



1,000 PERFORMERS JOIN CNY PARADE

P3



ID PLEDGES TO EXTEND CYCLING TRACKS

The Sports Bureau is working with other departments to extend the two cycling tracks that currently exist in Macau

P4



RESCUERS FIND WRECKAGE FROM PLANE CRASH

Iranian rescue teams yesterday reached the site of a plane crash which killed all 65 people on board

P15

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Wynn gets no money in termination deal

P2

WORLD BRIEFS



CHINA Federal authorities say a Delaware man snapped a selfie while posing next to a statue known as “The Cavalryman,” from the “Terracotta Warriors of the First Emperor” exhibit before snapping off the USD4.5-million statue’s left thumb.

CHINA A weekend fire at the sprawling Jokhang monastery in Tibet did not affect the main chapel at the 1,300-year-old religious site, considered the spiritual heart of Tibetan Buddhism, the self-declared Tibetan government-in-exile said yesterday.



PHILIPPINES Police and army troops have arrested an Arab man they believe was a former commander of the Islamic State group along the Syria and Turkey border in a raid on a Manila apartment, where they found bomb-making materials and an IS-style flag, the national police chief said yesterday.

More on backpage



‘Sick tricks!’ Big Air bounds into Olympics on a high note

P18 WINTER OLYMPICS

Nine-year-old run over by bus

A nine-year-old local boy sustained serious injuries after a car accident. On Friday afternoon, a 60-year-old local bus driver from Transmac hit the boy near Avenida do Almirante Lacerda. According to a report by Macao Daily News, the boy ran across a zebra crossing despite the pedestrian light instructing him not to walk. The bus driver had insufficient time to bring the bus to a stop.

Physicians soon available at senior care centers

The Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, said that the government is planning to launch a new medical service for seniors who live in senior care centers. Yesterday, during a TDM radio show, Tam disclosed that the government plans to send doctors, nurses, and pharmacists to senior centers. The program is intended to be launched this year, and will allow seniors to receive medical treatment without commuting to a hospital.

History book co-drafted by mainland to be used in schools

The Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) is considering using new history books for the upcoming cohort of secondary first and fourth grade students, according to DSEJ director Lou Pak Sang, who revealed this information yesterday during a TDM radio show. The history textbook, co-drafted by Macau and the mainland's People's Education Press is intended to be used in classrooms in September. People's Education Press is the school textbook publication authority for most of the mainland's schools, and is under the leadership of the Ministry of Education of China. Lou revealed that history textbooks for all grades, co-drafted by mainland and Macau, will be published next year.

Wynn says bye to villa, health benefits in termination deal

A termination agreement released Friday between embattled casino mogul Steve Wynn and the company bearing his name leaves him without any severance or compensation and prohibits his involvement in any competing gambling business for two years.

The Las Vegas billionaire resigned as chairman and CEO of Wynn Resorts this month amid sexual misconduct allegations. Matt Maddox, a long-time Wynn lieutenant was appointed chief executive officer in his place.

As part of the agreement, Steve Wynn also agreed to cooperate with any investigation or lawsuits involving his time with the company, which experts have said are likely to keep mounting.

Wynn has vehemently denied the misconduct accusations and attributed them to a campaign led by his ex-wife. The allegations surfaced last month, when the Wall Street Journal reported that a number of women said Wynn harassed or assaulted them and that one case led to a USD7.5 million settlement.

An attorney for Elaine Wynn has denied that she instigated the news report.

Wynn is facing scrutiny by gambling regulators in Nevada and Massachusetts, where the company is building a roughly \$2.4 billion casino just outside Boston. Regulators in Macau are also inquiring about the accusations.

In addition, groups of stockholders have filed three lawsuits in state court in Las Vegas in the wake of the scandal. The groups, including Pennsylvania-based Operating Engineers Construction Industry and Miscellaneous Pension Fund, have accused Wynn and the company's board of directors of breaching their fiduciary duties.

The lawsuit filed Thursday by the pension fund of the operating engineers argues that the company's "unwaveringly loyal" board "turned a blind eye to reports of sexual harassment and coercion." The shareholders claim that the board "through its action and inaction" allowed



Wynn "to repeatedly coerce his female employees in sexual conduct."

Wynn Resorts has created a committee to investigate the allegations. On Monday, the group announced it was expanding its scope to review the

company's internal policies and procedures to ensure a "safe and respectful workplace for all employees."

The termination agreement also stipulates that Wynn's lease of his private residence at one of his luxury casino-resorts

on the Las Vegas Strip will end no later than June 1. He will have to continue to pay rent at fair market value until the end of the lease. His health care coverage will end Dec. 31 and the administrative support he receives will terminate May 31.

Wynn remains the largest shareholder of the company. The agreement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission Thursday states that in the event that he "is permitted to and elects to" sell any shares he owns, the company has agreed to enter into a so-called separation of rights agreement with Wynn to list the shares publicly.

I would be surprised if we didn't see more lawsuits in the weeks to come.

JOE SCHMITT
EMPLOYMENT ATTORNEY

That agreement would restrict him to selling no more than one-third of the shares in the company in a given quarter. Wynn would have to reimburse the company for expenses.

Joe Schmitt, an employment attorney with Minneapolis-based firm Nilan Johnson Lewis, said the termination agreement is "very unusual" because it does not include severance pay, its benefits like health care are quite limited, and it creates ongoing obligations for the billionaire to the company. He said a reason for the restrictive agreement is that the company probably foresees more lawsuits.

"I would be surprised if we didn't see more lawsuits in the weeks to come," Schmitt said.

MDT/Agencies

Company moving to cut ties to its founder

THE filing shows Wynn Resorts is moving to cut ties to its founder, whose name remains on its properties and whose voice still welcomes callers seeking reservations. Wynn had long lived in a villa at the Wynn Las Vegas, often greeting guests and chatting with staff.

"We found the language in the release to be straightforward and stern," Deutsche Bank analyst Carlo Santarelli said in a research note Friday.

The company also said Friday it may have to pay bondholders USD10 million to amend change-of-control provisions in its 4.25 percent notes due in 2023.

Executives of public companies are typically entitled to severance and accelerated vesting of equity awards if they're dismissed before their contracts expire, or if they leave for reasons including a pay cut or a reduction in responsibilities.

Wynn's employment agreement entitled him to as much as \$330 million if he was fired without cause, a regulatory filing shows. But if the termination was based on a failure to follow policy or comply with the "lawful directions of the company," the board had the right to give him nothing.

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THIS year's "Parade for Celebration of the Year of the Dog" featured a range of attractions, from a float parade, several large-scale performances and fireworks display to a mobile phone game.

The parade started on Sunday from Sai Van Lake Square with 15 dazzling floats gliding along Avenida Dr. Sun Yat-Sen on Macau Peninsula to the destination at the Macau Science Center.

The parade told the story of a kennel of dogs called Wong Choi (meaning "Fortune" in Chinese) gathering blessings over the past twelve years and collecting all kinds of delectable cuisines in order to lay them before local residents and visitors, conveying best wishes for a fruitful, energetic and flourishing year ahead.

The event involved over 1,000 performers, including a total of 25 local performance groups as well as nine non-local performance groups from eight countries and regions.

Souvenirs were distributed along the route to boost the festive vibes, according to information provided by the Macao Government Tourism Office.

Hong Kong celebrity Kitty Yuen, hip hop group Fama and local singer Germano Guilher-

1,000 performers take part in parade to celebrate CNY

me were invited to host the event in Sai Van Lake Square.

Several floats in the parade were lit with elements of culinary delights as the city welcomed the arrival of 2018 as the Macau Year of Gastronomy.

Another float parade will take place in the Northern District on February 24

In addition, the Year of Gastronomy song, "You Can Find it Here", composed by local talent Sou Io Kuong with lyrics written by Eagle Chan, was sung by Germano Guilherme as a debut alongside MGTO's float. Hong Kong and Macau singers Jason Chan, Fama, Mag Lam and Vivian Chan also performed, followed by a fireworks display at 9:45 p.m.



Another float parade and finale show with cultural performances will take place in the Northern District on the ninth day of Lunar New Year on February 24.

The floats are showcased at the seafront of the Macau Science Center until February 24, and following that will be displayed at Tap Seac Square until March 4.

Residents and visitors will be able to see the illuminated floats from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. during the above periods.

CROWD CONTROL MEASURES IMPLEMENTED DURING CNY HOLIDAY

A **RECORD** number of border crossings was registered during the Chinese New Year Holiday (CNY), according to statistics released by the Public Security Police Force (PSP). From the start of the first day of CNY (Friday) until 9 p.m. that night, and the start of the second day of CNY (Saturday) until 9 p.m. that night, approximately 325,000 and 403,000 crossings were recorded across all the city's

borders respectively. Last year, 376,000 crossings were recorded on the second day of CNY. A further increase in human traffic flow was registered on Sunday, with more than 476,000 crossings recorded. Of all the borders, the Border Gate still dominates the number of tourist entrances. Yesterday, crowd control measures were implemented close to Senado Square to cope with the influx of tourists.



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Sports Bureau pledges to extend cycling tracks

THE Sports Bureau (ID) pledged to extend the two cycling tracks in the region, and is working with local authorities to extend the Waterfront and Lotus cycling lanes.

Pun Weng Kun, ID president, spoke on the sidelines of an annual cycling event, which saw some 150 residents participating for good luck in the New Year.

"We're constantly communicating with IACM and other relevant departments to increase more sports facilities, including our cycling tracks in the SAR," said Pun, as cited by local state broadcaster TDM.

"We're now coordinating with IACM to extend the cycling track, but we hope the public can be patient, as we will need some time to coordinate with other departments," the official added.

Organized by ID and a local cycling association, participants have called on the government to extend the city's cycling tracks.

"It's good to join these kinds of healthy activities during the Lunar New Year holiday.



Participants in the cycling event included in the CNY celebrations

There are not many cycling tracks in Macau so we're glad that this one remains open today," said a participant.

"There are more cycling tracks in the mainland so we're glad to have everyone ride around Macau today," said another.

Last year, the Cycling General Association of Macau called for the government to provide safer roads to cycle on.

Currently, because the Waterfront and Lotus cycling lanes are not connected, cyclists are still at risk of injury.

Back in 2014, the New Macau Association proposed that the existing two bicycle lanes be extended, and that a bicycle lane network should be built based on the pedestrian systems throughout the central area of Taipa.

SCIENCE

UM recognized for microelectronics research papers contribution

A team of faculty members and students from the University of Macau's (UM) State-Key Laboratory (SK-LAB) of Analog and Mixed-Signal VLSI (AMS-VLSI) presented their research findings at the 65th Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) International Solid-State Circuits Conference (ISSCC) held from February 11 to 15 in San Francisco, United States.

Seven papers from the UM were accepted at this year's conference. According to a statement issued by the UM, this made the university one of the top six institutions in the world with the most papers presented at the 65th ISSCC, among which were Samsung, Korean Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, Intel Corporation, Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands and Georgia Institute of Technology in the United States.

A total of 207 papers were accepted at this year's conference with an acceptance rate of 33 percent. The papers deal with several broad subjects, namely wireless communications, RF circuits, neuromorphic, clocking and security circuits, adaptive circuits and digital regulators, and other analog circuits for wireless power and energy harvesting. All of these subjects, along with the theme of this year's conference, 'Silicon Engineering a Social World', are important topics in the emerging research areas of the Internet of Things.

Organized by the IEEE Solid-State Circuits Society and internationally recognized as the "Chip Olympics," the ISSCC is a prestigious international conference in the field of electronics, with a rigorous paper selection process. This year's conference attracted more than 3,000 chip designers from around the world.

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C Unit, Vai Fat, Taipa

(Ref: 17110659)
800 sq.ft. HKD 12,800

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Office - Central Business District, Macau

(Ref: 16090618)
1,222 sq.ft. HKD 16,000

Good size spacious and bright office in a fantastic central location, surrounded by lush vegetation even though its in the central location. Originally two offices, now joined together by an arch way although two separate entrances. Public areas are old, in need of renovations however the owner is willing to upgrade upon signing a long term lease.



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(Ref: 17075528)
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Wong visits border to observe passenger flow

THE Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak has visited the Border Gate Checkpoint area on Saturday to observe the works being done regarding the cross-boundary passenger flow during the Lunar New Year holidays.

According to a statement from his office, the Secretary for Security said that his visit also had the purpose of providing moral support to the frontline staff who are working hard during the holidays to ensure that all the security measures are followed and that new crowd control measures for the Lunar New Year are enforced and work effectively.

Speaking to the media, Wong said that since "it has foreseen an increase of the number of visitors this year, staff had to suspend the days of vacations to begin some very exhausting work." This implied that his visit was a symbolic 'thank you' to them for their work and dedication.

Questioned on the recent incident involving a vehicle that entered Macau illegally through the border checkpoint of the Lotus Flower Bridge, Wong said, "Customs Services are attentive to this type of incident and have already reinforced the area, and along with the Public Security Police Force (PSP), they [are in] communication with several Chinese authorities." He then added that on January 29, an exercise drill was performed to test response capabilities to emergency situations, concluding that "the results were very positive."

Wong hopes that through a series of measures such as the



acquisition of more security equipment and other improvements to the borders' strength, these kinds of cases can be prevented in the future.

This year, staff had to suspend the days of vacations to begin some very exhausting work.

WONG SIO CHAK

Asked about the use of individual video cameras by police officers, the secretary said that such a measure "is currently awaiting the opinion from the

Office for Personal Data Protection (GPDP). If [the evaluation] is positive, the authorities will, as soon as possible, implement the plan of adding the individual cameras to the officers' personal equipment." He added that the purpose of this measure is to safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of both officers and citizens in the event of conflict or argument. The measures are also designed to provide evidence of any incidents at the border, with Wong saying "at the same time, this could increase the effectiveness of law enforcement."

Wong pledged to reveal more details on the matter. He stated that officers will be trained to use the equipment in a proper manner, noting in the near future that the government will organize awareness campaigns for the public regarding this topic before its implementation. **RM**

Casinos rent public buses to pick up customers at Border Gate

SEVERAL gaming operators have rented public buses to accommodate for the surge of Chinese New Year (CNY) tourists waiting for the casino shuttles at the border gate.

According to a report by Macao Daily News, public buses were spotted at the Border Gate working as casino shuttles to pick up passengers last Sunday, the third day of CNY.

The Transport Bureau (DSAT) revealed that due to the large number of tourists during the CNY holiday, gaming operators rented vehicles from the three Macau bus companies to ease the demanding crowds at the border gate. Three bus companies already reported the situation to DSAT.

According to DSAT, this is not the first year that gaming operators have resorted to such a

measure, as last year they did the same. All payments were made by the gaming operators themselves, noted DSAT, without using public money.

DSAT will make an announcement regarding the number of public buses hired and the number of passengers picked up once the statistics have been collected.

During the CNY holiday, more tourists were seen queuing up at the border gate trying to get on a casino shuttle bus than a normal shuttle bus.

Casino employees working on the border gate shuttles, said that it sometimes would take two hours for tourists to get on a bus due to the large number of tourists.

The casino shuttles were also operating at a higher frequency on Sunday to speed up the process.

ONE SHOT NEWS



Catholic devotees marked the First Sunday of Lent parading the image of Jesus from the Cathedral to St. Dominic's church. The annual procession was traditionally held from the Cathedral to St. Augustine's Church. However due to current renovation works, organizers changed the parade destination to St. Dominic's Church.

corporate bits

SANDS CHINA HOLDS CEREMONY TO WELCOME CNY



Sands China welcomed the Year of the Dog with traditional cultural ceremonies at its properties on Saturday, with company executives participating in the annual tradition.

The gaming operator held

worship rituals, eye-dotting ceremonies, and traditional lion and dragon dance performances at Sands Macao, The Venetian Macao, Sands Cotai Central and The Parisian Macao on the second

day of the Lunar New Year to attract good luck and blessings to the properties and the region.

Sands China said in a statement that company executives will celebrate the New Year with team members later next week at back-of-house events at the four properties, featuring games, lucky draws and roast pig carving ceremonies.

Leading up to the Lunar New Year, team members were invited to participate in two activities for a chance to win gifts and prizes, one of which was a design competition that called for team members to submit creative designs for festive Chinese New Year banners.

WYNN MACAU LIGHTS A TOTAL OF 800,000 FIRECRACKERS



Wynn Macau and Wynn Palace Cotai celebrated the arrival of the Year of the Dog with a series of festive activities, beginning with the dragon and lion dance and continuing with the lighting of

800,000 firecrackers at the resort on the third day and fourth day of the Lunar New Year.

Ian Michael Coughlan, president of Wynn Macau, led the management team in

officiating the lion eye-dotting ceremony, which symbolizes good luck and fortune for the coming year, according to a statement from the gaming operator.

Wynn has commissioned local illustrator Un Chi Wai to design Chinese New Year greeting cards for the God of Fortune to hand out during the festive period, as well as in-room postcard sets as souvenirs for guests at Wynn Macau and Wynn Palace Cotai this year.

Un's illustration this year conveys a theme of "festive gourmet and family reunion," demonstrating the rich tradition of how locals celebrate the Chinese New Year.



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France Macau Chamber of Commerce advertisement for a breakfast meeting on Wednesday, 28/2/2018, featuring a speaker on digital disruption.

WITH a shortened week in the U.S. and China, emerging markets may provide some of the best clues to whether stocks can extend their strongest rally since 2016.

The MSCI Emerging Markets Index of equities climbed 5 percent last week - its best five days since 2016 - while a gauge of developing-nation currencies rose 0.9 percent. The Bloomberg Barclays index of local-currency government bonds advanced 1.7 percent.

In the week ahead, South Africa will stay in the spotlight as Finance Minister Malusi Gigaba presents the national budget. The event comes just a week after Cyril Ramaphosa replaced Jacob Zuma as president.

Elsewhere, S&P Global Ratings is set to review Russia's sovereign credit score, Kenya plans to complete an international bond sale, and there may be a new twist in the fate of Brazil's pension reform bill, after President Michel Temer ordered the military to take control of Rio de Janeiro's streets.

ECONOMICS MATTERS

With Zuma no longer South African president, investor focus turns this week from politics to economics. Gigaba will present the budget tomorrow, potentially providing traders with the first indications about the government's willingness to boost growth and tackle unemployment under Ramaphosa's stewardship.

South African stocks had their best week since 2009 in the five days through Feb. 16, while the rand had the biggest gain versus the dollar after the Russian ruble, adding 3.4 percent. UBS AG said last week the rand's appreciation may limit further gains for stocks.

EMERGING MARKETS

South Africa in the spotlight as Brazil introduces pension reforms



Brazilian President Michel Temer

RATINGS AND TIMINGS

S&P Global Ratings is due to review Russia's sovereign rating on Feb. 23, with some investors, such as Amundi Asset Management, saying it's only a matter of time before the nation's debt is lifted from junk. Russia's Eurobonds may see more than USD2 billion of inflows if the nation wins back an investment-grade score, according to Societe Generale SA.

Kenya is aiming to issue as much as \$3 billion of securities, including a 30-year bond, which would be its longest maturity yet. But the timing

isn't great: Moody's Investors Service moved the nation's credit rating deeper into junk last week, citing a weakening fiscal outlook, rising debt and a deterioration in debt affordability.

PENSION BILL

It's make-or-break for Brazilian President Michel Temer's pension reform, with lawmakers set to discuss the proposal on the floor of the lower house. Brazilian markets have rallied this year on speculation that the bill will be approved, with the Ibovespa index of stocks rising more

than 10 percent.

Violence in Rio de Janeiro, which prompted the national army to take control of public security on Friday, may still delay the vote, because changes to the constitution can't be made while a military intervention is in effect.

EYES ON GUAJARDO

Investors will monitor comments by Mexico's chief Nafta negotiator Ildefonso Guajardo, who speaks at a conference tomorrow in what may be his last public address before the start of the seventh round of negotiations. Mexican asse-

ts will get a lift from any signs of progress in securing the future of the \$1 trillion North American Free Trade Agreement.

The peso has strengthened more than 6 percent this year, second only to the rand, though some analysts say the market is underplaying the risk of leftist Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador winning the July presidential election. Exotix, a research firm that specializes in the riskiest assets, says an Obrador win could prompt a 15 percent selloff in the benchmark stock index and boost local bond yields by 4 percentage points.

NOT ALL QUIET ON THE ASIAN FRONT

With China and Taiwan closed for Lunar New Year holidays until the middle of the week, traders in Asia will turn their attention to Thailand's baht and the Philippine peso.

Thailand's growth accelerated to 3.9 percent in 2017, according to analyst estimates compiled by Bloomberg. That may intensify the headache facing policy makers, who are closely monitoring the exchange rate.

The peso may be also in focus after it touched the weakest level since 2006 last week. Persistent fund outflows from the stock market have weighed on the currency, the worst performer among developing-nation peers this year after Argentina's peso. **MDT/Bloomberg**

Indonesia eyes European, US oil giants for investment bids

INDONESIA will hold roadshows in the U.S. and Europe later this month to lure investments from the world's top energy companies as the former OPEC member seeks to reverse a decline in oil and gas production.

The Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry is seeking bids for 24 oil and gas blocks, 1 coal-bed methane block and 1 shale block, it said in statement yesterday. The government expects to get investors for at least half of the offered

blocks, Deputy Minister Arcandra Tahar said, adding that the next round of offers may be in six months.

The areas being offered will include onshore and offshore assets and those not sold in tenders in the past three years, Tahar had said in an interview in Jakarta on Wednesday.

Indonesia is trying to lure billions of dollars of investments into its oil industry to reduce dependence on imports as production slumps from its aging fields. The

path has not been easy. The country, once a major crude oil shipper in Asia, only managed to sell five blocks out of 10 offered in a tender last year. The government is targeting industry's "big boys" such as Chevron Corp., BP Plc and Exxon Mobil Corp., said Tahar, an oil and gas professional who lived in the U.S. for 20 years.

Tahar and ministry officials plan to meet oil company executives within a week after the auction announcement. Their

first stop will be Houston, followed by Paris and Singapore.

"We will try to show them we have a new policy, a new fiscal regime, that's going to be much better than the previous one," Tahar said in the interview. "If you come and invest, the process will be simple and transparent. The message need to be conveyed clearly and loudly."

The former member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries has switched to a so-called gross-split scheme for ex-

plorers from a production-sharing contract. The new regulation provides more certainty, flexibility and transparency for oil investors, Tahar said. His ministry has scrapped more than 50 regulations related to employment to refinery permits this year as it targets \$200 billion in new investments over the next decade.

"With gross split, there is a certainty that you yourself count the split," Tahar said. "If you are in early production, we are going to give better incentives, and phasing out over the cumulative production." Explorers will get greater incentives if crude price is low and it will be reduced when prices move higher, he said.

Chevron, the second-biggest U.S. oil explorer, which has been operating in Indonesia for more than 90 years, is the country's largest producer of crude oil, delivering approximately 40 percent of the national production from its operations in Sumatra and Kalimantan, according to its website. Exxon runs the Cepu block in Java.

Investors can access bidding documents from Feb. 19 to March 27 for direct offers, and until June 7 for regular tenders, the ministry said in yesterday's statement. The submission deadline for direct offers is April 4, and on June 19 for regular tenders, it said. **Bloomberg**

US Navy says China's military buildup won't stop patrols

Jim Gomez, Philippines

U.S. forces are undeterred by China's military buildup on man-made islands in the South China Sea and will continue patrolling the strategic, disputed waters wherever "international law allows us," said a Navy officer aboard a mammoth U.S. aircraft carrier brimming with F-18 fighter jets.

Lt. Cmdr. Tim Hawkins told The Associated Press on board the USS Carl Vinson that the Navy has carried out routine patrols at sea and in the air in the region for 70 years to promote security and guarantee the unimpeded flow of trade that's crucial for Asian and U.S. economies.

"International law allows us to operate here, allows us to fly here, allows us to train here, allows us to sail here, and that's what we're doing and we're going to continue to do that," Hawkins said Saturday on the flight deck of the 95,000-ton warship, which anchored at Manila Bay while on a visit to the Philippines.

When President Donald Trump came to power, Southeast Asian officials were uncertain how deep the U.S. would get involved in the overlapping territorial claims involving China and its Southeast Asian neighbors. Trump's predecessor, Barack Obama, was a vocal critic of China's increasingly aggressive actions, including the construction of seven man-made islands equipped with troops, hangers, radar and missile stations and three long runways.

China claims the South Chi-



na Sea almost in its entirety and has challenged the U.S. naval supremacy in the western Pacific.

"We're committed," Hawkins told reporters. "We're here."

■ The Trump administration wants to counter China's rise and reinforce the US presence in the Indo-Pacific

The Trump administration has outlined a new security strategy that emphasized countering China's rise and reinforcing the U.S. presence in the Indo-Pacific region,

where Beijing and Washington have accused each other of stoking a dangerous military buildup and fought for wider influence.

Washington stakes no claims in the disputes but has declared that their peaceful resolution and the maintenance of freedom of navigation are in its national interest. U.S. officials have said American warships will continue sailing close to Chinese-occupied features without prior notice, placing Washington in a continuing collision course with China's interests.

In January, China accused the U.S. of trespassing when the U.S. guided missile destroyer USS Hopper sailed near the Chinese-guarded Scarborough Shoal, which Beijing wrestled from the Philippines in 2012, despite its proximity to the main northern island of Luzon. After voicing a strong

protest, China said it would take "necessary measures" to protect its sovereignty.

The nuclear-powered Carl Vinson patrolled the sea prior to its Manila visit but did not conduct a freedom of navigation operation, Hawkins said. "That's not to say that we won't or we can't, but we have not, up to this point," he said.

There are reports that the Carl Vinson will also make a port call in Danang in Vietnam — another critical rival of China's ambitions in the South China Sea — as the first American aircraft carrier since the Vietnam War ended in 1975, but Hawkins declined to provide details of future trips.

China has also opposed the Philippine military's deployment of a Japanese-donated Beechcraft King Air patrol plane in late January to Scarborough, a Philippine official said on condition of anonymi-

ty because of a lack of authority to discuss the issue publicly. Chinese officials have relayed their objection to their Philippine counterparts, the official said.

China and Japan have their own territorial rifts in the East China Sea.

There was no immediate comment from Philippine military officials about China's opposition to the surveillance flights at Scarborough.

U.S. and Chinese officials have said they have no intention of going to war in the disputed sea, but their governments have projected their firepower and clout in a delicate play of gunboat diplomacy and deterrence.

"We're prepared to conduct a spectrum of operations, whether that's providing humanitarian assistance, disaster relief in the time of an emergency, or whether we have to conduct operations that require us to send strike fighters ashore," Hawkins said. "We don't have to use that spectrum, but we're ready to, in case we need to."

The U.S. Navy invited journalists Saturday on board the 35-year-old Carl Vinson, which was packed with 72 aircraft, including F-18 Hornets, helicopters and surveillance aircraft.

President Rodrigo Duterte has tried to back down from what he said was a Philippine foreign policy that was steeply oriented toward the U.S., but has allowed considerable engagements with his country's treaty ally to continue while reviving once-frosty ties with China in a bid to bolster trade and gain infrastructure funds.

China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Taiwan, Malaysia and Brunei have long contested ownership of the South China Sea, where a bulk of the trade and oil that fuel Asia's bullish economies passes through. **AP**

FOOD

Foreigners learn to cook Chinese cuisine in hutong

THE third season of the documentary "A Bite of China," which depicts Chinese culture via food, will air every night starting yesterday.

For some foreigners who love Chinese food, however, watching a documentary or tasting Chinese food is not enough; they also want to learn to cook Chinese cuisine.

"Dumplings are my favorite Chinese food, and I'm so happy that I learnt the secret to making dumplings ahead of my first Spring Festival in China," said

Deandri Botha, who came to Beijing from South Africa 10 months ago.

She joined a dumpling-making party last week at The Hutong, a cultural hub for foreigners and locals alike to experience Chinese culture in a courtyard at one of Beijing's hutongs, or traditional alleys.

Holding the "Chinese New Year Dumpling Making Party" is an annual tradition for The Hutong and this year it was attended by over 50 foreigners.

"This is my second time here, and my husband and

our two sons came along to enjoy holiday fun," said Lawrence Coradini from France who works as a teacher at an international school in Beijing.

The Hutong, founded by two Australians in 2007, offers workshops on tea appreciation, traditional Chinese medicine, and cuisines from across China.

Mark Thirlwall discovered the courtyard while working as a tour guide 11 years ago, and decided to rent it with his friend Stacey Shine to organize educational and cultural

events.

"Shine and Thirlwall knew well that many of those who visit China are interested in taking back more than just pictures of the Forbidden City and the Great Wall," said Chen Yuxian, manager of The Hutong.

The Hutong provides various cooking classes from hand-pulled noodles and steamed buns to homemade tofu on a daily basis.

It has over 30 staff, half of whom are from outside China, said Chen.

"I decided to work at The

Hutong after I studied Yunnan cuisine here five years ago," said Marissa Kennedy, who worked with the Peking University Press when she first came to China from the United States in 2007.

According to the 2016-2017 China National Image Global Survey released last month, foreigners believe Chinese cuisine is the factor that best represents Chinese culture.

The survey interviewed people from 22 countries, with 500 respondents from each country.

Among the 11,000 people surveyed, 52 percent picked Chinese cuisine as representative of Chinese culture, with almost 80 percent saying they had tried it, 72 percent of whom spoke highly of it.

"I planned to stay in China for one year, but this year marks my fifth year in China," said Mona Potter from Ireland.

She came to the event with her husband, two-month-old daughter, and her parents-in-law. **MDT/Xinhua**



Chinese and Indian tourism in Australia surges to record

Michael Heath

Chinese and Indian tourist arrivals in Australia jumped to a record last year as growing middle-class wealth in the world's most populous nations fuels the travel bug.

Almost 1.4 million visitors from mainland China traveled to Australia last year, a 13 percent increase from a year earlier, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Tourists from India climbed to 302,900 over the period, a 15 percent advance from a year earlier.

"While much of the focus has been on Chinese tourism, Indian visitors are coming Down Under in their droves,"

said Ryan Felsman, a senior economist at the securities unit of Commonwealth Bank of Australia. "Most are coming to visit family members studying in Sydney and Melbourne. Cricket pilgrimages to the Melbourne Cricket Ground and Bradman Museum in Bowral are also a priority."

The Asian century is increasingly coming to pass as economic modernization in the region's two giants brings hundreds of millions of new consumers keen for overseas travel. Australia's pristine coastline, sparkling Sydney harbor and the vast Outback showcased in actor Paul Hogan's 1986 comedy *Crocodile Dundee* proved a magnet for

Almost 1.4m visitors from mainland China traveled to Australia last year, a 13 percent increase from a year earlier

U.S. and Japanese tourists late last century.

The decline in the currency from its 2011 peak during the mining boom has made Australia attractive to visitors again and local operators are

scrambling to refurbish outdated tourism infrastructure or build new facilities to cope with the influx.

Chinese visitors are also expanding their horizons, with trips to the island state of Tasmania soaring 40 percent in the year through September. There are now increasing calls for direct flights between mainland China and the state capital, Hobart, according to Felsman.

"China and India's growing and more affluent middle class are attracted to Australia's clean and unique environment, high quality restaurants and hotels, fresh food, safe cities, museums, art galleries and warm weather," he said. **Bloomberg**

FAO Schwarz, whose famous New York store closed more than two years ago, is setting its sights on China as part of an expansion begun late last year.

The toy retailer said Thursday it will open locations in Beijing and Shanghai this year through a collaboration with China's largest toy distributor, Kidsland. Kidsland will also open 30 smaller FAO Schwarz stores and shops in 200 department stores across China over the next five years.

FAO Schwarz also signed an agreement with Hudson Group, one of the largest travel retailers in North America, to open a chain of FAO

RETAIL

FAO Schwarz sets its sights on Beijing, Shanghai

Schwarz-branded airport shops in the U.S. and Canada. The first will open later this year.

Last year, FAO Schwarz said it would open nearly 190 shops inside department stores run by Bon-Ton Stores Inc., with more than half of them having a nearly 6-foot-long piano mat so shoppers could play a tune with their feet like Tom Hanks in the 1988 movie *"Big."* But Bon-Ton has since filed for

bankruptcy protection and is closing stores.

FAO Schwarz also plans to open a new 20,000-square-foot store in New York's Rockefeller Plaza in time for the holiday 2018 season.

The expanded moves could hurt Toys R Us, which used to own FAO Schwarz. Toys R Us filed for bankruptcy reorganization last year and is closing 180 stores, or about one-fifth of its store count. **AP**



Chinese giant pandas unveiled to public in Finland

Two giant pandas on loan from China have been unveiled at a zoo in central Finland and they have frolicked, galloped, climbed trees and played in the snow after a month-long quarantine. Hua Bao, a 4-year-old male, and 3-year-old female Jin Baobao arrived in Finland on January 18 and were immediately renamed Pyry ("Snowfall") and Lumi ("Snow") in Finnish. The Ahtari Zoo, 330 kilometers north of Helsinki, built a special Panda House annex for the pair. China agreed to loan the pandas for 15 years as a gift to Finland, which celebrated 100 years of independence from Russia last year. China has presented pandas to countries as a sign of goodwill and closer political ties, with Finland being the first Nordic nation to receive them.

China to impose annual fishing ban in Yellow River

China will ban fishing in the Yellow River, the second longest river in the country, between April 1 and June 30 each year starting from 2018, according to the Ministry of Agriculture. The fishing ban aims to protect aquatic organism resources and biodiversity as excessive fishing threatens fishery resources. It will cover the main stream, three major lakes, and 13 tributaries linked to the Yellow River, the ministry said in a statement. Fishing for scientific studies, taming and breeding purposes during the ban period should be approved by authorities of provincial or higher levels. China has already imposed a fishing ban along the Yangtze River, the longest river in the country. The annual ban, which runs from March 1 to June 30, covers the spawning season for most of the river's aquatic life. It includes the entire river as well as key tributaries and lakes.

Adoption helps keep old buildings alive in Shanxi

Last March, Shanxi began allowing individuals to "adopt" old buildings that had fallen into disrepair, channeling private capital into the protection of antiquities. Most of the buildings up for adoption are not old enough to be eligible for government protection. Under the deal with the local authority, adopters have the right to use the building for 30 years after committing 1.2 million yuan (about USD180,000) to its renovation. Shanxi has more than 28,000 old buildings of historic value, the most among China's provincial-level localities. But only about 3 percent of them are covered by government protection grants, despite recent increases in funding. Nearly a year into the program, 34 old buildings have been adopted and 14 of them renovated.

SINGAPORE

Taxes boosted to shore up revenue for aging nation

SINGAPORE Finance Minister Heng Swee Keat announced a range of tax increases in his budget, including a surprise hike in property levies, as he seeks to shore up savings to cope with a rapidly aging population.

The stamp duty on residential properties in excess of SGD1 million (USD761,600) was increased to 4 percent from 3 percent, effective from today, Heng said in a speech in Parliament. The government also plans to raise the goods and services tax by 2 percentage points to 9 percent sometime from 2021 to

2025, he said.

"There is a need to strengthen our fiscal footing," Heng said. "In the next decade, between 2021 to 2030, if we do not take measures early, we will not have enough revenues to meet our growing needs."

Policy makers had warned of higher taxes to balance a budget that they see as too reliant on investment returns, and that will see new strains in the years to come. Spending on health and retirement benefits are set to grow over the years as the elderly population climbs, while the government is also planning on higher expenditure on infrastructure, security and education.

"The message is that the economy is maturing, the population is aging," said Irvin Seah, an economist at DBS Group Holdings Ltd. "In order to cater to the needs to various segments of the society going forward - corporations, individuals young and old - this budget is about re-balancing."

While Singapore has substantial reserves that it draws on to help fund the budget, Heng said the government must act prudently as the economy matures and the population ages.

Income from reserves and investments managed by GIC Pte, Temasek Holdings Pte and the Monetary Authority of Singapore is already the largest contributor to the government's overall revenue, estimated at almost S\$16 billion in the fiscal year beginning April 1.

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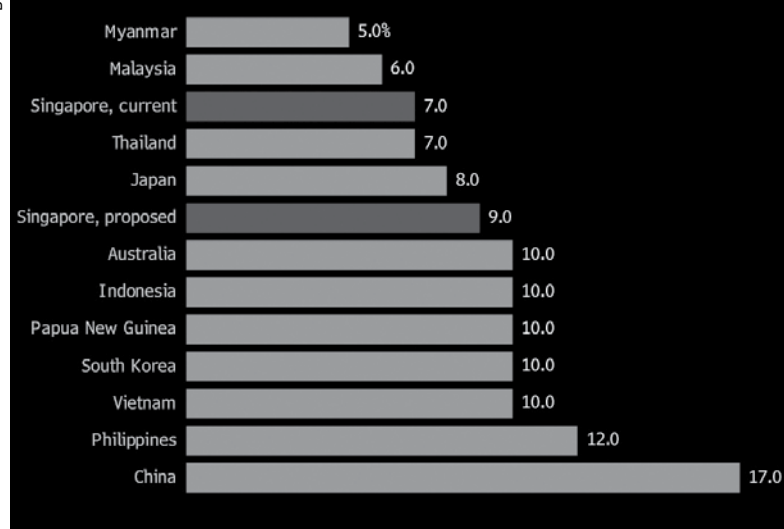
IRVIN SEAH

ECONOMIST AT DBS GROUP HOLDINGS

The hike in GST is set to boost revenue by almost 0.7 percent of GDP a year. Heng said the timing of the increase will depend on the state of the economy, how much expenditures grow and how buoyant the existing taxes are, but added that he expects "we will need to do so earlier rather than later in the period."

Stiff Competition

Even with increase, Singapore boasts sales tax that's on the lower side in Asia



"The GST increase is necessary because even after exploring various options to manage our future expenditures through prudent spending, saving and borrowing for infrastructure, there is still a gap," the minister said. "This boost in revenues will be vital in closing this gap."

The budget includes planned offsets to cushion the blow to lower-income consumers from higher taxes, while the delayed implementation of the tax increases will allow residents to ease into the changes.

Singapore is facing a severe aging crisis. The share of the population that's 65 years and older is set this year to match those younger than 15 for the first time. The fertility rate remains half the global average, at 1.2 births per woman in 2015, according to World Bank data. And the government has maintained

fairly strict immigration policies to ensure locals have enough job opportunities.

For now, Singapore's economic outlook for 2018 remains bright. The boom in global trade last year that's helped spur manufacturing, especially in semiconductors, is spreading to other sectors of the economy. The government sees growth at slightly above the middle of its forecast range of 1.5 to 3.5 percent this year, moderating from last year's expansion of 3.6 percent.

"As a small and open economy, we will always be vulnerable to fluctuations in the global economy and financial markets," Heng said. "We can never predict where or when the next crisis will come. But we know, when the next crisis hits, we will be able to weather the storm because we have our reserves." **Bloomberg**

KEY HIGHLIGHTS FROM BUDGET

THE GOODS and Services Tax (GST) will be increased to 9 percent from 7 percent sometime from 2021 to 2025. The budget surplus for FY2017 is estimated at SGD9.6 billion when previous projections indicated it would stand at SGD1.9 billion. Infrastructure spending was raised to SGD20 billion. Top marginal stamp duty for properties was also raised to 4 percent from 3 percent.

PHILIPPINES

Risks rising with China challenging US at sea

THE risks of a "miscalculation" and armed conflict have risen in the disputed South China Sea with a militarily stronger China now able to challenge the United States, which used to be the dominant power in the strategic waterway, the Philippine envoy to Beijing said yesterday.

Ambassador Chito Sta. Romana said the balance of power was shifting with the two global powers vying for control of the waters, adding the Philippines should not get entangled in the increasingly tense maritime rivalry.

China claims virtually the entire South China Sea, where the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei also have overlapping claims, and it has built seven mostly submerged reefs into islands that reportedly could be used as forward air naval bases

and have been installed with a missile defense system.

The U.S. Navy has sailed warships on "freedom of navigation" operations near the artificial islands, actions China has protested as U.S. intervention in an Asian conflict.

"Whereas before the South China Sea was dominated by the U.S. 7th Fleet, now the Chinese navy is starting to challenge the dominance," Sto. Romana told a news forum in Manila. "I think we will see a shift in the balance of power."

"It is not the case, that the South China Sea is now a Chinese lake, not at all," Sto. Romana said. "Look at the U.S. aircraft carrier, it's still going through the South China Sea," he added, referring to the USS Carl Vinson that recently patrolled the disputed waters and is

currently on a visit to the Philippines.

He compared the two powers to elephants fighting and trampling on the grass and said: "What we don't want is for us to be the grass."

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's policy of befriending China has worked, Sto. Romana said, citing Beijing's decision to lift its blockade around the Philippine-occupied Second Thomas Shoal, where the Philippine military could now freely send new supplies to Filipino marines guarding the disputed area.

China has also allowed Filipino fishermen into another disputed area, the Scarborough Shoal, after Duterte visited Beijing and raised the issue with Chinese President Xi Jinping. Xi reportedly told Duterte: "Give me a few days, I'll take care of this,"



Ambassador to Beijing, Chito Sta. Romana (right) watches former Sen. Rodolfo Biazon speak during a forum on the South China Sea

Sto. Romana quoted Duterte as saying about the meeting with his Chinese counterpart a few months after he won the Philippine presidency in 2016.

China took control of the uninhabited atoll off the northwestern Philippines after a tense standoff in 2012.

In January, China accused the U.S. of trespassing when the guided missile

destroyer USS Hopper sailed near Scarborough.

President Donald Trump's administration has outlined a security strategy that emphasized countering China's rise and reinforcing the U.S. presence in the Indo-Pacific region, where Beijing and Washington have accused each other of stoking a dangerous military buildup and fought

for wider influence.

Washington has no claim in the South China Sea but has declared a peaceful resolution and freedom of navigation are in its national interest.

U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Tim Hawkins told The Associated Press on board the USS Carl Vinson on Saturday that the Navy has carried out routine patrols at sea and in the air in the region for 70 years to promote security and guarantee the unimpeded flow of trade and would continue to do so.

"International law allows us to operate here, allows us to fly here, allows us to train here, allows us to sail here, and that's what we're doing and we're going to continue to do that," Hawkins said on the flight deck of the 95,000-ton warship brimming with F18 fighter jets and other combat aircraft. **AP**

Shoko Oda

Japan says #MeToo as blue chip executive resigns for lewd remark

THE #MeToo movement may have finally made its way to corporate Japan, as the president of a blue chip company resigned after a subordinate he was travelling with made sexually explicit remarks to an airline employee.

The junior executive from NH Foods Ltd., a Nikkei 225-listed company with more than 15,000 workers, resigned last month, as did President Juichi Suezawa. Suezawa was present at an exchange between the subordinate and an airline worker at Haneda airport in October, and while he was not directly involved, local media linked his resignation to complaints over the comments.

The junior executive, who had been drinking, is said to have asked the airline employee explicit questions about her sex life at an airport lounge, according to media reports. She reported the remarks to her superior, which led to the airline filing a complaint to NH Foods.

Osaka-based NH Foods is a household name in Japan as a maker of bacon and sausages, as well as the owner of the Hokkaido Nippon-Ham Fighters, the baseball team where Shohei Otani and Yu Darvish rose to fame. Suezawa's resignation in January was attributed to "personal reasons," with

the background only coming to light after a local magazine report last week.

This is a rarity in Japan. Usually companies don't go this far to protect their employees.

KOICHI NAKANO
SOPHIA UNIVERSITY

A spokesman at the company, who declined to be identified citing internal policy, said that the executive made inappropriate comments, and that Suezawa was present but didn't partake in the exchange. The spokesman denounced the remarks, calling them "very regrettable" and "offensive" to women, though he wouldn't elaborate on the conten-



ts of the exchange. The spokesman also wouldn't comment on the resignations beyond the Jan. 29 statement, and didn't identify the junior executive or the airline.

The incident may be considered one of the very few instances of the ongoing #MeToo movement

making its mark in Japan. While testimonies of sexual harassment and assault have led to the downfall of American film producer Harvey Weinstein and casino billionaire Steve Wynn, the movement appears to have left the Japanese corporate world largely

unscathed. A move by a freelance journalist last year to publicly accuse a former boss of rape was a widely reported testimony to how few victims of sexual assault or harassment come forward in the country.

"This is a rarity in Japan," Koichi Nakano, a professor of political science at Sophia University in Tokyo, said. "Usually companies don't go this far to protect their employees." However, Nakano doesn't see this as the start of something big, or think that the scale of #MeToo in Japan will reach that of the U.S. "Corporate structure in Japan makes it difficult for people to reveal these incidents," he said.

While Japanese women have been guaranteed equal opportunity in the workplace for more than 30 years, their active participation outside traditional roles has only made headway recently under Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's Womenomics policy, his centerpiece initiative to boost productivity as the population shrinks. **Bloomberg**

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For school shooting suspect, main question is life or death

Curt Anderson, Fort Lauderdale

THE evidence against the Florida school shooting suspect is so overwhelming, the only question left for the courts if he is convicted is whether he will be sentenced to death or spend the rest of his life in prison.

The fate of 19-year-old Nikolas Cruz, who faces 17 counts of first-degree murder in the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High, will depend on his mental state and the wishes of the victims' families, which have a say in how the prosecution proceeds.

Broward County Public Defender Howard Finkelstein, whose office is representing Cruz, said there were so many warning signs that Cruz was mentally unstable and potentially violent that the death penalty might be going too far. Finkelstein said Cruz would likely plead guilty if prosecutors opt not to seek the death penalty.

"Because that's what this case is about. Not, did he do it? Not, should he go free? Should he live or should he die," Finkelstein said. "He will never see the light



A video monitor shows school shooting suspect Nikolas Cruz (center)

of day again, nor should he. But I know personally I am very upset and angry that we all failed to spot a problem and do anything as a result."

Michael J. Satz, the state attorney for Broward County, said Saturday in an email that, "This certainly is the type of case the death penalty was designed for." He called the slayings "absolutely horrific and tragic." However, he also said his office is working with

law enforcement and will announce later what penalty it plans to seek.

The prosecution will likely take years. The sheriff's office said Cruz confessed, and they have his AR-15 semi-automatic rifle, ammunition clips and video from the school. The FBI also said Friday it had gotten a call from someone close to Cruz who expressed concern that he had "a desire to kill people" and "the potential"

to conduct a school shooting.

FBI Director Christopher Wray said in a statement that the information was not properly investigated and promised to get to the bottom of it.

A major issue for the courts will be Cruz's mental state. Officials have said he underwent unspecified treatment at a mental facility but quit after his mother died in November. His father had died some years earlier. Without any living parents, he was taken in by a local family.

Cruz's attorney, Assistant Public Defender Melisa McNeill, told reporters after Cruz's initial court appearance that he had become unmoored from society and had no support network to lean on.

"When your brain is not fully developed, you don't know how to deal with these things," she said. "When you have the lack of impulse control that a 19-year-old has, that affects the behavior you exhibit."

McNeill also said of Cruz: "He's sad, he's mournful, he's remorseful. He's just a broken human being."

An initial decision will be whether Cruz is mentally competent to understand legal proceedings and assist in his own defense. Experts say it's a relatively high bar to clear to be declared incompetent and McNeill said Cruz is "fully aware of what is going on."

Cruz could try to plead innocent by reason of insanity, which also rarely works. James Holmes, the shooter who killed 12 people and wounded 70 in a Colorado movie theater in 2012, was convicted despite pleading insanity and was sentenced to life behind bars.

David Weinstein, a former federal prosecutor now in private practice, said the penalty phase of Cruz's case is likely to be where his background, family situation, mental condition and life history will play the biggest part. Even if he pleads guilty and prosecutors refuse to waive the death penalty, a jury must decide by a 12-0 vote that Cruz deserves to be executed.

The victims' families also have a legal right to participate in discussions over whether to seek the death penalty.

"I think among them there are many people who aren't going to want to go through this," Weinstein said. "That would save a lot of time and a lot of anguish for people. Some will say, 'we don't care, we want him put to death. An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.' They will want retribution." **AP**

Kosovo celebrates 10 years of independence, Serbs boycott

THE Kosovo Assembly, or Parliament, convened in a special session Sunday to celebrate the country's 10 years of independence — a ceremony boycotted by the country's ethnic Serb lawmakers.

Speaker Kadri Veseli pledged that "the second decade of independence would be focused on the

economic well-being of Kosovo's citizens."

The second day of celebrations continued with a parade of military and police forces and a state reception.

In Feb. 17, 2008, Kosovo's Parliament unilaterally declared independence from Serbia nine years after NATO conducted a 78-day airstrike

campaign against Serbia to stop a bloody crackdown against ethnic Albanians.

Kosovo, one of poorest countries in Europe, has taken a first step to European Union membership by signing a Stabilization and Association Agreement. But the country faces serious challenges besides its relations with

Serbia, including establishing the rule of law and fighting high unemployment, corruption and organized crime.

Kosovo is recognized by 117 countries, including the U.S. and most Western powers but Serbia still sees Kosovo as part of its own territory and has the support of Russia and China.



A child holding a Kosovo national flag is carried down the main pedestrian zone in Pristina

A day earlier in Serbia's capital, Belgrade, Serbian Foreign Minister Ivica Dacic said Kosovo's independence remains fragile and won't be concluded without an agreement with Serbia. **AP**

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IRAN

Rescue teams find site, wreckage from plane crash

Nasser Karimi, Tehran

IRANIAN search and rescue teams yesterday reached the site of a plane crash the previous day that authorities say killed all 65 people on board, Iran's Press TV reported.

The Aseman Airlines ATR-72, a twin-engine turboprop used for short-distance regional flying, went down on Sunday in foggy weather, crashing into Mount Dena in southern Iran.

The airliner said all on board Flight EP3704 were killed, including six crew members.

The crash of the aircraft, brought back into service only months ago after being grounded for seven years, was yet another fatal aviation disaster for Iran, which for years was barred from buying necessary airplane parts due to Western sanctions over its contested nuclear program, forcing Iranians to fly in aging aircraft.

Press TV said search teams reached the crash site before dawn yesterday. The station

AP PHOTO



Family members of a plane crash victims weep in the village of Bideh, in the area that the plane crashed

said the weather had improved though it was still windy.

The TV broadcast footage of a helicopter joining the search and showed ambulances and

rescue vehicles preparing to reach the site on Mount Dena, which is about 4,400 meters tall.

Other Iranian news outlets

and officials did not confirm that the crash site had been reached. State radio said five helicopters and five drones are active in the search operation.

The site is reportedly at a height of 3,500 meters.

Following the landmark 2015 nuclear accord with world powers that lifted international sanctions on Tehran in exchange for curbs on its nuclear enrichment program, Iran is allowed to purchase airplanes and airplane parts and has made deals worth tens of billions of dollars for new aircraft.

However, President Donald Trump's refusal to recertify the deal has injected uncertainty into those sales.

The ATR-72 went down near its destination of the southern city of Yasuj, some 780 kilometers south of the capital, Tehran, from where it took off.

It wasn't immediately clear what caused the crash, although weather was severe. Dense fog, high winds and heavy snow in the Zagros Mountains made it impossible for rescue crews in helicopters to reach the site in the immediate aftermath, state television reported.

Aseman Airlines spokesman Mohammad Taghi Tabatabai told state TV that all on board Flight EP3704 were killed. The plane had 59 passengers and six crew members, the state-run IRNA news agency reported late Sunday, lowering the initially reported death toll of 66. **AP**

Catalan politicians in Spanish court in secession probe

Aritz Parra, Madrid

ASpain Supreme Court judge set bail yesterday for a prominent Catalan politician who faced possible jailing during the ongoing investigation of people involved in the Catalonia region's push for independence last year.

Left republican ERC party Secretary General Marta Rovira was questioned by an investigating magistrate for her role in the October defiance that triggered Spain's severest political crisis in decades. Her bail was set at 60,000 euros (USD74,600.)

Fellow politician Marta Pascal, the leader of the conservative PDeCAT party, was also questioned yesterday.

Judicial police have identified Rovira and Pascal as key players in the staging of a banned independence referendum and the declaration of secession Catalan

AP PHOTO



Catalan separatist politician and left-republican ERC party's Marta Rovira (right) arrives at the Supreme Court

lawmakers made based on its results.

Both told the judge yesterday that the Oct. 27 independence had symbolic value, but no legal effect, according to witnesses of yesterday's court proceedings.

More than two dozen people, including politicians, elected lawmakers, and the regional police chief, are also under investigation for possible rebellion, sedition or mi-

suse of public funds.

In Spain, a judge can keep suspects in custody before deciding if they should be formally charged at the end of an investigation.

Four suspects, including former regional Vice President Oriol Junqueras, remain in custody. Five former Catalan Cabinet members, headed by ex-regional President Carles Puigdemont, evaded court summons

by moving to Belgium.

Puigdemont's predecessor, Artur Mas, is due to appear in court Tuesday, and the leader of anti-establishment party Popular Unity Candidacy, Anna Gabriel, is scheduled to appear on Wednesday.

Gabriel's party, known by its Spanish acronym CUP, said Gabriel has traveled to Geneva, Switzerland to prepare her legal defense, raising doubts she would comply with the court summons.

In a statement over the weekend, CUP said that the "exemplifying character" of the provisional jailing and hefty bails seen so far in the case is "far from the impartiality that judicial authorities should guarantee."

Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy dismissed the regional government in Catalonia over the secession push. The central government remains in charge of the region's daily affairs. **AP**

AP PHOTO



Rescuers search for survivors at the collapse of a garbage mound in Maputo

MOZAMBIQUE

17 killed in garbage dump collapse

HEAVERY rains triggered the partial collapse of a huge mound of garbage in Mozambique's capital yesterday, killing as many as 17 people who were buried by debris.

Authorities believe more bodies could be buried at the Hulene garbage dump on the outskirts of Maputo, and a search was underway. The garbage in the poor, densely populated area where the disaster happened rose to the height of a three-story building, according to the Portuguese news agency Lusa.

Twelve people died, Lusa reported. Radio Mocimboa put the death toll at 17. Half a dozen homes were destroyed and some residents in the area fled for fear of

another collapse.

"The mountains of garbage collapsed on the houses and many families were still inside these residences," Fatima Belchoir, a national disaster official, told Lusa. Authorities are trying to help people who lost their homes, she said.

The Hulene garbage dump is the largest such facility in Maputo. People often comb through the garbage, searching for food and items to sell.

Health workers have long raised concerns about the impact of the fumes, flies and other hazards of the dump on the surrounding community. Municipal officials have previously discussed the closure of the dump. **AP**

what's ON



TEAMLAB FUTURE PARK

TIME: 1:30pm-10pm (Mondays to Fridays)

10:30am-10pm (Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays; 90 minutes per session, maximum capacity is 150 people at one time)

UNTIL: February 28, 2018

VENUE: MGM Art Space

ADMISSION: MOP150 (MOP120 for Macau residents; free admission for children aged 2 or under)

REPRESENTING WOMEN THROUGH MAM COLLECTION – 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY

TIME: 10am-7pm, last admission at 6:30pm (closed on Mondays, open on public holidays)

UNTIL: February 25, 2018

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, NAPE

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

SEALS OF 108 HEROES OF SHUI HU LEGEND FROM THE MAM COLLECTION

TIME: 10am-7pm, last admission at 6:30pm (closed on Mondays, open on public holidays)

UNTIL: February 26, 2018

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, NAPE

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

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UNTIL: February 25, 2018

VENUE: Macao Science Center

ADMISSION: MOP25

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Offbeat

INDONESIA'S SINABUNG VOLCANO UNLEASHES TOWERING ASH COLUMN



Rumbling Mount Sinabung on the Indonesian island of Sumatra shot billowing columns of ash more than 5,000 meters into the atmosphere and hot clouds down its slopes yesterday.

There were no fatalities or injuries from the morning eruption, the National Disaster Mitigation Agency said.

The volcano, one of three currently erupting in Indonesia, was dormant for four centuries before exploding in 2010, killing two people. Another eruption in 2014 killed 16 people, while seven died in a 2016 eruption.

Disaster agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho said hot ash clouds traveled as far as 4,900 meters southward.

The regional volcanic ash advisory center in Darwin, Australia, issued a "red notice" to airlines.

Some 30,000 people have been forced to leave homes around the mountain in the past few years.

Mount Sinabung is among more than 120 active volcanoes in Indonesia, which is prone to seismic upheaval due to its location on the Pacific "Ring of Fire," an arc of volcanoes and fault lines encircling the Pacific Basin.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Miscellaneous
16:10	NOS League: Tondela x Sporting (Repeated)
17:50	Brazilian Soap Opera (Repeated)
18:40	TDM Sports (Repeated)
19:50	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Interview
21:30	Grimm Sr. 2
22:10	Brazilian Soap Opera
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Europe 30
00:15	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:50	RTPi Live

cinema



CINETEATRO

16 - 21 FEB

OZZY

ROOM 1

02:15, 04:00pm

Director: Alberto Rodriguez

Language: Cantonese

AGENT MR CHAN

ROOM 1

5:45, 7:45, 9:45pm

Director: Cheung Ka Kit

Starring: Dayo Wong Tze Wah, Charmaine Sheh Sze Man

Language: Cantonese (Chinese & English)



BLACK PANTHER

ROOM 2

(2D) 02:15, 04:45, 9:45pm

(3D) 07:15pm

Director: Ryan Coogler

Starring: Chadwick Boseman, Lupita Nyong'o

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 134min



FERDINAND

ROOM 3

02:00, 06:00, 8:00pm

Director: Carlos Saldanha

Starring: John Cena, Kate McKinnon, Bobby Cannavale

Language: Cantonese

Duration: 108min



MONSTER HUT 2

ROOM 3

4:00, 10:00pm

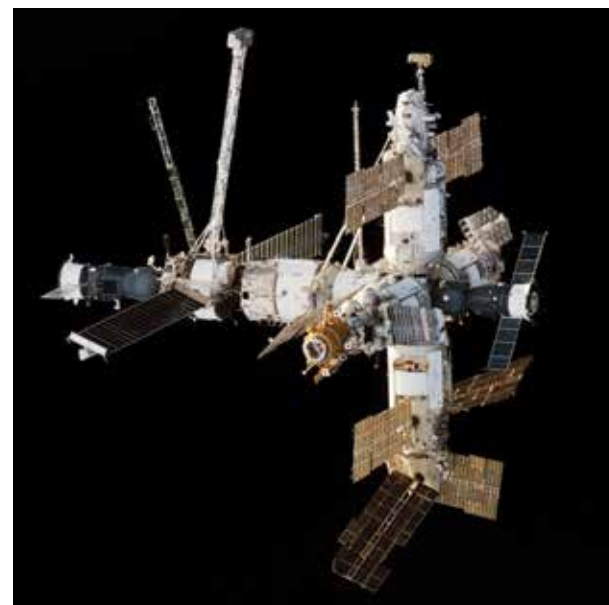
Director: Raman Hui

Starring: Tony Leung Chiu-wai, Bai Baihe, Jing Boran

Language: Cantonese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 110 min

this day in history



1986 SOVIETS LAUNCH SPACE STATION MIR

The Soviets have opened a new phase in space exploration with the launch of the world's biggest space station, Mir.

The successful launch of Mir comes just over three weeks after the American space shuttle Challenger disaster, in which seven astronauts died.

At next week's Communist Party congress in Moscow the Mir project is likely to be hailed as proof that the Soviets are leading the peaceful exploration of space.

Mir, which means both peace and world in Russian, is intended to provide a base for a permanently manned complex orbiting the Earth.

It succeeds the Soviet Salyut models, the last of which, Salyut 7, was launched in April 1982 and is still in orbit.

The Americans also had a space station, Skylab, which suffered damage on its initial launch and eventually proved too costly to maintain and fell back to Earth in 1979.

Soviet officials say their new craft represents the transition from research to large-scale production activities in space.

The station has six docking stations, which means other modules or laboratories can be added to it, expanding its size and capability.

The deputy head of the Soviet cosmonaut training centre, Alexei Leonov, said it would only be possible to determine how long Mir would remain in orbit after it had completed its first flight. He said the cosmonauts, now taking part in a special training programme, would have separate cabins with windows and even individual desks and armchairs. Mr Leonov explained that Salyut 7 was too small for the plans now being implemented by Soviet experts.

It has only two docking stations and can support a crew of only three, whereas Mir can carry between six and ten people. The main work of the first cosmonauts on board Mir will be to continue with the experiments in materials processing, begun on Salyut 6 and 7.

Other activities will include observation of the Earth using high-powered cameras, as well as helping locate mineral deposits on Earth and monitor the seas for trawlers.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The first crew arrived on board Mir on 15 March 1986 and it remained more or less continuously occupied until November 2000. Crew member Valeri Polyakov stayed up a record 439 days. The end of the Cold War marked a new era of space co-operation.

In September 1993 US Vice-President Al Gore and Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin announced plans for a new space station, which would later be called the International Space Station, or ISS. In preparation for this new project, the US became more closely involved with Mir.

From March 1995 seven US astronauts consecutively spent 28 months on Mir, during which time the spacecraft suffered a number of emergencies including a large fire on 23 February 1997 and a collision with an unmanned cargo ship on 25 June 1997. Mounting costs contributed to the decision to bring down Mir.

While Mir contributed little in the way of scientific advances, it did allow scientists to learn more about how astronauts can survive in space for long periods of time.

Mir remained in space until 23 March 2001, during which time it orbited the Earth more than 86,000 times.

It re-entered the Earth's atmosphere near Nadi, Fiji, and what remained of the 135-tonne craft fell into the South Pacific Ocean.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 It's been nearly impossible for you to focus on much else lately.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Early this morning, you need to decide what to give your partner, best friend or whomever else has been putting up with you recently.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 When you decide to take time off, it's pretty different than when the rest of us do so.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You often wonder what might happen to your people if you suddenly decided to stop taking care of them.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You love a dare, and it doesn't matter whether it's spoken out loud or even just hinted.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 You're not a mean person - not even a little bit.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 The travel bug hasn't just arrived - it's taken control of your imagination.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 When someone who seems too perfect arrives, you do everything you can to get them to spending time alone with you.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You've worked hard for quite a while on a big project that you can hardly imagine ever finishing.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You're an expert when it comes to romance - you just don't go about it the way most people do.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 For you, telling the truth isn't just second nature - it's more of a reflex that acts up when serious business looms.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You've got only a little time to achieve your goal: finding some way to make your people understand that working together is better for everyone than keeping this insane battle raging.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Easy' level with some numbers pre-filled.

Easy+

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Easy+' level with some numbers pre-filled.

Medium

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Medium' level with some numbers pre-filled.

Hard

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Hard' level with some numbers pre-filled.

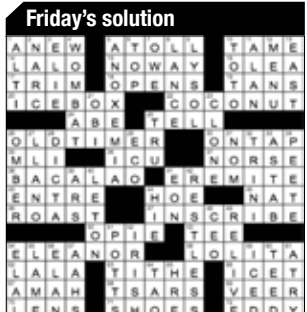
WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Uttered gratefully; 7- 7th letter of the Greek alphabet; 10- Deli spread; 14- Main dish; 15- Bandleader Brown; 16- "Roots" author Haley; 17- Contemporary; 18- L.A. clock setting; 19- Walking stick; 20- Acuteness of the vision; 23- Trio; 26- D.C. advisory grp.; 27- Radial neighbors; 28- Shower; 29- Corp. honcho; 30- Notable period; 31- Republic in central Europe; 33- Banned insecticide; 34- Tread the boards; 37- Fr. holy woman; 38- "The X-Files" extras; 39- Hi-___; 40- Encouraging word; 41- Female fowl; 42- Gidget portrayer Sandra; 43- Whenever; 45- '60s campus gp.; 46- Early hrs.; 47- Weed whackers; 48- Show host; 51- Doctors' org.; 52- Name; 53- Characteristic of journalism; 56- French 101 infinitive; 57- Clear (of); 58- Short sock; 62- Quarter, e.g.; 63- Some MIT grads; 64- ___ Pieces; 65- Family diagram; 66- Aardvark's snack; 67- Gossip;

DOWN: 1- Sleep stage; 2- Year abroad; 3- Avg.; 4- Keep from occurring; 5- Causing goose bumps; 6- Reading rooms; 7- Sun Bowl site; 8- Inventor Nikola; 9- "The Thin Man" pooch; 10- Spot on the skin; 11- Actor Delon; 12- Gossipmonger; 13- Daisy variety; 21- Discomfort; 22- Respectful bow; 23- Rubbish; 24- Terre __, IN; 25- Ascended; 29- Quotes; 30- Paradises; 32- Blush; 33- Stage plays; 34- Running wild; 35- Humped ruminant; 36- The ones here; 44- Dense growth of shrubs; 45- Tranquil; 46- In the thick of; 48- Throw out; 49- Engine; 50- Radioactivity unit; 51- Extraterrestrial; 52- Fungal infection; 54- Bailiwick; 55- Fruit-filled pie; 59- D-Day craft; 60- Conger; 61- Half a fly;



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WINTER OLYMPICS

'Sick tricks!' Big Air bounds into Olympics on a high note

Eddie Pells, Pyeongchang

FROM the gold medalist down to the last-place finisher, what the women snowboarders really wanted was a second chance. On a day filled with sunshine, smiles and plenty of sick tricks, they got that — and made the most of it.

The high-flying world of Big Air made its brash, high-flying debut at the Olympics yesterday, and by all accounts, it was a hit.

"Everyone showed their absolute best," said Anna Gasser of Austria, who won the qualifying round and will jump last of the 12 riders in Friday's finals. "And that's what we all needed after slopestyle."

Slopestyle was not pretty, and almost every rider agreed it should not have been contested last Monday, when shifting, whipping winds turned an already treacherous sport into something even more dangerous. Riders completed only nine of the 50 runs without a fall.

Big Air, on the other hand, was great to watch.

Twenty-six of the world's best riders made two jumps each — speeding down a 50-meter ramp to vault off a huge kicker and travel up to 30 meters below for the landing. Where slopestyle is about stringing

AP PHOTO



In this multiple exposure image Laurie Blouin, of Canada, jumps during qualification for the women's Big Air snowboard competition

together a succession of tricks for an entire run, Big Air is about who can throw the best single jump.

Though there were no medals at stake in the qualifying round, many of the riders jumped as though there were. The bulk of the finalists needed 900-degree spins — the sort of tricks that often win Big Air contests — simply to advance to the medal round.

"Watching today, I'm just like, 'Yes. This is what's up,'" American Jamie Anderson said.

Anderson won her second

straight slopestyle gold medal last week with an efficient but wind-hampered run that came straight from the days of microfiche. Though she was one of the few who put on a brave face and tried to make the best of it, she was the first to concede the Olympic debut of Big Air showed her sport in a much better light.

"It was really unfortunate with the weather last week and not really being able to showcase how hard everyone has worked in the last handful of years," Anderson said. "But I think it was good fuel on the

fire, because everyone is charging today."

Zoi Synnott Sadowski of New Zealand became the first woman to land a switchback 900 — in which she rode backward, took off backward and twisted for 2 1/2 rotations — in competition. She finished fifth.

Gasser, a favorite in this event, finished first in qualifying with a cab double-cork 1080, which is sometimes the trick she'll use to win a contest.

Norway's Silje Norendal wobbled on the landing on both her cab 900s and

squeaked into the final in the 10th spot; normally that trick, if landed at all, would have put her comfortably into a final.

"This is the craziest qualifier we've ever had," said Norendal, who summed up the vibe at slopestyle a week earlier by admitting that all she wanted to do was stand at the top of the hill and cry. "I'm just happy to be part of everything that's happening."

This is the craziest qualifier we've ever had.

SILJE NORENDAL

Though many of these riders prefer slopestyle because it showcases all their skills instead of just one, Norendal said Big Air has a way of bringing more people into the big circus tent that snowboarding has become, especially since it was brought, somewhat reluctantly, into the Olympics 20 years ago.

"Even if you fell, if you went big and you fell, they'd all go 'Whoooooo,'" she said. "That's pretty cool. That's all I want. I don't really need people to understand what we do, but just to enjoy it."

On this day — a day when the best women in snowboarding got back to showcasing their finest stuff — the fans weren't the only ones loving it.

"The tricks were amazing," Gasser said. "I was standing up there and I was like, 'This is so sick.'" AP

Wardrobe issues causes Olympic stress for French skaters

Dave Skretta, Gangneung

THE first notes of Ed Sheeran's "Shape of You" had just played when Gabriella Papadakis suddenly became aware that people were about to see a whole lot more of her shape than she had planned.

The French ice dancer's glittering emerald costume at the Olympics had come unhooked at the neckline and later in the routine her left breast was exposed live on television.

When the clasp became unhooked, the 22-year-old Papadakis was more worried about holding up her outfit than making sure her twizzles and rumba were in sync. Her swinging short program with partner Guillaume Cize-

ron at the Pyeongchang Olympics was threatening to go down in history alongside Janet Jackson's infamous wardrobe malfunction during her halftime performance at the Super Bowl.

"I felt it right away and I prayed," Papadakis said. "That's about what I could do."

Somehow, the French couple kept things together through most of their Latin program, producing a score of 81.93 points yesterday that left them second behind Canadian stars Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir.

Not all the program, though. It was during the final element, when Papadakis leaned back in Cizeron's arms, that her

costume rode upward to reveal her breast. The performance was being shown live on international television, and people immediately began posting screenshots of the incident on social media.

"Our coverage of ice dancing was live tonight. Once a competitor's brief wardrobe issue became evident, we purposely used wider camera shots and carefully selected replays to keep the issue obscured," NBC said in a statement to The Associated Press. "We have edited the video for all television encores and online replays."

It was the second wardrobe mishap during the skating program at the Pyeongchang Games. American-born ice dancer Yura

Min, competing for South Korea, had the back of her costume come unclasped during her short program with partner Alex Gamelin in the team competition.

Papadakis and Cizeron, considered the biggest threat to Virtue and Moir for gold, still managed to gain level-four marks for all their elements save their final straight line lift. That left the French duo less than two points behind their Canadian training partners on a packed leaderboard.

It's unclear whether the judges docked the couple for the wardrobe issue. The rules state losing any part of a costume, even a hair clip, can lead to a one-point deduction.

"It's a little bit frustra-

AP PHOTO



Gabriella Papadakis and Guillaume Cizeron perform in the Gangneung Ice Arena

ting to know that it's not because of something that we did," Cizeron said. "It's just a costume issue, something as stupid as that, so it's a little bit disappointing."

Papadakis was nearly in tears as she approached reporters after the routine, which is required of any Olympic competitor after competition. But she was in better spirits an hour later, when she no doubt

realized that her chance of a gold medal was still intact.

"It was pretty distracting, kind of my worst nightmare happening at the Olympics," Papadakis said. "I told myself, 'I don't have a choice. I have to keep going,' and that's what we did. I think we can be proud of ourselves being able to deliver a great performance with that happening." AP

Mike Corder, Rotterdam

ROGER Federer came to the ABN AMRO World Tournament aiming to secure a return to the top of the world rankings. He achieved that goal Friday. On Sunday, he put an exclamation point on a remarkable week by winning the tournament for good measure.

Federer overpowered an ailing Grigor Dimitrov 6-2, 6-2 in less than an hour to win his 97th career title.

"What a week it's been. Absolutely amazing," Federer said. "The goal was to make the semis and I won the tournament so of course I'm incredibly excited and so, so happy."

The 36-year-old Swiss extended his domination over the player once dubbed "Baby Fed" for the similarities in their playing style, registering his seventh victory in as many meetings.

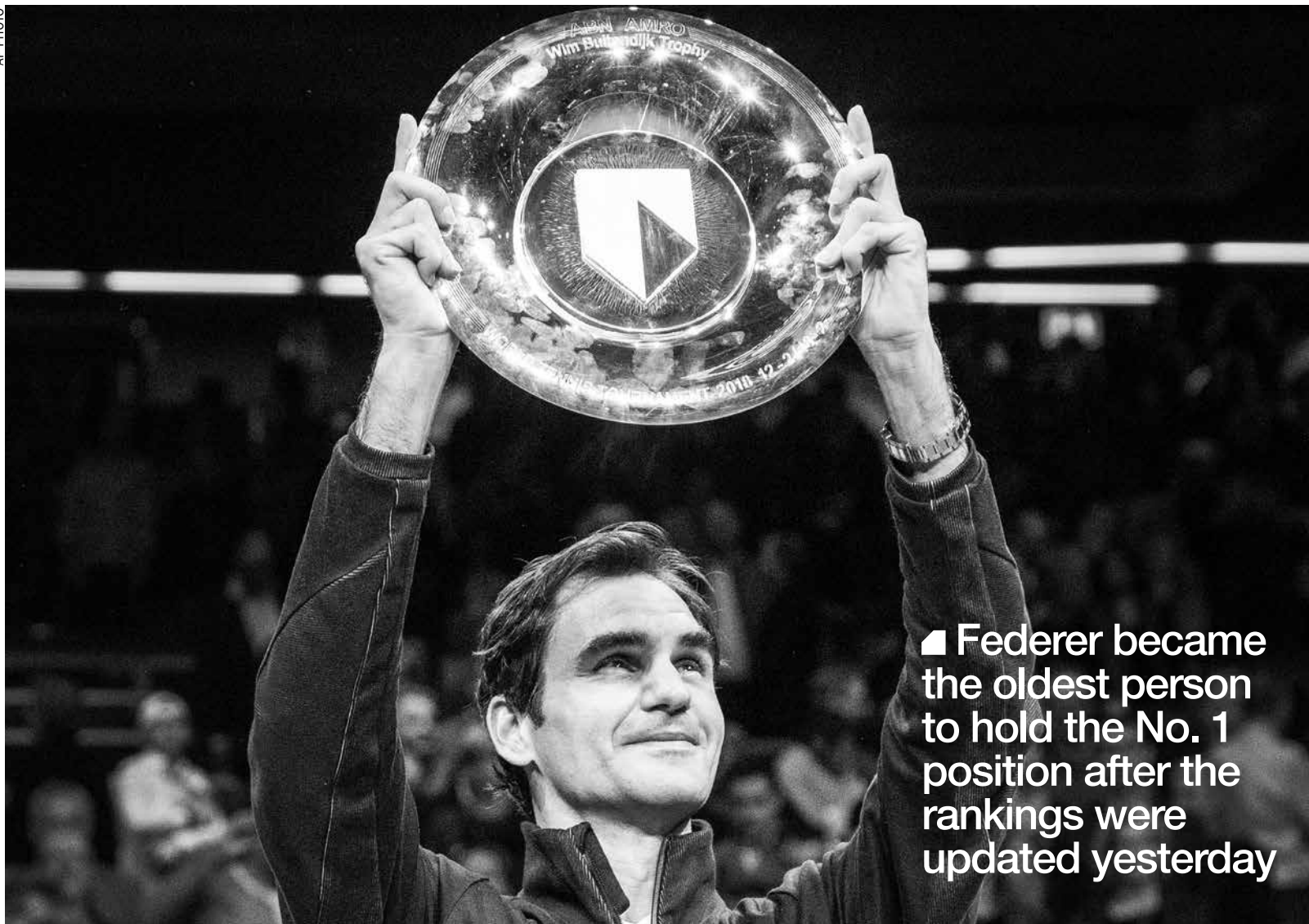
Federer's third title at the Rotterdam tournament comes a day before he officially returns to the top of the rankings, more than five years after he was last world No. 1.

He became the oldest person to hold the No. 1 position after the rankings were updated yesterday. It's been more than five years since Federer was last No. 1, and 14 years since he first reached the top spot.

Federer, who has 20 Grand Slams to his name, said his next target is 100 career titles. He moved a step closer Sunday.

Federer said ahead of the final that the more aggressive player would win and Dimitrov started the strongest, winning his first game to love as he slammed powerful fo-

AP PHOTO



■ Federer became the oldest person to hold the No. 1 position after the rankings were updated yesterday

TENNIS

Federer overpowers Dimitrov to win 97th career title

rehands and backhands past Federer.

But the Swiss great quickly started matching Dimitrov's groundstrokes and converted his first break point in the fifth game. Federer broke Dimitrov again to go up 5-2 and

then served out the set.

Federer kept the pressure on Dimitrov in the second set, breaking the Bulgarian in the first game and continuing to dominate on his way to victory in just 55 minutes. Federer won a massive 82

percent of points on his service compared to 55 percent for Dimitrov.

After his strong start, the Bulgarian appeared to be struggling physically, but said afterward that he simply wasn't good enough.

Tournament director Richard Krajicek said Dimitrov was ill Saturday night and was short on energy on court.

"Against Roger in the current situation he is in you can't play any less than 100 percent," Dimitrov said. **AP**

TENNIS

Kvitova beats Muguruza in Qatar for second straight title

PETRA Kvitova continued her remarkable comeback by beating Garbine Muguruza in the Qatar Open final on Sunday for her 13th straight win and second consecutive title.

The 27-year-old Czech, a two-time Wimbledon champion, needed another three-setter to beat the fourth-seeded Spaniard 3-6, 6-3, 6-4. It was Kvitova's sixth win over a top-10 player in 2018.

Kvitova, who beat top-ranked Caroline Woz-

niacki in three sets in the semifinals, will return to the top 10 rankings on Monday for the first time since she was the victim of a knife attack in her home in December 2016 that led to a lengthy layoff.

It was Kvitova's 22nd career title and came two weeks after she triumphed in St. Petersburg.

"I couldn't really dream about it one year ago when I was in total different position trying to come back and play. For me, it's something that's ama-

zing. I couldn't really wish for more," said Kvitova, who extended her head-to-head record with Muguruza to 4-1.

Just like in her match against Wozniacki, the 16th-seeded Kvitova made a scratchy start, losing her first service game with two double faults to go 2-0 down. She then had two more double faults in the fourth game to get broken again, and was trailing 5-0 when she won three games in a row before losing the first set.

The momentum shifted toward Kvitova in the third game of the second set. She first saved a break-point at 30-40 with a backhand winner after doing all the running, and then held her serve with an ace. She saved another break point in the fifth game before breaking Muguruza with a couple of down-the-line shots to go 4-2 up.

Muguruza kept putting pressure on Kvitova's service game, and the Czech needed to save two break points again in the seventh

game before holding her serve. Both players then held their serves comfortably to send the match into the deciding set.

"In the second set it was more what I was expecting; a tough match," Muguruza said. "You always know what she is capable of. The rankings don't really matter. She's always going to be like a top-10 player."

Kvitova's service continued to be under pressure in the third set, and she saved two break points again in the fourth game to stay 2-2. Kvitova broke immediately after that when Muguruza netted a backhand into the net after a 23-shot long rally. The Spaniard hurt her knee during that rally and needed a medical timeout.

Despite coming back with a heavily taped left leg, Muguruza had a break point in the next game, only for Kvitova to unleash a stunning forehand shot to take it to deuce, and then hold with an ace to make it 4-2.

Muguruza came back from 15-40 down in the seventh game, making it 3-4 with a stunning lob shot, but Kvitova did not lose her next two service games to secure her 22nd title.

The key stat that highlighted the resilience of Kvitova was that Muguruza had 11 break points, but managed to convert just two of them. And after producing just four winners in the first set, Kvitova reeled off 29 in the next two. **AP**

opinion

World Views

Tim Dahlberg, AP Sports Writer

CHEATING RUSSIANS SHOULD HAVE NEVER BEEN IN OLYMPICS

It sounds like some kind of cheap joke, though no one here seems to be laughing about the Russian curler who tested positive for performance enhancing drugs.

This is, after all, curling we're talking about. Aside from the lean-and-mean Norwegian men's team, these generally aren't athletes who will show up in body building magazines.

Indeed, the best thing about curling may be that it's a sport you can play with a beer in one hand and a broom in the other.

That made the news that broke yesterday that Russian bronze medal curler Alexander Krushelnitsky tested positive for meldonium — the drug du jour of many Russians — shocking. Who knew that sweeping was so hard?

Yes, Russian athletes dope, and they dope a lot. But curlers belong to a community that follows the rules so closely they keep their own score, don't need referees and would rather lose than cheat.

Up until now there had never been a curler stripped of a medal for doping.

Give the Russians a gold medal for sheer audacity. Toss in a silver, too, for the explanation that some unnamed rival Russian athletes or the country's political enemies could be responsible for pouring some meldonium powder on the curler's breakfast. But more importantly, make sure they are finally held responsible when it really matters.

The fact the druggie curler was a Russian should be an embarrassment to the entire Olympic movement. Olympic officials have spent the last few months assuring us every chance they get the last few months that the remnants of the Russian team allowed to compete in these Olympics were screened so carefully by Olympic testers that there was no chance anyone could be using anything.

But test positive, the curler did. And that could mean a lot more trouble for the team known as "Olympic Athletes From Russia" than just losing the bronze medal Krushelnitsky won in mixed doubles last week.

Russia had been angling to get reinstated to the Olympics by the closing ceremony so the 168 Russians here could march under their own flag. The next step after that would be to be returned to good graces in the world of sport despite having run a blatant state-sponsored doping system four years ago in Sochi.

Now the International Olympic Committee has no choice. Played like fools, they can't afford now to look like fools.

The fact is the Russians shouldn't have been allowed anywhere near the Olympic flame in the first place. They cheated brazenly to win the medal count in their home Olympics in 2014, switching samples through a hole in the wall in the Sochi lab so that Vladimir Putin could bask in the glory of his athletes.

But they're here, even if it is under a neutral flag that was a joke to begin with. And for that you can blame the spineless members of the IOC that provided the cover for the Russians to come.

The Russian ban turned out to be no ban at all. Not only that, but until Monday it looked like the IOC would look favorably at the Russian request to be reinstated at the closing ceremonies so its athletes could wave the Russian flag.

In a way the positive test might have been a good thing because it shows the true Russian colors. So does the Russian response, which was to immediately blame others.

"There's a possibility of it being something within the team, that something happened during training camp, or as a political means to achieve some goal," said Dmitry Svishchev, who heads the Russian Curling Federation.

That's nonsense, of course. But it's a familiar pattern from Russian officials, who have loudly denied doing anything wrong in Sochi and complained that they are victims of some sort of international conspiracy against them.

The only real conspiracy was the one the Russians ran in Sochi to keep their dopers from getting caught. They cheated on a scale not seen since the East Germans shot their swimmers full of steroids in the 1970s, and the Russians got caught red-handed.

THE BUZZ KUWAIT INVITES PHILIPPINES LEADER TO VISIT AMID TENSIONS

Kuwait's ruling emir has reportedly invited Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte to his country to resolve tensions after a Filipina maid was found dead in a freezer.

That's according to a report yesterday by Kuwait's state-run KUNA news agency, which quoted Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled al-Jarallah announcing the proposed visit in March. It's unclear if Duterte has accepted the invitation from Kuwait's emir, the

88-year-old Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah. Some 250,000 Filipino workers are in Kuwait. Many work as domestic help.

Duterte's government banned workers from going to Kuwait after the Filipina's body was found Feb. 6 in a Kuwait City apartment that had reportedly been abandoned for more than a year. Duterte has criticized Kuwait over other Filipino killings and abuse there.

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	40-60 Good	
High Density Residential Area	40-60 Good	
Ambient	40-60 Good	

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

INDONESIA Four farmers and a 13-year-old boy admitted they stabbed, clubbed and shot a critically endangered orangutan at least 130 times with an air gun to protect their pineapple crop, police said yesterday.



TURKEY threatened yesterday to hit back at Syrian pro-government troops if they deploy in an enclave in northern Syria to protect a Kurdish militia that Ankara is battling there.

ETHIOPIA's defense minister on Saturday ruled out a military takeover a day after the East African nation declared a new state of emergency amid the worst anti-government protests in a quarter-century.

NIGERIA Pope Francis backed down yesterday and accepted the resignation of Nigerian bishop who had been rejected for years by the priests of his diocese, setting a precedent that could have repercussions in Chile and elsewhere when papal authority is challenged.



SOUTH AFRICA Authorities are escalating an anti-corruption drive against a business family linked to former president Jacob Zuma, saying they could seek Interpol's help to track suspects believed to be out of the country.

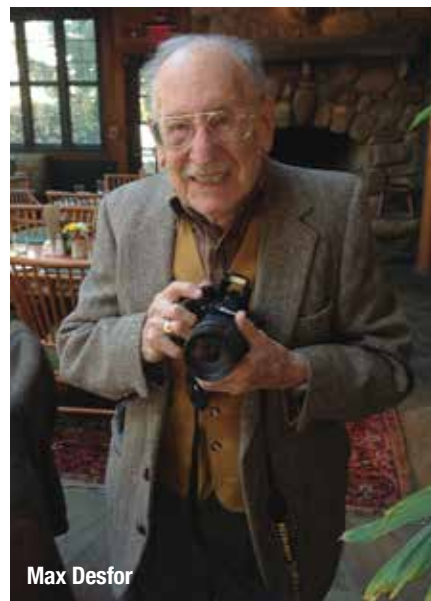
MEXICO's federal Attorney General's Office says two bodies found in a car have been confirmed to be those of two prosecution agents kidnapped Feb. 5 and forced to appear on a video by a drug gang.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Pulitzer winner Max Desfor dies at 104



In this Dec. 4, 1950, file photo, residents from Pyongyang and refugees from other areas crawl perilously over shattered girders of the city's bridge, as they flee south across the Taedong River



Max Desfor

Douglass K. Daniel, Washington

FORMER Associated Press photographer Max Desfor, whose photo of hundreds of Korean War refugees crawling across a damaged bridge in 1950 helped win him a Pulitzer Prize, died Monday. He was 104.

Desfor died at his apartment in Silver Spring, Maryland, where he'd been living in his retirement, said his son, Barry.

Desfor volunteered to cover the Korean War for the news service when the North invaded the South in June 1950. He parachuted into North Korea with U.S. troops and retreated with them after forces from the North, joined by the Chinese, pushed south.

He was in a Jeep near the North Korean capital of Pyongyang when he spotted a bridge that had been hit by bombing along the Taedong River. Thousands of refugees were lined up on the north bank waiting their turn to cross the river.

"We came across this incredible sight," he recalled in 1997 for an AP oral history. "All of these people who are literally crawling through these broken-down girders of the bridge. They were in and out of it, on top, underneath, and just barely escaping the freezing water."

Desfor climbed a 50-foot-high section of the bridge to photograph the refugees as they fled for their lives.

"My hands got so cold I could barely trip the shutter on my camera," he remembered. "I couldn't even finish a full pack of film. It was just

that cold."

The Pulitzer jury in 1951 determined that Desfor's photos from Korea the previous year had "all the qualities which make for distinguished news photography — imagination, disregard for personal safety, perception of human interest and the ability to make the camera tell the whole story." The Pulitzer board honored his overall coverage of the war, based on a portfolio of more than 50 photos, and cited the Taedong River bridge shot in particular.

A native of New York, Desfor was born in the Bronx on Nov. 8, 1913, and attended Brooklyn College. He joined the AP in 1933 as a messenger. After teaching himself the basics of photography and moonlighting as a baby photographer, he began shooting occasional assignments for the AP. He became a staff photographer in the Baltimore bureau in 1938 and moved to the Washington bureau a year later.

During World War II, Desfor photographed the crew of the Enola Gay after the B-29 landed in Saipan from its mission to drop an atomic bomb on Hiroshima in August 1945. He was with the first wave of Marines at Tokyo Bay shortly after Japan's surrender that month and photographed the official surrender ceremony aboard the USS Missouri on Sept. 2, 1945.

Desfor worked for the AP in the Philippines and in India, where he photographed Mahatma Gandhi and later covered the assassinated leader's funeral in 1948. He also worked in the AP's Rome bu-

reau and was set to return to the U.S. when war broke out in Korea.

After the war Desfor served as supervising editor of Wide World Photos, the AP's photo service, and returned to Asia in 1968 as photo chief for the region. He retired from the AP in 1978, then joined U.S. News & World Report as photo director.

Desfor and his wife, Clara, raised a son, Barry, of Wauconda, Illinois. She died in 2004.

In January 2012, when he was 98, Desfor and his longtime companion, Shirley Belasco, surprised guests at a party celebrating her 90th birthday by marrying in front of their guests. They had been friends since the 1980s when the Desfors and Ms. Belasco lived in the same Silver Springs apartment building and became a couple a few years after his wife's death.

A photo Desfor took during his long career that had particular meaning to him also came from the Korean War. Walking near a field he spotted two hands, blue from cold, sticking up in the snow and photographed them. The hands, which had been bound, belonged to one of several civilians taken prisoner and executed, their bodies left to be covered by snowfall.

"I labeled that picture, later on, 'Futility,' because it's always been — I've always felt that it's the civilians caught in the crossfire, the innocents, the innocent civilians, how futile it is for war," he said for the oral history. "That epitomized it to me." **AP**