



DRIVER UNDER INFLUENCE OF DRUGS CAUSES PANIC
A 32-year-old resident DUI caused panic on Saturday evening, the PJ revealed

P4 CRIME



WYNN PLANS EXPANSION IN COTAI AS EARNINGS BEAT ESTIMATES

P7 GAMING



UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME: LEFT AND RIGHT LOVE IT
One policy that can unite socialists and libertarians is universal basic income - a regular payment from the gov't regardless of income

P14 ANALYSIS

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WORLD BRIEFS



MYANMAR says it's ready for a gradual repatriation of Muslim Rohingya refugees chased out by the Buddhist-majority country's military. Bangladesh says it's preparing for the transfer, but it might need more time.

INDONESIA A moderately strong earthquake shook the Indonesian island of Java yesterday, killing at least one person and damaging hundreds of homes.



JAPAN Twelve people, including eight soldiers, skiing on the slopes of a volcano near a famous hot spring resort in central Japan were injured yesterday by flying rocks during a sudden eruption, officials said. One soldier later died.

PAKISTAN A radical Pakistani cleric wanted by the United States and released from detention last year claims he is not involved in any illegal activities and is inviting the United Nations to visit the offices of his charity in Lahore.



KENYA Hundreds of Kenyans have held a peaceful demonstration at the country's largest public hospital to demand that management act on allegations of rape and sexual harassment of patients.

More on backpage

AP PHOTO

HIGH ALERT

Air pollution five times above safe levels

P2,3

56,000 PEOPLE FLEE

Philippine volcano spews lava fountains

P13

Two locals arrested for selling drugs

Two local residents, a man and woman, have been arrested for selling drugs, the Judiciary Police (PJ) reported yesterday. The two suspects, both in their twenties, were unemployed at the time of their detention and had been selling drugs for a period of two weeks. During this time, one of them visited Hong Kong five times to pick up drugs. According to the PJ, the two local residents were hired online. Each time they sold drugs they received up to MOP80, and on each day of the two weeks in which they were selling drugs, they each received approximately MOP10,000. The PJ arrested the man in a karaoke bar located in NAPE, and found in his possession 2.1 grams of cocaine. Later, the woman was arrested in their apartment. In total, 36.3 grams of cocaine was seized from her belongings, along with some drug paraphernalia.

Three astronomical phenomena to occur simultaneously

A lunar eclipse will occur next Wednesday (January 31), along with a supermoon and a blue moon. These lunar phenomena will take place over most parts of the Pacific area, including Macau. Last time these three events occurred simultaneously was in 1866. Regarding the blue moon, according to the Nanjing observatory, each full moon is separated by 29.5 days, while the new calendar of each year has 30 to 31 days each month. Infrequently two full moons occur in one month, and this phenomenon is designated as a blue moon. The president of the Macao Astronomical Society, Lei Chi Fei, informed that the full moon is expected to start at 9:10 p.m. on January 31, and it will remain visible for approximately one hour. During this period, the best location for witnessing the event will be at Long Chao Kok or the Macao Science Museum. During this time, a dark red moon will be visible.

ENVIRONMENT

Specialists express concern over city's air pollution

THE air quality in the region went five times above safe levels on Monday, with the Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) warning residents to not engage in outdoor activities.

A medical doctor who preferred to stay anonymous told the Times that it could be problematic for the region to control pollution levels as the city is densely populated and is influenced by neighboring regions which are fully industrialized.

The medical doctor lamented that several factors have been worsening the situation, though the region has its capabilities to provide a better and greener environment.

"The traffic has increased a lot in the last decades, so all these elements can contribute to the worsening of the situation," the doctor told the Times via phone.

However, the physician noted that the government had been conducting measures to aid the overall situation citing anti-smoking legislation.






The doctor was referring to the amendments of Tobacco Prevention and Control Regime (Smoking Law), which entered into force on January 1.

The doctor added that residents with allergies, asthma and related diseases have been increasing in the past decade – a phenomenon that was rarely seen years ago.

The medical expert also cal-

SMG.GOV

Real-time Air Quality Index

Station	Index	Recommendations for Outdoor Activities
Roadside (Macao)	248	Should not 
Roadside (Ká-Hó)	130	Unsuitable 
High Density Residential Area (Macao)	235	Should not 
High Density Residential Area (Taipa)	-	-
Ambient (Taipa)	214	Should not 
Ambient (Coloane)	126	Unsuitable 

led on the government to look at how other countries control traffic, adding the possibility of providing a bicycle lane for residents.

"Even though we want to use bicycles, there aren't ways to use bicycles in Macau. [Macau] can learn from China and Singapore where they control traffic and people can organize themselves in using [bicycles and] private cars," the expert continued.

A private practitioner, Dr Jose Peres de Sousa, an Ear, Nose and Throat specialist, noted that air pollution has no direct effect in pathology but will worsen residents who have chronic diseases.

"These people can suffer more and [it will be] harder for them

to breathe. We are [also] in the time of the influenza so these two things combined can affect many residents," said the specialist.

Dr de Sousa noted that he has recently seen an increase in the number of patients affected by pollution.

He advised residents, particularly those with chronic illnesses, to avoid any outdoor activities and avoid areas where viruses could spread faster including restaurants, theaters and public areas.

SMG defined the Air Quality Index on Monday ranging between 101 and 200 as "unsuitable" for outdoor activities, discouraging the public to engage in them.

The Times contacted the Envi-

ronmental Protection Bureau to enquire whether the bureau will conduct measures to limit the severity of the pollution, and asked what had been and will be done by the bureau to address the issue.

However, no reply was received by press time.

Ng Kuai San, from the Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau explained on Monday, "It is unlikely for it to spread [causing] the intensity of the pollutants to rise. Meanwhile, the relative humidity was higher in the morning. Both lead to poorer visibility in some local districts," as cited in a TDM report.

SMG believes that when the easterly wind strengthens in the middle of the week, the visibility will improve. **LV**

Cheung Lup Kwan wants a break from the media

THE government recently decided to reclaim a part of a land plot on one side of the Pousada Marina Infante Hotel, amounting to approximately 38,000 square meters, in order to build public houses.

The government will still leave nearly 60,000 square meters of land to the International Marina

Cluba (Macau) - Entertainment & Investment Co. Ltd for development, including building a yacht ferry terminal. The company has been developing these lands for several years.

The Vice-president and General Manager of the company, Cheung Lup Kwan, who is also a lawmaker, was recently

asked why his company was unable to complete the development process after so many years have passed.

In reply, Cheung said "regarding those girls who are unable to be married being in their 30's, I cannot tell [you] why they are unable to get married."

When asked if he is

afraid of being unable to complete the development of the land before its concession ends, Cheung said he hoped the media could give him some space in order to finish the process.

"I [request] you journalists not to rush [me], nor to say that the government is this or that," he said, because it causes trouble. "[If you don't rush me], then it [the government] will naturally give me an opportunity for a break [from developing this project]. If you are this noisy for a who-

le day, how can I have a rest?" complained Cheung.

"I hope that you all understand that, in this society, everybody has a different identity. Maybe you, as a journalist, think that what a businessman is doing seems to be crossing the line. When it comes to that moment, you can say whatever [you want because] I have always been a legal businessman. I have been doing business in Macau for a long time. When did you hear about me doing bad things to society?" **JZ**

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HEALTH

SSM: Air pollution is not the predominant cause of respiratory diseases

YESTERDAY, during a press conference, the Director of the Macau Health Bureau (SSM), Lei Chin Ion, said that "air pollution is not the main cause behind recent respiratory diseases."

"Air pollution does indeed have an influence on respiratory diseases, but the percentage is not too high," said Ho, adding "I believe that the air pollution in Macau is a lot lighter than the smog in Beijing, but Beijing's health authority did not issue an alarm regarding their smog like what we are doing regarding the flu today."

In addition, the director of the public health laboratory of SSM, Ip Peng Kei, noted that "when the air pollution is serious, the number of patients with respiratory diseases is likely to increase."

"At the current stage, it is really difficult to calculate how many people saw a doctor because of air pollution," said Ip.

During yesterday's press conference, SSM's report focused on recent situations concerning cases of influenza, commonly known as the flu.



Ip Peng Kei (left), Lam Chong (second from right) and Jorge Sales Marques (right)

"In October, Macau entered the flu season, and since then the flu situation has become increasingly serious. SSM believes that it has already reached its peak period. [...] But we don't know yet whether it has reached the highest," said Lei.

From December until now, no severe cases or deaths were reported due to the flu.

Lam Chong, chief of the disease control and prevention center of SSM, reported that, in the first three weeks of 2018, the number of people with flu symptoms visiting hospitals has grown. The percentage of these patients suffering from the flu among all patients across all hospitals tripled; the normal percentage is 2 percent and the

percentage of flu patients has reached 4.9, 4 and 6.5 percent in the first, second and third weeks of the year, respectively. Out of the total number of children who visited doctors in hospitals, the percentage of children with flu symptoms were 5.4, 18.1, 21.3 percent respectively in the first, second and third weeks of the new year. The average rate is 11.5 percent. The number of collective flu cases has also been continuously increasing for the past three weeks. Although no cases were reported in the first week, nine and 17 cases were recorded in the second

and third weeks, respectively.

Jorge Sales Marques, chief of the pediatric and neonatology service of Centro Hospitalar Conde de S. Januário, noted that, in January, eight children were hospitalized because of the flu, and that seven have already recovered and been discharged.

According to Jorge Sales Marques, "the majority of the eight children did not take the flu vaccine," and 8 percent of adults diagnosed with flu did not take the vaccine, while the rate of non-vaccination with children who are sick sits at around 60 percent. **JZ**

ON ASSISTED PROCREATION TREATMENT

LEI CHIN Ion has said that the government is still processing Kiang Wu Hospital's application for licensing medically-assisted procreation services. TaivexMalo Day Hospital was suspended for six months by SSM after

being accused of providing unauthorized medically-assisted procreation and cancer treatment services. Lei said that the government will give the license back to TaivexMalo if the clinic rectifies its operations.



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Renato Marques

A local 32-year-old resident caused panic among several citizens on Saturday evening when he ran into a traffic light and road barrier while driving under the influence of drugs. He was apprehended by the police, the Public Security Police Force (PSP) spokesperson informed yesterday at a press conference held at the Judiciary Police (PJ) headquarters.

According to the report, the police were alerted to his behavior by at least two different phone calls from citizens, in which they described their eyewitness accounts of the suspect's reckless driving. The first call was received around 10 p.m. and the witness provided the vehicle's license plate, saying that it had hit a traffic light on the crossroads between Avenida de Horta e Costa and Avenida do Almirante Lacerda in Macau's central district. The witness also noted that the driver did not stop after running into the traffic light. Approximately 10 minutes later a second phone call was logged in which a second witness claimed to have seen the same car crashing against the road separator barriers near Ponte 16 in the inner harbor area.

The PSP then initiated a manhunt for the driver, finally finding the suspect sleeping inside the vehicle around 2 a.m. on January 21.

The driver was then taken to the public hospital and a blood test for alcohol was performed. While the results for blood alcohol count came back negative, a subsequent drug test revealed that the driver had a methamphetamine known as "ice" in his system.

Upon being questioned, the man said to the police that on January 19 he was in mainland China where he consumed a pill given to him by a friend in a bar. He claimed

Driver causes panic under influence of drugs



that he did not know what the pill contained.

He further said that he returned to Macau on January 20 by the Border Gate che-

ckpoint around 9:30 p.m.

He has been accused by the police of driving under the influence of drugs and fleeing the scenes of the accidents.

In a separate story reported by the PJ, another resident, aged 25, is facing charges over a scam in currency exchange in a case that occur-

red on December 13 of last year.

The man from Macau has been accused by a mainland resident, aged 24, of scamming him in an exchange of RMB into HKD.

The Macau resident had allegedly received the amount of RMB51,452 in two separate transfers from the mainland resident and he should have given his victim HKD60,000 in exchange.

The accused said he needed to withdraw the money from the ATM. The mainland resident followed him to an ATM location but the on the way the accused claimed he needed to retrieve his mobile phone charger from a parked vehicle. The accused took this opportunity to flee in the car.

The suspect has now been located and taken into custody by the police to respond to the accusations.

Government runs 'Wolf Hunting' casino emergency drill

A casino emergency drill involving several government authorities and departments as well as security forces was held in the early hours of yesterday morning. The drill was based on a scenario of an armed robbery inside a casino and sought to test the response capabilities of public departments and casino security in handling injuries, hostage taking, and situations involving explosive devices. Additional goals were to optimize the communication and coordination mechanisms and respective contingency measures, a statement from the Government Information Bureau (GCS) informed.

The Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ) also added in another statement that the drill had run according to the plan

and had strengthened the cooperation between all the entities involved. The drill, code-named "Wolf Hunting," took place in a casino property located in Cotai and it was the first ever large-scale, joint contingency drill involving a casino.

The exercise lasted around two hours and involved approximately 350 people, including staff from the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau; the Unitary Police Service; the Public Security Police Force; the Judiciary Police; the Fire Service Bureau; and other public departments.

The hypothetical scenario which they created was one in which a group of four people robbed a passer-by and harmed two other people when they were intercepted by casino security officers. The robbers later held a hostage in one of



the VIP rooms of the casino and claimed to be in possession of an explosive device.

The drill is part of new measures, first enforced by the DICJ in 2017, that introduced a review of the surveillance procedures at casinos in the wake of the two major incidents that occurred in Manila, Philippines and Las Vegas, USA. RM

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Daniela Wei and Jessica Brice

GAMING

WYNN Resorts Ltd. plans to expand its newest property on Macau's Cotai Strip after the project helped the company report better-than-expected earnings last quarter.

The next phase of the USD4.2 billion Wynn Palace, which opened in August 2016, will be developed on 11 acres, Chairman Steve Wynn said on a conference call. He didn't provide details of the plans.

"The depth and the foundational strength of that market is real," Wynn said Monday. "We have been encouraged by the government in conversations with them to file our plans for Phase 2, which we're working on now."

Wynn Macau Ltd., the company's Chinese subsidiary, reported stronger-than-expected results for the fourth quarter. Property earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization totaled \$376 million, up 66 percent from a year earlier and beating the median analysts' estimate of \$360 million.

"We've always been bullish about Macau," the casino magnate said. "There is a lot of anecdotal happiness about Chinese New Year around the corner. There is a lot of money coming in."

Shares of parent Wynn Resorts rose 8.7 percent to \$195.23 Monday in New York after the company reported sales and profit that topped analysts' estimates. Surging revenue from the Wynn Palace overshadowed lower results in Las Vegas. The fabled Nevada casino town is still recuperating after a deadly shooting rampage in October killed 58 people.

"Palace gained market share in both VIP and mass business, which should continue as Macau upcycle continues," Morgan Stanley analysts led by Praveen K. Choudhary said in a note on Tuesday. Phase 2 of Wynn's

new property "should continue to drive future growth." The company's market share in Macau expanded to 17.2 percent, ahead of Morgan Stanley's forecast of 16.4 percent, according to the note.

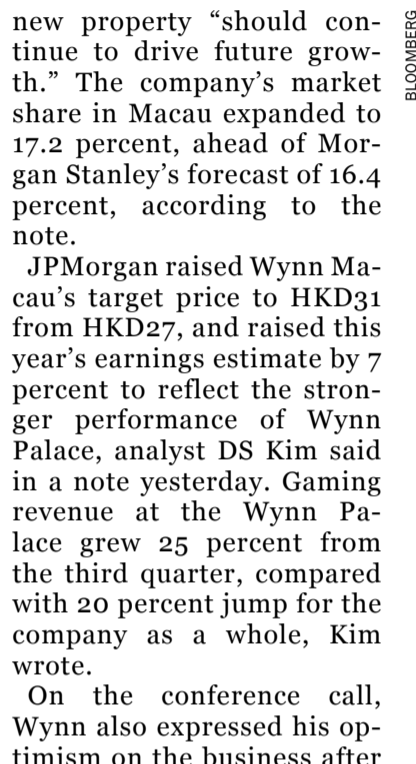
JPMorgan raised Wynn Macau's target price to HKD31 from HKD27, and raised this year's earnings estimate by 7 percent to reflect the stronger performance of Wynn Palace, analyst DS Kim said in a note yesterday. Gaming revenue at the Wynn Palace grew 25 percent from the third quarter, compared with 20 percent jump for the company as a whole, Kim wrote.

On the conference call, Wynn also expressed his optimism on the business after the gaming licenses of Macau's six operators start to expire from 2020.

"We enjoy a good deal of confidence and we have been given reason to have confidence that our businesses will continue after the initial concession expiration date," he said, "That confidence is based upon the kinds of conversations we have with the government."

Wynn Resorts' earnings, excluding some items, almost tripled in the fourth quarter to \$144.3 million, or \$1.40 a share, the company said Monday in a statement. Analysts had forecast earnings of \$1.39 a share. Revenue grew 30 percent to \$1.69 billion, beating estimates of \$1.56 billion.

The company said it also benefited from the tax cuts that were enacted in the fourth quarter. The results reflect an estimated net tax benefit of about \$340 million, it said. **Bloomberg**



Wynn Palace in Cotai

Wynn plans new investment in Macau as earnings top estimates

Amid Las Vegas slump, Wynn wants fourth hotel

CASINO magnate Steve Wynn is planning a fourth hotel in Las Vegas, a vote of confidence in a city still coping with lower attendance since an Oct. 1 mass shooting.

The new hotel will be built on the site of the former Frontier hotel, across Las Vegas Boulevard from Wynn's two existing properties. It will feature approximately 2,500 hotel rooms and be linked to the Wynn and Encore hotels by an "air-conditioned umbilical hallway," Wynn said on a conference call Monday.

Wynn Resorts Ltd. acquired the 38-acre site for USD336 million in December. The company is also building a hotel, convention center and lake resort, Paradise Park, behind its current properties.

"Hotels are extremely profitable," Wynn said on the call. "With our room rates, we operate 50-to-60 percent margins in the hotels. So I want to add more rooms."

Visitors to Sin City fell 1.7 percent to 42.2 million in 2017, the first decline in four years, according to preliminary data from the Las Vegas Convention

& Visitors Authority. Declines were steeper in the last three months of the year after the shooting left 58 people dead. The gunman fired on a crowd below from a room on the 32nd floor of MGM Resorts International's Mandalay Bay property, forcing casino operators to revisit their security procedures to make guests feel safe.

Room rates in Las Vegas rose 2.8 percent to an average of \$129 a night last year, while the percentage of rooms occupied was little changed from a year earlier.

Wynn's newest hotel rooms will feature 24-foot-wide window views, his-and-her bathrooms and 80-inch TVs. The company's average room rates are rising and will likely hit \$400 by the time all of the rooms under construction are finished, the executive said.

"You have to ask yourself, investment community, do you believe that Las Vegas, Nevada, will for the next decade or two continue to be a major destination city in the United States of America and the world?" Wynn asked. "This is a great city to be in. It's a great city to develop in." **MDT/Bloomberg**

Tourist arrivals reach 32.6 million in 2017

VISITOR arrivals topped 32.61 million in 2017, up by 5.4 percent year-on-year.

In December 2017, visitor arrivals totaled 3.05 million, up by 8.5 percent year-on-year, and 7.8 percent month-to-month and marking the highest monthly record since August 2014.

Information from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) indicated that overnight visitors (about 1.63 million) and same-day visitors (about 1.4 million) went up by 5.5 percent and 12.2 percent respectively, year-on-year.

The average length of stay held steady year-

on-year at 1.2 days, with that of overnight visitors and same-day visitors standing at 2.1 days and 0.2 days respectively.

Visitors from mainland China increased by 15.8 percent year-on-year to 2.06 million in December, with those travelling under the Individual Visit Scheme

rising by 15.7 percent to 0.98 million.

During the same period, visitors from Hong Kong (572,470) and Taiwan (88,591) dropped by 5.4 percent and 6.4 percent respectively year-on-year, while those from the Republic of Korea (77,141) rose by 9 percent year-on-year.

Visitors from the United States (17,745), Canada (7,184) and the United Kingdom (4,499) registered decreases, whereas the number of visitors from Australia (9,460) increased.

Across all of 2017, overnight visitors (17.25 million) increased by 9.9 percent

and same-day visitors (15.35 million) edged up by 0.7 percent.

Analyzed by place of origin, visitors from mainland China (almost 22.2 million) and the Republic of Korea (874,253) went up by 8.5 percent and 32 percent respectively year-on-year, while those from Hong Kong (6.16 million) and Taiwan (1.06 million) decreased by 4 percent and 1.3 percent respectively.

How Asian giants can counter Trump's washing machine tariff

U.S. President Donald Trump's tariffs on imported washing machines, aimed at stemming the flow of cheap appliances from South Korean and Chinese companies into the American market, may end up a wash.

Targeted companies like South Korea-based LG Electronics Inc. and China's Midea Group Co. can get around the import duty, of as much as 50 percent, by raising prices or re-routing production to countries exempt from the new taxes. Several Asian appliance makers, such as Samsung Electronics Co. and China's Qingdao Haier Co., have U.S. factories that could help ease the conflict as companies ramp up production there.

"The negative effect on the industry outside the U.S. is likely to be small, as companies have various strategies in place to deal with this scenario," said Yuanta Securities Co. analyst Juliette Liu in Taipei. "They can pass on cost increases to consumers or ship the parts into the U.S. or neighboring countries for final assembly to avoid the tariffs."



While Trump's first major trade move as president aims to protect the USD5.1 billion U.S. washing machine market from cheaper competition from abroad, American shoppers may be among the most affected. Workers could also be hurt if foreign appliance makers scale back production plans in the U.S.

The decision is a "great loss" for U.S. workers and consumers, Samsung said on its website. The

tariffs on washing machines is a tax and will make everyone pay more, it said. LG said in a statement the result hinders the ramp-up of its new plant and threatens new U.S. jobs. Representatives for Qingdao Haier and Midea didn't respond to requests for a comment.

The market reaction was less than dramatic. In Seoul, LG Electronics shares closed with a gain of 0.5 percent, erasing an earlier loss of as much as 5 percent. Samsung

Electronics advanced 1.9 percent. In China, Qingdao Haier slipped 2.1 percent while Midea Group climbed 0.9 percent.

Trump was responding to a recommendation by the U.S. International Trade Commission in November to raise import duties after Whirlpool Corp., which has the biggest share of washing machines in the U.S., accused Samsung and LG Electronics of selling the appliances in the U.S. below

fair-market value.

The U.S. has been chasing the appliance makers since at least 2011, accusing the companies of repeatedly shifting production to low-cost countries including Thailand and Vietnam as part of an aggressive pricing strategy. While the latest duties target moves by LG and Samsung, it also applies to companies in countries that are not preferred trading partners, including China.

LG and Samsung have options. They could sidestep import taxes by producing higher-margin premium washers in their new U.S.-based plants. LG is building a washing-machine factory in Tennessee, its first U.S.-based production facility, with completion possible in early 2019. Samsung's home-appliances plant in South Carolina, which began production earlier this month, could produce 1 million washing machines in 2018.

Chinese makers, which dominate the production of washing machines worldwide both under their own brands and as parts suppliers to other brands, have similarly diversified their manufacturing bases in recent years as labor costs in China rose. They've also made big acquisitions of Western appliance brands like Fisher & Paykel and Clivet SpA to boost sales of premium goods, which deliver higher margins than their own low-cost core brands. **MDT/Bloomberg**

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MetLife said to join MassMutual in seeking HK sale

METLIFE Inc. is seeking a sale of its Hong Kong insurance unit, joining international rivals including Axa SA and MassMutual that have pursued divestments in the Chinese territory, people with knowledge of the matter said.

New York-based MetLife is preparing to send out information on the Hong Kong business to prospective buyers in the next couple weeks, according to the people. The sale could raise more than USD600 million, one of the people said, asking not to be identified because the matter is private.

MetLife is the latest insurer seeking to cash in on a surge of buyer interest in a coveted Hong Kong insurance license. Mainland companies

have been pursuing acquisitions of life insurers and wealth managers in the city, even as China has sought to rein in its citizens' purchases of investment-type products being sold in Hong Kong.

China's steps to curb demand for Hong Kong insurance products sent quarterly sales slumping 47 percent in the third quarter of last year. Chinese purchases of these policies fell to HKD10.1 billion (\$1.3 billion), according to Hong Kong's Insurance Authority.

MetLife has boosted its business from mainland clients and now ranks as Hong Kong's 14th largest insurer by total new business in the first nine months of 2017, up from 17th in the same period a year earlier.

MDT/Bloomberg

Kyunghee Park

AIRASIA Bhd., the budget airline that has grown to become one of the biggest customers of Airbus SE planes, could consider buying more aircraft as economic expansion across India, China and the Southeast Asian nations propel travel demand across the continent.

"Right now, we are short of aircraft," Tony Fernandes, AirAsia group chief executive officer, said in an interview with Bloomberg TV's Haslinda Amin in Davos on Tuesday. "Demand is very, very robust. We would have to look at an order eventually but not at present."

The British-educated Fernandes, 53, is expanding his Malaysia-based carrier across the continent, doing what Ryanair Holdings Plc did in Europe and Southwest Airlines Co. achieved in North America. A rash of low-cost airlines have come across Asia, driving down fares and enabling more people to take to



Budget airline pioneer says AirAsia may buy more jets

the skies.

Fernandes's AirAsia operates an all-Airbus fleet and he is known to make big orders at airshows. In 2016, he announced a USD12.6 billion jetliner order with Airbus during the Farnborough Air Show. AirAsia group has more than 200 planes in its fleet and hundreds in order.

"Airbus has been great," Fernandes said. "We have brought forward some of our deliveries. We don't have plans to do so at the moment."

AirAsia isn't too worried about the recent rise in oil prices, Fernandes said, adding that the airline doesn't plan to adjust its hedging program or impose fuel surcharges. He said that oil pri-

ces around \$60 is still a "honeymoon period" compared with \$100 a barrel in 2014.

AirAsia shares are hovering at almost record levels in Malaysia amid a surge in traffic for the carrier. The stock, which has climbed 23 percent this year, fell 0.7 percent to 4.11 ringgit as of 3:58 p.m. in Kuala Lumpur today. Bloomberg

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Sweden summons Chinese ambassador

Sweden has summoned China's ambassador in the Scandinavian country over reports that Hong Kong bookseller Gui Minhai, a Swedish citizen, has been taken away by Chinese authorities again after being released into house arrest last October. Ministry spokesman Rasmus Eljanskog said yesterday that Foreign Minister Margot Wallstrom met with the ambassador to discuss the issue, but could not provide further details. Gui, a Chinese-born Swedish national, ran a Hong Kong publishing company specializing in gossip tales about high-level Chinese politics when he disappeared from his Thai holiday home about two years ago. He later turned up on mainland China in police custody. His daughter, Angela Gui, told Swedish radio that he was on a train with two Swedish diplomats when a group of police officers seized him.

Young HK activist Wong bailed again

Hong Kong democracy activist Joshua Wong said a court granted him bail yesterday so he can appeal a second prison sentence related to 2014's "Umbrella Movement" protests in the semiautonomous Chinese city. "Hello World. The court approved my bail application," the 21-year-old Wong tweeted after the hearing. Last week he was sentenced to three months in prison after pleading guilty to a contempt charge for failing to obey a court order to leave a protest camp during the 79-day pro-democracy protests that brought parts of Hong Kong to a standstill. A two-judge panel at the High Court agreed with Wong's lawyers that the trial judge failed to consider his young age at the time of sentencing, local broadcaster RTHK reported. Wong was the most prominent of the student activists leading the 2014 protests against Beijing's plan to limit elections for the city's top leader.

Energy executive dismissed on graft charges

The deputy head of the Chinese Cabinet agency in charge of energy policy for the world's second-largest economy has been dismissed on graft charges, the country's anti-corruption agency said yesterday. The probe of Wang Xiaolin, a former longtime executive in the state-owned coal industry, adds to a string of senior officials who have been ensnared in President Xi Jinping's marathon anti-corruption crackdown. Wang is suspected of "serious discipline violations," the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection said, using the official euphemism for corruption. It said the case was handed over to prosecutors but gave no details of the accusations against him.

AP PHOTO



China has targets aplenty to retaliate against US trade action

U.S. President Donald Trump may soon get a lesson about tangling with China on trade: Beijing can punch back.

China has a long history of tit-for-tat retaliation when it comes to trade disputes and may well dust off the same policy playbook in the wake of the Trump administration's decision to slap tariffs on solar panels and washing machines (more on p8).

The U.S. will impose new duties of as much as 30 percent on imported solar equipment, the U.S. Trade Representative's office said. Trump, who took office a year ago, also approved tariffs as high as 50 percent on imported washing machines, according to USTR.

China's Ministry of Commerce condemned the tariffs Tuesday, calling them a misuse of trade measures, and said it hopes Washington will show restraint in imposing trade restrictions. The tariffs aren't directed specifically at China, but it is the world's biggest producer of solar panels and exported 21 million washing machines last year worth almost \$3 billion.

The U.S. tariffs may signal the coming of a more acrimonious phase in U.S.-China trade relations, thought it has taken Trump more than a year to deliver on campaign pledges to deliver punitive actions against nations deemed to be using unfair trading practices.

China's economic might gives President Xi Jinping's government the leverage it

needs to strike back decisively, including scaling back purchases of American products and subjecting well-known U.S. companies with large Chinese operations to tax or antitrust probes.

"This is the beginning of a rough patch in U.S.-China relations," said David Dollar, a former U.S. Treasury attaché in Beijing and now a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution in Washington. "These initial measures are modest and are likely to be met by proportionate moves from the Chinese. The key question is whether U.S. protectionism will escalate, which would damage both economies."

China is "strongly" dissatisfied with the U.S. tariffs, which will worsen the global trade environment and impair the development of the industries in the U.S., the Ministry of Commerce said in a statement yesterday.

South Korea's trade ministry said yesterday it asked the World Trade Organization to suspend concessions on U.S. imports, seeking to re-instate tariffs. It didn't specify on which products, and said the timing was coincidental as the move is part of a longer-running dispute.

China hasn't been shy about threatening U.S. corporate interests. A Communist Party newspaper warned in late 2016 that a trade war would have economic consequences. "Boeing orders will be replaced by Airbus," the Global Times said in an edi-

torial. "U.S. auto and iPhone sales in China will suffer a setback, and U.S. soybean and maize imports will be halted."

The list of primary targets include U.S. exports to China of airplanes by Boeing Co., Apple Inc. products and soybean, says Michael Every, head of financial market research at Rabobank Group in Hong Kong.

The key question is whether U.S. protectionism will escalate, which would damage both economies.

DAVID DOLLAR
US TREASURY ATTACHE

"Chinese think-tanks are likely scrambling to identify the industries in the President's support base that will lose out the most should it come down to a bare-knuckle fight," says Pauline Loong, managing director at research firm Asia-Analytica in Hong Kong.

Boeing, the largest U.S. exporter, has long been a key bellwether for trade relations. Xi gave Boeing a \$38 billion order on a 2015 plant visit in Seattle.

After the U.S. introduced duties on Chinese solar panel exports in 2011, China later shot back with measures against the American polysilicon exports used to make those units. Along with other producers in the U.S., REC Silicon, a Norwegian producer of the material at factories in Moses Lake, Washington and Butte, Montana, was clobbered.

China has gone after foreign economic interests over political slights. Marriott International Inc. came under government criticism this month after its website listed Tibet and Taiwan under "nation." The hotel company apologized. Norwegian salmon exports to China plunged after the country's parliament awarded the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize to imprisoned Chinese dissident Liu Xiaobo.

Any Chinese reprisals this time will likely be measured though, not least because the impact of Trump's tariffs on its exports will be small. Australia & New Zealand Banking Group Ltd. estimates solar panels represent less than 0.7 percent of China's total exports.

"However, the action will still serve a warning to the Chinese authorities," said ANZ chief greater China economist Raymond Yeung. "Typically, China may review the market access or operation of foreign companies in response to trade actions against them. This is a risk Trump's administration needs to consider." **MDT/Bloomberg**



Joe McDonald, Beijing

QIANBAO

Authorities face protests after investment scheme collapses

CHINESE authorities are struggling to quell protests following the collapse of an investment scheme police say took as much as USD4.7 billion from millions of depositors.

The implosion of Qianbao.com adds to a string of failures of Chinese financial ventures blamed on fraud or mismanagement that have prompted protests and complaints of official indifference to the suffering of small investors. In a separate case, the founder of an online lender was sentenced in September to life in prison on charges he defrauded investors of \$7.7 billion.

Earlier this week, hundreds of people marched in freezing weather in the eastern city of Nanjing in Jiangsu province, where Qianbao was founded in 2012, shouting for the government to take action. A video shot by a demonstrator showed police carrying some people away while others shouted, "The Jiangsu government is beating people!"

"Don't organize and don't participate in illegal activities," the official Xinhua News Agency told readers in a report on Qianbao.com.

Depositors protested in Nanjing on Dec. 12 after they lost access to online accounts, according to Zhan Jianfu, an employee of an auto dealership in the western city of Mianyang. He said he invested several hundred thousand yuan (tens

of thousands of dollars) in Qianbao.

"We failed to get a response and some of the investors were intercepted and beaten up," Zhan said in a telephone interview.

Qianbao, Chinese for 'Wallet', had as many as 200 million registered users

Qianbao, Chinese for "Wallet," had as many as 200 million registered users, according to Chinese news reports. The founder, Zhang Xiaolei — dubbed "China's most notorious swindler" by one newspaper — turned himself in Dec. 26 to Nanjing police, who are leading the investigation.

Unlike some legitimate Chinese investment vehicles that spun out of control, police and news reports describe Qianbao as a

brazenly fraudulent Ponzi scheme.

The company, which moved to Shanghai in 2015, promised returns of up to 60 percent a year. Depositors were paid what Qianbao said were wages for simple tasks such as watching online ads.

Some of the 30 billion yuan (\$4.7 billion) raised from depositors was used to buy businesses including a soccer team and a producer of glycerine, but only 20 of the more than 70 companies Qianbao said it owned really existed, according to a statement by Nanjing police. Profits were too small to pay such high returns, so Qianbao used money from new depositors.

The newspaper Huanqiu reported that in an interview Saturday while in police custody, Zhang "made it clear Qianbao's collapse was due to his own greed," but said reckless investors also had to accept the consequences.

"The two sides used each other in a frenzy of chasing fame and fortune," the newspaper wrote.

Photos released by Xinhua show the balding, bespectacled

Zhang in handcuffs and a blue vest as he talked to investigators.

Ambitious investment companies have flourished as Chinese authorities allowed an informal finance industry to grow over the past decade to support entrepreneurs who can get scant credit from the state-owned banking system. The national bank regulator estimated in 2015 the underground finance industry had grown to \$1.5 trillion.

The internet has helped them attract money from working class or rural depositors, many of them financial novices with little knowledge of the risks involved. Many lend to factories and retailers or invest in restaurants, car washes and other businesses, but inexperience and poor risk control means a downturn in business conditions can bankrupt them.

Beijing tightened control as defaults mounted following the 2008 financial crisis. Finance as a whole has come under tougher scrutiny after a 2015 plunge in stock prices led to accusations of insider trading and other offenses.

Lack of official supervision has allowed grifters to attract money from investors despite a steady drumbeat of news reports about failed and fraudulent ventures, said Lin Changyu, a lawyer in Shanghai for the Yingke Law Firm.

"In some cases, their advertisements were even shown on [state-run] China Central Television or celebrities were invited to promote the schemes," said Lin. "Secondly, people were in greedy pursuit of high returns from

the scheme and often ignored the potential risks."

Investors in fraudulent schemes rarely get money back because Chinese courts are reluctant to accept a lawsuit against someone who has been convicted of a crime, said Lin. He said any remaining assets usually are confiscated.

"The chances of investors getting their money back are extremely slim," said Lin.

Authorities often seem as keen to defuse protests as they are to help defrauded investors.

In one of China's biggest financial scams, authorities say depositors lost 50 billion yuan (\$7.7 billion) in online lender Ezubo before it was seized by regulators in 2015. The founder, a high school dropout, and his brother were sentenced to life in prison in September and 24 other executives received terms of three to 15 years.

When Ezubo depositors vented their anger on social media and asked why authorities didn't act sooner, police phoned some to warn them against criticizing the Communist Party online. One depositor told The Associated Press police confiscated her computer and cell phone after she wrote online that she might file a petition with the national government.

Zhan, the Qianbao investor, complained authorities might have made losses worse.

"The police shut down some of the factories in which Qianbao invested, causing the workers to lose their jobs and leaving us unable to get our money back," said Zhan. To salvage what is left, he said, "we appeal for the release of Zhang Xiaolei." **AP**

Carrefour, Chinese tech giant Tencent form alliance

CARREFOUR and Chinese technology giant Tencent have announced a cooperation agreement in China and a possible investment to develop online retailing and other technology.

The companies said yesterday they want to link Carrefour's global retail knowledge and the technology strengths of Tencent, which operates the popular WeChat social media platform

and other online services.

The companies said Tencent and Yonghui, a Chinese supermarket operator in which Tencent is buying a stake, were consider a "potential investment" in Carrefour's China unit.

The tie-up adds to a series of ventures by major retailers including Amazon.com and Wal-Mart aimed at combining the strengths of online and offline retailing.

PAKISTAN

After girl's killing, Pakistani women speak out on abuse

Kathy Gannon, Kasur

THE brutal rape and killing of Zainab Ansari, a 7-year-old girl whose body was left in a garbage dump, has unleashed a wave of revulsion around Pakistan, revealing a string of child abductions and killings by a suspected serial predator and generating outrage at a culture of silence surrounding sexual abuse.

Zainab's death has even given birth to a nascent Pakistani version of #MeToo movement.

A number of prominent Pakistani women have come forward with their own stories of sexual assault, saying they want to change traditions that consider abuse as a mark of shame for the victim. Those traditions, they say, help predators get away with abuse and encourage an already corrupt police force to ignore such crimes.

Maheen Khan, a legendary Pakistani fashion designer, tweeted that she had been sexually abused as a child by an Islamic cleric who taught her the Quran. "I froze in fear day after day," she tweeted. At 73, Khan has spoken publicly only once before of the abuse.

"We are now saying enough is enough. We should have woken up long ago," she said in a telephone interview from her home in the southern city of Karachi. "I am ashamed to say it has taken this one little girl's death."

"What disturbs me the most is the silence when a little girl gets raped," she said. "It has to do with the honor of family. Parents tell their daughters: 'Don't talk about it. Don't tell anyone.' Our silence is saying it is all right to sexually molest a child."

The horror of Zainab's killing was brought home for Pakistanis by a photo of her that went viral on social media, showing the smiling girl in her favorite bright pink coat, with a pink barrette holding back her hair. TV channels aired the photo alongside pictures of her lifeless body abandoned on a heap of garbage in her home city of Kasur.

Across Pakistan, thousands protested, condemning police inaction and blaming the government for failing to protect children.

"Whenever anybody saw her picture on social media or on electronic media everybody started weeping," said Waqas Abid, a lawyer in Kasur who



An elder sister of Zainab Ansari (left) consoles her younger sister in Kasur, Pakistan

heads an activist group called the Good Thinkers Organization. "Everybody was self-motivated to come out from his or her house and ask for justice for Zainab."

The Senate's Standing Committee on the Interior, which oversees policing, launched an inquiry this week into the sexual assaults in Kasur, as well as into another recent attack in another part of the country — the rape and killing of a 4-year-old named Asma, whose body was left in a field near her home in Kyber Pukhtunkhwa, in northwestern Pakistan.

Kasur is a congested district of around 2.5 million people in eastern Pakistan, near the border with India. The city of Kasur is surrounded by brick kilns and tanneries and has hundreds of small factories making shoes and embroideries, all of which employ children — making them vulnerable to abuse. In 2015, an extensive child pornography ring was uncovered in the city; it had been flourishing for nearly a decade and involved nearly 250 children, some of whom were forced at gunpoint to have sex.

Zainab was snatched in early January as she walked to a Quran class. Her parents were away on pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia, and the girl and her two sisters and brother were watched over by her aunts and

uncles who all live in the same house in an impoverished neighborhood of narrow lanes on the outskirts of the city.

"I told Zainab often to be careful," her mother, Nusrat Ansari, said. Wrapped in a large shawl obscuring her face, she held Zainab's photo, describing how she loved to play games with her cousins. Her favorite was hide and seek.

Her father, Mohammed Amin Ansari, denounced police for failing to warn residents about a serial killer in the city. "People don't talk about sexual abuse," he said.

■ Yesterday, authorities announced the arrest of a suspect in Zainab's killing

It was only after the shock over Zainab that news emerged of other children abducted and raped in Kasur. Amid the uproar, police did testing on the victims and found the same DNA on eight of the children, all but one of whom was killed. Police now say they are hunting for a serial rapist-killer.

Yesterday, authorities announced the arrest of a suspect in Zainab's killing. The

spokesman for the Punjab provincial government, Malik Ahmed Khan, identified the suspect as Mohammed Imran and said he was arrested near Kasur.

It wasn't immediately clear whether the same suspect is linked to the deaths of the eight other children. After the announcement, Zainab's father demanded in an interview with a local television that the culprit be hanged.

Among the eight victims was 5-year-old Ayesha. Her father, Mohammed Asif, said he pleaded with the police to find her after her abduction last year.

"They had no interest. They were more interested in keeping it quiet," he told The Associated Press. Her body, showing signs of rape and torture, was found two days after her disappearance.

The sole survivor among the eight was a 6-year-old girl found by a homeless man rummaging through a garbage bin outside a vegetable market. She had been kidnapped for 15 hours, during which she was tortured. Cigarettes were put out on her feet and legs, and she suffered a serious head injury. Now at a hospital in the nearby city of Lahore, she can't sit, hold up her head or speak, and her father Mohammad Ahsan, says all she does is cry.

Ahsan said his daughter's attack was ignored in the media

until Zainab's killing.

Abid, the lawyer, said there have been at least 20 cases of children abducted, raped and killed over the past year in Kasur district. At his office, he showed the AP the police reports he has collected on 15 of the cases.

Among them were 7-year-old Laiba whose battered body was dumped in a partially constructed building; Imran, an 8-year-old boy whose body was stuffed in a plastic bag and dumped in a wheat field; 11-year-old Rehman Ali, found in stagnant water near a graveyard; 5-year-old Tehmina, abducted when she went to a nearby store to buy sweets; 7-year-old Sana, whose desperate father shouted her name from loudspeakers atop local mosques during his search for her; 11-year-old Fauzia, snatched from outside her home; and 7-year-old Noor Fatima, her body found in a partially built house.

There were 4,139 cases of child sexual abuse reported in Pakistan in 2016, according to Sahil, an organization documenting child abuse in the country. It collects its figures by tracking reports in Pakistani media. But most cases go unreported, said Sahil's executive director, Munizae Bano.

Zainab's case, however, sparked a moment of openness. A number of well-known women hope that telling about their own experiences will prompt others to speak out.

Actress and child activist Nadia Jamil said anger and frustration at the silence prompted her to tweet about sexual abuse she suffered as a child.

"I just lost it when I went personal on social media, openly on social media," she said.

Frieha Altaf, an events manager, model and actress who tweeted about abuse she suffered as a 6-year-old, said Zainab's death is a catalyst to challenge shame and fear that silence victims and their parents.

"There is no stopping now," she said. "For me, there is no stopping now."

But Abid cautioned that change isn't necessarily unstoppable. Frank language about sexual assault will likely bring a backlash from religious conservatives and many parents who oppose discussing sexual issues and hold tight to traditions that ban mixing of the sexes, consider girls responsible for the family "honor" and even forgive killing a girl who marries for love.

Ahsan and Asif, whose children were among the victims in Kasur, say their priority is to capture the serial predator.

"We don't want (to find) the bodies of any more of our children," Asif said. AP

Bullit Marquez, Legazpi

THE Philippines' most active volcano spewed fountains of red-hot lava and massive ash plumes anew yesterday in a dazzling but increasingly dangerous eruption that has sent more than 56,000 villagers fleeing to evacuation centers.

Lava fountains gushed up 700 meters above Mount Mayon's crater and ash plumes rose up to 3 kilometers Monday night. At least three major blasts followed, including an explosion at nightfall that was capped by one of the most massive lava displays since the volcano started acting up more than a week ago, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said.

"We couldn't sleep last night because of the loud rumblings. It sounded like an airplane that's about to land," Quintin Velardo, a 59-year-old farmer, told The Associated Press at an evacuation center in Legazpi city where he took his wife, children and grandchildren.

Despite the danger, he said he needed to return to his village, about 8 kilometers from the erupting volcano, to take his cow and water buffalo to safety. A few minutes later, the volcano belched a massive column of grayish ash that punched through white clouds into the blue sky.

"There it goes again," Velardo said, his family huddled near him.

Authorities warned a violent eruption may occur in hours or days, characterized by more rumblings and pyroclastic flows — superheated gas and volcanic debris that race down the slopes at high speeds, vaporizing everything in their path.

After Monday's explosion, officials raised Mayon's alert level to four on a scale of five, and the danger zone was expanded to 8 kilometers from the crater, requiring thousands more residents to be evacuated, including at least 12,000 who returned to their homes last week as Mayon's rumblings temporarily eased and then scrambled back to the emergency shelters this week.

At least 56,217 people were taking shelter in 46 evacuation camps yesterday and army troops and police were helping move more villagers from their homes, officials said.

Authorities struggled to prevent villagers from sneaking back to check on their homes and farms and to watch a popular cockfight in Albay's Santo Domingo town despite the risks and police patrols and checkpoints, said Cedric Daep, a provincial disaster



Residents watch as Mayon volcano spews ash anew during its eruption for the second straight day

PHILIPPINES

Volcano spews lava fountains, 56,000 people flee

response official.

In a sign of desperation, Daep told a news conference that he has recommended electricity and water supplies be cut in communities within the no-go zones to discourage residents from returning.

"If pyroclastic flows hit people, there is no chance for life," Daep said. "Let us not violate the natural law, avoid the prohibited zone, because if you violate, the punishment is the death penalty."

If pyroclastic flows hit people, there is no chance for life.

CEDRIC DAEP
DISASTER RESPONSE OFFICIAL

The daytime eruptions have plunged nearby villages into darkness and sent lava, rocks and debris cascading down Mayon's slopes toward the no-entry danger zone. There have been no reports of deaths or injuries. Airplanes have been ordered to stay away from the crater and ash-laden

winds, and several domestic flights have been canceled.

Volcanic ash fell Monday in more than a dozen towns in coconut-growing Albay and nearby Camarines Sur province, with visibility heavily obscured in a few towns because of the thick gray ash, Jukes Nunez, another Albay provincial disaster response officer, said by telephone.

"It was like night time at noon, there was zero visibility in some areas because the ash fall was so thick," Nunez said.

More than 30,000 ash masks and about 5,000 sacks of rice, along with medicine, water and other supplies, were being sent to evacuation centers, Office of Civil Defense regional director Claudio Yucot said late Monday.

Food packs, water, medicine and other relief goods remain adequate but may run out by mid-February if the eruption continues and new supplies fail to come on time, officials said.

With its near-perfect cone, Mayon has long been popular with climbers and tourists but has erupted about 50 times in the last 500 years, sometimes violently. The 8,070-foot (2,460-meter) volcano has generated tourism revenues and jobs in Albay, about 340 kilometers

southeast of Manila.

In 2013, an ash eruption killed five climbers who had ventured near the summit despite warnings. Its most destructive eruption, in 1814, killed more than 1,200 people and buried the town of Cagsawa in volcanic mud. The belfry of Cagsawa's stone church still juts from the ground in an eerie reminder of Mayon's fury.

Since childhood, Velardo, the farmer, said he has gambled his and his family's lives in Mayon's shadow but that he and thousands of other landless farmers have no place else to go. "I tell my grandchildren to study hard so they

can live elsewhere without a volcano to keep an eye on all your life."

The Philippines, which has about 22 active volcanoes, lies in the "Ring of Fire," a line of seismic faults surrounding the Pacific Ocean where earthquakes and volcanic activity are common.

In 1991, Mount Pinatubo in the northern Philippines exploded in one of the biggest volcanic eruptions of the 20th century, killing about 800 people, covering entire towns and cities in ash and partly prompting the U.S. government to abandon its vast air and naval bases on the main northern Luzon island. **AP**



Pyroclastic materials cascade down the slopes of Mayon volcano

ANALYSIS

A basic income for everyone? it's not a crazy idea

Noah Smith

IF there's one policy that can unite socialists and Silicon Valley libertarians, it's universal basic income (UBI) - a regular payment from the government to each and every adult, regardless of income.

Many socialists like the unconditional nature of the program - like Social Security, it has the potential to avoid arousing the anger of higher-earning people who feel they're being forced to pay for those who don't work. Indeed, polls reveal a plurality supports the idea in the U.S. and a majority supports it in Europe. Meanwhile, some in the tech industry believe that as machine learning and other technologies continue to replace human labor, basic income will be the only way to guarantee large portions of the human race a decent standard of living.

As a policy with support on both the left and right, UBI also has critics on both sides. On the right, many worry that UBI would increase poor people's income to the point where they won't need to work, reducing overall economic output. Many unions and thinkers sympathetic to the labor movement, meanwhile, worry that a transition away

from work will both reduce human dignity and blunt the political power of workers. Critics tend to favor ideas that reward poor people for employment - wage subsidies, government job guarantees and increases in the earned income tax credit.

■ **[Universal] basic income will be the only way to guarantee large portions of the human race a decent standard of living**

With all this attention and controversy, the debate badly needs some data. Empirical evidence is the only thing that will answer the question of what effects basic income actually has on society. To this end, a number of governments and charities around the world are starting to experiment with unconditional cash transfers. Silicon Valley startup accelerator Y Combinator attracted a lot of attention

when it announced its own UBI experiment, in which the company is giving 3,000 people each USD1,000 a month for five years.

These trials will doubtless serve as good marketing for UBI, and help mollify critics in specific locations. But economists aren't waiting for the results to start thinking about basic income - a number of historical episodes help predict what would happen if people got regular government checks in the mail. So far, the evidence seems promising for basic-income boosters.

One potentially helpful analog is the negative income tax. This is where a government guarantees you a certain minimum income, which it takes away gradually as you start earning more money on the job. Negative income tax is not a basic income, since it's not unconditional - the phase-out of benefits acts like an income tax, which economic theory says should discourage work. But it's a good starting point for thinking about universal basic income, because if a negative income tax doesn't discourage work very much, then a similarly sized UBI almost certainly wouldn't.

In most cases, economists find that negative income taxes don't decrease employ-

ment by a statistically significant amount. There are some exceptions, though. Economists David Price and Jae Song studied the Seattle-Denver income-maintenance experiment, where families in those cities were randomly chosen to receive guaranteed minimum incomes in the 1970s. They found that employment decreased by 4.6 percent, and income went down by an average of \$1,800 a person - a sizable reduction. That's worrying, since it implies that government transfers could reduce the productivity of the economy as a whole by encouraging people to stop working.

But this program wasn't a true UBI, because the policy penalized people for working. A closer UBI analog is the income that certain Native American groups receive from operating casinos. Economists Randall K. Q. Akee, William Copeland, Gordon Keeler, Adrian Angold and E. Jane Costello found in 2010 that these payments didn't cause recipients to reduce the amount they worked.

But even this kind of study can miss the impact of the cash transfers on general labor demand - when you give people money, they spend it on goods and services produ-

ced by other people, raising wages and employment.

Economists Damon Jones and Ioanna Marinescu found an example of a truly universal, unconditional transfer - the Alaska Permanent Fund. Since 1976, a percent of the revenues from natural resource extraction in Alaska is paid out to all state residents. This acts just like a universal basic income. In research presented at the American Economic Association meeting earlier this month, Jones and Marinescu compared Alaska to other states, and found that the introduction of the fund had no effect on employment in Alaska (though interestingly, it did cause a small shift from full-time to part-time work).

This finding represents convincing evidence that a true UBI doesn't discourage people from working - at least, if it's small. The Alaska Permanent Fund dividends are usually about \$2,000 to \$3,000 a year - not enough to live off of. A basic income of \$10,000 or \$20,000 might look very different, however.

But Alaska's experience means that there's very little risk in implementing a small UBI. Giving every American \$3,000 a year would cost about \$1 trillion - less than one-sixth of current total government revenue. That amount could then be increased as desired, or increased in certain areas in order to get more data about the effects of larger transfers.

In the ongoing war against poverty, a modest UBI looks like a safe, effective tool that wouldn't hurt the economy. **Bloomberg**



US says Turk offensive in Syria is disruptive

Robert Burns, Jakarta

TURKEY'S air and ground offensive against Kurds in northwestern Syria has distracted from international efforts to finish off the Islamic State group and has disrupted humanitarian relief work, U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said yesterday.

Mattis raised the matter in an exchange with reporters after unrelated meetings in the Indonesia capital with senior government officials. He made clear that while the U.S. sympathizes with Turkey's concerns about border security, Washington wants the Turks to minimize their military action inside Syria.

The Turkish offensive began Saturday, targeting Kurds in an enclave called Afrin. Turkey says it intends to create a 30-kilometer (20-mile) deep "secure zone" in Afrin. Mattis had said Monday that the Turks gave Washington advance notice that their forces were going to strike Kurds in Afrin.

Yesterday, Mattis's level of con-

cern seemed to have grown as the fighting continued.

"The violence in Afrin disrupts what was a relatively stable area of Syria," he said. "It distracts from the international efforts to ensure the defeat of ISIS, and this could be exploited by ISIS and al-Qaida, obviously, that we're not staying focused on them right now."

He said work on stabilizing the Afrin area of Syria had reached the point where much-needed humanitarian assistance was flowing and refugees were returning.

"This clearly disrupts that effort," Mattis said. "The Turkish incursion disrupts that effort."

"So we urge Turkey to exercise restraint in the military actions and the rhetoric and ensure that its operations are limited in scope and duration," he added.

The Pentagon chief said the U.S. and its Kurdish partners, known as the YPG, are "on the cusp" of fully defeating IS in Syria.

Mattis raised the matter with reporters after a full day of meetings with Indonesian government officials about ways of extending U.S.-



Indonesian military ties. His visit to Jakarta is an early demonstration of a key tenet of the new U.S. defense strategy that Mattis announced last Friday, namely that Washington will work to nurture existing alliances and partnerships and build new ones.

The U.S. has had a long but sometimes complicated relationship with the Indonesian military. After reported humanitarian abuses in the 1990s by a special operations group known

as Kopassus, the U.S. cut off military cooperation. In 2010, the U.S. partially restored military-to-military ties, and Mattis said the Indonesians are eager to further expand cooperation with the U.S. military.

Asked whether he believes the Indonesian special forces units have reformed sufficiently to merit resuming U.S. military cooperation, Mattis said, "Yes," adding that the Pentagon will follow established procedures for further

easing its restrictions.

Indonesia's special forces were accused of major abuses through the 1990s in the provinces of Papua and Aceh and in East Timor, a former province that has gained independence. The U.S. cut ties with the special forces under a 1997 law that banned U.S. training for foreign military units accused of human rights violations. The ban can be lifted if there have been substantial measures to bring culprits to justice. AP

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Offbeat

DOCTOR WHO CAME TO US AS CHILD JAILED BY IMMIGRATION AGENTS

A Michigan doctor who came to the U.S. from Poland as a young child was in jail yesterday [Macao time], nearly a week after immigration agents arrested him at his home.

It's not clear why Lukasz Niec, 43, was taken into custody last Tuesday. Niec is a legal U.S. resident who works at Bronson Methodist Hospital in Kalamazoo. He has two misdemeanor convictions from high school and an impaired driving conviction from 2008 that was later dismissed.

The Associated Press sent an email seeking comment from Immigration and Customs Enforcement. An automatic response said the agency's public affairs employees aren't working because of the government shutdown.

His wife, Rachelle Burkart-Niec, said he pleaded guilty in high school to malicious destruction of property and receiving stolen goods and was told the convictions wouldn't be used in a deportation. Kalamazoo County court records show he pleaded guilty to an impaired driving offense in 2008. After completing probation, the conviction was set aside and case was dismissed as part of a plea agreement. A jury also acquitted him of a 2013 domestic violence charge, MLive reported.

"He's taken care of the people of the U.S. as a physician, he's taken care of the people of this community," she told MLive. "After all this time, when is somebody finally free?"

Niec came from Poland to the Detroit area when he was about 5 with his parents and sister. He has one daughter and his wife another from previous relationships, and they married in July 2016.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Miscellaneous
16:30	Zig Zag
17:25	AB Science
18:00	Miscellaneous
18:35	Brazilian Soap Opera (Repeated)
19:15	TDM Interview (Repeated)
19:50	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Miscellaneous
21:3	You, Me and the Apocalypse Sr. 1
22:10	Brazilian Soap Opera
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:15	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:05	RTPi Live

cinema



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THE COMMUTER

ROOM 1

02:30, 04:30, 07:30, 9:30pm

Director: Jaume Collet-Serra

Starring: Liam Neeson, Vera Farmiga, Patrick Wilson

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 104 min



PITCH PERFECT 3

ROOM 2

02:30, 04:15, 6:00, 9:45pm

Director: Trish Sie

Starring: Anna Kendrick, Rebel Wilson, Hailee Steinfeld

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 93min

INSIDIOUS: CHAPTER 4

ROOM 2

07:45pm

Director: Adam Robitel

Starring: Lin Shaye, Angus Sampson, Leigh Whannell, Josh Stewart

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 103 min



NAMIYA

ROOM 3

02:30, 04:30, 9:30pm

Director: Han Jie

Starring: Kary Wang, Dilraba, Dong Zijian, Lee Hong Chi

Language: Putonghua (Chinese & English)

Duration: 118min

COCO

ROOM 3

7:15pm

Director: Lee Unkrich

Starring: Anthony Gonzalez, Gael Garcia Bernal, Benjamin Bratt

Language: Cantonese (English)

Duration: 105 min

this day in history



1965 WINSTON CHURCHILL DIES

Sir Winston Churchill has died at the age of 90 with his wife Lady Clementine Churchill and other members of the family at his bedside.

He suffered a stroke 15 days ago and gradually slipped into a deep sleep from which he never awakened.

Sir Winston died in his London home at Hyde Park Gate.

Earlier in his illness, there had been crowds anxiously waiting for news at the top of the quiet Kensington cul-de-sac - but when the announcement finally came there was only a handful of journalists in the street.

News of his death was announced on the BBC shortly after 0800 GMT. Within half-an-hour, crowds began to gather near his home to pay homage to Britain's greatest wartime leader.

When Sir Winston fell ill, he was visited by one of the country's leading neurologists, Lord Brain, who advised on his treatment.

Since then, regular medical bulletins have been issued by Sir Winston's own doctor, Lord Moran.

Sir Winston has spent the past few days lying in the downstairs room he converted to a bedroom after a fall four years ago in which he injured his back.

Members of the family were summoned to his bedside at 0700 GMT. Lady Churchill and the couple's eldest surviving daughter, Mary Soames, have been with him throughout his illness.

Their son, Randolph Churchill was seen arriving with his son, Winston. Soon after, Sir Winston's access daughter, Lady Sarah Audley, looking pale and drawn, arrived with her daughter, Celia Sandys.

Many television and radio programmes have been cancelled or re-scheduled to make way for tributes to Sir Winston.

Sir Winston will lie in state in Westminster Hall - an honour not accorded any English statesman since Gladstone in 1898. His body will remain there for three days, before the funeral at St Paul's cathedral on Saturday.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Sir Winston Churchill was laid to rest in the Oxfordshire parish churchyard of Bladon, with only family members present at the private burial. The church lies just outside the Blenheim estate, where he was born.

During the three days lying-in-state, a total of 321,360 people filed past the catafalque. Huge silent crowds lined the route to St Paul's for the funeral. His political career began as a Conservative MP for Oldham in 1900 - but he became disaffected and joined the Liberals in 1906.

He was First Lord of the Admiralty during World War I - but shortly afterwards switched sides again, to rejoin the Conservatives in 1924. Much to his own surprise, he was made Chancellor of the Exchequer in Stanley Baldwin's government.

He came into his own during World War II. He became prime minister in May 1940. His ceaseless energy, unflinching determination to beat the enemy and an ability to make great speeches, inspired the entire nation and eventually helped win the war.

He lost power in 1945 after a general election brought Labour to government - but returned for a final stint as prime minister at the age of 77 in 1951. Failing health forced him to step down in 1955, but he continued as a backbencher until 1964.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You're feeling quite eccentric, wildly erratic and super-impulsive.

Taurus April 20-May 20 You may feel somewhat edgy as you work through your daily routines.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Someone's extended absence is probably making you cranky. You need to reestablish contact by any means necessary.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 A shared financial arrangement is all set to change, but don't freak out over it.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Someone you love has been kind of remote lately, and it's probably making you a little crazy.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 You're one of those few people who do more than is required, reliably, without bragging or trying to make others look bad.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 If someone close comes to you today for another favor, though, and if you swore that the last time was actually, no kidding, the last time.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Secrets are a part of your life, but you've just learned one that you simply cannot share with anyone.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You tend to be somewhat excessive every now and again. Overdoing it feels like second nature to you.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You sometimes get the urge to have a totally extravagant, utterly unnecessary shopping spree.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 When a good reason pops up for you to cancel plans you thought to be absolutely unskippable.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Right now, no matter how hard that rabidly jealous person in your life is trying to catch you in that crazy scheme they think you've got going.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle.

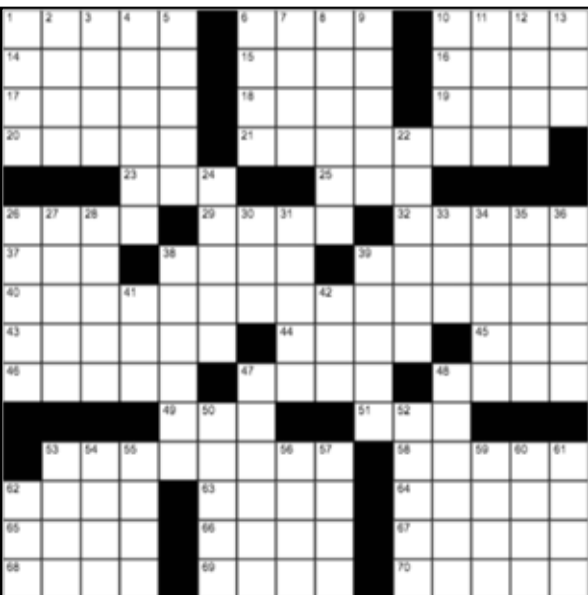
WEATHER

Weather forecast table with columns for MIN, MAX, and CONDITION for various cities in CHINA and WORLD.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Grassy plain; 6- Mother of Ares; 10- Goes out with; 14- Pianist Claudio; 15- That's ___ haven't heard; 16- Catch a view of; 17- Hagar the Horrible's dog; 18- Vintner's prefix; 19- Reclined; 20- Surfer wannabe; 21- Highly productive; 23- Pea holder; 25- Finish first; 26- Impetuous; 29- Brio; 32- March man; 37- Turkish honorific; 38- Envelope part; 39- Breadwinner; 40- In spite of; 43- Richards of "Jurassic Park"; 44- Scots Gaelic; 45- Buckeyes' sch.; 46- Country singer Tucker; 47- ...___ forgive our debtors; 48- Dagger; 49- Cut (off); 51- Summer hrs.; 53- Undated; 58- Cut; 62- Actress Ward; 63- Mischief-makers; 64- Bellowing; 65- Cauterize; 66- Futile; 67- Hotelier Helmsley; 68- Stumble; 69- Tolkien tree creatures; 70- Item having exchange value;

DOWN: 1- Money; 2- Florence's river; 3- TV horse; 4- Flourish made after a signature; 5- Perform better than; 6- Cager's target; 7- Steven Chu's cabinet dept.; 8- Fame; 9- Garlic sauce; 10- Ego; 11- Morales of "NYPD Blue"; 12- Large-scale; 13- Thesaurus wd.; 22- Certifiable; 24- 4th letter of the Greek alphabet; 26- Charged; 27- Greek marketplace; 28- Glossy fabric; 30- Well, ___-di-dahl; 31- Church areas; 33- Old California fort; 34- Conjunction; 35- Inward feeling; 36- Bicker; 38- Closing number; 39- Relaxed; 41- Method; 42- Credit-tracking corp.; 47- Tarzan, e.g.; 48- Gazes fixedly; 50- Antipasto morsel; 52- Milan's La ___; 53- Antlered animal; 54- Jai ___; 55- Waterproof cover; 56- Roasting rod; 57- IRS IDs; 59- Outback hoppers; 60- Windmill part; 61- Part of QED; 62- Fast flier;



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RUGBY

Police raid French federation headquarters

Samuel Petrequin, Paris

POLICE conducted raids at the French rugby federation headquarters yesterday amid an investigation into an alleged conflict of interest involving federation president Bernard Laporte.

A person with direct knowledge of the investigation told The Associated Press that the national financial prosecutor's office ordered the police searches at the national center of rugby in Marcoussis, outside Paris, where the France squad is preparing for the Six Nations.

Laporte's place of residence was also raided, the person said.

Last month, French sports minister Laura Flessel gave justice officials the conclusions of an investigation into Laporte, who has denied accusations that he pressured the French federation's appeals board to reduce sanctions against Top 14 club Montpellier, which is owned by his close friend, Mohad Altrad.

Following a three-month investigation, the French sports ministry said Laporte contacted the appeal commission's president on June

30 and stressed that the phone call resulted in a change of decision from commission members.

Montpellier's 70,000 euro (USD85,000) fine was reduced to 20,000 euros (\$24,500) and a one-game stadium ban canceled after Laporte's intercession.

Prosecutors have now decided to open a formal investigation that could lead to Laporte being handed preliminary charges.

According to L'Equipe newspaper, a dozen police officers conducted the raids. The French federation did not immediately answer a message from the AP seeking comment.

Altrad, a Syrian-born French billionaire, also sealed a partnership with the French federation to become the first shirt sponsor of the Tricolors. Earlier this month, the French federation said its ethical committee considered the new sponsorship deal signed with construction equipment group Altrad did not cause a conflict of interest.

The five-year contract is expected to yield 35 million euros (\$42 million) for amateur rugby. The Altrad group was the sole bidder. AP

AP PHOTO



French Rugby Federation President Bernard Laporte

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TENNIS

Injured Nadal out of Australian Open; Cilic into semifinals

John Pye, Melbourne

AN injured and visibly struggling Rafael Nadal retired while trailing in the fifth set of his Australian Open quarterfinal match against Marin Cilic.

Top-ranked Nadal fended off five break points in the last game before Cilic broke his serve, then the 16-time major winner went to shake hands with the umpire and his opponent, and angrily hurled his headband into his equipment bag.

No. 6-seeded Cilic advanced to his first semifinal in Australia since 2010 with a score of 3-6, 6-3, 6-7 (5), 6-2, 2-0, retired.

Cilic, the 2014 U.S. Open champion, will next play No. 49-ranked Kyle Edmund, who beat No. 3-ranked Grigor Dimitrov 6-4, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 to reach a Grand Slam semifinal for the first time.

Nadal limped into a news conference about a half-hour later, still wincing when he stepped up onto a platform. He said he felt muscle pain in his upper right leg in the third set but played through it. In the fourth set, chasing a drop shot, he felt the pain get worse "but didn't realize how bad."

"Tough moments — not [for] the first time here," he said. "I'm a positive person, but today is an opportunity lost to be in a semifinal for a Grand Slam and fight for an important title for me."

"It's really tough to accept."



Spain's Rafael Nadal (right) walks from Croatia's Marin Cilic after he withdrew injured from their quarterfinal at the Australian Open

Nadal said he'd have medical scans today to determine the exact location and extent of the injury, which he could only describe as being high on his right leg but not in the hip.

"Unbelievable performance from both of us and really unfortunate for Rafa," Cilic said. "He's such an unbelievable competitor. He always gives his best

[...] it's very unfortunate for him to finish this way."

It was only the second time Nadal had retired during a Grand Slam match — the last time was also an Australian Open quarterfinal, in 2010 against Andy Murray.

Last night, he needed a medical timeout after going down 4-1 in the fourth set for treatment on his leg.

Nadal returned but was clearly bothered by the injury, limping and taking as much time as possible as he tried to stretch between points.

He called the trainer again after losing the fourth set, and lasted only two further games.

Cilic had only previously beaten Nadal once in their six previous matches — in their first match at Beijing in 2009.

Nadal had a delayed start to the season because of an injured right knee, but appeared to be in good form through the first four rounds. He now hasn't won back-to-back Australian Open quarterfinals since 2008 and '09, the year he won his only Australian title.

"I worked hard to be here," said Nadal, who skipped tournaments in Abu Dhabi and Brisbane, Australia, while his knee recovered at the start of the season. "We did all the things that we believed were the right things to do."

His absence also means there's only one of last year's singles

finalists remaining in the tournament. Roger Federer, who beat Nadal in five sets last year, is playing Tomas Berdych in a quarterfinal on Wednesday.

Serena Williams didn't defend her title, deciding she hadn't had enough time to prepare following the birth of her first child last September. Her older sister, Venus Williams, was beaten in the first round.

On top of that, six-time champion Novak Djokovic was upset in the fourth round.

There'll be a British man in the Australian Open semifinals for the seventh time in nine years, but it won't be five-time finalist Murray — who skipped the season-opening tournament to have surgery on his hip.

Edmund had never played in a major quarterfinal, had never won five consecutive matches at tour level, had lost both of his previous matches against Dimitrov and had never beaten a top five player.

He checked all those boxes on Rod Laver Arena.

"I am loving it right now, just the way I'm playing," Edmund said. "My first Grand Slam semifinal. First time I played on one of the biggest courts in the world. To beat a quality of player like Grigor. They're great feelings. So, yeah, I just try to enjoy it as much as possible."

After breaking Dimitrov's serve in the ninth game of the fourth set, Edmund set up match

point with an ace. Then he had to wait before a video challenge confirmed that Dimitrov's last shot — a floating backhand — was out.

"I just held my nerve in that last game and prayed that last ball would be out," Edmund said. It was out. And so was Dimitrov, who lost a five-set semifinal here last year to Nadal.

"Everything went his way today," Dimitrov said. "It's hard to hide a disappointment. It hurts, and so it should."

Edmund, who had a first-round upset over U.S. Open finalist Kevin Anderson, is now the center of attention for the tennis-loving British public.

"I know what it feels like to be Andy Murray the last eight years," he said. "It's probably the first time I've done well on my own, so there's more attention there. Of course you take it in stride."

Elise Mertens is facing a similar experience.

Mertens upset fourth-seeded Elina Svitolina 6-4, 6-0 to extend her winning streak to 10 matches, becoming the first Belgian since Kim Clijsters in 2012 to reach the semifinals here.

Mertens, who trains at Clijsters' academy, said: "Kim, thanks for watching. I'm trying to be in your footsteps this week."

In the semis, she'll play either second-seeded Caroline Wozniacki or Carla Suarez Navarro. **AP**



Ukraine's Elina Svitolina reacts after losing a point to Belgium's Elise Mertens during their quarterfinal

opinion

World Views

Christopher Balding, Bloomberg

UNEXPECTEDLY, TRUMP HAS AN OPENING IN CHINA

When it comes to trade, President Donald Trump and the Chinese government are both engaged in pointless, counterproductive protectionism. That may actually represent an opportunity.

As Trump reviews China's trade policies, he has zeroed in on its alleged "dumping" of steel and related products in the U.S. market, and has threatened to impose tariffs in response. Dumping occurs when a product is exported at a price below the cost of production, which can distort markets and potentially run afoul of World Trade Organization rules.

But there are many problems associated with pursuing a dumping claim. Especially in heavily traded commodities where prices fluctuate widely - like steel - dumping today is selling profitably tomorrow. Producers unwilling to lose market share are frequently (and quite logically) willing to temporarily sell at a loss.

This is exactly what's been happening in China. For most of the past decade, steel in China was effectively a break-even proposition. From 2010 through 2015, listed Chinese steelmakers lost a total of 902 billion yuan on 7.2 trillion yuan in revenue. Since December 2015, however, prices have surged: Hot-rolled steel coil is up 97 percent while steel rebar is up 115 percent.

This has fundamentally changed the dynamics of the industry. Listed Chinese steelmakers are now enjoying big profits, raking in 48 billion yuan through the first three quarters of 2017 and likely to top 70 billion yuan for the year. Pursuing antidumping claims in such volatile markets makes little sense.

More to the point, China isn't a major steel exporter to the U.S. Over the past decade, it has generally maintained a market share of between 4 and 5 percent, falling to a paltry 3.3 percent in 2016. Imports that year fell precisely because of the increased prices, making it hard to see how Chinese steel is any kind of a threat to the U.S. It's even harder to see how Trump's plan to impose new tariffs on Chinese imports would significantly benefit Americans.

Of course, China isn't totally innocent in these matters. Long-promised capacity cuts in the steel industry are falling short, as fixed-asset investment continues to add more than is being taken offline. Net capacity is being added faster than output growth, lowering operating rates.

Additionally, there's no question that state-owned businesses still dominate China's steel sector. Officials set hard quotas, encourage wealth managers to prop up the stocks of steelmakers, and mandate production cuts to limit coal usage, which pushes up prices. Complaints about such behavior are perfectly valid under international norms of trade.

In a weird way, though, all this represents an opportunity. Because both the Trump administration and China are pursuing fundamentally flawed policies, they both have a chance to make necessary concessions that they might be unwilling to consider in the absence of pressure from an opposing party.

Trump should use the leverage he has created by criticizing China's steel dumping to extract concessions in other key markets in return for not imposing tariffs. In return, he could pressure China to live up to the trade agreement the two countries reached last spring - for instance, by finally granting Visa Inc. and Mastercard Inc. access to its market.

China, meanwhile, could sell such an opening as the price it has to pay to maintain overseas access for its steel producers. It wouldn't be risking much, given the local dominance of state-owned banks and mobile-payment systems. But it would gain renewed leverage in global trade negotiations, and it just might expose its payments market to the salutary effects of competition - as the government often says it wants.

Tensions are understandably high between two countries that want to protect their own while demanding others open up. The strange reality is that those tensions may be just what they need for progress.

THE ALASKA EARTHQUAKE PROMPTS TSUNAMI WARNING

A magnitude 8.2 earthquake off Alaska's Kodiak Island prompted a tsunami warning for a large swath of coastal Alaska and Canada's British Columbia while the remainder of the U.S. West Coast was under a watch.

The strong earthquake was recorded about 175 miles southeast of Kodiak Island yesterday. Warnings from the National Weather Service

sent to cellphones in Alaska warned: "Emergency Alert. Tsunami danger on the coast. Go to high ground or move inland."

Kodiak officials warned residents to evacuate if they lived in low-lying areas.

People reported on social media that the quake was felt hundreds of miles away, in Anchorage.

South African jazz musician Hugh Masekela dies at 78



Krista Mahr, Johannesburg

LEGENDARY South African jazz musician Hugh Masekela has died at the age of 78 after a decade-long fight with cancer, according to a statement from his family yesterday.

Often called the "Father of South African jazz," Masekela died in Johannesburg after what his family said was a "protracted and courageous battle with prostate cancer."

Trumpeter, singer and composer Masekela, affectionately known locally as "Bra Hugh," started playing the horn at 14 and quickly became an integral part of the 1950s jazz scene in Johannesburg as a member of the Jazz Epistles.

In the 1960s he went into exile in the United Kingdom and the United States, where he collaborated with American jazz legend Harry Belafonte and used his music to spread awareness about the oppressive system of white-minority rule in South Africa. He also scored an international number one hit in 1968 with "Grazing In The Grass."

He collaborated with many musicians including Paul Simon and Herb Alpert. He was married to South African singer and activist Miriam

Makeba for two years.

Many of his compositions were about the struggle for majority rule and full democratic rights in South Africa. Masekela's catchy composition "Bring Him Back Home" calling for Nelson Mandela to be released from prison became an international anthem for the anti-apartheid movement.

"Hugh's global and activist contribution to and participation in the areas of music, theatre, and the arts in general is contained in the minds and memory of millions across six continents," the family statement read.

In October last year, Masekela issued a statement that he had been fighting prostate cancer since 2008 and would have to cancel his professional commitments to focus on his health. He said he started treatment after doctors found a "small 'speck'" on his bladder, and had surgery in March 2016 after the cancer spread.

Masekela also said he felt an "imbalance" and had an eye problem after a fall in April in Morocco in which he sprained his shoulder. He said another tumor was then discovered and he had surgery.

"I'm in a good space, as I battle this stealthy disease,

and I urge all men to have regular tests to check your own condition," his statement said, asking the media for privacy.

Condolences from fans poured out yesterday social media paying tribute to the influential musician's career.

"A baobab tree has fallen," Nathi Mthethwa, South Africa's minister for arts and culture, wrote on Twitter. "The nation has lost a one of a kind musician. We can safely say Bra Hugh was one of the great architects of Afro-Jazz and he uplifted the soul of our nation through his timeless music."

South African President Jacob Zuma expressed his condolences, saying Masekela "kept the torch of freedom alive globally, fighting apartheid through his music and mobilizing international support for the struggle for liberation and raising awareness of the evils of apartheid [...]. His contribution to the struggle for liberation will never be forgotten."

Masekela inspired generations of musicians in jazz and beyond and collaborated in recent years with South African house music DJ Black Coffee and others. "I have no words," the DJ said yesterday on Twitter. **AP**

Station	Air quality	Icon
Roadside	55-75 Moderate	☹️
High Density Residential Area	70-100 Moderate	☹️
Ambient	70-100 Moderate	☹️

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS



TURKEY's air and ground offensive against Kurds in northwestern Syria has distracted from international efforts to finish off the Islamic State group and has disrupted humanitarian relief work, U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said yesterday.

GREECE Riot police have fired tear gas and stun grenades during clashes with activists protesting an arson fire at a building used by anarchist squatters in the northern city of Thessaloniki.



FRANCE The Seine River overflowed its banks in Paris yesterday, prompting authorities to close several roads and cancel boat cruises. Forecasters said that the water is expected to keep rising in the coming days.

SPAIN Former Catalan leader Carles Puigdemont said yesterday that he is working to return home to be re-elected as the regional president, but stopped short of saying when and how.



GUATEMALA U.S. authorities have detained former Guatemalan presidential candidate Manuel Baldizon (pictured) to face charges in Guatemala. The U.S. Embassy in Guatemala City said the detention occurred at an undisclosed location in accordance with an Interpol request.

BRAZIL Lawyers for Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva are asking a group of judges not to arrest the former Brazilian president in case his conviction is upheld later today.