



### OLD DOCKYARD FOR REVAMP

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## WORLD BRIEFS

**CHINA** A much-shared online post about a city woman's horror at the squalor of her boyfriend's hometown turned out to be fake, but revealed volumes about China's urban-rural divide — a split the country's leadership has vowed to address.

More on p12

### IVORY COAST

Assailants opened fire on beachgoers yesterday in Grand-Bassam, a historic resort town near the capital, sending tourists fleeing through hotels. Photos posted to social media apparently taken at the scene showed bodies sprawled on the beach. Officials did not say immediately how many were killed. Security forces responded as the area was evacuated and residents hid in their homes.

**BRAZIL** Hundreds of thousands of Brazilians gathered yesterday to protest political corruption, a weak economy, and to call for the impeachment of President Dilma Rousseff on a day that could build momentum for efforts to oust her.

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FINANCIAL TIMES

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AP PHOTO

### NPC MEETING IN BEIJING

# China's new push against 'hostile forces,' separatists

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## Approvals of residential mortgage loans slump

New approvals of residential mortgage loans (RMLs) decreased by 35.8 percent during the first month of 2016, while those of commercial real estate loans (CRELs) went in opposite direction, increasing by 1.3 percent during the same period. A report issued by the Monetary Authority of Macau states that in January 2016, local bank approvals of new RMLs decreased month-to-month to MOP3.2 billion (35.8 percent), with those for non-residents decreasing further (44 percent). In addition, these kinds of credit loans were attributed almost entirely to local residents (95.1 percent). As for new CRELs, the slight growth of 1.3 percent month-to-month represents a value of MOP5.3 billion. Regarding commercial real estate loans, the percentage of the loans attributed to local residents is even higher, with non-residents only accounting for 0.3 percent of recipients.

## Coutinho re-elected as head of ATFPM

Lawmaker Pereira Coutinho was the sole candidate for the Macau Civil Servants Association (ATFPM) board election, which took place last Saturday. A total of 4,260 members voted to confer a new four-year term (2016-2020) on List A (the single list), headed by Coutinho, which gathered the votes of 4,238 members (99.5 percent). The winning list is headed by Pereira Coutinho as chairman of the board, with Rita Santos as Chairman of the General Assembly, and Mary Leong Magdalene as Chairman of the Supervisory Board. The list also includes the vice presidents of the board: Ché Sai Wang, Leong Weng Chai, Arnaldo Ernesto Silveiro Gomes Martins and Armando Jesus.

## Xue Yihan's family donates 12 prints to Macau

The opening of "Heart Carving - Xue Yihan's Scenes of Macao Printmaking Exhibition," organized by the Cultural Affairs Bureau and co-organized by Albergue SCM and Beishan Lihe Creative Cultural Industries, Ltd, was held on Friday at the Albergue SCM - A2 Gallery. Aiming to promote cultural development between Zhuhai and Macau, family members of Xue Yihan donated 12 of the artist's prints to the Cultural Affairs Bureau, to form part of a permanent collection.

## ARTS

# Photographer portrays 'passionate wine makers'

Renato Marques

**FRENCH** photographer Jean-Yves Bardin is presenting in Macau the "Gueules de Vignerons," (Portraits of Wine Makers) a photographic exhibition that portrays "special wine makers" according to the artist.

During Friday's opening ceremony of the exhibition which took place at the Sofitel Macau at Ponte 16, Bardin said that "these are very special wine makers because they are passionate about their work, producing wine without any chemical product, just natural wine."

The 43 wine makers portrayed also have in common the fact that they are all from the Anjou region, located in the lower Loire Valley, where wine is traditionally made in



the most pure of forms.

As the artist explained, the works, done over the course of 5 years, aim to not only portray the faces behind the high quality wines they produce but also capture the process

of this wine making across several seasons, "capturing the expression of the life in Loire Valley." The author invites viewers to "get closer to the photographs and attend to the details."

In the opening speech, the vice-president of organizer Alliance Française, Éric Sautédé, mentioned the importance of this exhibition, which portrays "something precious and important to promote that is also relatively new and trending in France, the return to the roots of winemaking."

As Sautédé said, this exhibition is also "the start of a tour that the author will present in China."

The portraits on display are part of a book titled "Vignerons d'Anjou, Gueules de vignerons" which was awarded the "Best French Wine Book in the world" in the Yantai, China Gourmands Awards in 2015. Bardin started focusing his work on vineyards and wine makers in 2011 in the Anjou region, studying their winemaking techniques with low intervention farming, which shows their dedication and commitment to protecting the environment.

The exhibition will be on display at the Sofitel Macau at Ponte 16 lobby until the end of March.

## COURTS

# Man sentenced for supporting 'overstaying' wife to give birth in Macau

**THE** Court of Final Appeal (TUI) on Friday confirmed the sentence of a non-resident man who provided support for his overstaying wife so that she could give birth in Macau.

The court ruled to sentence the man for his support and hosting of an illegal person in Macau, confirming similar decisions by the Court of First Instance (TJB) and the Court of Second Instance (TSI), against which the man had appealed.

The TUI ruled that the defendant had committed the offense of which he was accused, and had done it consciously and with a specific purpose of trying to give his son the opportunity of permanent residency in the territory.

In the statement, the TUI also cites the TSI judgment, which states clearly that "even if the defendant claims to be unaware of the law" the fact is that there can be no justification or mitigation for his conduct, adding that "he [the accused]

knew, at least, that his wife could not enter the territory upon her own choosing and that she could only stay in Macau during the granted period." The judgment concludes by saying that "the possibility of staying in the territory should not be confused with the possibility of giving birth and obtaining the right to residency," refusing the applicant's argument that he should be "excluded from guilt."

Regarding the "claim of conflict between the duty of caring for his wife and the duty of not providing lodging and support for people in illegal situations," the court also ruled that "although these two duties might be in conflict, in this case, it is clear that this has happened because of the defendant's own conduct and personal interest, and it is not related to chance or misfortune." The court affirmed the decision of the TJB and did not grant the man an exemption from his unlawful actions.

The TJB had convicted the man to four months of imprisonment, suspended on probation for the period of one year. **RM**

## Green Week kicks off

**THE** 35th Green Week, organized by the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) and other organizations, officially started on Saturday.

The event includes activities such as tree planting and exhibitions as well as games and workshops to increase citizens' understanding of the importance of protecting nature. Prizes will also be awarded to the best participants.

"It's my fifth time here. My favorite part is the bonsai. I can make my own creation," a ten-year-old participant told the Times yesterday, excited over the prospect of being allowed to take the bonsai back home after having finished the design.

Most of the participants at yesterday's events were children and the elderly. Raymond Yip, a college freshman who works as a volunteer at Green Week, said, "I haven't seen people my age participating in the event. I think the promotion strategy was not strong enough to attract young people."

In addition to planting trees, a selection of different types of plants displayed in different arrangements could be seen at Tap Seac Square. However, attendance was low, "probably because of the rain," admitted Seng Leong, a high school volunteer. **Staff reporter**



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Renato Marques

# Gaming association pledges to protect local workers

**M**EMBERS and supporters of the Power of the Macao Gaming Association reiterated their promise to keep fighting for the rights of local residents on Friday at the entrance to a presentation meeting with the Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong.

During the ongoing mid-term review of the city's gaming industry, the participants at the meeting urged the government to first take a closer look at the situation for workers.

The head of the Macau Civil Servants Association (ATFPM), Pereira Coutinho, attended the meeting. He argued that the "labor law should be reviewed in order to provide more protection for workers so they cannot be fired without a 'just cause' because the compensation for these cases [in Macau] is irrelevant."

"Regarding the promotion of local workers to leadership and positions of greater responsibility, they are 'blocked' since



Members of the gaming association were accompanied by lawmaker Pereira Coutinho to the meeting with Lionel Leong

there are many non-resident workers occupying those positions," he added, asking the

government to make changes in this area.

The idea to form this asso-

ciation started some time ago when, in order to solve problems relating to salary injustice among "casino pit workers" who were being paid different wages for the same function. Some of the founders of the newly formed association requested help from the ATFPM. "After the problem was solved satisfactorily the members decided to join forces to form an association to defend their interests," Pereira Coutinho told reporters. "We [the ATFPM members] are here to support them."

To the meeting with Lionel Leong, the association members took a list of three main problems that they wish to see resolved: the improvement of Macau's retirement scheme;

the supervision of changes in the gaming sector during the adjustment period; and the reduction of the number of non-resident workers in order to promote the careers of local workers.

Coutinho said the association also shares the concerns already expressed by another gaming related association, the Forefront of Macau Gaming (FMG), regarding the 80 percent decrease in the recruitment rate in the gaming sector over the last quarter of 2015 when compared with 2014 according to the latest figures from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC). Coutinho added that "systematically there are workers being fired without a justifiable reason."

## Old dockyard to re-open as an art center

**T**HE Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) revealed that an old dockyard located close to the A-Ma Temple will be opened to the public by the end of this year as an arts center.

The IC invested MOP10 million in restoring the building, which was vacant. Previously it had been used for building and repairing ships.

The area surrounding A-Ma temple has been planned as a large public transport hub. Located between Sai Van and A-ma temple, the soon-to-be arts center, along with A-ma temple, is believed to "have a great economic and social potential," said Ung Vai Meng, president of the IC, during a press conference on Saturday.

The building will be divided into three parts. The exhibition space will present modern visual art; the public area will have bookstores, gift shops, spaces for people to rest, and regular lectures for the public will also be held there in order to promote art education; the remaining areas will be for offices, collections, storage rooms, and basic facilities. "The building will present a new look. It will combine both the his-



Ung Vai Meng (second right) explains the plan for the new arts center

torical character of the city and modern art," said Kent Chi-Kin Leong, acting chief of the Cultural Activity Department of the IC.

The dockyard was first established in the 1890s. Besides the building that will be used as arts center, there exists another building that was used as an office, canteen, medical room and other functions. The lack of space prevented the dockyard from being further developed, and the technology and equipment had fallen behind modern-day requirements.

## Rating agencies maintain positive tone on local economy

**B**OTH Fitch Ratings and Moody's Investors Service have maintained their ratings of the local economy since their last report.

Fitch Ratings classified Macau's economy as "AA-" with a "stable" outlook while, on the other hand, Moody's gave the SAR a rating of "Aa2" on "review for downgrade" and is expecting to complete its review and make a final decision in the next three months.

According to a statement released the Monetary Authority of Macau (AMCM) on Friday, the Fitch rating is due to "the territory's prudent fiscal strength, strong external financial position, credible policy framework and high per-capita income."

The local monetary au-

thority highlighted that these results are very positive signs, especially because they were given during a period of "economic adjustment," when gross domestic product recorded a contraction of 20.3 percent. This is a sign that the SAR has still managed to maintain its high investment-grade (double-A rating), which helps to stabilize financing costs of the territory and its institutions, and reflects the public recognition by the international rating agencies of Macau's fiscal and financial stability.

AMCM stated that the fiscal surplus last year stood at MOP29.3 billion, with the government assets reaching over MOP400 billion in the Fiscal Reserve. The employment situation is remaining stable, as

the unemployment rate stays below the 2 percent mark.

During 2015 local banks reached historical highs in both profits and assets. Bank profits increased 16.3 percent to MOP12.8 billion in 2015, while their assets rose 14.2 percent to MOP1,340.8 billion, helped also by an extremely low non-performing loan ratio of 0.12 percent.

In addition, the financial industry has continued to develop their businesses, boosted with the approval of the People's Bank of China's decision to conduct a renminbi clearing business for Portuguese-speaking countries and with the first successfully conducted batch of credit business by the region's banks within the mainland's Free Trade Zones. **RM**

## 'Pearl Horizon' owners resume protests

**A** large group of "Pearl Horizon" buyers returned to public demonstrating yesterday.

This time the group chose Senado Square as the location for their protest. According to Public Security Police Force, a total of about 250 pre-sales buyers of Pearl Horizon units staged a protest urging the government to protect their interests.

The buyers once again appealed to

the government to solve the problem. Speaking to TDM, the president of the Association Pearl Horizon, Lao Lap Chi, urged authorities to fulfill their promises to protect the rights of smallholders.

The protests have been repeatedly staged on several occasions before, after the government decided not to renew the developer's hold on the land plot due to the expiration of the land concession period without clear developments in

the project.

The Administrative Court also rejected an appeal from the concessionaire against the decision to confiscate the land; a decision that contributed to the fears of small buyers that claim they have lost their investments and their houses.

Many of them claim that they are paying high mortgages to banks that loaned them money to buy the properties.



# Analyst suggests the region go 'above and beyond' gaming industry

An analyst has advised Macau to look "above and beyond" the casino gaming market because the region is experiencing a downturn due to Beijing's anti-corruption crackdown.

"The customer is changing, and it's changing a lot quicker than the casinos initially expected, but obviously, it's much more mass-market focused customers rather than VIP," said Grant Govertsen, speaking to CalvinAyre.com.

The analyst believes that the key is to find out what the mass-market customer wants in addition to casino gaming.

"Obviously, they do enjoy that, but there has to be other [hooks] to get them to come to Macau, [...] to make Macau more of a, not necessarily Ve-



Grant Govertsen

gas-like destination, but kind of the same concept where they're coming for more than gambling," the analyst noted.

Though he believes that it will take "some number of years and a lot of experimentation," he is positive that the city-sta-

te can evolve from a gambling town into an entertainment destination, similar to Las Vegas.

"[The majority of Las Vegas's] revenues came from gambling, that's why people went to Las Vegas, more than any other reason. And as they

went and kind of pioneered this integrated resort or [that] entertainment resort concept, you saw that fundamental shift begin to occur and so now Vegas is known much more for entertainment and having fun [...] than it is for gambling," said Govertsen.

When asked what Macau can learn from the Vegas market, the analyst claimed that the state turned into a massive entertainment destination by having "multiple significant numbers of options."

"Just having one nightclub isn't going to be enough to draw people from all over the world," he noted.

"It's going to be imperative for Macau to figure out how they can do something on a larger scale that will really bring the people in, but again, it comes down to what the customers want and I don't think, quite frankly, the casinos here know what the answer is yet, and I'm not sure the customers know exactly what they want either," Govertsen added. **Staff reporter**

# Moto Club celebrates anniversary with focus on road safety

COMMEMORATING the fourth anniversary of the Macau Moto Club (MCM), approximately 60 members of the organization and other local bike clubs participated in a motorcycle parade around the MSAR on Saturday.

The parade passed through Macau, Taipa and Coloane, finishing at the Roadhouse Bar on Broadway Macau where celebrations including a buffet, live music, a motorcycle display and a prize draw began at 1.30 p.m.

Members of MCM at the event took the opportunity to stress that Macau still has far to go in terms of improving road safety – especially for motorcycle users.

"We are not people who make the streets of Macau a racetrack. In Macau Moto Club we respect, in an exemplary manner, the traffic code and we make sure that the rules are respected by all [of our members]," João Mexia, vice president of the organization, told TDM.

However, Mexia also stressed, "We also want to alert [people] to the conditions of the streets in Macau because sometimes we see that people who drive in Macau don't care about our big bikes; they cut us off, they don't use their turning signals."

"It's very difficult for us to control our big bikes if someone cuts in front of us," he added.

Founded in 2012, the club has organized activities and trips to various Asian destinations including mainland China, Taiwan, Thailand, Laos and Myanmar. Group members are bound together by their motto: "We don't ride to forget life, we ride to remember that good life exists."

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CRIME

# Stolen money allegedly 'laundered' in Philippine casinos

**T**HE Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR), the country's gaming regulator, has announced the preliminary findings of its inquiry into alleged money laundering, according to media reports.

The story begins in Bangladesh, a country of about 170 million people that's recently found itself with record foreign reserves thanks to a low wage-fueled export boom and inward remittances. Some of those reserves were held in an account at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith last week accused the Fed of "irregularities" that led to the unauthorized transfer of USD100 million from the account. The Bangladesh central bank said the funds had been stolen by hackers and that some had been traced to the Philippines.

The Philippine Daily Inquirer quoted an unknown PAGCOR official as saying that the inquiry revealed that "USD46 million of a reported USD81 million in



stolen Bangladeshi funds that entered the Philippines found its way into the local casino industry. The rest of the funds never entered the local casino system. So, we don't know where those funds went."

Philippine authorities believe that the USD46 million that entered the gaming system was split into two different groups, including a USD26 million tranche that entered the Solaire Resort and Casino, an integrated resort owned by Bloomberry Resorts. A second tranche of USD20 million allegedly made its way to the Eastern Hawaii Casino and Resort.

The accounts holding the laundered money have reportedly been frozen by the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC). **RM**

Edvard Pettersson

**L**AS Vegas Sands Corp. for a second time persuaded the Nevada Supreme Court to throw out a jury award won by a Hong Kong businessman who claimed he helped the casino company win permission to operate in Macau.

The state's highest court said Friday there wasn't sufficient evidence to justify the USD70 million in damages a jury awarded Richard Suen in 2013 and that a new trial was needed.

Suen claimed a meeting he arranged between Sands Chairman Sheldon Adelson and Chinese government officials in Beijing was instrumental in Macau's decision to include Sands among the foreign casino operators that were given licenses in 2002. He had won a \$43.8 million verdict when his claims first went to trial in 2008. That damages award was previously overturned by the Nevada Supreme Court.

Adelson testified during the second trial that Suen, a friend of Adelson's younger brother Lenny, had "zero" to do with helping the company obtain a concession in the former Portuguese colony. According to Adelson, the Macau government made its

# Sands gets USD70m verdict over Macau permit thrown out



Richard Suen (left)

decisions independent of the central government in Beijing, which is legally prohibited from intervening in the city's internal affairs.

Suen testified that in 2000 he alerted Adelson, Sands' founder and controlling shareholder, to the possibility that Macau would end the gambling monopoly casino mogul Stanley Ho had en-

joyed in the enclave since 1962. Suen claimed the goodwill created with Chinese officials through the meetings he helped arrange in Beijing led to the selection of Sands.

The judge overseeing the trial added \$31.6 million in interest to the jury award, making the total Sands would have had to pay Suen \$101.6 million. **Bloomberg**

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Daniel Beitler

# North Korea: the 'cruellest psychological experiment' ever dreamed up

**A**DAM Johnson, the author of an award-winning fictional novel depicting the ordinary people of North Korea, participated in a talk yesterday as part of the Macau Literary Festival where he described the Korean state as the "cruellest psychological experiment anyone could have dreamed up."

Speaking about his extensive research on North Korea in preparation for his novel, Johnson said that the country was fascinating, full of contradictions, and best described as a cruel psychological experiment.

The book, entitled "The Orphan Master's Son," is fictional, although "a lot of the portraits are based on non-fiction." It went on to earn Johnson a Pulitzer Prize and a Dayton Literary Peace Prize, as well as being named a bestseller and best book of the year by various publications and other literary associations.

Johnson, who is an associate professor in creative writing at Stanford University, said that while researching and writing his novel he tried to understand and re-live the perspective of the isolated country's ordinary citizens.

"I don't think anyone can know what it's like to grow up there [North Korea]... until they're [the North Koreans] free and they start to write their own books."

He had attempted to gain entry to North Korea on numerous occasions, adding that a number of initial half-hearted efforts had been unsuccessful. The author initially applied for entry on the basis of scholarly work but was refused. He then invited a North Korean professor to spend a year at Stanford University – an offer that he admits was not approved by the education institution – but received no reply.

Finally, after liaising with an aged Korean professor in the U.S., Johnson managed to get



Adam Johnson

a permit into the country in 2007, where, like all foreigners, he was escorted by a group of handlers who were keen to offer a carefully scripted tour of the

country. Citizens of North Korea are acutely aware of how their own actions – or inaction – can result in state-sanctioned punish-

ments like being sent to work camps (gulags) or allegedly being murdered by organs of the North Korean government.

These allegations, often brought to the outside world by North Korean defectors, are not unimaginable given the state's apparent disinterest in relieving the starvation of millions of its citizens. "It is a parasitic society, where the elites live off the peasants," Johnson explains.

Commenting on the pervasive and widespread use of propa-

ganda in the Northeast Asian country, Johnson said that he found the language and imagery "boring, funny and bizarre" at the same time.

When he visited Pyongyang in 2007 he saw a newspaper in the city with a story about Kim Jong Il on the front page. It described a scene where the North's leader was walking along a river with doves circling above his head, apparently, in an effort to provide him with shade.

"I wasn't sure whether to put Kim Jong Il [in the novel] because of the stereotypes portrayed of him," said the award-winning author, adding that in the West he is portrayed often as both a cold-hearted lunatic and as a comedic, parodied figure.

"But as I came to learn that he was not only aware [of the crimes being committed against his people] but that he was directly involved in them and perpetrating them, I knew that he had to be included."

**I don't think anyone can know what it's like to grow up there [N Korea].**

ADAM JOHNSON

## N Korea warns of pre-emptive strikes against the South

**N**ORTH Korea said Saturday its military is ready to pre-emptively attack and "liberate" the South if it sees signs that American and South Korean troops involved in annual joint military drills are attempting to invade the North.

The declaration from General Staff of the North's Korean People's Army on state media is the latest outburst over the drills that the U.S. and South Korea say are defensive and routine. At the start of the drills last week, the North warned of an indiscriminate "pre-emptive nuclear strike

of justice" on Washington and Seoul.

The Korean People's Army said it will counter the drills by the United States and South Korea it says are aimed at advancing into Pyongyang with plans to "liberate the whole of South Korea including Seoul" and also that it is capable of executing "ultra-precision blitzkrieg" strikes against enemy targets.

In response to North's statement, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff called for North Korea to stop its threats and "rash behavior" and warned that a provocation

from the North would result in the destruction of its highest leadership.

A pre-emptive large-scale strike by North Korea against the South is highly unlikely when that would almost certainly bring to an end the authoritarian rule of leader Kim Jong Un given the likely military response of the U.S. and South Korea. Analysts say the North's bellicose rhetoric is also intended for its domestic audience to display government strength ahead of a major meeting of the ruling party in May. **AP**

AD



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## Hsin Chong to build Cambodian World Trade Center

**H**sin Chong Construction Company (HCC) has been appointed as the construction manager for the Thai Boon Roong Twin Tower World Trade Center Project in Cambodia by the project's co-developers, Ng Lap Seng's Sun Kian Ip Group and the Thai Boon Roong Group.

Located on the bank of the Mekong River in the country's capital city, Phnom Penh, the Twin Tower will reach 500 meters (133 stories) into the sky when completed, making it Cambodia's tallest building as well as one of the tallest in the world.

### Hsin Chong has been involved in various projects in Macau

Paul Lee, managing director of HCC, and Augustine Tang, director of HCC, signed the contract at a ceremony held last week in Phnom Penh.

"We are honored to be chosen to deliver this landmark project for Cambodia, which has been earmarked as an important commercial and residential facility," said Paul Lee. "We will

be applying the strengths and experience we have in constructing large-scale integrated projects in Hong Kong and Macau to provide the best solutions and a high-quality product for our client."

HCC has been involved in various works in Cotai and at other sites in Macau. The company was awarded a major contract for the Phase II construction of Galaxy Macau, and was also a main contractor for the campus development at the University of Saint Joseph.

As the project's construction manager, HCC will be responsible for coordinating and supervising contractors, program control, commercial advice, monitoring safety and quality control, managing site logistics, as well as coordinating with consultants and the local authorities.

The project will also include four residential buildings, an 11-storey podium structure with three basement levels, and another three basement levels under the existing Hun Sen Plaza in front of the Twin Towers.

In addition, the Thai Boon Roong Twin Tower World Trade Center Project, which will span a total land area of over 86,000 square meters, will accommodate a wide range of facilities such as serviced apartments, offices, a shopping mall, an exhibition hall, a cinema, and restaurants. **DB**

# Iran on oil freeze: 'Leave us alone' until output higher

Ladane Nasseri

**I**RAN plans to boost crude output to 4 million barrels a day before it will consider joining other suppliers in seeking ways to rebalance the global oil market.

"They should leave us alone" until then, Oil Minister Bijan Zanganeh said, according to the Iranian Students News Agency. "After that we will work with them."

## Saudi Arabia, Russia, Venezuela and Qatar proposed an accord to freeze oil output and tackle a global surplus

Saudi Arabia, Russia, Venezuela and Qatar proposed an accord to freeze oil output and tackle a global surplus. Oil extended gains after their initial meeting on Feb. 16, and has climbed more than 40 percent since the 12-year low in January. Oil at USD70 a barrel is "suitable," ISNA cited Zanganeh saying.

Iran wants to boost output by 1 million barrels a day this year after international sanctions on its oil industry were lifted in January. Production was 3 million barrels a day in February, accor-



The Monte Toledo oil tanker delivers a consignment of Iranian oil to an offshore pumping station refinery near Algeciras, a few miles from Gibraltar, on March 6. The tanker became the first to deliver Iranian crude into Europe since mid-2012, when Brussels imposed an oil embargo

ding to data compiled by Bloomberg. Brent crude closed Friday at \$40.39 a barrel.

Zanganeh will meet with Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak today, according to ISNA, which didn't specify the location or topics of discussion. Novak is leading a Russian business delegation to Tehran, and also will discuss telecommunications, state-run Mehr news agency reported, without saying where it got the information.

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and non-members have intermittently held discussions since No-

vember 2014, when OPEC first signaled it was unwilling to cut production on its own to support prices. Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, Russia and Mexico assembled in Vienna that month without reaching any deal. A tour of oil capitals from Moscow to Riyadh last month by Venezuelan Energy Minister Eulogio Del Pino failed to produce an accord.

Iran's oil exports will rise to 2 million barrels a day in the month ending March 20, the end of the Iranian year, from 1.75 million barrels a day a month earlier, Zanganeh said, according to ISNA. **Bloomberg**

### corporate bits

#### GOOGLE IS HITTING THE ROAD FOR USER FEEDBACK



Google is about to embark on an old-school search, swapping its Internet algorithm for a custom-built van that will cruise across the U.S. to find out how people use its online services and react to new features.

The white van emblazoned with Google's colorful logo and an invitation to "shape

the future" of the world's most powerful Internet company is scheduled to pull out today on a six-week road trip.

Google is using the van to help it break out of its Silicon Valley bubble. The van will make multiday stops in seven states, stopping near colleges, libraries, parks and some of Google's own regional offices in hopes of finding out how average Americans are using the company's multitude of digital offerings.

About 500 walk-up volunteers will be invited to step inside the van designed to serve as a mini-version of Google's Silicon Valley laboratories, where most of the company's user studies are conducted.

#### JUNEYAO AIR AIMS TO DOUBLE FLEET AS DISNEY LANDS IN SHANGHAI

Juneyao Airlines Co. aims to double its fleet by 2020, expecting the mid-year opening of Disney's Shanghai park and more tourist travel to further drive flight demand as the privately run Chinese carrier considers joining a global alliance.

"The potential for growth is huge," company Chairman Wang Junjin said in an interview yesterday on the sidelines of the National People's Congress in Beijing. "In a country with a population of 1.3 billion people, there were only something more than 400 million passenger trips made last year."

The Shanghai-based carrier, which Wang says has been China's most punctual since

November, expects to grow its fleet to 100 from the current 50. The airline, whose Chinese name means "fortune," has been in talks with alliances without a presence in Shanghai and will make a decision whether to join one by the end of this year, he added.



#### YAHOO SNUBS ACTIVIST SHAREHOLDER WITH TWO NEW DIRECTORS



Yahoo has set up a battle for control of its board by appointing two directors likely to further agitate an activist shareholder threatening an attempt to oust CEO Marissa Mayer unless she bows to demands to sell the company's Internet operations.

The decision increases the likelihood that the unhappy shareholder, Starboard Value, will nominate an opposing slate

to run against Yahoo's board of nine directors in a proxy fight. If the confrontation occurs, it would escalate the challenges already facing Mayer and the rest of Yahoo's board as they try to reverse a prolonged decline in the company's revenue and figure out a way to avoid paying taxes on the gains from a roughly USD28 billion stake that it holds in China's e-commerce leader, Alibaba Group.

# Beijing pledges new push against 'hostile forces' and separatists

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

CHINA'S chief prosecutor said yesterday that battling "infiltration, subversion and sabotage by hostile forces" is a key priority this year, with terrorists, ethnic separatists and religious extremists all in his crosshairs.

In a speech to the annual session of China's national legislature, Cao Jianmin also listed combatting cybercrime and ensuring national sovereignty in cyberspace as items topping the list of 2016 priorities.

Prosecutors will also continue to follow up on cases brought to as part of an almost three-year-old nationwide anti-corruption campaign spearheaded by the ruling Communist Party's watchdog agency, Cao said.

Although he identified no specific groups or individuals as threats, Beijing has in the past cited a long list of "hostile forces" it accuses of seeking to end communist rule and plunge China into chaos, division and economic ruin.

Those include agents of foreign governments, civil socie-



China's Supreme People's Procuratorate top prosecutor Cao Jianmin speaks at a plenary session of the National People's Congress

ty groups who challenge the party's absolute authority, religious dissenters such as the underground church and the banned Falun Gong meditation sect. Those campaigning for ethnic rights are also frequently cited, including exiled Tibetan leader the Dalai Lama and advocates for the Turkic Muslim Uighur minority from the northwestern region of Xinjiang.

In an accompanying address to the legislature, top judge

Zhou Qiang said Chinese courts convicted 1,419 people last year of national security and terrorism crimes that carry potential death sentences. That compares with 712 people sentenced for incitement to separatism, terrorism and related charges in 2014, before last year's passage of a sweeping new national security law.

Fighting corruption also remains a priority, with prosecutors handling 4,490 cases

involving more than 1 million yuan (USD154,000) last year, up 22.5 percent from 2014, Cao said in his report. That was out of a total of 54,249 officials investigated, Cao said.

Those prosecuted for graft last year include 22 former officials at the ministerial level or above, including Zhou Yongkang, a past member of the party's all-powerful Politburo Standing Committee who was sentenced to life in prison for corruption.

Such cases are referred to prosecutors only after suspects have been thoroughly investigated by the party's Central Committee for Discipline Inspection. The body, whose methodologies and standards of evidence are kept secret, said this month it had dished out demotions and other punishments to nearly 300,000 officials last year.

However, Cao said prosecutors have yet to indict 41 officials of ministerial rank or above under investigation for corruption, including Ling Jihua, a key aide to former president Hu Jintao. Ling has been under investigation for at least 15 months since being removed as head of the party's United Front Work Department in December 2014.

Starting from Oct. 2014, China has also brought about the return of 124 corruption suspects who had fled abroad to 34 different countries, including some who had turned themselves in, Cao said.

Details weren't given on new measures to prevent Chinese Internet users from accessing overseas websites, something China insists is its innate right in order to protect its "national cyberspace sovereignty." China already blocks a wide range of foreign websites featuring news, research tools such as Google, social media including Facebook and Twitter, and file-sharing sites such as YouTube. **AP**

## 'Ten Years' disappears from HK cinemas



A still from the independent Hong Kong film, Ten Years

THE controversial dystopian film "Ten Years," hailed as a timely insight into the mainland's increasing intrusion into Hong Kong's political autonomy, has largely disappeared from movie theaters, leaving private showings as the only opportunity left for people to see the Hong Kong budget film.

The film's disappearance has caused some observers to worry that mainland authorities may be behind the decision by some local cinemas to cancel their showings, in another example of China's growing intolerance of government-targeted criticism and

freedom of expression in the neighboring SAR.

"Ten Years" portrays a dystopian vision of Hong Kong set in 2025, where Cantonese is not widely permitted in the city, nor are local agricultural products.

Despite the fact that work began on the budget movie prior to the Occupy Central movement, the alleged abduction of Causeway Bay bookstore owners and publishers, and the Chinese New Year riots that occurred last month, these recent events caused one of the directors, Chow Kwun-wai, to remark that, "It is true that things in Hong Kong are

happening faster than in our film."

"A lot of people tell us, 'we do not need to wait ten years. All this is already happening,'" Ng Ka-leung, another of the directors, told the Guardian newspaper. "We need more wisdom and courage to face the future, to face the ridiculous situation in which Hong Kong finds itself right now."

Meanwhile, China's Global Times labeled the film "absurd," "too pessimistic" and a "virus of the mind."

The fact that "Ten Years" was still drawing full houses when movie theaters pulled the film has led some to believe that mainland China has had a hand in the decision, either through censorship or merely exerting pressure.

While Hong Kong cinemas either did not respond to the Guardian's enquiries or simply stated that "they had too many other films to show," some in the industry have found the abrupt decision strange.

Shu Kei, a film critic and professor at Hong Kong's Academy for Performing Arts, told the Guardian that he believes China has had some influence. "I think it is stupid, of course, for China to cancel the broadcasts. But this is always their reaction when they do not want people to know more about something." **MDT**

## Miners protest over governor's claim

THOUSANDS of Chinese miners who say they have not been paid for months staged a rare protest in a northeastern city, days after the provincial governor made the apparently false claim that no miner working for the province's largest publicly owned mining company was owed any back wages.

Angry miners from Longmay Mining Holding Group Co. Ltd. and their family members marched through the city of Shuangyashan on Saturday and gathered in front of the company's local offices.

In response, the government of Heilongjiang province issued a statement Saturday night acknowledging that many Longmay employees are owed wages and benefits, backtracking from Governor Lu Hao's assertions earlier this month.

The protest and the change in the government's stance underline the sensitivity of the employment issue, as Chinese miners and others in state industries are losing their jobs or seeing their pay drastically cut. China's massive state-owned mining com-



panies are struggling to boost efficiency and reduce their payrolls amid a severe slump in coal demand brought on by sharply slowing economic growth.

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang has told the annual legislature, which convenes in Beijing this week, that 100 billion yuan (USD15 billion) has been set aside, primarily to assist workers who should be diverted from industries such as coal and steel, reducing their capacities.

The pain is particularly acute in China's northeastern rustbelt, where Heilongjiang is located. Its biggest state-owned mining company, Longmay, reduced its work force by 22,500 people recently, according to state media reports. **AP**

# Tsang defends Hong Kong economy after Moody's outlook cut

Regina Tan

**H**ONG Kong Financial Secretary John Tsang defended the city's economy after Moody's Investors Service cut the city's long-term debt outlook because of its links to China.

Moody's maintained Hong Kong's long-term debt and issuer ratings at Aa1 and downgraded the outlook to negative from stable because it sees the city's credit profile tracking China's, the agency said Saturday. The firm lowered China's credit-rating outlook on March 2 as a rising debt burden, falling foreign-exchange reserves and uncertainty about authorities' capacity to implement reforms weigh on its economy.

"It's a totally wrong assessment. And they can just look at economic conditions that we have, and actually, maybe it's really time to consider an upgrade for Hong Kong," Tsang said in a statement posted on the government's website. "Hong Kong is in a good position to benefit from the structural rebalancing in the mainland's economy from investment to consumption," he said in a separate statement.

Hong Kong's economy, dependent on China trade, may see "muted" growth over the

next five years with a possible increase in its banking sector's credit risk given its exposure to corporations in the world's second-largest economy, Moody's said.

**■ Tsang said banks in Hong Kong have a strong capital base and have prudently managed their property-related exposure**

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang announced a 6.5 percent to 7 percent expansion goal this month, down from an objective of about 7 percent last year and the first range the government has offered since 1995. The nation has been burning through foreign reserves to defend the yuan, depleting the stockpile by USD513 billion last year. That's the first annual drop in more than two decades, at a time when debt levels have reached an unprecedented 247 percent of gross domestic product.

Hong Kong is "very exposed" to any deterioration in China, given that about 60 percent of the city's bank credit goes to mainland borrowers, said Kevin Lai, chief economist for Asia excluding Japan at Daiwa Capital Markets.

If global investors start to feel negative about China and withdraw capital from Hong Kong, the city will face "a huge liquidity crisis as it will be very difficult for Hong Kong to get money back from China because of credit issues or capital controls," Lai said by phone.

Tsang said the risk associated with mainland-related lending is "manageable." The credit quality of mainland borrowers is high, given the majority of them are large state-owned enterprises and multinational companies, he said.

Credit agencies are misjudging the situation by lowering the outlook for China and its banking sector, China Banking Regulatory Commission Chairman Shang Fulin said, according to a CCTV tweet Saturday.

Moody's also said the strong political link embedded in the one country, two systems policy creates the risk that Hong Kong's institutions will lose some independence over time as China grows. Ahead of the 2017 election for Hong Kong's chief executi-



John Tsang, financial secretary of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

ve, tensions could rise further and impair the effectiveness of government policies, the agency said.

Tsang emphasized that the one country, two systems policy has been successfully exercised with diligence since 1997 and it has manifested into a very healthy economic situation and fiscal position in Hong Kong, together with a well-regulated banking system.

Unfavorable developments in China could lead to a sharp correction in Hong Kong's elevated property prices, exacerbating the pressure on banks' asset quality and profitability, Moody's said.

Tsang said banks in Hong

Kong have a strong capital base and have prudently managed their property-related exposure. Following the implementation of seven rounds of counter-cyclical and macro-prudential measures by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority over the past few years, the banking sector is now more resilient in weathering property market adjustments, he said.

Daiwa's Lai is less sanguine. "In the second half, we will see credit deterioration and the property market will struggle," he said. "There will be no doubt that this will create an excuse for the rest of the world to withdraw money out from Hong Kong." **Bloomberg**

## HK approves China express rail link in contested vote

**H**ONG Kong approved funding needed for a high-speed rail link to China after a contested vote among lawmakers, giving the green light for MTR Corp. to resume construction on the HKD84.4 billion (USD11 billion) project.

Approval was granted after the acting chairman for the finance committee Chan Kam-lam called for a vote amid protests by some lawmakers. At the briefing to announce the decision, Chan was heckled by those who opposed the project.

MTR, three-quarters owned by the government, has been criticized



A passenger takes a rest on the subway train in Hong Kong

zed for budget overruns and missed completion targets on the project to connect Hong Kong to Shenzhen and Guangzhou in southern China. Some lawmakers have

called for the link to be scrapped amid repeated delays and escalating costs that swelled to HKD84.4 billion from an earlier estimated HKD65 billion.

**■ Segments of the Hong Kong population have protested over the high costs, pollution, and possible border control complications**

"As of today, over 77 percent of the project has been completed," MTR Chief Executive Officer Lincoln Leong told reporters Friday at a briefing. "We are confident about the current cost valuation and timetable of the project to be met."

Segments of the Hong Kong population have protested over the high

costs, pollution, possible border control complications, and their unhappiness with the government's insistence on pushing through the project. Opposition to the link has been brewing since 2009 and has gained in intensity with the emergence of the "localist" movement, which opposes what it

sees as encroachment on the local way of life by the Chinese governing and business elites.

The project could cost Hong Kong HKD75.6 billion if it was abandoned completely, the city's government said in December.

Forecasts for the project's economic return were cut to 4 percent, from 6 percent estimated in 2009, the city's Transport and Housing Bureau told lawmakers in a document in December. The government cited higher construction costs and slower economic and population growth in the Pearl River Delta region as reasons for the decline. **Bloomberg**

# Fake story reflects real divide between rural, urban Chinese



People wait for buses near a wall mural with the words "1.3 billion people united" and "China power" on the outskirts of Beijing

Didi Tang, Beijing

A woman from a big Chinese city visits her boyfriend's rural hometown and is so appalled by the squalor she sees that she dumps him. The story was fake, but it swept through Chinese media because it highlighted a deep societal gap that the ruling Communist Party has vowed to close.

Rural Chinese not only make less than city-dwellers but also receive significantly fewer social-welfare benefits, worsening a divide that was brought into focus by the fictional breakup, initially posted online as a real-life account.

The Chinese leadership, currently presiding over the country's largely ceremonial legislature through Wednesday, has pledged to introduce policies to bring prosperity to the countryside. In a key policy address over the weekend, Premier Li Keqiang pledged to improve countryside infrastructure and access in rural areas to social benefits.

"The core of our job is to bring a society of common prosperity," said Zhu Liangyu, a delegate to the National People's Congress from Beijing, "and we can only accomplish the task when the rural peasants are economically prospering."

Urban dwellers have only recently begun to outnumber rural ones in China, becoming more than half of the

population in 2011. But the split between them has been entrenched by the decades-long practice of differentiating them and their rights based on residence registration. The Herculean task of addressing that split was highlighted by the uproar nationwide over the breakup story, which emerged earlier this year.

"The fake love dispute and the ensuing heated discussions are only symptoms of a torn-up society," observed Tang Yinghong, a psychologist and a popular national columnist.

The female protagonist was from Shanghai, which represents "metropolitan China" and is comparable to any city in a developed country. Her lover hailed from a poor village in the hinterland province of Jiangxi, which could "be worse than Third World countries," Tang said. They matched two popular stereotypes — the sheltered, well-hee-

“The two Chinas have vastly different lifestyles, cultures and ideological thoughts.”

TANG YINGHONG

led "peacock" girl of the city, and the self-made "phoenix" man from the hinterland who makes good in the big city.

"The two Chinas have vastly different lifestyles, cultures and ideological thoughts, and the split between the two has reached an astonishing level," Tang said.

The story as posted on a Web forum was from the point of view of the woman, explaining why she immediately fled from her boyfriend's hometown and from the relationship. Accompanying it was a dimly lit photo of a squalid dinner table with dubious-looking dishes.

The story hit the screens of millions of smartphones across China during the weeklong Chinese New Year holiday. Hardly anyone bothered to check its authenticity, but much of the country jumped to vent their thoughts. Prominent columnists opined, and even the cardinal party-run newspaper People's Daily and official Xinhua News Agency chimed in.

Some observers bemoaned the woman's lack of etiquette, while others argued that rural realities would be a shock to any city woman.

Many real-life testimonials of such relationships soon followed, with some rural men wondering aloud whether they should even try for city women — a touchy subject in a country where men outnumber women because of the traditional preference for male children,

who was the creator.

Wu Qiang, a political scientist at Tsinghua University, said the furor over the breakup has showed the failure of Beijing to deliver the benefits of the past three decades of industrialization to ordinary people, especially those in China's vast countryside.

"A single photo of a rural dinner table has condensed so many social meanings of our time," Wu wrote. "What kind of social relationships and social realities have made everyone uncomfortable? Is it the widening gap between the cities and the countryside? Is it the class discrimination against the rural man? Or is it simply the differences in living habits between the rural and the cities?"

Wu argued that China's rural-urban differences must be addressed. "Only when everyone has equal rights can we make up the feudal gap between the cities and the countryside," he said.

In 2014, the average yearly income for a Shanghai resident was 47,710 yuan (USD7,300), more than four times the 10,117 yuan (\$1,547) a year for an average rural resident in the province of Jiangxi, though costs of living are significantly higher in cities.

Zheng Fengtian, a professor of agriculture and rural development at Beijing-based Renmin University, said the income disparity is not as alarming as inequality in social benefits.

For decades, China's national policies have favored city residents, who are granted better social benefits, such as health, education, employment and pensions, while rural dwellers are left with reduced benefits on the grounds that they have access to land.

Nearly 55 percent of China's 1.37 billion people live in cities, and Beijing has shifted its focus from urbanization to rebuilding the countryside, where national policies are aimed at extending more benefits to rural residents, Zheng said.

Plans in the annual work report Premier Li presented to the National People's Congress include building 200,000 kilometers (124,000 miles) of new roads in rural areas, upgrading power grids and improving drinking water safety. The report also aims to promote farming and to increase investment in rural areas.

"The dual system has been around for decades, and changes will take a long time," Zheng said. "The key is to narrow the gaps between the cities and countryside. Now we are building the villages, where residents there can one day enjoy the same benefits as everyone else." AP

Public discussions were so vehement that some Chinese journalists sought to find the protagonists and raised red flags when they could not

especially in rural areas.

Relationship gurus snatched the chance to sell their theories on what makes a good match, while state media called for more tolerance and respect.

"The fates of the protagonists are the foam created by the currents of our times," the People's Daily wrote. "The media should not feast on their pains but reflect on deeper issues reflected by the foam."

Public discussions were so vehement that some Chinese journalists sought to find the protagonists and raised red flags when they could not. Eventually, China's online regulators stepped in, investigated and declared the story was fabricated and the photo pirated. Authorities did not reveal

# Indonesia starting firefighting early as dry season begins

NinieK Karmini, Jakarta

**I**NDONESIA'S top security minister said last week that authorities have started efforts to fight forest and peatland fires that often pollute Southeast Asia's air as the dry season begins this month.

Luhut Pandjaitan, the coordinating minister for politics, legal and security affairs, said the government wants to avoid mistakes made last year when lack of prevention resulted in fires burning out of control. President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo had to ask help from other countries to bring the blazes under control.

Forest fires have been an annual problem in Indonesia since the mid-1990s, causing a toxic haze that often drifts into neighboring countries such as Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand. Last year's fires, which covered 2.1 million hectares (8,100 square miles), were considered one of the country's worst envi-



In this September 5, 2015, file photo, firemen spray water to contain burning wildfire in Ogan Ilir, South Sumatra

ronmental disasters since 1997, when blazes spread across nearly 10 million hectares.

Most of the fires are started deliberately to clear land for

agriculture such as palm oil plantations.

"We will declare a state of emergency once fires are detected, particularly on peat land,"

Pandjaitan said. "We don't want to repeat mistakes we made last year."

Early declaration of emergencies will speed up the release of

funds so authorities can deploy troops, helicopters and firefighting equipment more quickly, he said.

Damming canals so they flood peatland, which burns easily, is also being tried nationwide.

Scientists have predicted that low rainfall due to the El Nino effect could make fires worse this year if the government fails to stop intentional burning, particularly in Sumatra and Kalimantan on the Indonesian part of Borneo island.

The fires have caused health problems and economic losses on top of environmental damage. Last year in Indonesia there were 21 deaths and the smoky haze blanketing a swath of the country was estimated to have caused respiratory problems for half a million people.

The World Bank has estimated USD16 billion in economic costs from the 2015 fires, more than double what was spent on rebuilding Aceh province after the 2004 tsunami.

The Riau provincial government declared a state of emergency last week after fires in at least three districts began spreading rapidly because of strong winds. More than 700 police and soldiers have been deployed to extinguish the fires.

Riau province was one of the most severely affected areas last year. **AP**

## SOUTH KOREA

# Human Go champion scores first win over machine after three losses

Lee Jin-Man,  
Youkyung Lee, Seoul

**A** champion Go player scored his first win over a Go-playing computer program yesterday after losing three straight times in the ancient Chinese board game, saying he finally found weaknesses in the software.

Lee Sedol's victory over AlphaGo is a reminder that Google's Go-playing program has room for improvement despite winning the first three matches in the best-of-five series and the USD1 million prize, which will be donated to charity. The program — the first computer system to defeat a top Go player — was developed by Google DeepMind two years ago.

"This one win is so valuable and I will not trade this for anything in the world," Lee, one of the best Go players in the world, said with a smile after entering the post-match news conference at a Seoul hotel to applause from journalists.

Lee had said earlier in the series, which began last week, that he was unable to beat AlphaGo because he could not find any weaknesses in the software's strategy.



Korean professional Go player Lee Sedol

But after yesterday's match, the 33-year-old South Korean Go grandmaster, who has won 18 international championships, said he found two weaknesses in the artificial intelligence program.

Lee said that when he made an unexpected move, AlphaGo responded with a move as if the program had a bug, indicating that the machine lacked the ability to deal with surprises.

AlphaGo also had more difficulty when it played with a black stone, according to Lee. In Go, two players take turns putting black or white stones on a 19-by-

19-line grid, with a goal of putting more territory under one's control. A player with a black stone plays first and a white-stone player gets extra points to compensate.

Lee played with a white stone yesterday. For the final match of the series, scheduled for tomorrow, Lee has offered to play with a black stone, saying it would make a victory more meaningful.

South Korean commentators could not hide their excitement three hours into yesterday's match, when it became clear that Lee would finally notch a win. AlphaGo narrowed the gap with Lee, but could not overtake him, resigning nearly five hours into the game.

Go fans whose pride had been crushed by Lee's earlier defeats cheered the result. Prior to the series, Go fans, many of them in Asia, believed that the game would prove too complex for the machine to master.

Because there are near-infinite board positions in Go and top players rely heavily on intuition, the popular Asian board game has remained the holy grail for the artificial intelligence community for about two decades, after chess was conquered by computers. **AP**

# MSF challenges Pfizer's India vaccine patent application

**D**OCTORS Without Borders has challenged Pfizer's application for an Indian patent for its pneumonia vaccine so cheaper versions can be available to children in poor countries and to humanitarian organizations.

The medical aid group, also known as Medicins Sans Frontieres, said in a statement last week that it was challenging Pfizer's patent application to allow Indian manufacturers to make affordable versions of the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine.

If Pfizer is granted a patent for the vaccine, Indian drug companies would not be able to make cheaper generic versions.

"The pneumonia vaccine is the world's best-selling vaccine, and last year alone, Pfizer brought in more than USD6 billion in sales just for this product," Dr. Manica Balasegaram, Executive Director of MSF's Access Campaign, said in the statement. "Meanwhile, many developing countries, where millions of children risk getting pneumonia, simply can't afford it."

"To make sure children everywhere can be protected from deadly pneumonia, other companies need to enter the market to supply this vaccine for a much lower price than what Pfizer charges," Balasegaram said.

Doctors Without Borders said its decision to oppose New York-based Pfizer's patent application comes after "years of fruitless negotiations" to get the company to reduce the price of the drug for use in humanitarian projects.

Pfizer India said on Saturday that the company had not yet received a copy of the patent opposition, and that it was in talks with Indian health officials to try to assess local needs.

Pneumonia kills almost a million children each year. "As doctors who have watched far too many children die of pneumonia, we're not going to back down until we know that all countries can afford this vaccine," Balasegaram said. **AP**

**I**N a Republican presidential primary filled with extraordinary moments, a 24-hour stretch that began Friday night stands above them all.

Opponents of Donald Trump were so committed to keeping him from speaking in Chicago that they aggressively clashed with supporters, forcing the GOP front-runner to abruptly cancel his rally before it even began.

The next morning, two of the candidates still fighting to defeat Trump, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio and Ohio Gov. John Kasich, said they were so disgusted by the chaos that they may not support the billionaire businessman if he clinches their party's nomination.

And when Trump appeared at another rally Saturday morning in Ohio, he was suddenly pulled midspeech into a protective ring of U.S. Secret Service agents charged with guarding his life after a man rushed the stage.

"Thank you for the warning," Trump told the crowd after he resumed his speech. "I was ready for 'em, but it's much better if the cops do it, don't we agree?"

Each moment has virtually no precedent in modern presidential politics. Taken together, they exposed anew the remarkable anxiety ripping through a country dealing with profound economic and demographic changes, as well as the anger roiling inside one of America's great political parties.

For those cringing at the discord and Trump's unanticipated political rise, there were no easy answers Saturday.

# Trump rally sparks extraordinary stretch in Republican race



Sejal Danawala protests outside the I-X Center before Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump spoke at a campaign rally on Saturday

While not mentioning Trump by name, Republican National Committee Chairman Reince

Priebus said in a statement Saturday that political leaders in both parties have a responsibility

to ensure that the "discourse we engage in promotes the best of America."

"While we have differences, the exercise of our right to free speech should be just that: speech," Priebus said. "Violence is never the answer. Violence only begets violence."

Republican traditionalists kept whispering in private conversations about long-shot options for stopping Trump, either at a contested convention or by rallying around a potential third-party option. Trump, meanwhile, could put the Republican nomination out of reach to others in tomorrow's slate of five delegate-rich primaries.

Trump's rivals have spent months tiptoeing around his provocative comments for fear of alienating his impassioned supporters. Even in Thursday night's debate, all three of his remaining rivals — Rubio, Kasich and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz — sidestepped a question about whether outbursts of violence at Trump's rallies and his statements encouraging supporters to aggressively take on protesters concerned them.

But the images spilling out of Chicago, with young people angrily confronting each other, often divided by racial lines, appeared to be too much.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Rubio said he may not be able to support Trump if he's the GOP nominee, citing the way he's "dividing both the party and the country so bitterly."

The Florida senator, who won the party's caucuses in Washington D.C. on Saturday, wouldn't say whether he'd look for a third-party candidate to support if Trump does become the Republican standard-bearer. He added, "The fact that you even have to ask me the question shows why [Trump] is a problem."

Kasich, who has largely avoided tangling with Trump until now, said the real estate mogul has created a "toxic environment" that makes it "extremely difficult" to envision supporting him as the Republican nominee.

"To see Americans slugging themselves at a political rally deeply disturbed me," Kasich said while campaigning in Cincinnati. "We're better than that."

Only Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, who is closest to Trump in the delegate count, said he would unequivocally support the businessman if he emerges from the primary victorious. Still, Cruz — eager for Rubio and Kasich to get out of the race after their home-state primaries tomorrow so he can take Trump on in a head-to-head contest — blamed his rival for encouraging the kind of "nasty violence" that occurred in Chicago. AP

## Germanwings crash: French urge new health reporting rules

Angela Charlton

**F**RENCH air accident investigators recommended yesterday that world aviation bodies draw up new rules requiring medical workers to warn authorities when a pilot's mental health could threaten public safety, after 150 people died when a Germanwings co-pilot deliberately crashed a jet into the French Alps last year.

Co-pilot Andreas Lubitz had been treated for depression in the past, and the investigation found that he had consulted dozens of doctors in the weeks before the crash on March 24, 2015.

But the many doctors didn't inform authorities of concerns about his mental health, France's BEA investigation agency said. One doctor referred Lubitz to a psychiatric clinic

just two weeks before the crash, it said in its report on the disaster.

"Experts found that the symptoms [he was presenting at that time] could be compatible with a psychotic episode," said Arnaud Desjardin, leader of the BEA investigation. This information "was not delivered to Germanwings."

Because Lubitz didn't inform anyone of his doctors' warnings, the BEA said, "no action could have been taken by the authorities or his employer to prevent him from flying."

Germanwings and parent company Lufthansa have strongly denied any wrongdoing in the crash, insisting that the 27-year-old was certified fit to fly.

But relatives of those killed have pointed to a string of people they say could have raised the alarm and stopped Lubitz, going back

to the days when he began training as a pilot in 2008.

The BEA investigation is separate from a manslaughter investigation by French prosecutors seeking to determine eventual criminal responsibility for the crash of Flight 9525 from Barcelona to Duesseldorf. The focus of its report was recommendations to avoid such accidents in the future, notably about pilot mental health issues and better screening before a pilot gets certified.

The agency found that the certification process failed to identify the risks presented by Lubitz. It said one factor leading to the crash might have been a "lack of clear guidelines in German regulations on when a threat to public safety outweighs" patient privacy.

Germany's confidentiality laws prevent sensitive

personal information from being widely shared, though doctors are allowed to suspend patient privacy if they believe there is a concrete danger to the person's safety or that of others.

Desjardin described Germany's privacy rules as being especially strict, and said that doctors fear losing their jobs if they unnecessarily report a problem to authorities.

"That's why I think clearer rules are needed to preserve public security," he told reporters at a press conference in the French city of Le Bourget.

The BEA recommendations also include peer support groups and other measures to remove the stigma and fear of losing a job that many pilots face for mental health issues.

"The reluctance of pilots to declare their problems



A stone slab erected as a monument, set up in the area near where a Germanwings aircraft crashed in the French Alps

and seek medical assistance [...] needs to be addressed," the BEA said.

Half an hour into the Germanwings flight, Capt. Patrick Sondheimer handed the controls to Lubitz and went to the restroom. When he returned, Sondheimer found the cockpit locked from the inside. Lubitz, it seems, had disabled the safety code that would have allowed the pilot to open the door.

Shortly afterward, the Airbus A320 hit the ground near the French village of Le Vernet.

Lubitz had previously been treated for depression and suicidal tenden-

cies, and documents seized by prosecutors show he partly hid his medical history from employers.

Lubitz interrupted his Lufthansa training for several months due to psychological problems. He was allowed to return in 2009, having received the "all clear" from his doctors — though his aviation record now contained the note "SIC" meaning "specific regular examination."

Lufthansa said after the crash that it was aware of Lubitz's depressive episode, but Germanwings, which he joined in 2013, said it had no knowledge of his illness. AP

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## what's ON



**YUEJU OPERA**  
**TIME:** 7:30pm  
**VENUE:** Kam Pek Community Centre,  
 No. 483, Avenida Almedia Ribeiro  
**ADMISSION:** Free  
**TOURISM HOTLINE:** (853) 2833 3000

**MOIST AND SALTY**  
 – GALO FANZINE PHOTO EXHIBITION  
**TIME:** 12pm-7pm  
 (closed on Tuesdays, open on public holidays)  
**UNTIL:** May 1, 2016  
**VENUE:** Ox Warehouse, at the intersection of Av.  
 Coronel Mesquita and Av. do Almirante Lacerda  
**ADMISSION:** Free  
**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 2853 0026

**FORMER HOME OF REVOLUTIONARY LEADER**  
**YE TING**  
**TIME:** 10am-6pm daily  
 (Except Wednesdays, open on public holidays)  
**VENUE:** 76, Rua Almirante Costa Cabral  
**ADMISSION:** Free  
**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 8399 6699

**MACAU GRAND PRIX MUSEUM & WINE MUSEUM**  
**TIME:** 10am-8pm daily (Except Tuesdays)  
**VENUE:** Rua Luis Gonzaga Gomes, 431, basement  
 (Tourism Activities Centre-CAT)  
**ADMISSION:** Free  
**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 8798 4108 / 2833 3000

**MACAU SCIENCE CENTRE**  
**TIME:** 10am-6pm daily  
 (Except Thursdays, open on public holidays)  
**VENUE:** Macau Science Centre,  
 Avenida Dr. Sun Yat-Sen  
**ADMISSION:** Exhibition Centre MOP25; Planetarium  
 MOP60-80  
**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 2888 0822

**NEW ART PEOPLE PROJECT 2016 POP UP**  
**SHOP FOR SOMETHING-SI-WAI'S CLOTHING**  
**EXPERIMENT EXHIBITION**  
**TIME:** 12pm-7pm  
 (Closed on Tuesdays, open on public holidays)  
**UNTIL:** March 27, 2016  
**VENUE:** No Cruzamento da Avenida do Coronel  
 Mesquita com a Avenida Almirante Lacerda Macau  
**ADMISSION:** Free  
**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 2853 0026

## Offbeat

JUMPER LEAPS SAFELY OFF EU'S  
TALLEST BUILDING

The Shard as seen from the river Thames in London

Witnesses say a base jumper has safely parachuted from the European Union's tallest building, the Shard in London, and evaded police by jumping on the subway.

Passers-by captured the stunt on social media Saturday. Video footage and photographs showed the man with green chute deployed floating from the Shard onto a street near the London Bridge station.

They say the unidentified man folded his chute, handed it to an accomplice, and ran into the station minutes before police arrived.

It's the first documented base jump since the 2012 completion of the Shard, a spire-shaped skyscraper that stands 95 stories and 310 meters high. Base jumpers did film themselves leaping from the structure when it was still under construction. The finished building has no external rooftop viewing platform. **AP**

## TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
17:45	Trail of Lies (Repeat)
18:35	Contraponto (Repeated)
19:35	Soap Oepra
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Sports
22:10	Trail of Lies
23:00	TDM News
23:30	UEFA Champions League 2015/2016 Magazine Programme
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:40	RTPi Live

## cinema



## CINETEATRO

10 MAR - 16 MAR

## GODS OF EGYPT\_

ROOM 1

2.30, 4.45, 9.30 pm

Director: Alex Proyas

Starring: Brenton Thwaites, Nikolaj Coster-Waldau,

Gerard Butler

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 127min

## MERMAID\_

ROOM 1

7.30 pm

Director: Stephen Chau

Starring: Deng Chao, Show Lo, Zhang Yu Qi

Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 92min



## THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT\_

ROOM 2

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Robert Schwentke

Starring: Shailene Woodley, Theo James, Jeff

Daniels, Noami Watts

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 120min

## LONDON HAS FALLING\_

ROOM 3

(10-11, 13-16 Mar) 2.15, 4.00, 5.45, 9.45 pm

Director: Babak Najafi

Starring: Gerard Butler, Aaron Eckhart,

Morgan Freeman

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 99min

## THE ROOM\_

ROOM 3

7.30 pm

Director: Lenny Abrahamson

Starring: Brie Larson, Jacob Tremblay, Sean Bridgers

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 118min

## MACAU TOWER

03 MAR - 23 MAR

## GODS OF EGYPT\_

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Alex Proyas

Starring: Brenton Thwaites, Nikolaj Coster-Waldau,

Gerard Butler

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 127min

## this day in history

1960 RADIO TELESCOPE MAKES  
SPACE HISTORY

The British radio telescope at Jodrell Bank in Cheshire has set a new space record making contact with the American Pioneer V satellite at a distance of 407,000 miles.

The previous record, about 290,000 miles, was set by the Soviet satellite Lunik III, which photographed the back of the Moon last year.

Jodrell first made contact with Pioneer V after it went into orbit around the Sun, between the paths of Earth and Venus. The American satellite was launched from Cape Canaveral in Florida three days ago on 11 March.

Shortly after launch, the Jodrell Bank telescope was used for the first time to give commands to a rocket in space. By pressing a button at Jodrell Bank, the 43kg payload was separated from the third stage of the launching rocket.

The telescope then succeeded in switching off the satellite's transmitter, which will help conserve its battery power for later in the mission. It is hoped eventually Jodrell Bank will be able to pick up signals from the satellite up to 50 million miles from Earth.

This will only be made possible by the very large solar-powered batteries on board which run the transmitter. The solar "paddles" projecting from the satellite will recharge the batteries using the sun's radiation, but the current will still need to be conserved if it is to last until July, as planned.

The transmitter will be switched on for no more than 45 minutes a day at first. Later transmitting time will be reduced to five minutes a day.

Within a week, the satellite will be more than a million miles from Earth and its more powerful 150-watt transmitter will have to be switched on by command from Jodrell Bank.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

In April 1960, the command centre in Hawaii began having problems contacting Pioneer V and Jodrell Bank began to play a bigger role in controlling the satellite.

When the telescope was built in 1957, it was the world's largest fully steerable radio telescope, a title it held for more than 10 years. It is still in the top few radio telescopes in the world. Originally called the Mark 1, it was upgraded to the Mark 1a in 1970. It was rededicated the Lovell Radio Telescope in 1987 to mark 30 years of operation.

The Lovell Radio telescope now has a new galvanized steel surface built at a cost of £2.5m. It is 30 times more sensitive than when it was built.



YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 A dream carries a powerful message - but can you remember it all? Even if you don't recall a thing, you should find that you are still being influenced in a deep way. Keep on moving!

Taurus April 20-May 20 You finally understand that friend or family member who has been acting so strangely of late. You may find that you're better off keeping your knowledge hidden for now, so watch and wait.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You need to take care of some public relations issue that has slipped beyond your control. The good news is that you've got the skills to handle it, but it may set you back in other areas.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You're feeling pretty good today - and you may find even drudge work to be engaging. It's a really good time for you to tackle those tasks you've been putting off for far too long.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You're not stupid - the day's communications are just especially garbled. Ask for clarity, but don't expect much until at least a day or two have passed. Stall for time, if you can!

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 This is a pretty unproductive day - but not just for you! See if you can push for some down time or maybe even a day off for you and your people. Stranger things have happened!

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 It's a good day to show off how flexible you can be. Someone close (maybe a boss) needs to see it, so it can just be a grand display if you're not feeling like making any real changes in your life.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 You're feeling extra playful today - so have a good time and make sure that your people are smiling, too! Make a game out of work or chores and try to adjust everyone's attitude simultaneously.

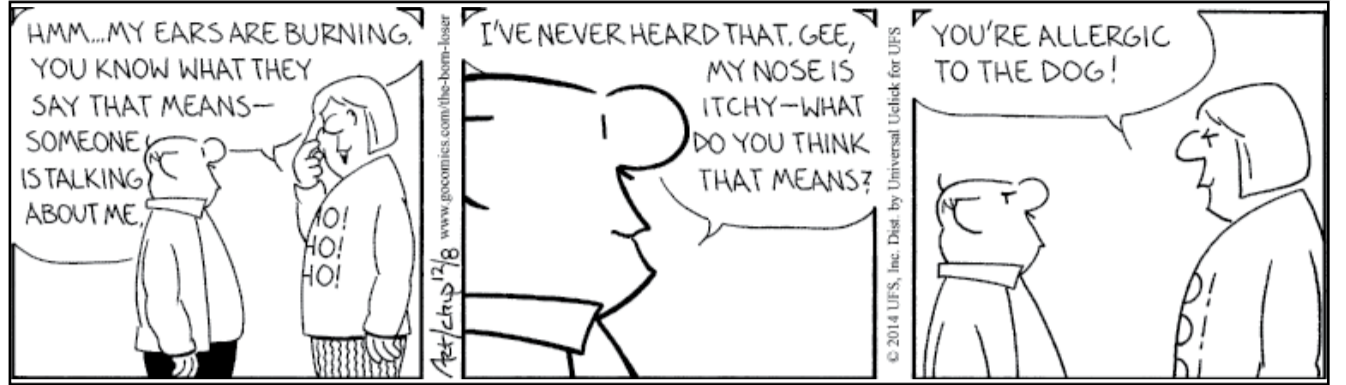
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You're not feeling quite as active as usual, but there's nothing wrong with that. If anything, it should give you more time to think about what you'll do with all the energy coming your way soon.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Something you see this morning haunts you all day - but it ends up being a good thing. Your compassion is a formidable force when it's fully activated, and that's exactly what's happening.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You need to make a choice today, probably fairly early. It comes down to compassion vs. self-determination, so it's tough, but you may want to focus on the big picture instead of the little details.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 This is the day to really make changes - you never know what is going to happen until you try! Things should feel a lot more interesting by the end of the day, and your great energy helps a lot.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Easy' difficulty.

Easy+

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Easy+' difficulty.

Medium

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Medium' difficulty.

Hard

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Hard' difficulty.

WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION

CHINA

Table listing weather conditions for various Chinese cities like Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, etc.

WORLD

Table listing weather conditions for world cities like Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Reticulate; 11- Low-\_\_\_ diet; 15- Involving concepts and abstractions; 16- Toward shelter; 17- It's a snap; 18- Stitched; 19- Worked (up); 20- Beatty of "Superman"; 21- Nonmetallic element; 23- ... saw Elba; 25- "Treasure Island" monogram; 27- Cave; 28- Showed again; 30- High school memento; 33- Seal; 35- Reflected sound; 36- Funnel-shaped; 38- Letter cross-line; 41- Jack of "Rio Lobo"; 43- Eagle's nest; 45- Electrifying; 49- Lunar valley; 51- Radioactivity unit; 52- Tic Dough; 54- Immature herring; 55- Made of baked clay; 58- Fa follower; 60- Scale notes; 61- Affirm; 62- Causing irritation; 65- Manuscript enc.; 66- Consisting of three letters; 67- Ballpark figs.; 68- Quite a bit;

DOWN: 1- Coded message; 2- Sticks; 3- Modern; 4- Siamese, calico, or tabby; 5- Collar type; 6- Hybrid beast; 7- Arrogant; 8- Santa \_\_\_\_, California; 9- Knocks lightly; 10- K-12, in the ed biz; 11- Gambling house; 12- One of the Furies; 13- Revise; 14- Sesamum indicum; 22- Worker; 24- Shakespearean villain; 26- Call, in poker; 29- Ancient capital of Assyria; 31- Cooling units, for short; 32- She played Carla on "Cheers"; 34- Reader's Digest co-founder Wallace; 37- Able to; 39- Coloured part of the eye; 40- Filamentous; 42- Cambridge sch.; 44- "Cow Cow Boogie" singer Morse; 45- Tropical fruits; 46- Collar; 47- Petrol units; 48- Fortified feudal residence; 50- Ford flops; 51- Quit; 53- General Powell; 56- Within (prefix); 57- Soft ball brand; 59- Riga resident; 63- \_\_\_ for tat; 64- Cinque follower;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 1990 992
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944
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Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
IACM 28 387 333
Tourism 28 333 000
Airport 59 888 88



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RUGBY | SIX NATIONS

# England: World Cup flop to king of Europe

**W**ORLD Cup flops to the kings of Europe in barely five months.

England sure has turned things around under Eddie Jones in the Australian's brief time in charge and, worryingly for the rest of the northern hemisphere, there's a sense that there's plenty more to come.

England became Six Nations champion with a game to spare yesterday as a result of Scotland's 29-18 victory over France, which started the match as the only team capable of stopping the English.

After taking over from Stuart Lancaster following England's failure to get out of its pool at the Rugby World Cup, Jones had about two weeks with the England squad before the Six Nations. But the more he has been with the players, the more his influence has told and England's performances have improved throughout the tournament, culminating in the sharp, intelligent first 60 minutes against Wales that set the platform for a 25-21 win.

England has won its first Six Nations in five years, is still on course for a first Grand Slam in 13 years, and can still only get better under the wily, experienced Jones.

The 2019 World Cup is what Jones' reign will be judged on, ultimately, but this has been

the perfect start.

Here are some things that Jones has got right:

**HARTLEY AS CAPTAIN**

A controversial decision may now be seen as a masterstroke.

Hartley was given the armband by Jones despite a dreadful disciplinary record in recent seasons that saw him rack up more than a year's worth of bans. But he hasn't put a foot wrong in the role, has kept out of trouble and — just as importantly — he has also been a nonsense leader that England lacked in Lancaster's era of "nice guys."

**THE NEW STAR**

Jones has been careful not to make too many personnel changes to the England team, preferring evolution to a complete revolution.

It even meant he declined at first to include Maro Itoje, the rising star of English rugby, but that didn't last for long. The 21-year-old lock made his debut in the win over Italy in Round 2 and looks at home on



England's Jack Nowell (center) is tackled by Wales' Jamie Roberts during the Six Nations international rugby match between England and Wales at Twickenham stadium on Saturday

the international stage.

Itoje delivered a man-of-the-match display against Wales that had almost everything, and is being tipped as a future England captain.

**ROBshaw AT NO. 6**

In a newspaper column during the Rugby World Cup, Jones was critical of Robshaw, saying he didn't have a "point of difference" at test-match le-

vel. So when Jones was hired in November and intimated there would be a change in captaincy, Robshaw's international ambitions appeared doomed.

Yet, Robshaw has thrived under Jones after shifting across the back row to No. 6, having often been exposed on the openside. Losing the armband clearly hurt but it may have lifted the weight on his shoulders, and his work rate

remains as prodigious as ever.

"To come back and play such a pivotal role in the resurrection of the team, I think it is just outstanding," Jones said of Robshaw, who has been an ever-present in England's four straight wins.

**STYLE OF PLAY**

Jones said from the outset that for England to return to the top of the international game, the team needed to restore its traditional forward power. And the back-to-basics policy was worked out well.

The scrum has held up well and Hartley has found his men in the lineout, with Itoje becoming a real presence there. Openside flanker James Haskell has been more effective at the breakdown than Robshaw, and the second-row partnership of Itoje and George Kruis has a good mix of strength and mobility. No. 8 Billy Vunipola, meanwhile, has arguably been the player of the tournament.

While it's been far more than 10-man rugby, England has been happy to fall back on the reliable goalkicking of Owen Farrell when needed.

Next for Jones is getting the backline to fire, but even that looks in good shape with the future center partnership of Manu Tuilagi and Jonathan Joseph one to savor and Anthony Watson continuing to impress on the right wing. **AP**

BADMINTON

## Lin Dan wins his sixth All England title

Foster Niumata, Birmingham

**L**IN Dan earned his sixth All England badminton title when he routed Chinese teammate Tian Houwei 21-9, 21-10 in the final yesterday.

The match lacked any tension, as Lin bolted to 4-0, enjoyed the same margin at the changeover, and pulled away.

There were no yells of joy or frustration, just a couple of fist pumps, and Lin could afford to play to the crowd and still win the next point. The near full house encouraged Tian, who was trying to beat Lin for the first time at his seventh attempt, but an air of inevitability crept over the 45-minute proceedings.

"I was surprised it was that easy," Lin said.

That was fine with him. He said he was ti-



China's Lin Dan celebrates with the trophy after winning the Men's Singles final against China's Tian Houwei at the All England Badminton Championships in Birmingham

red before the final, having won the German Open last week, then averaged an hour per match to reach his ninth All England final. A winter of hard training has built up a reserve of energy that the only two-time Olympic men's champion hopes to translate into a third gold in Rio de Janeiro.

Even though China head coach Li Yongbo

said in December he considered Lin and top-ranked Chen Long to be the team's "double insurance" for the Rio men's gold, Lin wasn't taking anything for granted he will be in the team. The Olympic qualifying period ends on May 1, and with teams restricted to two singles players, Lin was China's No. 2, just ahead of Tian.

"You will never be selected [by the China coaches] just because you're the Olympic champion last time," Lin said. "I am not thinking that far ahead yet. All the Chinese coaches are sitting in the corner and I just want to show them that even though I'm 32, I can still do it."

The sixth championship by badminton's greatest player came 12 years after his first, and four years after his last, when he went into semi-retirement for two years.

"When I decided to come back, I wanted to prove to the rest of the world I'm still the best," Lin said.

Only three other men in the 116-year history have as many or more singles titles at the All England, which was considered the world championship until the late '70s.

In the women's final later, Wang Shixian of China was going for her third title, and out to spoil Japanese opponent Nozomi Okuhara's 21st birthday. **AP**

CRICKET | TWENTY20

## Afridi: Pakistan is ready despite late arrival

Manik Banerjee, Kolkata

**P**AKISTAN'S late arrival for the World Twenty20 due to security concerns raised by the Pakistan Cricket Board has not hampered the team's preparation, captain Shahid Afridi said yesterday.

"We were practicing over there," Afridi said after a practice session. "Physically and mentally we were ready, that we will go definitely. Sport always brings two nations together. Can there be anything better than cricket?"

The Pakistan team's departure was delayed after the PCB asked for security assurances from the Indian government prompted by the ICC changing the venue of its March 19 match against India from Dharamsala to Kolkata.

The Pakistan team was originally scheduled to fly out to Kolkata from Lahore on Wednesday but that was delayed until Saturday evening.

Player safety became an issue after Virbhadra Singh, chief minister of Himachal Pradesh state, said he could not provide adequate security.

"I've not enjoyed playing anywhere as much as I have in India. I am at the last stage of my career and I can say that the love I have got in India is something that I will always remember. We've not got this much love even from Pakistan," Afridi said.

The Pakistan team will be the subject of an elaborate security operation in Kolkata, where it plays its opening game on Wednesday against a qualifier.

"All routes the team is likely to take are being sanitized," said Supratim Sarkar, a police commissioner. "Commandos will accompany the team bus and players have been requested not to go outside the team hotel without informing us."

A total of 15,000 policemen will be on duty during the India-Pakistan game. **AP**

opinion

Insight  
Paulo Barbosa



SOME OF THE BEST MOVIES ON JOURNALISM

Because of its conflicted nature, journalism has been portrayed by American films since the beginning of the cinema industry. Following the work of a Boston Globe investigative team, this year's Best Picture Oscar winner, "Spotlight," is just the latest in the line of great movies about journalists.

On the top of my list is "All the President's Men" (directed by John Schlesinger 1976), about the struggle of two Washington Post journalists – Bernstein and Woodward, played by Robert Redford and Dustin Hoffman – to uncover what some consider the biggest scoop ever: the Watergate scandal that brought down nobody less than US president Richard Nixon. The movie shows the merits of good journalism and its reach in a democratic society. Two persuasive reporters work almost like detectives, fact-checking clue after clue until they have no doubt that the president himself is implicated in the conspiracy. Quote of the film: "Deep Throat says our lives may be in danger."

But journalists are not always depicted by Hollywood as the "good guys." One of my all time favorites is the little-known "Ace in the Hole" (directed by Billy Wilder, 1951), where an unscrupulous former big-city reporter (played by Kirk Douglas) creates a media circus around a man trapped in a cave. The film foresees the sensationalism of 24-hour TV news channels and the human obsession with tragedy that feeds media sensations. Quote: "I can handle big news and little news. And if there's no news, I'll go out and bite a dog."

Also shot during the 50s, "Sweet Smell of Success" (by Alexander Mackendrick, 1957) portrays New York's most influential columnist, J.J. Hunsecker (played by Burt Lancaster), and his rotten dealings with a press agent. Quote: "You're dead, son. Get yourself buried."

Filmed in black and white, "Good Night and Good Luck" (directed by George Clooney, 2005) depicts the opposition of great journalist Edward E. Murrow to Senator Joseph McCarthy. Murrow (played by the circumspet David Strathairn) is on a quest to protect freedom of speech in America and has to fight not only McCarthy but also the management of CBS, the TV station he works for. Quote: "We're going to go with the story because the terror is right here in this room."

Another genre in which movies relating to journalism are common is, of course, crime. "Capote" (directed by Bennett Miller, 2005) depicts writer Truman Capote's investigation into a sordid criminal case in the US countryside. Capote (beautifully interpreted by Philip Seymour Hoffman) develops a close relationship with one of the killers, who is waiting for the electric chair. Quote: "If I leave here without understanding you, the world will see you as a monster. I don't want that."

There are many movies about journalists as foreign correspondents who witness atrocities beyond imagination and risk their lives to tell the world what they saw. One of them is "Killing Fields" (directed by Roland Joffe, 1984), about a New York Times correspondent in a Cambodia ravaged by the "Khmer Rouge" revolution. He tells the story but is torn by feelings of guilt after leaving behind his Cambodian friend and translator. Quote: "This is a big story, a major story, understand? We have got to get down there!"

From a humorous perspective, "Wag the Dog" (by Barry Levinson, 1997) is a great movie about the power of mass media, particularly television. What happens when a spin-doctor and a Hollywood producer join hands and make up a war to cover-up a presidential sex scandal? Quote: "The American people bought that war. War is show business – that's why we're here."

Biography is another genre where journalists often appear as observers to the lives of great men, such as the epic "Gandhi" (directed by Richard Attenborough, 1982), where Charlie Sheen plays a reporter who accompanies the Indian martyr during some key moments of his life.

Not exactly a biography, the classic "Citizen Kane" (by Orson Wells, 1941) should also be included. Like Charles Kane (or is it William Randolph Hearst?) said, "If the headline is big enough, it makes the news big enough."

THE POLLS: NEW SPAIN ELECTION WOULDN'T RESOLVE STALEMATE

Polls suggest that if Spain were to hold new elections no party would obtain a majority and negotiations for a coalition government would continue as now except anti-austerity Podemos party would lose support to business-oriented Ciudadanos.

Elections held Dec. 20 produced a fragmented parliament with no party winning a majority in the 350-seat chamber. Lawmakers have been

locked in negotiations since, but if they fail to form a government within the next two months another general election will be held June 26.

A survey by pollster Metroscopia published yesterday by El Pais newspaper said the conservative Popular Party has the support of 26 percent of voters against 23.1 percent for the Socialist Party, 19.5 percent for centrist Ciudadanos and 16.8 for far-left Podemos.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	60-80 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	65-95 Moderate
Ambient	55-75 Moderate

SOURCE: DSI/MG

Russia: Turkish troops in Syria for operation against Kurds

Suzan Fraser, Ankara

RUSSIA yesterday accused Turkey of sending its military across the Syrian border to prevent Kurdish groups there from consolidating their positions, while Turkish authorities imposed curfews on two mainly Kurdish towns where Turkey's security forces are set to launch large-scale operations against Kurdish militants.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Russia has evidence of Turkey's "creeping expansion" in northern Syria.

"According to our information, they are digging in a few hundred meters from the border inside Syria," Lavrov said in an interview with Russian REN TV broadcast yesterday.

In southeastern Turkey, authorities have imposed curfews in several flashpoints since August to root out militants linked to the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, who had set up barricades, dug trenches and planted explosives. The military operations have raised concerns over human rights violations and scores of civilian deaths. Tens of thousands of people have also been displaced by the fighting.

The governor's office for



Two women walk among the debris of a ruined house in Cizre, Turkey

Hakkari province, which borders Iraq and Iran, said a new 24-hour curfew would take effect in the town Yuksekova, adding that entering and leaving the town would also be banned. The announcement came as news reports said dozens of tanks had been deployed to the town.

Soon after, authorities in Mardin province announced that a round-the-clock curfew would take effect in the town of Nusaybin – on the border with Syria – at midnight.

Residents were seen leaving Nusaybin yesterday, packing cars or heading toward the bus terminal even before the curfew was announced, the Dogan news agency reported. Some tanks were parked at a school ahead of the planned offensive, it said.

Turkey's military last week ended a three-month operation against the militants in the historic Sur district of Diyarbakir – the largest city in the country's mostly Kurdish southeast. Yesterday, authorities eased the curfew in some streets and one neighborhood of Sur, but the siege over the district's main areas was still in place.

The PKK has been designated a terrorist organization by Turkey, the U.S. and the European Union. A fragile peace process between the PKK and the Turkish state collapsed in July, reigniting a battle that has cost tens of thousands of lives since 1984.

Lavrov was asked about a REN TV report broadcast two weeks ago of Turkish tanks and artillery along the Syrian border near the Syrian city of Kobane. The foreign minister said he had seen the reports, but gave no further details about what Russia maintains is Turkey's military presence inside Syria.

Lavrov said Turkey has declared a sovereign right to create a security zone on Syrian territory to prevent the unification of Kurdish enclaves located to the east and to the west in northern Syria. AP

WORLD BRIEFS



VENEZUELA Hundreds of opponents and supporters of President Nicolas Maduro held rival marches in Caracas on Saturday, with anti-government forces demanding Venezuela's leader step down and his sympathizers denouncing U.S. sanctions on some top officials.

PAKISTAN Heavy rain has caused the collapse of a coal mine in the country's northwest, killing at least eight miners and leaving another four missing and feared dead.



GERMANY Angela Merkel's party lost support in three German state elections and the anti-immigration Alternative for Germany surged as voters gave their first verdict on the chancellor's open-border refugee policy, according to exit polls.

GUATEMALA A judge has ordered the country's former vice-president and her brother to be held in prison while awaiting trial for an alleged fraud that was supposed to clean up one of the country's main tourist attractions.

SRI LANKA's power chief resigned yesterday following a nation wide power failure, the third to be reported in the country within six months. The power cut which lasted for over 7 hours resulted in a water cut in several parts of the island and a disruption of services operated through electricity such as ATM machines and traffic signals. Local media reports said that the power failure was the longest to be reported in Sri Lanka in 20 years.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



Visitors draw pictures of flowers during the ongoing Hong Kong Flower Show. Organized by the Hong Kong Leisure and Cultural Services Department, the event will be held until March 20 at Victoria Park.