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Fear of missing out keeps investors in stocks despite risks

NEW YORK, (Reuters) - Wall Street's fear of missing out on a relentless rally appears to be trumping rising political risk in a high-stakes December in Washington. The ticking clock on the Republican Party's efforts to cut corporate taxes, alongside the risk that the U.S. government may shut down if a budget deal isn't reached by December 8, is increasing the levels of political risk for investors - but they have yet to really react. "Right now the market is assuming that everything will work out, but you've got a tremendous number of moving parts," said Phil Orlando, chief equity market strategist at Federated Investors (FII.N) in New York. Alongside the back-and-forth on taxes, Wall Street will be watching a Dec. 8 expiration date for funding needed to keep the U.S. government open alongside the deadline when the U.S. Treasury hits its limit on borrowing; as well as a Dec. 12 Special U.S. Senate election in Alabama. On Tuesday, President Donald Trump warned on Twitter that "I don't see a deal" to keep the government open and work past Dec. 8, although the White House said Wednesday it did not see such an eventuality. Typically, the threat of a government shutdown alone would prompt fund man-

agers to move more of their assets into cash. The benchmark S&P 500 lost 2.6 percent in the eight trading days before the last government shutdown in 2013, and has declined an average of 0.6 percent during government shutdowns overall, according to LPL Financial. Debt limit concerns are likely to be put off until 2018 as the U.S. Treasury is expected to take steps to postpone any need for action by Congress. Yet with the benchmark S&P 500 up nearly 18 percent for the year to date, some portfolio managers see a greater risk in stepping to the sidelines. Throughout the year, the stock market has rallied in the face of standoffs ranging from increasing tensions in North Korea to former FBI director's James Comey's testimony to Congress that President Trump fired him to undermine the agency's Russia investigation. On Friday, stocks sold off on a report that former national security adviser Michael Flynn was prepared to tell investigators that before taking office Trump had directed him to make contact with Russians. However, shares quickly pared those losses, departed the White House for the New York trip. "There's been absolutely no collusion, so we're very happy." As part of his plea on Friday, Flynn agreed to cooperate with the investigation.



If the tax bill fails, Orlando said he expected the S&P 500 to fall by as much as 10 percent. He would be a buyer in that case, he said, because he expected the S&P 500 to reach 3000 within the next 18 months. Brian Peery, a portfolio manager at Novato, California-based Hennessy Funds (HNNA.O), said a government shutdown or the tax bill failing

would prompt a swift sell-off, but that rising consumer confidence would ultimately continue to push the market higher over the next year. "If I'm looking at a 10 percent correction, I'm a buyer," he said. The inaction is not limited to the stock market. Christopher Ryon, a municipal bond fund manager at Santa Fe,

New Mexico-based Thornburg Investment Management, said that the Republican tax bill could reduce the size of the municipal bond market by 25 to 30 percent by limiting the ability of stadiums, airports and privately-financed toll roads to qualify for tax-exempt status.

BEIJING (Reuters) - China will not export its political system, President Xi Jinping told a forum for foreign political groups on Friday, as the ruling Communist Party seeks to boost its global image and take a more assertive international role. China's state media has this year touted the annual inter-party meeting as a "high-level dialogue" with Xi speaking at it for the first time. Xi told the forum's opening session China was "struggling for the cause of human progress" and it would bring benefits to every country in the world, according to state television. "We will not import other countries' models, and will not export the China model," Xi said. "We will provide more opportunities for the world through our development," he said. The official Xinhua news agency has said that representatives from hundreds of political parties in more than 120 countries have registered for the four-day meeting, though it has not provided a full list. Myanmar's leader Aung San Suu Kyi, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen and Tony Parker, treasurer of the U.S.

Republican National Committee, were among attendees who spoke at the forum's opening. At a Chinese Communist Party (CCP) congress in October, where Xi cemented his power, he laid out a confident vision for a proud and prosperous China in a "new era" under his leadership. At the time, he also called on the Communist Party, as the world's biggest political party with 89 million members, to have a "big image". China has expanded the reach of its foreign policy and military under Xi, whose "diplomatic thought" has been credited domestically with transcending 300 years of Western international relations theory and serving as a marker of China's growing soft power. But concern abroad about China using its influence to sway foreign business, academic, and political institutions have grown in tandem. Some foreign business has been alarmed by the increased push for influence by Communist Party units in their operations and joint ventures, and international publishers have sparked academic freedom contro-



China's President Xi Jinping arrives with leaders at the opening ceremony of the "CPC in dialogue with world political parties" high-level meeting, at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing

versies by pulling content that offends Beijing. Jude Blanchette, an expert on China's Communist Party at The Conference Board's China Center for Economics and Business in Beijing, said Xi and the party had been re-articulating the idea of a "China solution" for governments around the world. "In isolation, the meeting will be forgotten by next week, but it's a small piece in a much larger strategy

to rebrand the CCP from a reactive organization on the wrong side of history into a political force at the center of the global conversation," Blanchette said.

President Xi says China will not export its political system



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Pictures of the Year



A man who was set on fire by people accusing him of stealing during a rally against Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro runs amidst opposition supporters in Caracas, Venezuela, May 20, 2017. Marco Bello: "I spotted a man running in front of me as a group of protesters, most of them hooded and with makeshift shields, were chasing him so I followed them. Some 100 meters down the street, the protesters caught the man and surrounded him. When I walked up and went through the circle of people to take pictures, someone had already poured gasoline over the man and set him on fire. The government said that the man was set on fire for being "chavista" (a follower of Venezuela's late President Hugo Chavez), but all I heard throughout was that he was being accused of trying to steal from a woman. I didn't hear anyone accusing him of being a pro-government infiltrator. The mob was crazy, you cannot reason with them, they do not think. Later, when things calmed down, I thought, 'This is mad'. I was just taking pictures and thinking about the technical aspect of my shooting. It's how I deal with shocking situations that are happening in front of me. Orlando Figuera, 22, passed away two weeks later." with tear gas and water cannons were used to disperse the protesters. On May 26, a young student walked towards a water cannon wearing a backpack, as if he had just come out of class. As he got closer, the riot police turned the water canon directly on him. Then, the student began jumping and dodging, trying to avoid the blast of water. He looked almost as if he were dancing in the rain." REUTERS/Carlos Barria/



Steam rises from chimneys of a heating power plant near a monument of Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin, the first man in space, with the air temperature at about minus 17 degrees Celsius (1.4 degrees Fahrenheit), during sunset in Moscow, Russia, January 9, 2017. REUTERS/Maxim Shemetov/File Photo SEARCH "POY GLOBAL" FOR THIS STORY. SEARCH



Displaced Iraqi women who just fled their home, rest in the desert as they wait to be transported while Iraqi forces battle with Islamic State militants in western Mosul, Iraq February 27, 2017.



CCB (Asia) Hong Kong Wine & Dine Festival - Central Harbourfront, Hong Kong - 27/10/16 Crab with Vermicelli Duo is pictured against the Hong Kong skyline. The Hong Kong Tourism Board presents the 8th edition Wine & Dine Festival showcasing over 410 booths. This year's Festival promotes emerging culinary talent from some of the hippest restaurants and bars in the city. WINEDINE2016 Mandatory Credit: Hong Kong Tourism Board



Russian President Vladimir Putin attends a wreath laying ceremony to mark the Defender of the Fatherland Day at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier by the Kremlin wall in central Moscow, Russia February 23, 2017. REUTERS/Sergei Karpukhin/File Photo SEARCH "POY GLOBAL" FOR THIS STORY. SEARCH "REUTERS POY" FOR ALL BEST OF 2017 PACKAGES. TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY?



Gymnast Aly Raisman attends the 2017 Glamour Women of the Year Awards at the Kings Theater in Brooklyn, New York



Six-year-old twins Kaitlyn and Chasity Ellis, who were exposed to lead in a Brooklyn apartment, pose with their mother Barbara Ellis (R) and grandfather Ruden Ellis in a park in Harlem



French apprentice Valentin Arrachart, 18 years old, poses in a training area at "AFTRAL", a transport and logistics training centre, in Savigny-le-Temple

A new study by the McKinsey Global Institute estimates that between 400 million and 800 million of today's jobs will be automated by 2030.

The research adds fresh perspective to what is becoming an increasingly concerning picture of the future employment landscape. "We're all going to have to change and learn how to do new things over time," institute partner Michael Chui told Bloomberg.

In the U.S., it seems it's the middle class that has the most to fear, with office administrators and construction equipment operators among those who may lose their jobs to technology or see their wages depressed to keep them competitive with robots and automated systems.

In places where labor is cheaper and tech is more expensive, jobs may be less vulnerable than in more developed markets.

There will—of course—be new kinds of jobs, too, McKinsey's research arm said. As recently articulated by business leaders like Bill Gates and Autodesk chief Andrew Anagnost, an aging population may lead to more work for caregivers (unless they too are replaced by robots, as is happening in Japan) and for people who tend to the robots.



"There will be enough jobs for all of us in most scenarios," report co-author Susan Lund said, according to Wired. (Courtesy http://fortune.com)

RELATED

COMMENTARY AND OVERVIEW: ROBOTS THREATEN BIGGER SLICE OF JOBS IN US, OTHER RICH NATIONS

Automation will reduce demand for crane operators in the US, Germany, and Japan, while demand for similar work is projected to boom in India and Mexico, according to a new report.

The world is commonly divided into industrialized and emerging economies. A new study of how technology will transform demand for workers suggests we might talk

Robots May Steal As Many As 800 Million Jobs In The Next 13 Years

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



of the automated and automating worlds instead.

Economic think tank McKinsey Global Institute forecast changes in demand for different kinds of labor across 45 countries as technologies improve to perform physical or office tasks. One key result: Robots pose a more immediate and disruptive threat to the US middle class than they do to middle-income workers in less developed countries like India.

The report warns that in the US technology will crimp demand for many types of work, such as office administration and operating construction equipment. That would add to the existing squeeze on middle-class incomes by displacing some workers, and likely push down wages for those still employed in less-in-demand work. Meanwhile, automation is forecast to be less marked in countries such as India, where the relative cost of new technology is much higher and labor much cheaper. That will allow devel-



oping-world incomes and the ranks of the middle class to keep growing healthily, the report says.

Overall, the MGI report guesses that automation will displace the jobs of 400 million to 800 million people between now and 2030. But it also looked at potential sources of new demand for labor and came up with good news. Plenty of new jobs should be created by things like companies spending the additional earnings unlocked by deploying automation, and the healthcare demands from aging populations. "There will be enough jobs for all of us in most scenarios," says Susan Lund, a co-author of the report. MGI mapped possible futures for three rich, and three poor countries in particular detail—the US, Germany, Japan, Mexico, India, and China. In the most-likely scenario, 9 percent of work in India, 13 percent in Mexico, and 16 percent in China will be automated by 2030. In the US, Japan, and Germany, that figure will be closer to 25 percent.

The analysis suggests the prospects of traditionally middle-class occupations will differ markedly between rich and poorer countries in the next decade or so. In the three more prosperous countries, demand for office administrators is seen contracting 25 percent or

more as software takes on more of that work, for example. But demand for such work will increase in the three poorer countries, the analysis finds, as incomes and consumer and business spending continue to grow.



China, which is more heavily industrialized than other emerging economies, sometimes occupies a middle ground in McKinsey's view of the road ahead. It has automation causing demand for crane operators to decline by between 15 and 24 percent in the US, Germany, and Japan, and by 5 to 14 percent in China, while booming 25 percent or more in India and Mexico.

Lund, the report co-author, says matching displaced workers to newly created jobs is the biggest challenge facing policymakers in America and elsewhere. In the US, MGI

projects that the number of jobs requiring a college degree or more will grow, while jobs requiring less education will shrink.



But government and corporate spending on worker training has declined over the past two decades, and a recent report by the Brookings Institution found that the country has a severe and immediate problem with workers lacking relatively basic digital skills, such as familiarity with spreadsheets. A recent pledge by Google to give \$1 billion to projects that help workers with their digital skillsets appears well-aimed, but is unlikely to solve the problem alone.

Developing economies have their own version of that retraining problem. Lund says India will face increased demand for workers with all levels of education between now and 2030, but particularly for people with high school diplomas. That will challenge the vast country's school system.

Although the short-term disruption from automation may be smaller in developing countries than in richer countries, the developing nations face more difficult challenges in the longer term.



China has shown how low-cost manufacturing can provide a kind of step ladder that helps a country gradually climb into more complex and lucrative sectors, says Brad DeLong, an economics professor at University of California, Berkeley, who worked in the Clinton administration.

But as automation technology gets cheaper and more capable, more manufacturing likely will migrate back to countries like the US. "The fear is that China is the last country for which this will be a successful strategy," DeLong says. Governments need to think not just about how automation affects workers, but their entire economic underpinnings. (Courtesy wired.com)

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Judge withdraws from church lawsuit involving FEMA funds

By Dug Begley

A federal judge has recused himself from a case in which three southeast Texas churches sued over access to federal rebuilding funds following Hurricane Harvey. The case was reassigned within hours to another Houston judge.

U.S. District Judge Keith P. Ellison, a Rhodes Scholar and former clerk for Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun who was appointed by President Bill Clinton, filed his recusal late Thursday, as the government was hours from its deadline to respond to the churches' request for an injunction. U.S. District Judge Gray H. Miller was assigned to the case on Friday.

Daniel Blomberg, an attorney at Becket, a law firm specializing in religious liberty that represents the Texas churches, said he hoped the court would move swiftly regard-

less of who is presiding. "Especially when it comes to recovering from hurricanes, justice delayed is justice denied," Blomberg said.

"The churches sought relief from the federal courts almost three months ago. Is it too much to ask that they get the access they need to recover from Hurricane Harvey? We are hopeful that the court will rule soon," he said. Lauren Ehram, a spokesperson for the Justice Department declined to comment on Ellison's recusal.

Blomberg had argued at a hearing in November that denying funds to churches was discriminatory.

A Justice Department attorney responded that the government was unable to respond to the lawsuit while it awaited a decision from top level officials about the Trump administra-

tion's policy on providing Federal Emergency Management Administration funds to faith groups seeking relief for damages to houses of worship.

Ellison then gave the government a deadline of Friday to explain whether it opposed considering the churches' application for the funds.

FEMA has rejected applications in the past by religious groups whose facilities were damaged during natural disasters. The lawsuit filed in September on behalf of the Rockport First Assembly of God in Aransas County, Harvest Family Church in Cypress and Hi-Way Tabernacle in Cleveland, Liberty County claims the government's disaster relief policy violates the Constitution by denying faith groups the right to apply for funds.

The suit cites a U.S. Supreme Court case in which the court held in June that the Missouri



Beds are made ready at a shelter for volunteer rescue workers set up at the Fairfield Baptist Church student building on August 29, 2017 in Cypress, Texas. The shelter was set up as a place to rest for volunteer rescue workers who had come to the Houston area in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. Harvey has set what forecasters believe is a new rainfall record for the continental US, officials said Tuesday. Harvey, swirling for the past few days off Texas and Louisiana has dumped more than 49 inches (124.5 centimeters) of rain on the region. / AFP PHOTO / MANDEL NGANMANDEL NGAN/AFP/Getty Images less

state government could not discriminate by denying funds to a church group that applied for rubberized pavement in a playground because it was affiliated with a religion.

New vascular robotic program launched in Houston

The Houston Methodist DeBakey Heart & Vascular Center, housed in the Texas Medical Center, has launched its first vascular robotic program.

In partnership with Corindus Vascular Robotics, the Houston Methodist Hospital is using robotics to improve precision and safety for cath lab profes-



sionals.

As part of the program launch, the hospital is seeking to advance clinical research on robotics as well.

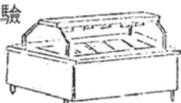
"We pride ourselves on leading the way in embracing innovative technologies that improve patient care," said Alan Lumsden,

chief of the department of cardiovascular surgery at Houston Methodist. "With adoption of robotics in the cath lab on the rise, comprehensive training programs and innovative product developments are key factors for success."

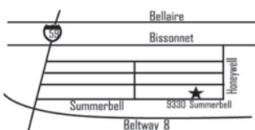
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【长寿之乡 巴马养生之旅】

在广西西北部大山之间，有一个如画般的地方，那就是巴马瑶族自治县，绿山翠湖梯田，石桥老树鼓楼，空气里满是泥土的芬芳，来到这里，人的精神不觉为之一振。巴马是世界五大长寿地区之一，村里超过百岁的老人比比皆是，使巴马成了国内最热门的养生游之地。

巴马山水相依、洞水相连，环境优美，作为养生之地，这里既有风光秀丽的盘阳河、如诗如画的龙洪田园风光、美如西湖的赐福湖，也有巧夺天工的命字河及“天下第一洞”百魔洞等，空气新鲜，气候宜人，食用之物又全出自洁净的土地，比较理想。

盘阳河是巴马的母亲河，河水从百鸟岩中涌出，一路逶迤，沿途有深谷、溶洞、暗河、瀑布等景观。盘阳河水质富含对人体健康长寿的矿物质和微量元素，因而生活在两岸的瑶壮族等少数民族村民均很长寿，其中百岁兄弟、百岁姐妹、百岁夫妻随处可见，故又称长寿河。傍晚的盘阳河，渔舟轻荡，悠闲的白鹅，取水的少女，收工回家的村民，袅袅升起的炊烟，一派诗意。

长寿水晶宫景区地处巴马瑶族自治县西北那社乡，距巴马县城45公里，行车约一小时。旅游区面积约1.5平方公里，首期游步道全长700米左右，有地下溶洞大厅5个，最高大厅顶部距地面高度近50米。水晶宫洞穴母岩形成于约两亿八千万年前的海底，而洞内钟乳石是十几万年以来形成的，甚至还正在生长发育中。

当游客穿行在由“寿星探秘”“圣母祝寿”“寿乡活力”“寿成正果”等景致组合的空间里时，不得不惊叹大自然的造化，不得不称之为“巴马魂”！百魔洞为石灰岩溶洞，洞高近百米

，气势恢宏，洞内分三层，景致各不同，如空中楼阁般别有洞天。第一层珍珠步道，石盾罗列，石幔遍布，以高大雄俊、气势磅礴著称。第二三层则犹如宫殿般辉煌，内有卧室，床枕被俱全，不啻鬼斧神工。洞内另有天窗，高达百米，洞底生长各类中草药材；天窗崖上世代居住着高山土瑶，有曲折小路可攀援而上，百魔洞正是瑶寨的唯一出寨通道，专家誉为“天下第一洞”。

【自然汤池 龙胜温泉国家森林公园】

峰峦叠嶂，怪石嶙峋，林木葱郁，谷幽洞深，溪水清澈，这是逃离都市喧嚣的一个世外桃源，这是龙胜温泉国家森林公园。森林公园位于越城岭南端桑江上游，距桂林市129公里，公园最高海拔1060米，年平均气温17.6℃。公园内。森林公园以龙胜温泉为核心，这里还留存着银杏、长柄毛榉、篦子三尖杉等珍稀植物和黑熊、猕猴、鹿、麝、灵猫、娃娃鱼等珍稀动物。大自然的原生态与民族文化的原情态在这里完美结合。

著名的龙胜温泉是人类童年时代留下的一片净土，可谓天下一座绝版的温泉。它坐落在龙胜县城城东北方向28公里的龙胜温泉国家森林公园内，像一朵美丽奇葩的花蕊一样，它是温泉国家森林公园的核心和灵魂。龙胜温泉之所以无以伦比，在于它十分优美的环境和十分优良的水质。这是一条林荫蔽日、万木合围的山冲，密密的杜鹃树和繁茂的阔叶林如同睫毛呵护眼睛一样，忠实地护佑着这一潭潭从容吐纳轻轻流淌的圣水。飘飘渺渺的雾气，把这里狭长的绿色空间幻化成云蒸霞蔚的仙山仙境。

龙胜温泉除了有与森林融为一体的浪漫的游泳浴池，也有温馨的室内浴池。仰泳在水气蒸腾的露天浴池中飘飘欲仙，看袅袅升腾的热雾穿过头顶翠微四合的林梢，化作一抹抹山岚终日缭绕，听淙淙流泉与花香鸟语青幽幽地交融，谁都会游出一身惬意，洗出一腔诗情。“青山绿水嵌蓝天，喷珠吐玉一神泉”、“胜似瑶池胜似花，云台雾锁赛家”、“人说杭州西湖美，难比龙胜温泉”

”，游客们纷纷作诗赞叹，为龙胜这个世外桃源的珍稀美丽文采斐然地作注释。

龙胜温泉周边峰峦叠翠，山头是白雾轻绕，空气中负氧离子含量丰富，如同天然氧吧。龙胜温泉四面环山，森林繁茂，高耸参天，为天然次生阔叶林。铁索桥对面的树林里，常有猴子攀缘，银滩接绿潭的河里，有珍贵的娃娃鱼在嬉游等。

【北回归线的明珠 南宁大明山】

大明山是位于广西中部的一条弧形山脉，主峰龙头山海拔1764米，为桂中南最高峰。大明山地处北回归线，横跨上林、马山、宾阳、武鸣四县，距南宁市市区仅76公里，是城市游人秋季度假休闲的适宜去处。

大明山共有108条瀑布，其中最大的是龙尾瀑布，其次就是金龟瀑布，落差60多米。在水潭的中央有一块大石头，形如金龟爬行；奇妙的是，无论我们身处河谷的哪一面，都会看到龟头指向另一条走出河谷的路，因而得名“金龟指路”。瀑布从悬崖峭壁倾泻而下，气势磅礴，丰水时节其轰鸣声远传数里。从侧面看，它只是一级瀑布，从正面看，则形成明显的两级落差。在金龟潭对岸红色岩石，状若神坛宝座，传说这就是“龙母升坛”。

大明山有1331种药用植物，是一座巨大的“天然药库”，由它浸泡出来的天然“茶水”，是最好的药浴水。天然药浴谷是大明山景区特别为游客设置的免费保健场地，优美的环境和神奇的“茶水”浴，对消除疲劳、去病强身有上佳的效果。

除了药浴池，已有500多年历史的大明山不老松也值得一看。这颗不老松是全国唯广西大明山和台湾玉山独有。它们虽饱经风霜，却依然枝叶茂盛蜿蜒，保持青春，故称不老松。此不老松生长于悬崖峭壁，松枝下斜，虬枝更比主干长；大树弯曲成形，如同阔别多年的老朋友重逢，相互间忍不住要给对方一个热烈持久的拥抱；也有人把它们比作一对情投意合、休戚与共的夫妻，永久相依，爱情不老！



地球上的最后一块净土——亚丁



在四川和云南交界处有这样一个地方，她距离四川省会成都880公里，若是乘车需要整整两天的时间，但期望见她一面的游人却络绎不绝。她叫亚丁，一个距离香格里拉不远的地方，被称作是地球上的最后一块净土。

亚丁的平均海拔超过3000米，其中的仙乃日、降边央、夏纳多吉三座山峰海拔都接近6000米，在天地之间，这三座圣山犹如三位高大的神灵，守护着这片净土。

在云里雾里的仙乃日峰，犹如一位盖着面纱的高原少女，忽而撩起又忽而散下。

山下的珍珠海是少女脖子上的翡翠，碧绿的潭水在蓝天白云的照耀下显得晶莹剔透，散发出几缕耀眼的光泽。

同样在山下，横亘古今的冲古寺已变得残破不已，唯有不远处宁静祥和的亚丁村还能给人以前行的热忱。

亚丁村，一个仅有28户人家的村子，却让初入峡谷的人们恍若隔世。没有人记得他们从哪里来，会到哪里去，唯一记得的只有那斑驳的墙砖与千年一面的山林。

在洛绒草场，让心静下去听自然的声音，此时陪伴你的只有成群的牛羊与三座巍峨的雪山，三座雪山犹如三位牧羊人，守护着高原上的最后一块净土。

五彩斑斓的五彩海，在三面环抱的山峰之中独自焕发着青春，山间流水源源不断的汇聚至此，让这儿变成了一幅会动的油彩画。

当你置身在这样的净土，无论你对拍照是否专业，是否使用单反相机，只需跟从你心灵深处的灵感，轻轻按下手机的快门，一张绝美的照片就此诞生。

在经过s17公路时，或许你还能遇上虔诚的参拜者，他们跋山涉水，只为虔诚的到达这片净土，去追寻心中的天堂。

当我们希望给烦劳的心一片清静之时，或许亚丁会是一个选择。

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埃及面临反恐重大挑战 IS分支北西奈作恶

英国广播公司(BBC)刊文分析11月24日发生的埃及清真寺遇袭事件称，此次袭击是自2013年以来，极端势力发动袭击造成该国死伤最惨重的一次。埃及军方已追击极端分子，但该国国家面临着反恐的重大挑战。多年来，来对极端势力强硬的军事手段，并没有达成当局预期的结果。

据报道，位于北西奈省首府阿里什市(El-Arish)以西阿贝德镇(Bir al-Abed)的拉瓦达(Ai Rawdah)清真寺24日遭遇炸弹袭击，阿贝德镇(Bir al-Abed)位于埃及首都开罗211公里处(约130英里)。目前袭击已导致300多人遇难，其中包括20多名儿童，而送往医院的伤员人满为患。埃及反恐面临挑战

BBC驻开罗记者格林(Orla Guerin)认为，这是埃及国家面临的重大挑战。如果这就是所谓的“伊斯兰国”(IS)组织，那么总是值得去考虑更广泛的区域层面。在过去几个月里，IS在伊拉克和叙利亚边界地区损失了大片控制地区。

分析称，如果IS是此次袭击的幕后主使，这可能是企图提醒世界各地的“支持者”——他们仍在这里，仍然存在，仍然可以造成可怕的伤害。

但现在不知道的是，埃及的安全机构以及埃及总统塞西，还有什么可以对付他们的手段。他已试过运用强硬的军事手段——西奈半岛过去多年来一直在进行大规模的军事打击行动，可它并没有带来埃及当局所承诺的结果。

目前不清楚当局是否仍有新的手段，可以遏制造成如此可怕破坏的、异常顽固的叛乱分子。

袭击目标针对教徒

埃及总统宣布对恐怖分子进行反击，埃及全国将哀悼3天。全球多国也强烈谴责此次恐袭，呼吁加强反恐，但目前尚无组织宣称对袭击负责。

当地人说，此次袭击可能针对的是苏菲派教徒，一些包括IS在内的组织把苏菲派看作是“异教徒”。

受害者中还包括一些应征的军人。

有分析认为，袭击有可能是由一个从属于IS的极端组织分支发起的。

据信，IS希望控制西奈省，并把它变成一个由其“掌控”的省份。

谁可能是幕后主使？

2013年7月，埃及军方推翻总统穆尔西之后，激进组织加强了对西奈半岛的袭击。

自那之后，盘踞在西奈半岛、附属于所谓IS的激进组织“西奈省”(Sinai Province)策划了多起袭击事件，数百名警察、士兵和平民遇难。



2014年10月，北西奈33名安全部队成员在激进组织策划的袭击中丧生。自那之后，北西奈一直处于紧急状态当中。激进组织“西奈省”也主要在北

西奈活动，其被指试图控制西奈半岛。

据报道，过去几年里，包括国营媒体的记者在内，新闻工作者都不被允许进入北西奈从事报道活动。

默克尔执政满12周年 遭遇组阁新危机



11月22日，德国总理默克尔将迎来执政12周年纪念日。连续十余年领导德国，默克尔已经成为欧洲政坛的一棵“常青树”。但眼下，她在国内正面临一场“组阁危机”，这不仅给她第四次执政造成阻碍，也给德国政局增添了不确定性。

【“不被看好”的默克尔，连着当了12年总理】

2005年11月22日，51岁的默克尔宣誓就职，成为德国历史上首位女性总理。当时谁也没有料到，默克尔这个总理，竟然一当就当到了12年。

物理学家出身的默克尔35岁开始涉身政治。1990年，德国统一后，默克尔加入德国基督教民主联盟(基民盟)。作为东德出身的政坛新秀，她进入了时任德国总理科尔的视线，并得到后者很大助力。

此后十余年里，默克尔的仕途扶摇直上。44岁时，她成为基民盟总书记；45岁出任党主席，48岁成为基民盟和基社盟联邦议会党团主席，50岁被推举为总理候选人；51岁成为总理。

2005年默克尔刚刚当选时，并不大被外界看好。不少人认为她能当上总理，更多是靠运气。

不过出人意料的是，默克尔自此开启了“超长待机”模式，分别在2009年、2013年连续当选，并且在今年的大选中再次带领其党派成为赢家。一旦开启第四任期，她更有望追平前总理科尔创下的在任16年的纪录。

【不靠运气 欧洲“掌门人”用实力说话】

在默克尔执政的十多年里，欧洲先后经历欧元

危机、难民危机、英国脱欧等多重考验。但在她领导下，德国不仅没有乱了方寸，更驶入了经济增长快车道，在国际事务中的影响力也大幅提升。

如今，德国经济整体向好，被认为处于2008年全球金融危机以来的最好时期。在欧洲多国遭受恐怖袭击、难民危机等威胁之时，德国社会总体平稳，安全问题相对较好。而在处理欧债危机、欧洲难民危机等议题时，默克尔也带领德国承担起了“欧洲掌门人”的角色。

12年来，默克尔在应对各种危机中锻炼得愈发老练，而这也是她在今年9月联邦议会选举中取胜的一大原因。许多德国民众认为，选择执政经验丰富、12年来带领国家稳步前进的默克尔是“最不会出错的选择”。

【组阁谈判“崩盘” 政治生涯经历又一场危机】

眼下，在德国国内，默克尔正面临一场新的“组阁危机”，这已经对她第四次执政造成了阻碍。

在9月的德国联邦议会选举中，默克尔领导的基民盟/社民党联盟虽保住了第一大党地位，但需同其他党派组成联合政府执政。10月下旬以来，联盟党、自民党和绿党展开组阁谈判。但由于各党在难民限额、气候问题和能源政策等关键议题上分歧难解，谈判已经失败。

接下来，德国政府的组阁道路面临多种可能性。在局面不明朗的情况下，联邦总统的重要性就会显现。目前，德国总统施泰因迈尔已经发话，称进入联邦议院的各政党都有参与内阁服务的职责，各党应对选民负责，尝试组建一个新政府。

组阁一日不成功，默克尔就会率领当前的内阁继续执政，即联盟党和社民党组成的大联合政府。然而，社民党已经表示不打算参与组建新的大联合政府，但该党是否会坚持这种态度尚不确定。

还有一种可能是，此前会谈无果的各党在总统的警告下重开会谈，并最终组成大联合政府。如果无法成功组建执政联盟，那么成立少数派政府也是一种可能，但默克尔本人已经明确而表示，她不愿意领导一个少数政府。

【前路不平 复杂政治格局考验默克尔】

如果排除了上述的所有可能，那么就剩下最后一个，同时也是“最坏”的一个选项，那就是重新举行大选。不过，到这一步之前也要先经过漫长而复杂的程序。更重要的是，掌握重新大选决定权的联邦总统施泰因迈尔已经表示反对重新大选。

为了避免政局长期不稳，联邦总统可以尽一切所能。在这种情况下，施泰因迈尔敦促其所在的政党——已经表明拒绝组建联合政府的社民党——参与组阁，似乎也成了一种可能性。

分析指出，在德国历史上，内政处于如此不明确的状态非常罕见。默克尔所在的党派虽然连续第四次在大选中取胜，但过去几周组阁谈判却让她受伤不小。虽然她仍手握总理大权，但权威已经被削弱。

就算默克尔最终坐稳第四个任期，舆论对她的执政前景也更多持谨慎甚至悲观的论调。分析称，复杂的选后政治格局将对默克尔的领导能力构成严峻考验。如何平衡党派之间的利益分配，如何弥合不同党派的政策分歧，将是摆在默克尔面前的难题。

更倾向提前选举

据外媒报道，德国总理默克尔20日表示，她倾向于为德国选择提前选举而非少数党政府，因为提前选举会带来更多的稳定性。默克尔同时承诺，若她当选会再做满一届总理。

据报道，当地时间19日晚，默克尔与联合政府谈判破裂，其后她发表了上述评论。报道称，该谈判结果给欧洲最大经济体的稳定性和默克尔本人的政治前途蒙上疑云。

据默克尔表示，她的计划中没有少数党政府的选项，但现在必须拭目以待未来几天事态的发展。默克尔称，唯一的潜在联合执政伙伴社会民主党已排除了谈判的可能性，她接受该党做出的这一决定，并补充说若社会民主党改变态度，她仍愿意继续谈判。

与此同时，德国总统施泰因迈尔对各政党表示，他们应对选民负责，尝试组建一个新政府。他的言论似乎针对FDP和社会民主党(SPD)，这两党20日都排除了与保守派商议组成“大联盟”的可能性。

“如果(欧洲)最大且经济实力最强的国家不能承担自己的责任，将会令人担忧，也会导致人们之间缺乏理解；这不仅是在国内，在国外也是如此，尤其是我们的欧洲邻国，”施泰因迈尔发表声明称。

据悉，今年9月24日，德国举行联邦议院选举。默克尔领导的联盟党虽在选举中保持了议会第一大党地位，但需要同其他党派组成联合政府执政。

10月下旬以来，联盟党、自民党和绿党开始了组阁谈判的试探性对话。但在财政政策、环境政策、移民政策等议题上，各方存在较大分歧。

按计划，各方本应于11月16日达成初步一致，并形成成果文件，但这一目标并未实现。谈判此后继续至19日晚。

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华严莲社启建药师消灾祈福法会 并药师如来圣诞启建献灯祈安

(本报记者秦鸿钧)德州休士顿华严莲社定于2017年12月23日,24日(农历11月6日,7日)星期六~星期日假该社最吉祥殿,启建药师消灾祈福法会,将二永日诵经功德回向参与者阖家平安、身心健康、增福延寿。同时祈福国泰民安、风调雨顺、世界和平。

廿四日早上九时起礼拜慈悲药师宝忏。中午十一时奉献妙供;上供十方三宝,下济六道群灵。该社表示:届时敬请诸大护法,善信人等,驾临拈香,同祈福益,凡欲祈福消灾者,即日起敬请与华严莲社联络登记,以便设立消灾延寿禄位。二天法会均备有素食供众,欢迎踊跃参加,同沐法雨,共邀福佑。

药师佛又称药师如来、大医王佛、十二愿佛、为东方净琉璃世界的教主。华严莲社将于国历12月1日(农历十月十四日)至国历12月31日(农历十一月十五日)止。于莲社走廊四周,点一个月的药师祈安灯。祈望借由燃灯功德及药师如来之威德力所加持。使点灯者,身体健康,事业顺利和家庭平安幸福,社会安宁、世界和平。希望大家一起来点燃药师祈安灯。

发心点灯者,请迳向华严莲社洽询登记。德州休士顿华严莲社的地址:9369 Wilcrest Dr. Houston, TX 77099, 电话:(281)495-9700 或 (281)879-4485



图为位于Wilcrest Dr. 与Bissonnet 交口附近的华严莲社正门口。(记者秦鸿钧摄)

德州观音堂举办《佛法与健康讲座》。运用佛法的智慧,获得身心康宁,有效改变亚健康状态和医院无法治愈的疑难杂症:失眠,肿瘤,膝盖疼,痛风,类风湿,焦虑症,忧郁症,高血压,糖尿病,自闭症等。

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中国护照换发流程介绍(二)

各位同胞,上期我们讲到,护照申请人应事先预约,并按照总领馆网站公布的办证须知准备所需申请材料,在约定的时间抵达总领馆办证大厅递交申请。

但是,总领馆好几个窗口,排队的人那么多,进去后不知道从何下手怎么办?

别急,接下来给大家带来“办理护照换发的现场递交流程”,让大家对现场递交申请的流程、步骤一目了然。

一、窗口排队
总领馆开设多个窗口受理护照业务,大家需要按预约时间统一在4号窗口排队等候,多个窗口的工作人员将按顺序接待。

排队前请再次确认材料已准备得妥妥的,大厅里有自助拍照设备、投币复

印机供大家使用。

二、递交材料、采集生物信息
将所有申请材料交工作人员审核,然后根据工作人员的指引,采集指纹、签名和现场拍照。拍照完毕后,工作人员会发给一个序号牌,请持序号牌在等待区等待领事面谈。

三、领事面谈
面谈时,领事可能会根据申请人实际情况询问问题,您只需如实回答就好。

四、领取证件
顺利走完前3个步骤,恭喜您,您的申请材料现场递交流程就已经完成了,可按取证单上标明的日期取证了,一般为15个工作日。旧护照暂时留在领馆,并在取新护照时予以注销归还。护照遗失等特殊护照申请,因需要履行特定手续,取证单上不会

注明取证日期,请等待总领馆取证时间的通知。

取证时在2号窗口排队交费取证。取证无需本人前来,可委托他人持取证单原件代为领取新证件。

不少申请人询问:听说总领馆可以把做好的护照回邮给我,是真的吗?答案是:Yes! 申请人可备好写好自己地址、贴足邮资的回邮信封和30美元的Money Order,护照做好后就会回邮给申请人。由于护照是非常重要的证件,请购买带Tracking功能的UPS或USPS信封。如果1个月以上未收到护照,可发邮件至officialvisahouston@gmail.com咨询。

相信大家对怎么办理护照换发应该胸有成竹了,最后祝大家办证顺利!(驻休斯敦总领馆供稿)

第十届“丰田杯”少年乒乓球锦标赛圆满结束

由STERLING MCCALL TOYOTA公司支持和赞助的第十届“丰田杯”少年乒乓球锦标赛日前在徐建勋律师创办的休斯顿“德州乒乓球训练中心”落下帷幕。来自大休斯顿地区的共52名少年乒乓球爱好者进行了百余场的激烈角逐,最后分别决出了四个组别的名次。在休斯顿有著良好口碑的李东方博士牙科诊所也给予了此次比赛大力支持。赛后,STERLING MCCALL TOYOTA公司的Steven 叶先生向此次比赛的优胜者颁发了奖杯和奖金,表示祝贺,并同参赛者及家长合影留念。比赛的组织者王大志教练代表全体参赛选手及家长向STERLING MCCALL TOYOTA公司及Steven 叶先生本人对大休斯顿地区少年乒乓球运动长期以来的大力相助再次表示衷心的感谢!同时也特别感谢李东方博士牙科诊所对此次比赛的有力支持!

本次比赛获奖选手名单如下:

- A组: 冠军: 谭山川 亚军: Victoria Pham 季军: Tam Pham 殿军: 周棟棟
 - B组: 冠军: 刘陈希 亚军: 周易 季军: 苏颂恩 殿军: 陈欣宜
 - C组: 冠军: 陈奕洲 亚军: 陈嘉鹏 季军: 李建丽 殿军: 戴田田
 - D组: 冠军: 凌云逸 亚军: 戴宁宁 季军: 温舒旆 殿军: 汤家为
- 并列第五名: 施爱琳 杜逸飞 雍恩阳 杨博文
并列第九名: 纪依梦 纪依心 张爱梅 黄一诺 陈文轩 顾修如 岳静宇 张雾帆
- 获得优秀奖的是: 悦颖 黄逸安 高子杨 郑守诚 王一凡 王依晨 云威 梅陈莞旭 李建富 李建敏 王攀栋



A组获奖运动员



B组获奖运动员



C组获奖运动员



叶先生为获得A组第一名的选手谭山川颁奖



叶先生为获得B组第一名的选手刘陈希颁奖



D组获奖运动员



叶先生为获得D组第一名的选手凌云逸颁奖

本报记者 秦鸿钧摄