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In-N-Out worker reveals cult burger chain's secrets, tips



Inside C5

Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

Sunday, December 24, 2017 | www.today-america.com | Southern News Group

Christmas market opens in Algerian capital

ALGIERS (Reuters) - A small Christmas market has opened in Algeria's capital, catering to a rising number of Christian African migrants as well as diplomats and locals in the overwhelmingly Muslim country. Around 99 percent of Algeria's population is Sunni Muslim but the number of Christians has been rising due to an influx of migrants from sub-Saharan countries such as Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso. The market, organized by the Caritas charity, is also a sign of stable security in a country that has rebounded from a decade of Islamist militant violence during which 200,000 people died. Diplomats used to hunker down in fortified embassies, rarely venturing out, but now live alongside Algerians in residential quarters. No militant attack has been reported in Algiers for more than 10 years. Caritas staged a similar Christmas market last year but kept it low profile. This year it advertised the market in advance, calling for a "living together" between Christians and Muslims. No official figure is

available for the number of African migrants, but some estimates put it at around 100,000. "It is not about making money, but rather about using the money to help the most vulnerable, whether Algerians, African migrants or Syrians," Caritas Algeria director Maurice Pilloud said. Veiled Muslim women mix with foreigners at the market in Algiers' El Biar district, where honey, chocolate, cakes, jewelry and trinkets are sold. Many donations came from Muslims, said Pilloud. The market offers the chance for young people to make a contribution to society in a political system where the ruling party has dominated all aspects of the oil-producing North African state since independence in 1962. "Charitable work remains most attractive for a majority of young Algerians who shun political action because it doesn't bring change," said Cherif Lounes, 47, who was visiting the market along with his mother. "We need 50 Caritas associations in Algeria to help the vulnerable, whether Algerians or migrants," added Saida, his 79-year-old mother.



Driver of a Maerlitram (fairy tram), dressed as a Santa Claus, walks past a car which crashed into the tram in Zurich

U.N. to make proposals to kickstart Syrian reform process



A Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) fighter sits as medics treat his comrades injured by sniper fired by Islamic State militants in a field hospital in Raqqa, Syria, June 28, 2017.

UNITED NATIONS/GENEVA (Reuters) - The United Nations will propose to Syria's warring parties a timeline for elections and guidance on constitutional reform in a bid to revive stalled peace talks, mediator Staffan de Mistura told the U.N. Security Council on Tuesday. The Council launched the peace process two years ago with instructions to negotiate new governance for Syria, U.N.-supervised elections and constitutional reform. But the eighth

round ended last week with no dialogue between the two sides. The U.N. could make recommendations on a timeline to broker elections for all Syrians including refugees and internally displaced people because only such a process would be seen as legitimate by ordinary Syrians, de Mistura said. It could also help to guide constitutional reform and help establish a constitutional commission and a national dialogue body, with the Syrian people solely responsible for writing and approving a new constitution.

After one week, Myanmar silent on whereabouts of detained Reuters journalists

YANGON (Reuters) - Two Reuters journalists completed a week in detention in Myanmar on Tuesday, with no word on where they were being held as authorities proceeded with an investigation into whether they violated the country's colonial-era Official Secrets Act.

Journalists Wa Lone, 31, and Kyaw Soe Oo, 27, were arrested last Tuesday evening after they were invited to dine with police officers on the outskirts of Myanmar's largest city, Yangon. "We and their families continue to be denied access to them or to the most basic information about their well-being and whereabouts," Reuters President and Editor-In-Chief Stephen J. Adler said in a statement calling for their immediate release. "Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo are journalists who perform a crucial role in shedding light on news of global interest, and they are innocent of any wrongdoing."



Reuters journalists, Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo, are seen in a photo, released on December 13, 2017 by Myanmar Ministry of Information, after they were arrested

The news group Democratic Voice of Burma (DVB) on Tuesday cited government spokesman Zaw Htay as saying that the journalists were "being treated well and in good health". It gave no further details in its online report. Reuters was unable to reach Zaw Htay for comment. Myanmar's civilian president, Htin Kyaw, a close ally of government leader Aung San Suu Kyi, has authorized the police to proceed with a case against the reporters, Zaw Htay said on Sunday.

Approval from the president's office is needed before court proceedings can begin in cases brought under the Official Secrets Act, which has a maximum prison sentence of 14 years. The two journalists had worked on Reuters coverage of a crisis that has seen an estimated 655,000 Rohingya Muslims flee from a fierce military crackdown on militants in the western state of Rakhine.



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The US has officially blamed North Korea for the "WannaCry" cyberattacks that disabled hundreds of thousands of computers across more than 150 countries back in May.

The announcement marks an acknowledgment of the sophistication of Pyongyang's cyber capabilities — and serves as a reminder that the hermit kingdom's threats to the world extend well beyond its rapidly advancing nuclear program.

"The attack was widespread and cost billions, and North Korea is directly responsible," White House Homeland Security Adviser Tom Bossert wrote in a Wall Street Journal op-ed Monday evening. "It was cowardly, costly and careless."



The US is officially blaming Pyongyang for the ransomware attacks that struck more than 150 countries.

The WannaCry cyberattacks used ransomware — where hackers use malware to scramble a victim's files and then demand money to unscramble them — to infect businesses, banks, hospitals, and schools the world over. One of the biggest strikes occurred in Britain, causing havoc in the UK's health care system, where it interfered with surgeries and emergency services.

Bossert said the US has evidence that Pyongyang ordered the attack, though he declined to provide details on what that evidence was.

Alexander Klimburg, a cybersecurity expert at the Atlantic Council think tank and author of The Darkening Web, told me the likeliest culprit was a well-known and powerful hacking network known as the Lazarus Group. He said that while the exact identities of the Lazarus Group hackers are the subject of ongoing debate, the overwhelming opinion in the information security community at the moment is that they are "a majority North Korean group — special forces and operatives," and are largely based in northern China.

WannaCry Hack Shows North Korea's Emergence As A Cyber Powerhouse

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



Screenshot of the WannaCry ransom message millions of computer users received.

The Lazarus Group is behind some of the most high-profile cyberattacks across the world in recent years. Experts and analysts believe they were behind the \$81 million cyber heist of the Bangladesh Central Bank in 2016 and the leak of confidential data from Sony Pictures in 2014 right before it released The Interview, a comedy about two Americans who assassinate North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

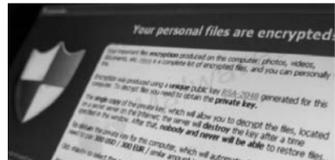
The WannaCry attack was really dangerous

The WannaCry ransomware exploited a vulnerability in old Windows software and used it to freeze computers and then allow hackers to demand somewhere between \$300 and \$600 in bitcoin (digital currency) from victims to unlock their computers. "WannaCry was pretty sophisticated, and it moved very quickly," Klimburg said. He also stressed that networks like the one used by the UK's health care system would have been protected if the Windows operating systems on its computers were up to date and it had adequate security measures in place.

During a press briefing on Tuesday, Bossert said that even though ransomware is generally designed to extract money from victims, the fact that WannaCry mal-

ware didn't actually unlock after victims paid the ransom means it wasn't really about making money.

"This was a reckless attack; it was meant to cause havoc and destruction. The money was an ancillary side benefit, and I don't think they got a lot of it," Bossert said.



North Korea's advanced hacking operations certainly don't always seek to merely cause chaos. In 2016, North Korean intelligence services stole 235 gigabytes of classified US and South Korean military plans — including a plan to assassinate North Korea's dictator Kim Jong Un and other top government officials.

These days, the biggest threat coming from North Korea is tied to its nuclear and ballistic missile development. There is a growing risk of the US entering a nuclear conflict with North Korea as the two countries continue to provoke each other with constant talk of war.

But Pyongyang's cyber capabilities are nothing to sneeze at — and as the WannaCry attack proved, they can imperil the lives of potentially millions without firing a single bullet.

Related

North Korea Denies US WannaCry Cyberattack Accusation

The WannaCry ransomware attack infected about 300,000 computers in 150 countries in May. North Korea has labeled the US accusation a "grave political provocation."

North Korea on Thursday denied US accusations it was behind the WannaCry global ransomware cyberattack earlier this year and vowed to retaliate.

North Korea described the accusation as a "grave political provocation" and said Washington had "ulterior motives."

A spokesperson from North Korea's Foreign Ministry said the allegations were "absurd," according to North Korean state news agency KCNA.



"This move is a grave political provocation by the US aimed at inducing the international society into a confrontation against the DPRK by tarnishing the image of the dignified country and demonizing it," the spokesperson said.

WannaCry infected some 300,000 computers in 150 countries in May, encrypting user files and demanding hundreds of dollars from their owners in exchange for the keys to get their files back.

US homeland security adviser Tom Bossert wrote a Wall Street Journal op-ed published on 18 December that claimed North Korea was directly responsible for the cyberattack.

At a press conference on Tuesday Bossert said, "After careful investigation, the United States is publicly attributing the massive WannaCry cyberattack to North Korea. We do not make this allegation lightly. We do so with evidence, and we do so with partners."



"The United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and Japan have seen our analysis, and they join us in denouncing North Korea for WannaCry," Bossert said.

Bossert also said Microsoft had traced the attack to cyber affiliates of the North Korean government, and others in the security community have contributed their analysis.

On Tuesday the UK came out in support of the US accusations. Foreign Office Minister Lord Ahmad said in a statement that, "The UK's National Cyber Security Centre assesses it is highly likely that North Korean actors known as the Lazarus Group were behind the WannaCry ransomware campaign — one of the most significant to hit the UK in terms of scale and disruption."

"We condemn these actions and commit ourselves to working with all responsible states to combat destructive criminal use of cyberspace. The indiscriminate use of the WannaCry ransomware demonstrates North Korean actors using their cyber programme to circumvent sanctions," Ahmad said



This undated picture released from North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) on December 09, 2017 shows North Korean leader Kim Jong-un visiting Mount Paektu in Ryanggang Province.

The cyberattack crippled hospitals, banks and other companies worldwide, including parts of the UK's National Health Service. Some companies reported massive losses, including FedEx which said they had incurred losses in the hundreds of millions of dollars.

The attack exploited a Windows vulnerability that was originally developed by the US National Security Agency, but was released in a stolen cache of NSA cyber-weapons by a hacking group known as the Shadow Brokers. (Courtesy http://www.dw.com/en)

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Advertisement for Law Office of Solis & Yan P.C. featuring a 2018 Yellow Pages directory and a photo of the lawyers.



A Snapshot Of The World



Ground personnel carry ISS crew member Bresnik of the U.S. after landing of the Soyuz MS-05 capsule in a remote area outside the town of Dzhezkazgan



A girl walks next to Christmas decorations in a shopping mall in Beijing



Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) speaks to reporters as she arrives for a nomination vote on Capitol Hill in Washington



A boy holds the Jordanian national flag during a protest near the U.S. Embassy in Amman



The United Nations Security Council meets on the situation in the Middle East, including Palestine, at U.N. Headquarters in New York



A motorcyclist rides amid snow in Dalian, Liaoning province, China December 16, 2017. REUTERS/Stringer ATTENTION EDITORS - THIS IMAGE WAS PROVIDED BY A THIRD PARTY. CHINA OUT. NO COMMERCIAL OR EDITORIAL SALES IN CHINA. REUTERS/



A man takes a nap between life-size gilded Arhan statues at Ten Thousand Buddhas Monastery in Hong Kong



Model Ming Xi falls as she presents a creation during the 2017 Victoria's Secret Fashion Show in Shanghai



People prepare a snow sculpture for the Harbin Sun Island International Snow Sculpture Art Expo in Harbin

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It's Christmas Eve Around the World.....

Christmas Eve is the day before Christmas Day, an internationally celebrated holiday commemorating the Nativity of Jesus. It is a culturally significant celebration for most of the



Western world and is widely observed as a full or partial holiday in anticipation of Christmas all over the world. In Western culture, Christmas Eve is mostly celebrated on December 24th.

Worldwide Christmas Celebrations

Grid of 10 photos showing Christmas celebrations in Ottawa, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Karachi, Singapore, Hong Kong, Philippines, Vienna, Russia, Germany, Tbilisi, and Kiev.

Graphic --- Merry Christmas From the Staff of Southern Daily Please send your comments to the Southern Daily Editor at john@scdaily.com

eSoon Travel 翼順旅遊 advertisement with phone numbers and website.

千里行旅遊 advertisement with phone number 713-772-7570 and website.

快捷旅遊 ASAP Travelwize advertisement with phone number (713) 777-1717.

幸福新邨公寓 advertisement listing amenities and contact info.

百樂公寓 BELLAIRE SILK advertisement with phone number (713) 272-8100.

六福旅行社 USA Gateway advertisement listing travel services and phone numbers.

Travel deals advertisement for Christmas with various package prices.

明星假期 Majestic Vacations advertisement with phone number 888-288-7528.

金門爐頭廠 Golden Gate Restaurant Equipment Co. advertisement for kitchen equipment.

美聯混凝土 advertisement for concrete services with phone number (832) 868-1090.

In-N-Out worker reveals cult burger chain's secrets, tips

By Katie Dowd

In-N-Out's menu is famously simple but, as a corporation, it's quite an enigma. So In-N-Out fans looking to peek just a bit behind the curtain will rejoice in a Reddit Ask Me Anything. A Redditor with the username booshley, who says she has worked for the chain for two years, allowed users to ask her anything about the burger joint. The chain has been owned by the Snyder family since it opened its

first California location in 1948. Unlike other fast food chains, like McDonald's, In-N-Out doesn't franchise its locations and it hasn't expanded at a rapid pace. Doing so, the chain argues, would compromise its ability to control quality from branch to branch. Fans of the chain know each one runs like clockwork, with near-identical food, service and customs. That famous quality control is well on display in the Reddit AMA. Many of In-N-Out's little quirks — like

never putting more than two burgers and two fries in a single tray — come down to the chain's obsession with looks. "In-N-Out really prides itself on quality and presentation," booshley writes. "So we can only fit 2 burgers and 2 fries on a tray at once without ruining the presentation."



Houston's popular "Be Someone" graffiti has been altered, again



The "Be Someone" graffiti message over I-45 South was seen altered on Dec. 8, 2017 to "Be One."

One of Houston's most iconic landmarks has been altered, again. The "Be Someone" graffiti message over I-45 South heading into downtown Houston has been covered in red and orange paint to now say "Be One." Gisel Valdez recorded the vandalism and told Chron.com that she saw it on Dec. 8. "It was so surprising, considering this piece of artwork influences so many and just to have it wiped away by another put me, and probably others, in shock," Valdez said. This isn't the first time the landmark has been altered. In August 2015, the graffiti was altered to say "Be One." In February, it was changed to say "Football" ahead of the Super Bowl at NRG Stadium. If we're to trust history, it won't be long before the full "Be Someone" graffiti returns.

Hotel ZaZa Memorial City opens with champagne toast

Hotel ZaZa Memorial City officially opened its doors with a ribbon-cutting and Veuve Clicquot Champagne toast Friday, Dec. 8. Matthew Nuss, president of hotel operations, Ian Bush, the new general manager of Hotel ZaZa Memorial City and MetroNational president Jason Johnson gathered with members of their respective teams for the occasion. "We are very excited to open our doors to Memorial and the Houston area. We look forward to giving guests the incredible Hotel ZaZa experience we are known for," Bush said. "It's been wonderful partnering with MetroNational and expanding our portfolio of hotels." Hotel ZaZa Memorial City features 159 rooms, including the signature Magnificent Seven Suites, all designed with luxury, convenience and a continued focus on the true ZaZa experience. The

hotel also features thought-provoking art, more than 13,000 square feet of meeting and event space, and the signature restaurant and lounge, "The Tipping Point." The hotel is located at 9787 Katy Fwy, Houston, TX 77024. For more information go to www.hotelzaza.com/memorial-city.



Advertisement for Double Star Academy (育才學校) featuring math and English classes for various grade levels.

Advertisement for Talent Academy (騰龍教育學院) offering bilingual day care, after-school programs, and summer camps.

Advertisement for IQ TUTORING CENTER (課後安親班) providing tutoring services for students from pre-K to 12th grade.

Advertisement for FIRST ACADEMY 第一學院 offering K-12 and undergraduate tutoring services.

Advertisement for ADVANCE ACADEMY (智勝學院) for 2018 Spring classes, including SAT/ACT/PSAT/Duke TIP courses.

Advertisement for FAME WELL SCHOOL (瀚歲文才學校) offering various academic and extracurricular programs.