pan said. "Other cooperation could be on Hema."

Sun Art, for its part, needs the capital and technology infusion. Auchan and RT-Mart have the biggest slice of China's hypermarket business with about a 15 percent share, followed by Wal-Mart Stores Inc. with 10 percent, according to Euromonitor International. But the company

has reported slower sales growth over the past three years as more Chinese shop online.

Like other retailers, Sun Art is now exploring ways to combine internet commerce with physical retail in a so-called "online-to-offline" or O2O model. It's sought to make inroads into e-commerce after acquiring control of web grocery store Fields HK and Shanghai Diqi Network Technology Co.'s Xiaohuhe e-commerce business in 2015.

## The deal marks Alibaba's latest investment in old-school shopping

It "needs to get skill-sets on e-commerce and O2O to help them reach more tech-savvy young customers," said Wai-Chan Chan, a retail partner at consultancy Oliver Wyman in Hong Kong.

Its decelerating growth and narrowing margins may be why Alibaba's getting into Sun Art for about HKD6.50 a share versus its last traded price of HKD8.60 before shares were suspended Nov. 13. Yet Alibaba's expertise may provide the necessary wherewithal to shore up its operations for the longer term.

Once the acquisition is completed, Alibaba, Auchan and a third company will own more than 77 percent of the company. As they may be considered "acting in concert," the group may be required to make an offer for the remainder of Sun Art shares, the listed company said in its filing.

"Strategically it's a good deal for Sun Art," Chan said. "The massive customer data is expected to give Sun Art better understanding about customers and more experience to do business digitally." **Bloomberg**

# Duterte offers China third telecom carrier slot

**P**HILIPPINE President Rodrigo Duterte has offered to China an opportunity to operate a new, third telecommunications carrier in the country, his spokesman said yesterday.

The move is aimed at breaking a telecoms duopoly in a country that is said to have the slowest internet speed in the Asia Pacific. It is unclear if China or any Chinese companies would be keen to take Duterte up on his offer.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque said Duterte

made the offer to Chinese Premier Li Keqiang during their bilateral meeting in Manila last week.

The market now is dominated by domestic telecoms operators Globe Telecom Inc. and PLDT Inc.

In 2007, the Philippines signed a contract with China's ZTE for a national broadband network. The project was plagued with problems such as alleged overpricing and kickbacks and was eventually scrapped.

Last week, the government signed an agreement

with a Facebook subsidiary for the "Luzon Bypass" project. It involves installation of submarine cables for a high speed internet infrastructure and providing 2 terabits per second of bandwidth - equivalent to the current combined capacity of Globe and PLDT.

"So the good news is, the consumers can look forward now to better telecommunications, not just in terms of cellular technology but also in terms of internet speed as well as access," Roque said.

China's state-owned Chi-

na Mobile Ltd. is the world's biggest phone carrier by subscribers, with 880 million mobile accounts and 106 million broadband internet customers. China Telecom Ltd. and China Unicom Ltd. are nearly as large.

All three have been slow to expand outside their lucrative and sheltered home market but have stepped up investment in the past two years, usually by taking stakes in carriers in other developing countries such as Brazil, Thailand and Pakistan. **AP**



Li Keqiang (left) gestures to Rodrigo Duterte

Kelvin Chan, Hong Kong

# Beijing's deep ties to Zimbabwe could grow after Mugabe era

**U**NDER Robert Mugabe's decades-long rule over Zimbabwe, China grew into one of the African nation's biggest investors, trading partners and diplomatic allies.

Now, as Zimbabwe appears on the verge of its first transition of power since independence, Beijing is poised to be among the biggest winners.

A look at the increasingly close relationship between the two countries:

## THE BACK STORY

Mugabe began drawing closer to China's communist leaders under a "Look East" policy when Western countries imposed sanctions on Zimbabwe in 2001 over land seizures and human rights concerns. "We have turned East, where the sun rises, and given our backs to the West, where the sun sets," he famously said.

Mugabe has made frequent visits to Beijing, and sent his daughter Bona to university in Hong Kong. China, meanwhile, has vetoed United Nations Security Council sanctions on Zimbabwe.

Both sides portray the relationship as one between "all-weather friends." But "behind the scenes, things are a little bit different," said Derek Matyszak, a Harare-based senior researcher at the Institute for Security Studies.

"Relations between China and Mugabe have been quite fractious over the past year and a half, and the current situation is going to make things worse," he said.

China is unhappy about Mugabe's mismanagement of Zimbabwe's economy and is believed to favor as his successor, Emmerson Mnangagwa, who's seen as more of an "economic pragmatist," Matyszak said.

Mnangagwa was elected Sunday as the new leader of Zimbabwe's ruling party and is positioned to take over as the country's leader.

## MILITARY LINKS

Zimbabwe's army commander, Gen. Constantino Chiwenga, visited Beijing in early November, around the same time Mnangagwa disappeared. The Chinese Foreign Ministry called it a "normal military exchange," but the timing raised suspicions that it was anything but.

The countries' military links date back to the 1960s, when China helped train and supply guerrilla fighters from the Zanu's military wing in the fight for liberation. Mnangagwa, 75, was part of that effort — he received military training in China in 1963, soon after he joined the fight against white minority rule in then-Rhodesia.

These days, China is a key supplier of military hardware to Zimbabwe. Major sales in recent years include a radar system, jet trainers and fighters, military vehicles and AK-47 assault rifles.

A Chinese company built the National Defense College in Harare, which opened in 2014 and was financed with an interest-free \$98 million loan from China. The college, the biggest of its kind in the country, trains soldiers, intelligence operatives and police from Zimbabwe and other Southern African countries.

"China, of course, wants Zimbabwe to maintain a peaceful and stable political environment," said Wang Xinsong, a longtime observer of China-Zimbabwe relations at Beijing Normal University. "China's best interest lies in ensuring a peaceful and smooth transfer of power without major turmoil."

## ECONOMIC WOES

Once known as the "breadbasket of Africa," Zimbabwe's decline accelerated with the seizure of white-owned farms, sending the economy into a tailspin with skyrocketing inflation and widespread unemployment and poverty.

The lack of a clear succession plan for the 93-year-old Mugabe as well as an industrial nationalization plan have contributed to political uncertainty and spooked overseas investors. Zimbabwe's foreign direct investment fell for a second straight year in 2016, slumping by a quarter to \$319 million, according to the latest U.N. World Investment Report.

Analysts believe one major reason Mnangagwa is popular with



In this file photo taken on Aug. 25, 2014, Xi Jinping (right) shows Robert Mugabe the way during a welcome ceremony outside the Great Hall of the People in Beijing

China is that he is seen as more investor-friendly than Mugabe.

"Of course, we must know that the investment can only go where it gets a return," Mnangagwa said in an interview with state-run China Central Television during a visit to Beijing in 2015. "So we must make sure we create an environment where investors are happy to put their money because they will have a return."

Chinese investors are likely holding off while they wait for a resolution, experts said.

"Chinese businessmen will become more prudent," said Zhang Chun, an expert in African studies at the Shanghai Institute of Foreign Studies. "For those that are prepared to make an investment there, they will delay their projects."

## DIAMOND DEALS

A big source of tension between Beijing and Harare was Mugabe's abrupt move to nationalize Zimbabwe's diamond mines.

Two Chinese companies, Anjin Investments and Jinan Mining, had partnered with the military and become big players in the Marange diamond field in Zimbabwe's east.

Mugabe, however, moved last year to revoke licenses from the Chinese and other foreign mining companies and consolidate all operations into a single company half-owned by Zimbabwe's government. He had apparently become alarmed that the government was missing out on revenue, blaming private companies after only \$2 billion of an anticipated \$15 billion had flown into government coffers since the field was discovered in 2006.

The Institute for Security Studies' Matyszak speculated that Mnangagwa could reverse that move, winning favor with both the military and China in the process.

Chinese tobacco company Tianze, meanwhile, has given interest-free loans and training to farmers, many of whom work on land seized from white farmers, to help beef up production and help fill cigarette demand back home.

The Beijing Automotive Group teamed up this year with two local partners in a joint venture, Beiqi Zimbabwe, selling Grand Tiger pickup trucks assembled from kits to compete with pricier imports.

## HARD ASSETS

China has helped build and pay for some big-budget infrastructure projects in Zimbabwe, including \$46 million to fund the construction of the country's new parliament building in Harare last year.

Chinese state-owned Sinohydro is building \$2 billion worth of expansion projects at Zimbabwe's two main, aging power stations to help deal with chronic electricity shortages. Chinese companies have also built a \$150 million expansion of Victoria Falls International Airport and upgraded Zimbabwe's busiest highway.

Other deals announced during a visit by Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2015 included building a pharmaceutical warehouse, expanding the national fiber optic broadband network and supply wildlife monitoring gear.

## SOFT POWER

China and Zimbabwe have been growing closer in other ways too, although results have been uneven.

In 2015, Zimbabwe sold China 35 elephants that were moved to wildlife parks in Shanghai, Beijing and Hangzhou. But animal conservation groups raised concerns about the plan over fears that the animals would be split up from their herds and end up living under poor conditions.

China also has an image problem among many ordinary Zimbabweans, who see it mainly as a supplier of cheap but shoddy products like shoes and kettles that have been labeled with derogatory names for their famously short-lived lifespans.

The Mugabe family has been involved in a legal dispute over a multimillion-dollar Hong Kong property, and made headlines there in 2009 when Robert Mugabe's wife, Grace, allegedly assaulted a photographer during a shopping trip. She left the specially administered Chinese city without being charged. **AP**

# China on pace for record solar installations as forecasts jump

**C**HINA, the world's biggest carbon emitter, is poised to install a record amount of solar-power capacity this year, prompting researchers to boost forecasts as much as 80 percent.

About 54 gigawatts will be put in place this year, Bloomberg New Energy Finance said yesterday, raising a forecast of more than 30 gigawatts made in July. That amount of additional capacity would likely

surpass all the solar energy generated in Japan in 2017. "The amount of rooftop solar plants and projects aimed at easing poverty were more than expected and developers rushed to build some ground-mounted

solar projects before they have been allocated subsidies," said Yvonne Liu, a BNEF analyst in Beijing.

The growth of the market has benefited top panel producers, including JinkoSolar Holding Co. and Trina

Solar Ltd. China installed 43 gigawatts of solar power in the first nine months of 2017, already above the 34.5 gigawatts for all of last year.

China has been the world's biggest solar market since 2013. It surpassed Germany as the country with the most installed photovoltaic power capacity two years ago.

CCB International Securities Ltd. raised its forecast

for China's solar power capacity to 55 gigawatts from 40 gigawatts for 2018, according to a Nov. 17 note.

"We have a bright outlook for the entire supply chain of China's solar sector as new policies are introduced to liberalize direct power sales for distributed power generation and based on our assumption of tariff hikes and a higher renewable surcharge in 2018," CCB said. **Bloomberg**



Participants wear masks as they run during the Delhi Half Marathon



## ENVIRONMENT

# New Delhi's polluted air doesn't deter distance runners

Nick Perry

PEOPLE breathing New Delhi's acrid air for the past month have suffered burning eyes and rasping throats, so the notion of thousands of distance runners gulping down lungful after lungful may have seemed strange. But even as the polluted air threatens health, India seems to be embracing physical fitness.

The Airtel Delhi Half Marathon went ahead Sunday, even after a last-minute attempt by the Indian Medical Association to have it postponed.

In the cool half-light before dawn, street-dwellers stoked smoking piles of trash to keep warm while race organizers adjusted placards along the route.

In the start area, runner Sunil Baxi, who traveled 11 hours by train from the city of Jodhpur to compete, spoke over the blaring motivational music, saying he was thankful the air had gotten clearer.

"The gods have sent in the rain yesterday and over the last 48 hours," he said. "So it's a blessing for us."

Air pollution was a concern for past races but was brought into sharp focus this month after air-quality readings in New Delhi spiked to 75 times the level considered safe by the World Health Organization.

Three days before the race, Delhi's High Court gave race organizer Procam International permission to proceed with the run.

As runners glided past landmarks like India Gate, they were treated to an unusual peacefulness on the streets. Blaring horns were replaced with slapping feet and enthusiastic drumming from supporters. A Sikh group in matching shirts urged the runners on.

Still, many runners remained frustrated. Ashish Shakya said he'd barely been able to train because of the poor air quality. He wore a handmade sign on his back that read, "Running is in the air but the air is highly polluted."

"I feel that as a community we need to stand up and just acknowledge the existence of the pollution," he said. "In most countries, including China, it

would be a state of alert. In India, we are running a half marathon."

Shakya, 31, said he loves running and has watched its popularity in New Delhi soar over the past few years. But he also worries about what it's doing to him.

## ▲ Air-quality readings in New Delhi spiked to 75 times the level considered safe by the World Health Organization

"It's just like smoking a cigarette. If you smoke for a year, you don't die," he said. "But if you do running continuously in this weather, the health risks outweigh the health benefits."

New Delhi's air pollution typically worsens at this time of year as winds die off and the fumes from vehicles and industry stagnate. Farmers also burn spent crops and people build street fires as the night air cools.

Race organizers tried to help. They washed down the course with salted water to minimize dust. They used 150 mist fans to try to cleanse the air. They kept vehicles from the route for hours before the race. And they offered refunds to those who wanted to pull out.

Race Director Hugh Jones said he was surprised at the court action and felt it had come too late.

"There comes a point when you're halfway down the springboard and you've just got to keep going," he said. "I think the choice has to be given to people to make their own minds up."

However, organizers are seeking to change the date for next year's event. The difficulty is finding a time of year in New Delhi when the heat isn't oppressive, there are no monsoons and the pollution is low.

Some 35,000 runners signed up for this year's half marathon and the shorter races that were included. Organizers say more than 1 million people have signed up for races across India over the past year, and the popularity of the sport is increasing.

"Slowly the trend is rising," said Baxi, the runner from Jodhpur. "No doubt India is on the back foot on health parameters, but slowly and surely it's picking up."

The cost of registration alone means that such events are restricted to wealthier residents of India, where more than 20 percent of the 1.3 billion people live on less than 2 dollars a day.

Jones said he thinks endorsement from stars in the Bollywood film industry has helped give running a boost.

"It's become an appealing sport for aspiring people," he said.

Ethiopian runner Berhanu Legese won the men's division in 59 minutes, 46 seconds, while countrywoman Almaz Ayana won the women's race in 1:07:11.

But outside the running route, road closures seemed to worsen New Delhi's already chaotic traffic. Auto-rickshaws weaved down alleys and squeezed between belching buses as the city slowly got moving again.

This year's competitors were finished and dispersing, leaving New Delhi's bad air to the locals, inhaling it morning, noon and night. AP

# Hundreds leave Papua villages in separatist standoff

HUNDREDS more people have left villages in Papua that were at the center of clashes with separatists, Indonesian police said yesterday.

It was the second evacuation from the region near the U.S.-owned Grasberg gold and copper mine in a week.

Papua police chief Boy Rafli Amar said about 800 villagers were bused to the town of Timika and

are being accommodated in a local hall.

"They finally asked to be evacuated or relocated because the conditions there were traumatizing," Amar said.

Security forces appeared to gain the upper hand in the standoff with separatists on Friday and evacuated more than 340 people who were migrants from other regions.

Two people were killed

in Friday's security operation. Indonesia's military said they were separatists while a spokesman for the National Liberation Army of West Papua said they were civilians.

Tensions in the region near the mine have escalated in the past several weeks. A series of attacks by suspected separatists have killed two policemen and injured more than half a dozen others.

A low-level insurgency for independence has simmered in Papua since it was annexed by Indonesia in the early 1960s.

The region, which makes up the western half of the island of New Guinea, was formally incorporated into Indonesia in 1969 following a U.N.-sponsored ballot of tribal leaders that has since been dismissed as a sham. AP



People who were evacuated after a security operation against separatists at their villages rest at a temporary shelter upon arrival in Timika, Papua province

Esther Htusan, Naypyitaw

# Suu Kyi blames world conflicts partly on illegal immigration

**M**YANMAR leader Aung San Suu Kyi said the world is facing instability and conflict in part because illegal immigration spreads terrorism in a speech yesterday that comes as her country is accused of violently pushing out hundreds of thousands of unwanted Rohingya Muslims.

Suu Kyi did not directly mention the refugee exodus as she welcomed European and Asian foreign ministers to Naypyitaw, the capital of Myanmar. But her speech highlighted the views of many in Myanmar who see the Rohingya as illegal immigrants and blame the population for terrorist acts.

The ongoing Rohingya exodus is sure to be raised by the visitors at the meetings held until today.

The world is in a new period of instability as conflicts around the world give rise to new threats and emergencies, Suu Kyi said, citing "Illegal immigration's spread of terrorism and violent extremism, social disharmony and even the threat of nuclear war. Conflicts take away peace from societies, leaving behind underdevelopment and poverty, pushing peoples and even countries away from one another."

Myanmar has been criticized for the military crackdown that has driven more than 620,000 Rohingya to flee Rakhine state into neighboring Bangladesh. The United Nations has said the crackdown appeared to be a campaign of ethnic cleansing, and some have called for re-imposing international sanctions that were lifted as Myanmar transitioned from military rule to elected government.

Foreign ministers and re-



Aung San Suu Kyi (right) speaks during the Asia Europe Foreign Ministers (ASEM) meeting

presentatives of 51 countries are meeting in Naypyitaw in a forum that aims to further political and economic cooperation but takes place against the backdrop of the ongoing Rohingya refugee crisis.

A flurry of diplomatic activity preceded yesterday's opening, with the foreign ministers of Germany and Sweden joining the EU's foreign policy chief in a visit to the teeming refugee camps in Bangladesh. China's Wang Yi was also in

Bangladesh and met privately with Suu Kyi on Sunday in Myanmar following that trip.

Suu Kyi is Myanmar's foreign minister and state councilor, a title created for the country's once-leading voice for democracy since she is constitutionally banned from the presidency. She does not command the military and cannot direct its operations in northern Rakhine state, but her remarks in seeming support of the brutal crackdown

have damaged her global reputation.

In her speech to the visiting foreign ministers, Suu Kyi also cited natural disasters caused by climate change as compounding the world's problems. She said mutual understanding of problems like terrorism would be crucial for peace and economic development.

"I believe that if policymakers develop a true understanding on each of those constraints and difficulties, the process of addressing global problems will become easier and more effective," she said. "It is only through mutual understanding that strong bonds of partnership can be forged."

The European Union's top diplomat said earlier yester-

day that she is encouraging Suu Kyi to implement the recommendations of an expert panel on ensuring stability in Rakhine state and work was still needed on that.

The commission, led by former U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, called for promoting investment and community-directed growth to alleviate poverty in Rakhine, which Myanmar officials have supported. But it also called for Myanmar to grant citizenship and ensure other rights to the Rohingya, which are hotly disputed and effectively render most of them stateless.

The commission, established last year at Suu Kyi's behest, issued its report the day before a Rohingya insurgent group killed dozens in attacks on multiple police posts on Aug. 25. The military's response has been called disproportionate and a textbook example of ethnic cleansing. Rohingya now in Bangladesh have described indiscriminate shootings, rapes and arsons that wiped out whole villages. Some survivors bear wounds from gunshots and land mines.

"Stopping the violence, stopping the flow of refugees and [guaranteeing] full humanitarian access to Rakhine state and safe, sustainable repatriation of the refugees is going to be needed," said Federica Mogherini, the high representative for EU foreign policy.

She said the EU was encouraging Bangladesh and Myanmar to work on that issue. **AP**

## Conflicts take away peace from societies, leaving behind underdevelopment and poverty.

AUNG SAN SUU KYI

# Japan exports climb on surging demand for cars, machinery

Elaine Kurtenbach, Tokyo

**J**APAN'S exports grew 14 percent over a year earlier in October on strong demand for vehicles, electronics and machinery. However, customs data released yesterday showed even faster growth in imports of oil, gas and coal that caused the trade surplus to fall more than 40 percent from the year before.

As China recovers momentum following a slowdown, demand from the region's biggest economy is helping to breathe fresh

life into its neighbors' economies.

Exports are helping to drive a moderate recovery in Japan, the world's third-largest economy, as its factories struggle to keep up with demand for cars, electronic components and manufacturing equipment.

At the same time, Japan's imports have risen thanks to higher costs for crude oil and other commodities: surging 19 percent from the same month a year earlier in October to 6.41 trillion yen (USD57 billion) versus exports of 6.7 trillion yen

(\$59 billion). The resulting surplus of 285.4 billion yen (\$2.54 billion) compared with a 481.2 billion yen surplus a year earlier and 667.7 billion yen in September.

China displaced the U.S. as Japan's biggest export market in October, as shipments to Asia's biggest economy jumped 26 percent to 1.35 trillion yen (\$12 billion). Its imports from China rose 14 percent to 1.62 trillion yen (\$14 billion).

Japan's surplus with the U.S. jumped 11 percent to 644.7 billion yen (\$5.75

billion) on exports of 1.28 trillion yen (\$11 billion), led by chemicals and machinery. Imports from the U.S. climbed 3.1 percent to 637 billion yen (\$5.7 billion), with the biggest growth in imports of fish, soybeans, coal, liquid petroleum gas and iron ore.

Imports of crude oil, gas, coal and other fuels surged 37.5 percent from a year earlier to 1.24 trillion yen (\$11 billion). Rising prices and the weakening of the Japanese yen over the past year contributed to that increase.

"Looking ahead, the ex-



Workers stand at a seaside construction site with the pier of a container terminal in the background in Tokyo

port climate index remains elevated and suggests that export growth will continue at a similar pace as the 6.4 percent year-on-year increase recorded last quarter," Marcel Thieliant of Capital Economics said in a commentary.

But the economies of Japan's major trading partners are likely to slow in the next year, he said. "We therefore we expect real export growth to slow from 6 percent year-on-year this year to 3 percent in 2018." **AP**

# Mladic awaits verdict still revered by many Serbs

Amel Emric, Darko Vojinovic

AS former Bosnian Serb military chief Ratko Mladic — the notorious “Butcher of Bosnia” — awaits a verdict on genocide charges in the custody of the Yugoslav war crimes tribunal, back home in the Balkans he is still revered as a hero by many Serbs.

The U.N. court in The Hague, Netherlands, is set to hand down the verdict in Mladic’s trial on Wednesday. He is accused of overseeing the worst atrocities of Bosnia’s 1992-95 war, including the massacre of 8,000 Muslims in Srebrenica in

1995 and the siege of the capital, Sarajevo.

The ruling is seen as a milestone in bringing justice for the victims of those crimes. But many Serbs both in Bosnia and Serbia believe Mladic is innocent and his trial is unjust.

■ Many of the villagers in Bozinovici have Mladic’s portraits in their homes

Mladic’s home village of Bozinovici, for example, has a street named after the former general and cherishes pictures of him, both from the days when he was a young soldier and from later when he commanded the Bosnian Serb army during the war.

The villagers in Bozinovici are proud to be from the same village as Mladic. Many of them have Mladic’s portraits in their homes and gladly pose for photos beside the pictures. They say Mladic is a saint rather than a villain.

In other Bosnian Serb towns, T-shirts featuring Mladic are sold in the streets. Huge Mladic



A woman walks by a wall decorated with a depiction of former Bosnian Serb Gen. Ratko Mladic in Belgrade

murals are drawn on the walls of the buildings in the Bosnian Serb mini-state and in neighboring Serbia.

There, Mladic is a symbol of defiance and national pride. A

nationalist poster says: “General, thank you for Srebrenica!”

On the other side of the ethnic divide, in Sarajevo, a huge piece of graffiti warns: “Do not forget Srebrenica!” AP

USA

## White House: True cost of opioid epidemic tops USD500b

THE White House says the true cost of the opioid drug epidemic in 2015 was USD504 billion, or roughly half a trillion dollars.

In an analysis released yesterday, the Council of Economic Advisers says the figure is more than six times larger than the most recent estimate. The council said a 2016 private study estimated that prescription opioid overdoses, abuse and dependence in the U.S. in 2013 cost \$78.5 billion. Most of that was attributed to health care and criminal justice spending, along with lost productivity.

The council said its estimate is significantly larger because the epidemic has worsened, with over-



A razor blade is used to divide the contents of a five-dollar vile of crack, a smokable, purified form of cocaine, at a crack house in the South Bronx section of New York

dose deaths doubling in the past decade, and that some previous studies didn’t reflect the number of fatalities blamed on opioids, a powerful but addictive category of painkillers.

The council also noted

that previous studies had focused exclusively on prescription opioids, while its study also factors in illicit opioids, including heroin.

“Previous estimates of the economic cost of the opioid crisis greatly un-

derestimate it by undervaluing the most important component of the loss — fatalities resulting from overdoses,” said the report, which the White House released Sunday night.

Last month at the White House, President Donald Trump declared opioid abuse a national public health emergency. Trump announced an advertising campaign to combat what he said is the worst drug crisis in the nation’s history, but he did not direct any new federal funding toward the effort.

Trump’s declaration stopped short of the emergency declaration that had been sought by a federal commission the president created to study the problem. An interim report by the commission argued for an emergency declaration, saying it would free additional money and resources.

But in its final report earlier this month, the panel called only for more drug courts, more training for doctors and penalties for insurers that dodge covering addiction treatment. It did not call for new money to address the epidemic.

More than 64,000 Americans died from drug overdoses last year, most involving a prescription painkiller or an illicit opioid like heroin. AP



A malnourished child lies in a bed waiting to receive treatment at a therapeutic feeding center in a hospital in Sanaa

YEMEN

## World Food Program fears more deaths amid blockade

THE head of the World Food Program in Yemen said yesterday that millions of Yemenis face the risk of more deaths as aid deliveries cannot get to those in need because of the continuing blockade of the war-ravaged country by the Saudi-led coalition.

Speaking to The Associated Press by telephone from Sanaa, Stephen Anderson said it is “heartbreaking” that millions in Yemen depended on sustained access to humanitarian aid. Of a population of 26 million, some 17 million Yemenis do not know where their next meal is coming from and 7 million are totally dependent on food assistance.

Humanitarian flights to the northern, rebel-held parts of Yemen have been grounded amid the blockade imposed by the coalition in response to a rebel missile attack near the Saudi capital, Riyadh, earlier this month. The missile was struck down but it marked the closest that a rebel projectile had come to the kingdom’s capital.

After widespread international criticism of its blockade, Saudi Arabia said last week it would reverse its closure of Yemen’s sea ports and airports — though not those in the hands of the Shiite rebels known as Houthis.

On Sunday night, a coalition airstrike in the northern Yemeni province of Jawf killed 10 civilians, including four women and two children, according to security officials and tribal sources in the area.

The airstrike targeted a house amid intense fighting in the area between forces loyal to Yemen’s coalition-backed and internationally recognized government, and the Iran-backed Houthis, the officials said.

The coalition, which began its war against the Houthis in 2015, claims the rebels often use civilians as human shields.

The civil war in Yemen, an impoverished Arab nation in the southwest of the Arabian Peninsula, has killed at least 10,000 civilians since it broke out in 2014. AP

AD

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# Charles Manson, whose cult slayings horrified world, dies

**C**HARLES Manson, the hippie cult leader who became the hypnotic-eyed face of evil across America after orchestrating the gruesome murders of pregnant actress Sharon Tate and six others in Los Angeles during the summer of 1969, died Sunday after nearly a half-century in prison. He was 83.

Manson, whose name to this day is synonymous with unspeakable violence and madness, died at 8:13 p.m. of natural causes at a Kern County hospital, according to a California Department of Corrections statement.

Michele Hanisee, president of the Association of Deputy District Attorneys, reacted to the death by quoting the late Vincent Bugliosi, the Los Angeles prosecutor who put Manson behind bars. Bugliosi said: "Manson was an evil, sophisticated con man with twisted and warped moral values."

"Today, Manson's victims are the ones who should be remembered and mourned on the occasion of his death," Hanisee said.

California Corrections spokeswoman Vicky Waters said it's "to be determined" what happens to Manson's body. Prison officials previously said Manson had no known next of kin and state law says that if no relative or legal representative surfaces within 10 days, then it's up to the department to determine whether the body is cremated or buried.

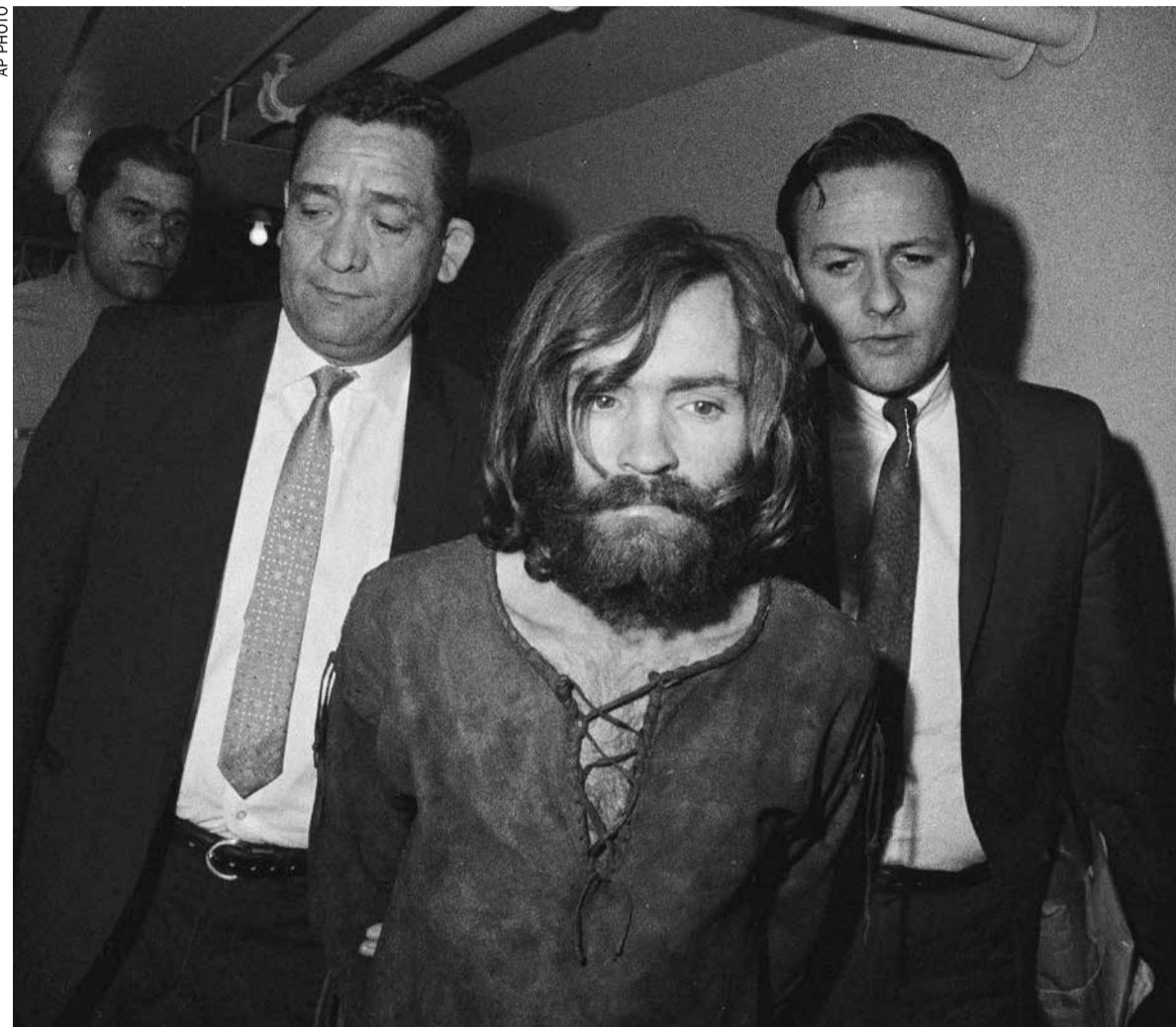
It's not known if Manson requested funeral services of any sort. It's also unclear what happens to his property, which is said to include artwork and at least two guitars. State law says the department must maintain his property for up to a year in anticipation there might be legal battles over who can make a legitimate claim to it.

A petty criminal who had been in and out of jail since childhood, the charismatic, guru-like Manson surrounded himself in the 1960s with runaways and other lost souls and then sent his disciples to butcher some of L.A.'s rich and famous in what prosecutors said was a bid to trigger a race war — an idea he got from a twisted reading of the Beatles song "Helter Skelter."

The slayings horrified the world and, together with the deadly violence that erupted later in 1969 during a Rolling Stones concert at California's Altamont Speedway, exposed the dangerous, drugged-out underside of the counterculture movement and seemed to mark the death of the era of peace and love.

Despite the overwhelming evidence against him, Manson maintained during his tumultuous trial in 1970 that he was innocent and that society itself was guilty.

"These children that come at you with knives, they are your children. You taught them; I di-



In this 1969 file photo, Charles Manson is escorted to his arraignment on conspiracy-murder charges in connection with the Sharon Tate murder case

dn't teach them. I just tried to help them stand up," he said in a courtroom soliloquy.

Linda Deutsch, the longtime courts reporter for The Associated Press who covered the Manson case, said he "left a legacy of evil and hate and murder."

"He was able to take young people who were impressionable and convince them he had the answer to everything and he turned them into killers," she said. "It was beyond anything we had ever seen before in this country."

The Manson Family, as his followers were called, slaughtered five of its victims on Aug. 9, 1969, at Tate's home: the actress, who was 8½ months pregnant, coffee heiress Abigail Folger, celebrity hairdresser Jay Sebring, Polish movie director Voityck Frykowski and Steven Parent, a friend of the estate's caretaker. Tate's husband, "Rosemary's Baby" director Roman Polanski, was out of the country at the time.

The next night, a wealthy grocer and his wife, Leno and Rosemary LaBianca, were stabbed to death in their home across town.

The killers scrawled such phrases as "Pigs" and "Helter Skelter" [sic] in blood at the crime scenes.

Three months later, a Manson follower was jailed on an unrelated charge and told a cellmate about the bloodbath, leading to the cult leader's arrest.

In the annals of American crime, Manson became the embodiment of evil, a short, shaggy-haired, bearded figure with a demonic stare and an "X" — later turned into a swastika — carved into his forehead.

"Many people I know in Los Angeles believe that the Sixties ended abruptly on August 9, 1969," author Joan Didion wrote in her 1979 book "The White Album."

After a trial that lasted nearly a year, Manson and three followers — Susan Atkins, Patricia Krenwinkel and Leslie Van Houten — were found guilty of murder and sentenced to death. Another defendant, Charles "Tex" Watson, was convicted later. All were spared execution and given life sentences after the California Supreme Court struck down the death penalty in 1972.

Atkins died behind bars in 2009. Krenwinkel, Van Houten and Watson remain in prison.

Another Manson devotee, Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme, tried to assassinate President Gerald Ford in 1975, but her gun jammed. She served 34 years in prison.

Manson was born in Cincinnati on Nov. 12, 1934, to a teenager, possibly a prostitute, and was in reform school by the time he was 8. After serving a 10-year sentence for check forgery in the 1960s, Manson was said to have pleaded with authorities not to

release him because he considered prison home.

"My father is the jailhouse. My father is your system," he would later say in a monologue on the witness stand. "I am only what you made me. I am only a reflection of you."

He was set free in San Francisco during the heyday of the hippie movement in the city's Haight-Ashbury section, and though he was in his mid-30s by then, he began collecting followers — mostly women — who likened him to Jesus Christ. Most were teenagers; many came from good homes but were at odds with their parents.

The "family" eventually established a commune-like base at the Spahn Ranch, a ramshackle former movie location outside Los Angeles, where Manson manipulated his followers with drugs, supervised orgies and subjected them to bizarre lectures.

He had musical ambitions and befriended rock stars, including Beach Boy Dennis Wilson. He also met Terry Melcher, a music producer who had lived in the same house that Polanski and Tate later rented.

By the summer 1969, Manson had failed to sell his songs, and the rejection was later seen as a trigger for the violence. He complained that Wilson took a Manson song called "Cease to Exist," revised it into "Never Learn Not to Love" and recorded it with the

Beach Boys without giving Manson credit.

Manson was obsessed with Beatles music, particularly "Piggies" and "Helter Skelter," a hard-rocking song that he interpreted as forecasting the end of the world. He told his followers that "Helter Skelter is coming down" and predicted a race war would destroy the planet.

"Everybody attached themselves to us, whether it was our fault or not," the Beatles' George Harrison, who wrote "Piggies," later said of the murders. "It was upsetting to be associated with something so sleazy as Charles Manson."

According to testimony, Manson sent his devotees out on the night of Tate's murder with instructions to "do something witchy." The state's star witness, Linda Kasabian, who was granted immunity, testified that Manson tied up the LaBiancas, then ordered his followers to kill. But Manson insisted: "I have killed no one, and I have ordered no one to be killed."

His trial was nearly scuttled when President Richard Nixon said Manson was "guilty, directly or indirectly." Manson grabbed a newspaper and held up the front-page headline for jurors to read: "Manson Guilty, Nixon Declares." Attorneys demanded a mistrial but were turned down.

From then on, jurors, sequestered at a hotel for 10 months, traveled to and from the courtroom in buses with blacked-out windows so they could not read the headlines on newsstands.

Manson was also later convicted of the slayings of musician Gary Hinman and stuntman Donald "Shorty" Shea.

Over the decades, Manson and his followers appeared sporadically at parole hearings, where their bids for freedom were repeatedly rejected. The women suggested they had been rehabilitated, but Manson himself stopped attending, saying prison had become his home.

The killings inspired movies and TV shows, and Bugliosi wrote a best-selling book about the murders, "Helter Skelter." The macabre shock rocker Marilyn Manson borrowed part of his stage name from the killer.

"The Manson case, to this day, remains one of the most chilling in crime history," prominent criminal justice reporter Theo Wilson wrote in her 1998 memoir, "Headline Justice: Inside the Courtroom — The Country's Most Controversial Trials."

"Even people who were not yet born when the murders took place," Wilson wrote, "know the name Charles Manson, and shudder." AP

## what's ON



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UNTIL: March 31, 2018

ADMISSION: Free

ORGANIZER: Macau Post and Telecommunications Bureau

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COLLECTION - 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY

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ADMISSION: Free

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## Offbeat

## NYC TAXI DRIVERS CAMP IT UP IN PLAYFUL PINUP CALENDAR



New York City cabbies have been called a lot of things over the years ... courteous, reckless, sometimes rude. But sexy?

That's the tongue-in-cheek goal of a quirky pinup calendar featuring a dozen New York City taxi drivers smirking and smoldering in provocative poses in and around their yellow cabs.

The NYC Taxi Drivers Calendar was the brainchild of Phil and Shannon Kirkman, a husband-and-wife team who thought it was high time cabbies stepped out from behind the wheel and enjoyed a little of the attention that firefighters and others have gotten from their steamy calendars.

"No. 1, you rarely see the driver," Phil Kirkman says. "You get in a cab and they're facing forward and that's sort of your experience with the driver. And we saw that as an opportunity to shine a positive light on them and the industry that they work in."

A portion of the proceeds from sales of the \$14.99 calendar benefits University Settlement, a charity that helps low-income New York City immigrants. That five-year partnership, which has so far raised more than \$60,000, makes sense, Kirkman says, because the great majority of taxi drivers are immigrants.

Eleven men and one woman camp it up in the 2018 taxi calendar. A shirtless driver in Chippendales-style bowtie and shirt cuffs leans against a vintage Checker cab. Another driver, also shirtless, licks icing from a cake with his picture on it.

Terry Samlall, Mr. November, is pictured draping his left hand over the steering wheel as a female passenger reaches from the back seat to tuck a \$100 bill into his mesh T-shirt. The 46-year-old Samlall says, unfortunately, he doesn't get tips that big in real life.

Luis Marte is appearing in the calendar for the second straight year. After he posed last year on the cover of the calendar with his shirt unbuttoned, women he didn't know sent him Facebook messages.

"My wife was having none of it," says the 34-year-old Marte.

## TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	RTPi Live
14:55	Debate of the Lines of Governmental Action for 2018: Administration and Justice (Live)
20:00	Brazilian Mini Serie (Repeated)
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Interview
21:30	Grimm Sr. 2
22:10	Brazilian Soap Opera - Premiere
22:40	Miscellaneous
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:40	Champions League: Besiktas x Porto (Live)
03:05	RTPi Live

## cinema



## CINETEATRO

16 Nov - 22 Nov



## JUSTICE LEAGUE

ROOM 1  
(2D) 2:30, 4:45, 9:30pm  
(3D) 19:15pm

Director: Zack Snyder

Starring: Ben Affleck, Raymond Fisher, Jason Momoa

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 118 min



## THE GLASS CASTLE

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

Director: Destin Daniel Cretton

Starring: Brie Larson, Woody Harrelson, Max Greenfield

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 109 min

## THOR: RAGNAROK

ROOM 1

7:00pm

Director: Taika Waititi

Starring: Chris Hemsworth, Cate Blanchett, Tom Hiddleston

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 109 min

## MIX!

ROOM 3

2:30, 7:15PM

Director: Junichi Ishikawa

Starring: Yui Aragaki, Eita Ryoko, Hiroe Koji Seto, Mei Nagano, Yu, Aoi

Language: Japanese (Chinese &amp; English)

Duration: 120 min

## LET ME EAT YOUR PANCREAS

ROOM 3

4:45, 9:30pm

Director: Sho Tsukikawa

Starring: Minami Hamabe, Takumi Kitamura, Shun Oguri

Language: Japanese (Chinese &amp; English)

Duration: 115min

## this day in history



## 1979 MOB DESTROYS US EMBASSY IN PAKISTAN

A mob in the Pakistani capital, Islamabad, has burned the US Embassy to the ground, killing a US marine.

The five-hour siege began as an organized student protest outside the locked gates of the embassy compound.

But the demonstration grew violent as protesters pulled down part of the outer wall and broke into the compound itself. Gunfire broke out, and the marine, who was standing on the roof of the building, was shot.

The attacks are believed to have been triggered by a radio report from the Iranian leader, Ayatollah Khomeini, saying Americans were behind the occupation of Islam's holiest site, the Great Mosque in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, yesterday.

The US State Department has described the broadcast as "irresponsible, outright, knowing lies".

The Saudi Arabian authorities have also issued statements saying the Mecca incident was the work of Muslim fundamentalists and no Westerners were involved.

American relations with Pakistan are already at a low point after the US cut off aid in April over Pakistan's nuclear ambitions, and criticized the human rights record of Pakistani leader General Mohammed Zia ul-Haq.

As the protesters began smashing windows and setting fire to the building, more than 100 embassy staff took refuge in a steel-lined and windowless vault on an upstairs floor.

Those trapped in the room included US diplomats, Pakistani staff members and a visiting journalist from Time magazine. The Ambassador, Arthur W Hummel Junior, was outside the building when the attack began.

Staff inside were able to contact him, and it was Ambassador Hummel who raised the alarm and requested help from Pakistan's government.

Meanwhile, protesters found their way onto the roof of the building, and staff members later said they began firing bullets down ventilation shafts.

General Zia ordered the Pakistan Army to rescue the trapped Americans, and soldiers brought the situation under control at about 1800 local time (1300 GMT), about five and a half hours after the attack began.

Several other American institutions in Pakistan were also targeted in what appears to have been an orchestrated day of anti-American violence.

Tensions are running high since 66 American citizens were taken hostage by Iranian radical students, who seized the US embassy in Tehran just over two weeks ago.

President Carter yesterday threatened the use of force for the first time after the Ayatollah Khomeini accused the American hostages of being "spies" - effectively handing down a death sentence on them.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

During the search of the embassy compound following the siege, a further five bodies were found. One was an American, two were Pakistani staff members, and two were protesters.

Relations between the US and Pakistan remained uneasy until 2001, when Pakistan agreed to support the US-declared "war on terror", and helped overthrowing the Taleban regime in Afghanistan.

Pakistan has also captured more than 500 members of al-Qaeda and handed them over to the US.

However, extremist groups within Pakistan continue to target US establishments there. In 2002 alone, there were seven attacks against the small American community which still lives and works in Pakistan.

The American embassy in Islamabad is now one of the most heavily-fortified in the world. US intelligence officials and diplomatic security staff analyze as many as five potential attack threats a day. The Iranian hostage crisis caused a breakdown in diplomatic relations between Iran and the US in 1980.

The remaining 52 American hostages remained in captivity for 444 days, until their release on 21 January 1981.



YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 All you need to do today is hit the ground running - if you do, you're sure to get a huge jump on the competition. In this race, what counts isn't how quickly you end up at the finish line.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Go for it as soon as you can! If you can't just drop everything right this minute, then at the very least, you should get out your calendar and pick a day in the very near future that is strictly for you.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You need to work some of that black magic you're so well known for. Bring everything you've got in terms of charm and persuasiveness. Those qualities run deeply in you.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 While you want to play the best friend, relative or sweetie you can, you just can't solve their problems on your own - so stop trying. It just stresses you both out in the end.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You are all about innovation, and that's why you've become the go-to person for problem-solving amongst your crew. The current situation that's got everyone a-twitter might be a toughie, but don't give up.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 You should get a gold medal in the diplomatic Olympics, and with hardly any real work on your part, too. The universe has amplified your already not-insignificant charisma.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Whatever you're doing these days to attract love is working - you've got the look, and how! The right people can't help but notice when you're nearby, so go ahead and work that magic of yours to its fullest extent.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 The first thing you need to do is examine your motives - are they entirely altruistic, or are there some hidden influences that should be uprooted before you speak your piece?

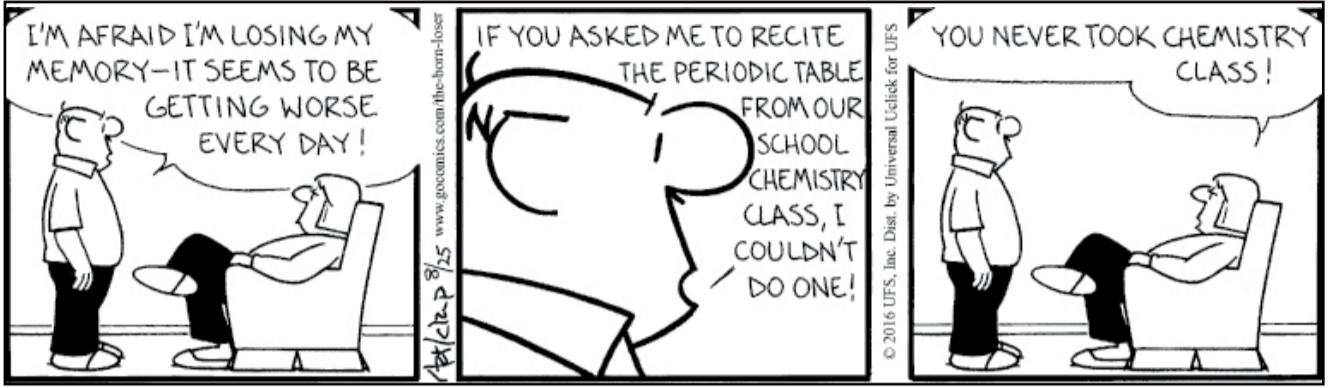
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Lay the groundwork for something really huge. On days like today, which are relatively easygoing for you, it's a good idea for you to start thinking about your larger goals and hopes.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Get a fresh start today! You can leave the small stuff for later - for now, try to focus on getting your plans off the ground and getting to know the people who share your goals and might help you later on down the road.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Connections can speak in the most unexpected places if you let them, so keep your eyes and ears open today. Someone quite different should come along soon.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You need to get rid of some heavy baggage before you can get a fresh start. It might be actual, physical stuff - do you really need to keep every one of those shoes in the closet forever?

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

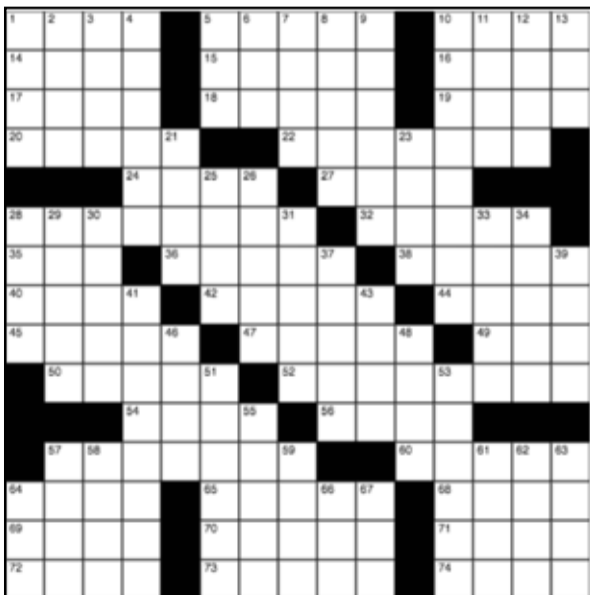
WEATHER

Weather forecast table with columns: CHINA, MIN, MAX, CONDITION. Lists cities like Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, etc.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Prego rival; 5- Point in question; 10- Prejudice; 14- Hanging to one side; 15- Cuban dance; 16- Catch a view of; 17- Liquid container; 18- Running wild; 19- Property claim; 20- Eight Days \_\_\_; 22- Sampling; 24- Business letter abbr.; 27- Make weary; 28- Wife of Moses; 32- Maritime; 35- "Wheel of Fortune" buy; 36- Folded food; 38- Shouts; 40- Final Four org.; 42- Approvals; 44- Clock face; 45- Fenced areas; 47- Spirited horse; 49- Where \_\_\_?; 50- Reduces speed; 52- Derides; 54- Charge per unit; 56- That's \_\_\_ haven't heard; 57- Military unit; 60- Night noise; 64- Slovenly person; 65- Easy \_\_\_; 68- Dagger; 69- Travel on water; 70- Fungal infection; 71- Pianist Gilels; 72- Auld Lang \_\_\_; 73- Catches; 74- Contradict;

Down: 1- Pro \_\_\_; 2- What there oughta be; 3- Vanished; 4- Maintenance; 5- George Gershwin's brother; 6- Big \_\_\_, Calif.; 7- Struck, old-style; 8- German submarine; 9- Dines at home; 10- Had faith; 11- The doctor \_\_\_; 12- Take down \_\_\_; 13- Thesaurus wd.; 21- Nautical speed unit; 23- Cafeteria carrier; 25- Supercomputer name; 26- Shoe ties; 28- Madcap; 29- Early Peruvians; 30- Bit of wisdom; 31- Emcees; 33- Assumed name; 34- South American ruminant; 37- \_\_\_ evil...; 39- Narrow cut; 41- Awwww! Cute!; 43- Visualized; 46- Attack a fly; 48- Poor grades; 51- Summer ermines; 53- Washed lightly; 55- Red fluorescent dye; 57- Drama; 58- Beef cut; 59- Granny; 61- Treater's words; 62- Harness part; 63- Hard to hold; 64- Leaky tire sound; 66- Implore; 67- \_\_\_ in Charlie;



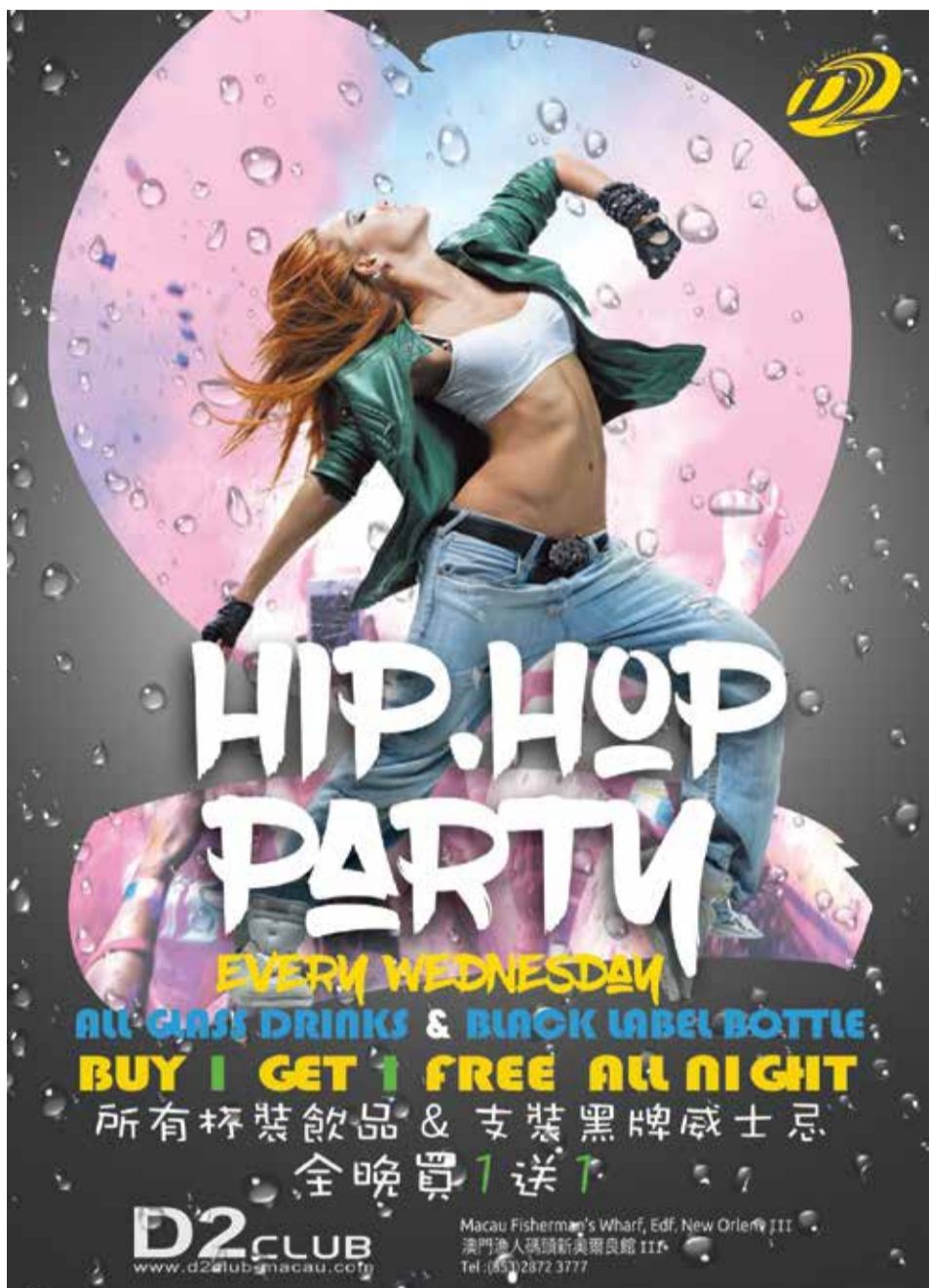
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Graham Dunbar, Rob Harris

FOOTBALL

# World Cup bribes, death threats: Corrupt world of FIFA

**H**OUR after hour in a New York City courtroom, the schemes to corrupt world football are spilling out.

The millions of dollars in “inducements” to secure contracts to televise matches. The bribes sought by FIFA executives with the power to determine World Cup hosts. The death threats for cooperating with investigators.

It took the intervention of the U.S. Department of Justice to disrupt years of embezzlement by officials who abused roles in the global football governing body, FIFA, to enjoy a gilded lifestyle. Two years after a sprawling investigation of FIFA led to waves of arrests that shook football, the trial of three men is underway and about to enter its second week.

Though the trial in Brooklyn is dealing with corruption allegations before new FIFA leaders emerged in 2016, officials still prominent in football are not untouched by the evidence already heard in court — particularly relating to the awarding of the 2022 World Cup to Qatar.

Here is a look at the talking points from the first week of the trial:

**ON TRIAL**

The three men on trial pleaded not guilty to charges they took part in a 24-year scheme involving at least USD150 million in bribes paid by marketing firms in exchange for lucrative broadcasting and hosting rights for prestigious tournaments:

— Jose Maria Marin (Brazil): Former president of the Brazilian football federation arrested in a raid on a hotel in Zurich in May 2015.

— Juan Angel Napout (Paraguay): Swept up in a second wave of arrests at the same hotel in Zurich in December 2015. As president of South American football confederation CONMEBOL, Napout was portraying himself as an agent of reform who could clean up FIFA before being indicted.

— Manuel Burga (Peru): Former Peruvian football federation president detained along with Napout at the Baur au Lac hotel close to FIFA's Swiss headquarters.

**STAR WITNESS**

More than 40 other officials, business executives and entities have been charged. Many have pleaded guilty, hoping to receive reduced sentences, including Alejandro Burzaco, the former head of the Argentine sports marketing company Torneos y Competencias, who is a star witness for the prosecution.

**QATAR WORLD CUP**

No decision has proved more toxic for FIFA than the 2010 vote that handed the 2022 World Cup to Qatar. The bid has been stained by suspicion of wrongdoing for years, although FIFA has been unable to uncover evidence it says would warrant stripping the Middle East of its first World Cup.



AP PHOTO  
Jose Maria Marin leaves federal court in the Brooklyn borough of New York

Usually quick to defend their integrity, the Qataris have been silent on the fresh claims of vote-buying divulged in court.

According to Burzaco, three South Americans were among 22 FIFA executive committee voters who took million-dollar bribes to support Qatar, which beat out the United States in the final round of voting in December 2010.

A rule-breaking voting pact between Qatar and the Spain-Portugal campaign in the 2018 bidding — twice investigated by FIFA's ethics committee but unproven — was given fresh credence in court by Burzaco, a trusted associate to the late former FIFA senior vice president Julio Grondona, to whom he channeled bribes worth millions.

Grondona was the most influential of South America's trio of FIFA voters, and would surely have been indicted but for his death in July 2014. The other two voters, Ricardo Teixeira of Brazil and Nicolas Leoz of Paraguay, were indicted by U.S. prosecutors in 2015 but have avoided extradition from their home countries.

Burzaco testified to conversations and incidents with Grondona in 2011, including a confrontation about media reports of bid bribes with Qatari officials at the five-star Copacabana Palace Hotel in Rio de Janeiro.

An angry Grondona, Burzaco testified, later complained he got into “all these mess and scandal for only” \$1.5 million while two others had fooled him and got \$75 million. Those two, the court was told, were Teixeira and Sandro Rosell, a former Nike executive and then-president of Spanish club Barcelona who had business ties to Qatar.

FIFA has not directly commen-

ted on last week's courtroom allegations, inevitably waiting for the conclusion of the trial. Qatar's hosting of the World Cup has come under fresh attack in recent weeks by neighboring countries that have severed diplomatic ties with the emirate.

**BROADCASTERS' BRIBES**

While the probity of the World Cup vote has been thrust back into the spotlight, much of the evidence so far relates to how officials sprayed illegal cash payments to secure broadcasting rights in the Americas.

Leading broadcasters have been implicated by Burzaco's evidence about the trail of bribes, including Fox Sports (United States), Televisa (Mexico) and TV Globo (Brazil), which deny wrongdoing.

**SLIT-THROAT GESTURE**

The most dramatic moment in the opening week of the trial saw Burga accused of threatening Burzaco by making a slashing motion on his neck as the witness testified. Burga claimed he was scratching his throat but still had his bail conditions tightened. Burzaco earlier disclosed he became the target of death threats after it emerged he was cooperating with authorities.

**SUICIDE**

A former Argentine government official, Jorge Delhon, killed himself hours after the court was told he took millions in bribes in exchange for handing out television rights.

Jorge Delhon, a lawyer who worked in the administration of former Argentina President Cristina Fernandez, dealt with the now-defunct government program Futbol para Todos (Football

for All), which broadcast local football matches on public TV. Burzaco implicated Delhon in taking bribes.

**POLITICAL LINKS**

The close ties in South America among lawmakers, judges and football leaders are becoming clearer.

In a series of WhatsApp messages detailed in court Wednesday, Napout revealed his links to the current state president of Paraguay, Horacio Cartes.

Napout passed on to Burzaco a request from Cartes' private office to buy eight tickets for Argentina's game against Iran at the 2014 World Cup. Around that time, Napout also noted CONMEBOL had been in a legal case with a businessman and that Cartes “resolved the entire trial and did it all because of me.”

Cartes also advised Napout to “stay close” to Grondona of Argentina to fulfil his ambition to lead CONMEBOL, the WhatsApp messages revealed.

When Argentina reached the semifinals, Napout asked Burzaco to get four tickets for Paraguay's attorney general to buy. In a WhatsApp message, Napout tells Burzaco, “we have a trial over there. There are two judges mad because I refused” to get tickets.

**CURRENT OFFICIALS**

The desire by FIFA to characterize the trial as dealing with officials long banished from world football is made harder when officials currently influential in the game are mentioned in court.

FIFA's current finance committee chairman, Alejandro Dominguez, was referred to during the trial on Wednesday as “not a very successful businessman [who]

will probably request” a bribe.

Burzaco, the prosecution's star witness, said he was told this about Dominguez by Napout in early 2015. Napout is a Paraguayan like Dominguez, and his predecessor as CONMEBOL leader.

Under current FIFA President Gianni Infantino, Dominguez is a key ally in Zurich as one of FIFA's eight vice presidents and was rewarded with being made chairman of the finance panel.

Among many football officials whose photographs Burzaco was asked by prosecutors to identify on Tuesday were Sunil Gulati, the most influential American at FIFA, and Nasser Al-Khelaifi, the Qatari who heads French football club Paris Saint-Germain and broadcaster beIN Sports. Al-Khelaifi is under criminal investigation in Switzerland for suspected bribery linked to FIFA awarding beIN broadcast rights to the 2026 and 2030 World Cups.

The U.S. has not accused Gulati or Al-Khelaifi of any offenses.

**EVADING JUSTICE**

Several football officials indicted in 2015 are absent from court as they fight extradition to the United States:

— Jack Warner (Trinidad and Tobago): Charged in May 2015, four years after quitting as a FIFA vice president to avoid sanctions in the bribery case connected to a presidential election. Later banned for life by FIFA for misconduct during the 2018-2022 World Cup bidding process.

— Marco Polo del Nero (Brazil): Despite being charged with corruption, remains president of the Brazilian federation and met with FIFA's Infantino during the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics. Del Nero fled Zurich in May 2015 when FIFA colleagues were arrested, quit the executive committee after missing meetings and was then indicted in the U.S. in December 2015.

— Nicolas Leoz (Paraguay): President of CONMEBOL from 1986 to 2013, when he resigned for receiving \$130,000 in payments from a former FIFA marketing partner. Wanted in the U.S. on charges of receiving millions of dollars in bribes linked to marketing and television contracts, Leoz's extradition was finally approved by a judge in Paraguay last week just as the FIFA trial was getting underway in Brooklyn.

— Ricardo Teixeira (Brazil): A former son-in-law of Joao Havelange, FIFA's president in 1974-98, Teixeira quit as Brazilian federation head and a FIFA executive committee member in 2012 as corruption allegations mounted. **AP**

opinion

Our Desk  
Lynzy Valles



POSITIVE DISCRIMINATION?

The Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) launched a 45-day public consultation last week regarding the proposed implementation of a statutory minimum wage for all workers – excluding domestic helpers and disabled employees.

As the authorities described the supposedly fair wage increase to non-residents, they noted that this move could also be dubbed as “positive discrimination,” whatever that means.

DSAL has already explained that the draft at the consultation excludes some workers, due to the “uniqueness” of the nature of domestic workers, and the the disabled workers “employment rights.”

With that said, these workers, particularly household workers, slammed the government’s move noting that it is unfair for them to not be included in the proposed implementation of a minimum wage.

These workers, many of whom are active on social media, have actively expressed themselves online, implying that Macau’s authorities are expected to do better than implementing these kinds of measures.

Macau will not acquire a minimum wage law for these workers. Disconcerting as it could be, the city does not demand that employers need to pay long service fees, (as compared to the HKSAR, where they are required to), nor does it protect the rights of these workers.

It is unnecessary to continually give quotas to residents who cannot afford to pay a basic MOP3,800 to these workers – but that is just another matter that is not being tackled.

Now that Macau is planning on a universal minimum wage, these household workers should be the ones prioritized in this plan, including other low-paying jobs.

At the beginning of the year, a statutory minimum wage of MOP30 per hour for cleaners and doormen employed by the property management sector was enforced.

If they could establish that minimum, why can’t they for domestic workers?

If a household employee earns MOP3,800 per month, she would earn MOP126 per day.

If on average domestic helpers earn MOP126 per day, it would be painful to do the further calculations to work out the hourly rate.

And what about those earning less than that?

This is not about domestic workers feeling entitled to be included in whatever assistance or subsidies the government gives to the BIR holders, but this is about - at least - raising the city’s image regarding their labor laws regarding these workers.

These workers should not be left behind when it comes to labor laws and minimum wage laws as they are already the lowest earners in the region.

These workers are not demanding a relatively high pay, but they want their voices to be heard by local authorities as well. After all, they are employees who assume positions in thousands of households – which residents would not be doing.

If it’s the “uniqueness” of the nature of their job that is the main reason why they are not included in the universal minimum wage implementation, these employees in Macau will not accept this as valid grounds for exclusion.

Is it unique in a sense where they work over eight hours a day, or in a sense where their salaries have never been lawfully adjusted along with the inflation in the cost of living in the city?

The government has always pledged to “listen to public opinion,” but I doubt these workers are included in the government’s definition of “public.”

These are workers who need local unions to fight for their rights so that they are heard. Rights protection for domestic helpers would allow them to feel protected and valued, in a period of their lives where they have left the comfort of their homes – by choice - to serve MSAR residents.

Why can’t we implement something that would also be in their favor?

THE BUZZ HARRISON FORD COMES TO THE RESCUE AFTER CAR ACCIDENT

Harrison Ford came to the real-life rescue of a woman who was involved in a car accident north of Los Angeles.

Santa Paula, California, police tell the Ventura County Star that the actor and a friend were in the area when a car rolled off a highway in the small town Sunday around noon. Senior

Officer Matt Alonzo says Ford and the friend came to the driver’s aide and acted as good Samaritans. He says Ford and other people on scene were able to help the woman out of the car. She suffered minor injuries.

TMZ published pictures Sunday of Ford standing by the car on the side of a hill and talking with police.



Station	Air quality
Roadside	25-45 Good
High Density Residential Area	20-40 Good
Ambient	25-45 Good

SOURCE: DSI/MG

ZIMBABWE

Mugabe faces impeachment as he balks at retiring

ZIMBABWEAN lawmakers are set to begin impeachment proceedings against President Robert Mugabe and vote him out of power within two days after he missed a ruling-party deadline to end his 37-year rule.

“We will move a motion tomorrow, set up the committee tomorrow [today] and on Wednesday it reports back and we vote him out,” the Zimbabwe African National Union -Patriotic Front deputy secretary for legal affairs, Paul Mangwana, told reporters yesterday at party headquarters in Harare, the capital.

Mugabe was widely expected to use a televised address on Sunday to announce his retirement so that Emmerson Mnangagwa, whom he fired as vice president this month, could take over. Instead, he delivered a rambling and largely incoherent speech, in which he pledged to preside over a December congress of the governing party, which had dumped him as leader earlier in the day.

Three senior party officials who spoke on condition of anonymity said Mugabe deviated from an agreed-upon text and he’ll now be forced from office by Zanu-PF, which had given him a deadline of midday Monday to quit. All the party’s lawmakers



Robert Mugabe (center)

were summoned to a special caucus meeting at its headquarters yesterday, according to two legislators who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Zanu-PF wrote a letter to Mugabe, 93, telling him to step down after his failure to do so on Sunday, according to a senior party official who asked not to be named.

Read more on how Mugabe lost power in Zimbabwe

The ruling party fired Mugabe as its leader four days after the military placed him under house arrest and detained several of his closest allies -- a move triggered by his dismissal of Mnangagwa, 75. The former vice president will be reinstated and be named as interim leader and Zanu-PF’s presidential candidate in elections next year.

Tens of thousands of people took to the streets of Harare and Bulawayo, the second-

largest city, on Saturday to celebrate Mugabe’s imminent ouster.

The moves against Mugabe are the culmination of a battle for control of the ruling party between a military-aligned faction that’s coalesced around Mnangagwa and another known as the Generation-40, which wants the president’s wife Grace Mugabe to succeed him.

Mnangagwa, who’s one of the pillars of the security establishment that has helped keep Mugabe in power since white minority rule ended in 1980, emerged as the victor, with the party expelling Grace and her allies.

The political crisis comes as the economy is in free-fall. An estimated 95 percent of the workforce is unemployed, public infrastructure is crumbling and about 3 million Zimbabweans have gone into exile. **Bloomberg**

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



AP Photo/Luis Hidalgo

Citizens cast their ballots at a polling station during Sunday’s presidential elections in Santiago, Chile. Around 37 percent of the voters backed billionaire and former President Sebastian Pinera, according to the latest count from the electoral service, compared with 22.7 percent for the ruling coalition candidate Alejandro Guillier. The two will now go to a runoff vote on Dec. 17.

WORLD BRIEFS

**INDIA** A member of India’s Hindu nationalist ruling party has offered a 100 million rupee (USD1.5 million) reward to anyone who beheads the lead actress and the director of the yet-to-be released Bollywood film “Padmavati” over its alleged handling of the relationship between a Hindu queen and a Muslim ruler.



**ISRAEL-PALESTINE** Supporters of an international boycott movement against Israel have lashed out at rock star Nick Cave after he played in the Jewish state and accused the pro-Palestinian activists of trying to bully musicians.

**YEMEN** The head of the World Food Program in Yemen said yesterday that millions of Yemenis face the risk of more deaths as aid deliveries cannot get to those in need because of the continuing blockade of the war-ravaged country by the Saudi-led coalition.

More on p14



**SERBIA** A lawyer for Gen. Ratko Mladic said yesterday it is not certain the former Bosnian Serb military commander will show up in a United Nations courtroom when judges deliver their verdicts in his long-running trial for allegedly masterminding atrocities during Bosnia’s 1992-95 war. **More on p14**

**GERMANY** Chancellor Angela Merkel said she would prefer to go ahead with new federal elections rather than try to form a minority government, as Europe’s most powerful leader weighs her options after the collapse of four-party coalition talks late Sunday.

**BRAZIL** A new boss has taken over Brazil’s federal police despite widespread criticism of his appointment. Fernando Segovia was sworn in by unpopular Brazilian President Michel Temer, who is himself being investigated by the force.