



**BRIDGE
ABLE TO
WITHSTAND
SUPER
TYPHOONS**

▲ P3 HKZMB



**MADDOX DENIES PRIOR
KNOWLEDGE**

The new CEO of Wynn Resorts said he was not aware of any of the sexual misconduct accusations against Steve Wynn

▲ P8



**PAKISTAN IS RISKIEST
COUNTRY FOR NEWBORNS**

The U.N. children's agency in a report released yesterday singled out Pakistan as the riskiest country for newborns

▲ P13

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

WORLD BRIEFS

AP PHOTO



INDONESIA The eruption of Indonesia's Mount Sinabung that shot ash 5 kilometers high also blew away much of the mountain's summit. Before and after images from Indonesia's Center for Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation show an enormous chunk missing from the peak, which it called "completely annihilated." [More on p14](#)

THAILAND A court yesterday granted legal custody of 13 babies carried by surrogate mothers to a secretive Japanese millionaire who is their biological father, reviving a bizarre tale that captured tabloid headlines four years ago, but leaving some basic questions unanswered. [More on p13](#)

AP PHOTO



PHILIPPINES Islamic State group-linked militants planned but failed to attack another southern Philippine city shortly after troops crushed their siege of Marawi last year, the leader of the country's largest Muslim rebel group said yesterday.

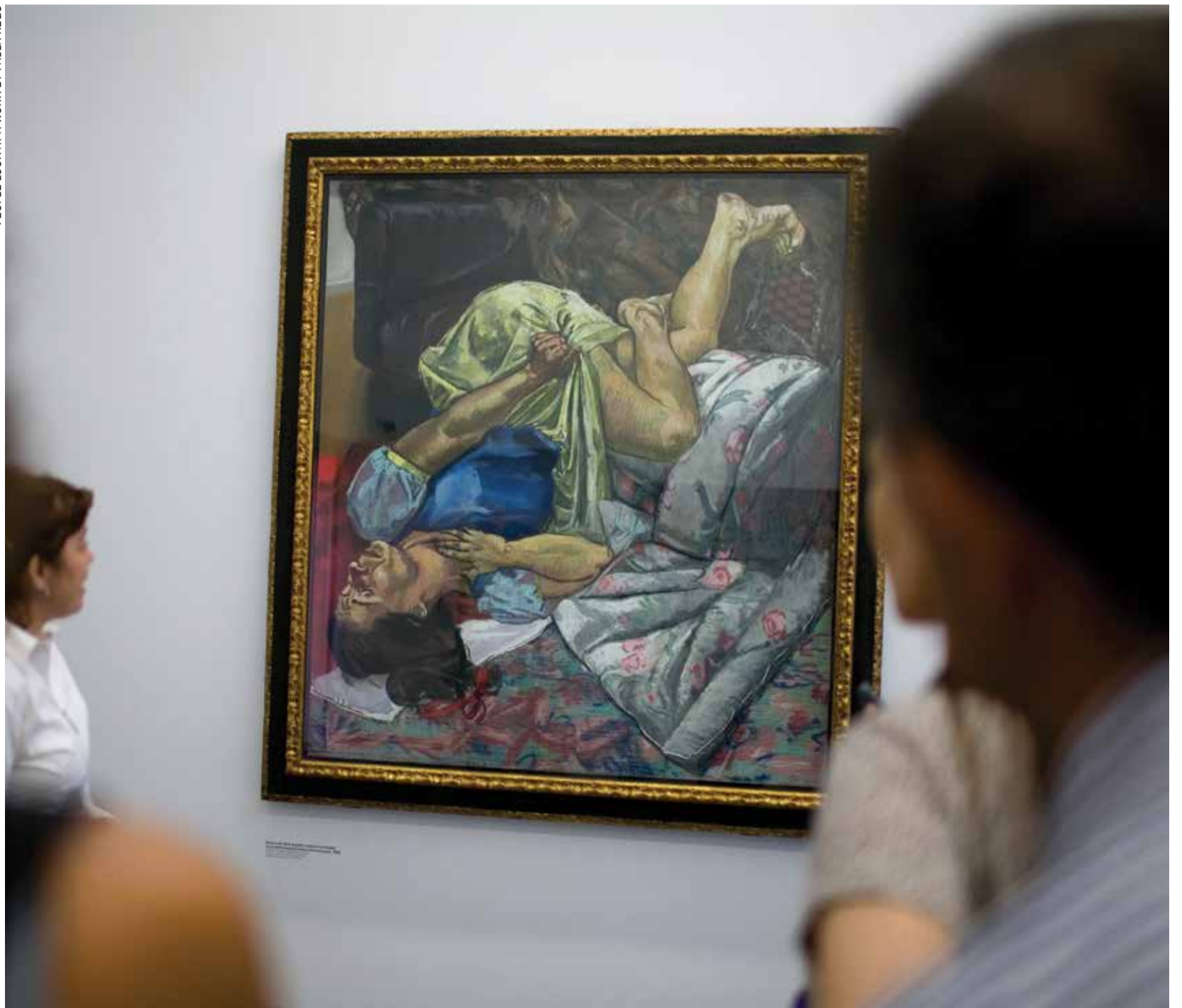
MYANMAR Rights groups are urging authorities in Myanmar to investigate and release information about two ethnic Kachin civilians believed to be held by soldiers in the country's north, where fighting has raged between government forces and armed Kachin rebels. [More on backpage](#)



CNY tourist influx to remain high

▲ P2

PEOPLE LOOK AT A WORK BY PAULA REGO



Women Artists 1st Int'l Biennial of Macau kicks off next month

▲ P5

THE Gongbei Customs department said that the high number of border crossings will last for two more days, according to a report by Jornal Va Kio.

Zhang Ziheng, a police officer from the Gongbei Customs authority, said that the flow of Gongbei and Hengqin cross-border passengers will remain high over the coming two days.

According to the Gongbei immigration department, the Gongbei border gate recorded a total of over 540,000 crossings on the first and second days of Chinese New Year (CNY), which corresponds to 30,000 more crossings than last year.

At the Hengqin border gate, from February 15 until February 17, approximately 72,000 people from the Hengqin immigration department were processed, which represents an approximate increase of 14 percent year.

The Hengqin border gate has been open 24 hours during the CNY holiday. According to Zhuhai's Customs Authority, the peak period for departures from Hengqin happens between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., and for arrivals it takes place from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

On the Macau side, the Public Security Police Force (PSP) reported that as of 5 p.m. yesterday, a total of 335,000 crossings

CNY

Number of crossings to remain high in the next two days

had been recorded across all the region's borders.

Some 220,000 crossings were registered at the Border Gate, including 138,000 arrivals. Some 141,000 crossings were recorded as of 11 a.m. yesterday. On Monday, as of 5 p.m., 337,000 crossings were recorded.

A record number of crossings has been registered during the CNY, according to statistics released by the PSP.

As of 9 p.m. of the first day (Friday) of CNY, and as of 9 p.m. Saturday, approximately 325,000 and 403,000 crossings, respectively, had been recorded across all the city's borders.

Last year, 376,000 crossings were recorded on the second day of CNY.

Among all the borders, the Border Gate still attracts the highest number of number of tourist entrances.

At the end of Monday the number of tourist entrances recorded during the CNY holiday reached a total of over 660,000.

XINHUA



New bus concessions to require more buses during peak traffic hours

THE Transport Bureau (DSAT) has announced that it is discussing the improvement of bus services with bus companies.

DSAT Director Lam Hin San said during a TDM radio program yesterday, that DSAT's highest priority is to solve the transport issues arising during peak times.

According to Lam, the number of bus passengers between 6 a.m. and 10 a.m. represents 35 percent of the total number of bus passengers on a daily basis.

On July 31, the contracts with Macau's three bus companies will come to an end. DSAT hopes to improve the next contracts between the government and said companies by allowing them to run ad-



Lam Hin San

ditional buses during peak traffic hours.

Another of DSAT's considerations concerns the introduction of new routes to cater to the needs of passengers who board certain bus lines in the middle of the route.

Last year, bus companies

opened additional routes, and according to Lam these routes are working effectively.

Lam revealed that bus companies will continue to launch more electric buses, and that the transportation authority will keep a close eye on their usage in Ma-

cau's neighboring regions.

Regarding the new type of electric buses, Lam said that DSAT will consider using buses which have electrical generators attached to supplement the electricity demand of these buses. By doing so, they will assess whether this type of bus suits Macau.

Earlier, DSAT opened public tenders for another 100 electric taxis. The DSAT director expects these vehicles to be put into operation in the fourth quarter of this year. He then advised that using more electric taxis in the future is under consideration.

According to the DSAT director, at the end of 2017, Macau had more than 241,000 registered vehicles, representing a 3.6 percent decrease year-on-year.

Public tender launched to renovate Maritime Inspection building

The Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT) has launched a public tender for the renovation of the building of the Maritime Inspection Department of the Macau Customs Services (SA), located at Ilha Verde. The DSSOPT stated that due to degradation of the building it is necessary to proceed with interior renovation works, scheduled to start in the third quarter of this year and with a maximum duration of 300 working days. The bureau explained further that the work to be performed on the five-story building con-

sists of the partial replacement of the building's interior walls, as well as demolition works and the installation of new equipment. Due to the noise and dust likely produced by the construction, bidders should present a comprehensive schedule to the SA for the projected work, highlighting that the work should be done in stages to enable the normal functioning of the Department to continue.

Submissions of bids in response to the tender will close at noon on March 19, with the public listing of all bids being planned for the next day.

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FINAL touches are being added to the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HKZMB), which will be the world's longest sea bridge. Engineer Yu Lie, who is the deputy director of the HK-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge Authority, told Xinhua that the bridge was built to be able withstand a magnitude-8 earthquake and super typhoons, and has a service life of 120 years.

Yu Lie has spent more than 30 years working on bridges, but he says that the HKZMB is his pride and joy, given the fact that it is a technologically complicated bridge, crossing shipping lanes in the Lingding Channel, the middle channel of the Pearl River estuary. Those building the bridge had to overcome complex challenges, Xinhua reported.

The main structure measures 29.6 kilometers, consisting of a 22.9 km bridge section and a 6.7 km underground tunnel. Its total length is 55 kilometers. The bridge took seven years to build, and used 420,000 tonnes of steel, enough to build 60 Eiffel Towers, and required 1.08 million cubic meters of cement.

"As the bridge is ready to open to the public, people will have high expectations from it in terms of its transport function

Delta Bridge will be able to withstand super typhoons

and how it can benefit the people," said Yu, who has worked on the bridge since the initial preparations in 2004.

"The bridge will not only be a transport link. It will be a social, economic, cultural, and tourism connection [across] the three areas," he said.

We are looking forward to its opening and the sight of an endless stream of traffic.

SU YI

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE HKZMB

The bridge will slash travel time between Hong Kong and Zhuhai from 3 hours to just 30 minutes. According to Xinhua, its aim is to further integra-

te the cities in the Pearl River Delta since it does "not only traverses a natural divide, it straddles two social systems - socialism and capitalism."

"Our country is very strong in bridge building," Yu said. "The HKZMB Bridge highlights China's achievements in technology, equipment and research, and stands at a point leading to a brand new future."

The bridge spans one of the busiest waterways in the world. Every day, more than 4,000 vessels navigate above the bridge tunnel and almost every other minute, planes take off or land at Hong Kong airport.

Su Yi, assistant director of the HK-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge Authority, said the governments of the three areas were discussing details regarding traffic permits, shuttle buses, emergency rescue and more.

"It will break new grounds in terms of management," Su said. "We are looking forward to its opening and the sight of an endless stream of traffic."



An artificial island linked to the bridge

ENTREPRENEUR PRAISES NEW INFRASTRUCTURE

IN 1988, Hong Kong businessman Arnold Ho opened a factory across the Lingding Channel in Zhuhai. Today, his company Print-Rite Holdings Ltd has become a major printing material manufacturer. He usually travels between Hong Kong, Zhuhai and Macau. Riding on cars and ferries, a single journey can take hours. "Back then, there were not as many ferries. When I was in hurry

to go back, if it happened that the typhoon came, I had to take a detour overland to go back to Hong Kong," said Ho. Now, his journey back home will only take half an hour. "When the bridge is open, the opportunities it will bring are immense. Of course, Zhuhai will attract more investors. [Personally, it will mean that] I will have good opportunities to develop my company," he said.

PROPERTY

Realtor claims rental transactions will halve

THE region's new rental bill came into effect on Sunday and some of the opinions voiced from the real estate sector have projected that it will result in a decrease in the number of house rental transactions.

The new rental bill mandates an extension by an additional year to the city's current minimum of two-year rental contracts. Another change postula-

tes that all rental contracts must be put into written form, with signatures acknowledged by a notary.

The Senior Director of Centaline (Macau), Shi Baode, said that Macau's "three-year minimum rental contract" is slightly long because, in the property market, within a period of three years, significant changes can happen and, besides, "Macau's rental market is basically

not that active."

Shi commented, saying "we all know that there is a comparatively high ratio of Macau people buying properties. If more restrictions are imposed over the regulations, [I think] it is indubitable that this will lead to even fewer rental transactions in the rental market."

Shi expects rental transactions to decrease by 50 percent this year, when

compared to 2017. He also believes that there will be a rise in rents.

Lam U Tou, president of the Association of Synergy of Macao, believes the new rental law does not feature significant differences compared to the previous rental bill.

In Lam's opinion, the government is not giving the public enough time to adapt to the new law.

"There was half a year

[between the bill being passed and coming into effect]; the [government] should have provided enough information so as to prepare [the public for the bill's implementation]. At least, the publicity [campaign] should have been out by now," said Lam.

"I think that there are some problems with the bill's implementation [because there is a lack of

promotion], and that [the promotion] is not enough," adding that there must be a maximum rental adjustment rate. Lam believes a maximum rental adjustment rate will be helpful for the city's rental market.

The controversial bill was criticized by real estate associations, who claimed it unfairly gives advantages to tenants at the expense of owners.

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A painting by Paula Rego (pictured) will be showcased at the exhibition

ART

130 female artists join first Macau Biennial

Renato Marques

FOR the first time Macau will hold an International Biennial solely dedicated to the works of female artists.

The plan to hold the event was foreshadowed last year when an exhibition of works made by female artists (28-28), organized by the Albergue SCM was held for the second consecutive year to celebrate International Women's Day.

At the time of the exhibition, which featured works of female artists from Macau and the Portuguese-speaking countries, the man responsible for the venue and exhibition, architect Carlos Marreiros said that the idea

behind such exhibitions was to acknowledge the works of women from across the region and to highlight their artistic capabilities.

There isn't currently any event like this being held worldwide.

CARLOS MARREIROS

"We had been testing the market and the reaction of people [with the previous events]

and decided that it was time and that the conditions had been gathered to move into a worldwide event," Marreiros told the Times yesterday. "There isn't currently any event like this being held worldwide and I always thought that Macau should hold an event of this nature. It will put Macau on the map for excellent reasons such as the valorization of women."

Marreiros shared that "there will be participants from all over the world. All the continents will be represented," adding, "there will be over 130 participants in total." As in last year's exhibition, this major event will continue to support the participation of artists from Portugal and Portuguese-speaking countries such as Ango-

la, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea, Mozambique, São Tomé and Príncipe and East-Timor.

Among this list, the organizers highlighted the participation of Portuguese visual artist Paula Rego. "She will be present with one of her paintings," Marreiros said, adding that due to her current age (83) and health condition, Rego will not be able to attend the inauguration. She will be represented in Macau by her daughter Victoria Willing.

The list of participants will also represent Hong Kong, China, Japan, Russia, Spain, Georgia, India, South Korea and Iran and of course, Macau.

Women-dedicated art biennales are very rare, with Asia the tentative trendsetter in this field, where the International Incheon Women Artists' Biennale (South Korea) assumed the leading role, holding the first one of this kind starting from 2004 and until 2011.

The Whitney Houston Foundation has held two events that have similarities to the upcoming Biennial in Macau; the first was in 2014, two years after the death of the singer, and the second was held last year. Both were dedicated as a tribute to all women.

The event will be inaugurated on March 8 (International Women's Day) and will occupy the walls of the Macao Museum of Art (MAM) until May 13.

But, as Marreiros noted, this is just the main event of a series of talks, conferences and other activities happening concurrently. Marreiros noted that Portuguese artist Raquel Gralheiro will display an exhibition featuring the women in the Chinese zodiac at the Albergue SCM art gallery, during the same time period as the Biennial.

The event is jointly organized by the Cultural Affairs Bureau, MAM, and Albergue SCM.

Guangdong to control pollution in Greater Bay

Environmental protection authorities in Guangdong Province have made plans to curb offshore pollution in the Greater Bay area. Guangdong has around 4,114 kilometers of coastline and much of the offshore area is heavily polluted, the Guangdong department of environmental protection said. The Greater Bay Area covers the Hong Kong and Macau SARs, and nine cities in the province, including Shenzhen and the capital, Guangzhou. According to the plan, the number of sewage outlets will be adjusted with new sewerage outlets banned in protection areas, nature reserves and scenic areas. Discharge of pollutants will be greatly reduced in heavily-polluted areas, the plan indicated. Fish farms will be limited to 200,000 hectares. Environmental protection institutions will share environmental data in the Greater Bay Area, actively monitor risks and improve the emergency response to pollution.

Four receive minor injuries after car rolls over

A private car has rolled upside-down at the Rotunda Ouidor Arriaga. This event led to four people receiving minor injuries, according to a report from TDM. The four injured are all Macau residents and one is a three-year-old child. All four escaped from the car before firefighters arrived. The Public Security Police Force (PSP) reported that the 62-year-old driver passed the blood alcohol test. The PSP suspects the accident may have been caused due to reckless driving. An investigation excluded the possibility that the driver was speeding.

Legal Affairs Bureau accepting opinions on report for Human Rights Council

THE Legal Affairs Bureau (DSAJ) is accepting opinions on a report regarding human rights protection in the Macau Special Administrative Region.

The report forms part of the responsibilities of the SAR and will, together with the Hong Kong equivalent, be included in the broader report from China that is due to be submitted by Beijing to the Human Rights Council of the United Nations (UN) in July this year. The contents will be discussed in a meeting to be held in either October or November.

The report is part of

the Council's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism, a duty of all member states of the UN which requires regular review and evaluation of government policies relating to the promotion and protection of human rights, including the implementation of key international human rights treaties.

This will constitute the SAR's third contribution to this report, according to information from DSAJ. The MSAR is preparing a three-page report to be included in China's national report, which has an overall limit of 20 pages.

The content of this three-page report aims to address developments and measures taken in the period comprising January 2013 through to April 2018.

The UPR is a unique and State-driven process under the auspices of the Human Rights Council, which provides the opportunity for each state to declare what actions they have taken to improve the human rights protection in their countries and to fulfill their human rights obligations.

It is designed to ensure that every country is treated equally when their human rights si-

tuations are assessed. The ultimate aim of this mechanism is to improve the human rights situation in all countries and address human rights violations wherever they occur. Currently, no other universal mechanism of this kind exists. The DSAJ hopes to get feedback from the community starting from today, with comments to be received by March 21. In the document, the Macau government elected three main topics. The first topic will be the legislative and institutional framework for the promotion and protection of human rights.

The second topic will be the completed progress in the promotion and protection of human rights. In this section several SAR laws, completed law reviews, and implementation of new bills such as the domestic violence law, criminalization of sexual harassment, child pornography and child prostitution, tertiary education law, as well as the economic housing law, food safety law, heritage protection law, labor relations, added restrictions and penalties regarding tobacco and drug consumption, among others, will be discussed. **RM**

Macau's anti-terrorism measures strengthened

The Director of the Judiciary Police (PJ), Sit Chong Meng, says that Macau has a low risk of terrorist attacks. Speaking during a TDM radio program, Sit stated that the security authority has not received any reports of a terrorist plot targeting Macau. However, Sit noted that the security authority is on alert and will raise Macau's anti-terrorism levels in order to maintain the region's safety. According to Sit, the PJ is currently establishing a series of full range alerts regarding terrorism.

Flu situation is stable but should not be neglected, Tam says

THE Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Alexis Tam said that the recent flu epidemic in the region is stable and does not require the implementation of more dramatic measures. Nevertheless, the Secretary also stressed, "as we continue at the peak of the influence of the disease, it should not be neglected," calling on the population to maintain observing personal hygiene practices and to be attentive to information released by the Health Bureau (SSM).

Speaking to the media during the CNY holidays, Tam said that SSM has acquired a total of 165,000 flu vaccines and mentioned the work that the SSM has done in terms of raising awareness, which in his opinion caused "very positive results." This is particularly regarding school visits and home visits to assist residents, students and seniors in the administration of the flu vaccines.

The Secretary also noted that



Alexis Tam

a temperature drop expected to happen later this week might herald a new wave of flu, and called on residents to keep alert. Questioned by the media about a wall on the building that hosts "Cinematheque Passion" that was defaced with a painting, Tam expressed his sorrow for the incident and promised to follow closely the developments of the case. He raised the possibility that the government will increase

penalties for this type of offence, noting the importance of strengthening civic education. Such education would encourage the population not to paint on monuments or buildings with historical value and warn that such acts violate the Cultural Heritage Law and other current laws. He finished by reaffirming the will of the government to chase and prosecute offenders involved with such serious crimes.

MUSIC

OM celebrates Bernstein's centennial anniversary

THE Macao Orchestra (OM) will present a concert to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Leonard Bernstein's birth on February 24, as well as to pay tribute to one of the most versatile composers of the 20th century.

To celebrate his centenary, numerous concerts will be held by great orchestras around the world.

The concert will take place at the Macao Cultural Centre Grand Auditorium, and will be conducted by Lio Kuokman, a young local conductor who will perform various works by Bernstein, namely "Overture to Candide", excerpts from the musical "Three Dance Episodes" from "On the Town", excerpts from the "Fancy Free Ballet" and from Bernstein's

most celebrated musical, "West Side Story".

According to a statement issued by the Cultural Affairs Bureau, the conductor will also perform and conduct "Rhapsody in Blue", a single-movement composition written to be performed by a solo piano and jazz band by George Gershwin.

Featuring acclaimed works performed by an ensemble of over 80 musicians, the concert will bring classical music and jazz together.

In conjunction with the theme of this concert season, which is, "Along with the musical joy", the Orchestra has specially organized a sharing session, "Music Hour with Lio Kuokman" which is scheduled to take place on February 23 at the Macao Cultural Centre's Conference Room.

AD

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HERITAGE

IC enforces measures to prevent temple fires

THE Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) is enforcing security measures to prevent fires from occurring in temples in the region. Such measures include safety verification inspections as well as ensuring staff adhere to mandatory safety measures, such as not letting incense sticks burn overnight and turning off electric power at night after the closure of the temple, the IC informed in a statement.

The measures are being enforced due to the beginning of the Lunar Year, which usually sees an increase in the number of people in temples. During this special season, worshipers follow the traditional customs of lighting incense sticks and performing rituals in temples, namely the burning of votive papers. During visits from IC inspectors, all temple managers were urged to implement fire safety measures especially diligently during the period of high ash accumulation, and to strictly follow the "Macau Fire Safety

PHOTO ARCHIVE



A blaze occurred in the A-Ma Temple during the 2016 CNY celebrations

Guidelines."

The guidelines call on managers and staff to ensure incense sticks are not burning and power is turned off, as well as to remove accumulated flammable items and clear all possible causes of fire.

Given the expected increase of visitors during the Chinese New Year break period, the IC advised visitors to respect the heritage sites while visiting them, in order to allow the precious value of the heritage to be enjoyed for years to come.

Agreement to avoid double taxation on Macau and Taiwan aviation industry

THE agreement to avoid double taxation on the aviation industry across Macau and Taiwan came into effect in the second week of February. The Chief Executive signed a notice, which was published in the government's Official Gazette, notifying the implementation of the memorandum.

The notice remarks on how the implementation of the agreement requires both governments to notify each other of their respective domestic legal procedures.

The notice also acknowledges that the Chinese and Portuguese versions of the agreement were both published back in May 2016.

The terms of the agreement published in 2016 are applicable to the supplementary income tax in Macau, to the income taxes of profit-making businesses, and to taxes on commercial and industrial

activities in Taiwan.

When the airlines of one region obtains income, profits, or revenue from the other region, the airlines shall be exempted from tax in the other jurisdiction, according to the agreement.

The Macau air carriers, which are registered in Taiwan for commercial or industrial activities, shall apply a zero-tax rate with respect to aviation services provided in Taiwan.

These two provisions mentioned above shall also be applied to the income, benefits or revenues resulting from joint ventures.

It is believed that the agreement will boost both the Macau and Taiwan aviation market.

The agreement was also an effort to convert a similar memorandum signed by guild from both sides in 1998 into a long-term and constitutional agreement.

AD



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New Wynn Resorts CEO denies prior knowledge of sex claims against founder

THE new CEO of Las Vegas-based Wynn Resorts said he was not aware of any of the sexual misconduct accusations against casino mogul Steve Wynn before they surfaced last month.

Matt Maddox, who was appointed CEO on Feb. 6 after Wynn resigned, added that people should "hold off making any judgment until the investigations into the accusations are complete."

Wynn Resorts is facing scrutiny by gambling regulators in Nevada and Massachusetts, where the company is building a roughly USD2.4 billion casino just outside Boston. Regulators in Macau are also inquiring about the accusations.

Steve Wynn has vehemently denied the misconduct accusations and attributed them to a campaign led by his ex-wife. An attorney for Elaine Wynn has denied that she instigated the news report.

The allegations surfaced last month, when the Wall Street Journal reported that a number of women said Steve Wynn harassed or assaulted them and that one case led to a \$7.5 million settlement.

Wynn Resorts has created a committee to investigate the allegations and to review the company's internal policies and procedures to ensure a "safe and respectful workplace for all employees." Maddox, who does not sit on the board of directors, said he would leave it up to lawyers and investigators to decide whether the findings of the investigation should be made public.

Many describe Steve Wynn as the father of modern-day Las Vegas, and by the company's own admission, his knowledge was crucial for its success. So much so, that the company recently told regulators the "business may be significantly impaired" if



Matt Maddox reacts as he speaks during an interview at Wynn Las Vegas

it lost Steve Wynn's services.

But Maddox on Monday said Wynn Resorts is positioned to move forward without its founder and continue to develop a number of projects in part because two long-time executives responsible for design and architecture remain with the com-

pany. He is also putting together an "innovation advisory team" to provide input.

"The idea is that our future projects are going to continue to be leading in innovation and creativity," Maddox said while sitting at the employee dining hall of the Wynn Las Vegas casino-resort. "We are continuing to move forward as fast as we can."

The company closed its golf course in Las Vegas last year as a step toward the development of a lake and hotel project called Paradise Park. Last month, it bought a 38-acre site along the Las Vegas Strip that Steve Wynn, before resigning, said would be developed into a roughly 2,000-room hotel.

Maddox said the company will pursue both projects as well as the possibility of obtaining a license to open a casino in Japan, where late last year lawmakers

approved a long-awaited law on "integrated resorts" that is the first major hurdle in allowing casinos to set up shop. Further enabling legislation is expected to take several more years.

Maddox, 42, is one of Wynn Resorts' first employees. He joined the company when Steve Wynn founded it in 2002, two years after he sold the business that built the Bellagio, Mirage and Treasure Island.

Initially, he spent the majority of his time raising the money to build the Wynn Las Vegas casino-resort. He later worked in Macau before returning to Las Vegas in 2006. He led the company through the Great Recession as the chief financial officer and became its president in 2013.

Maddox said the company's board of directors had been developing a succession plan for roughly four years, and Steve

Wynn's resignation simply accelerated its implementation.

"They, along with Steve, decided to make me the president of Wynn Resorts with the idea that eventually, assuming things continue to work well, I would become the CEO," he said.

He said the company will keep its name and logo, which is Wynn's signature.

■ Maddox, 42, is one of Wynn Resorts' first employees. He joined the company when Steve Wynn founded it in 2002

"Wynn is about the 25,000 people who work here," he said. "The name stands for quality. It stands for service. And it's something that all of these 25,000 people look up to."

Maddox defended the company as gender inclusive, citing that 40 percent of management are women, but wants the number to increase. He has established a new leadership initiative with an immediate goal of looking at gender inequality and instituted a six-week paid parental leave policy and merit-based scholarship fund.

"I'm going around in the town halls explaining not only is the company stable, it's strong. So, all of you are safe," he said. "We are going to keep executing what we do. And I'm pointing out at each town hall that this is a zero-tolerance company." **MDT/AP**

Hold off making any judgment until the investigations into the accusations are complete.

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Wayne Parry, Atlantic City

GAMING

Once near death, Tropicana now No. 2 casino in Atlantic City

TEN years ago, Atlantic City's Tropicana casino was on the verge of death, having been stripped of its casino license after its then-owners laid off vast swaths of the workforce, leading to filthy rooms, insect infestations, hourlong waits for slot machine payouts and food and drink orders that often never arrived.

Now, after years of reinvesting in and renovating the casino floor, hotel rooms and eateries, the Tropicana has become the No. 2 casino in the city in terms of gambling revenue — a position it will need to fight to retain as two additional casinos open on the Boardwalk this summer.

"It's an incredible difference and transformation," said Tony Rodio, president of Tropicana Entertainment. "Employee morale was at an all-time low, customers were not happy with the facility and how it was being managed and were leaving in droves and revenues were declining on a monthly basis. Fast-forward 10 years to where we are today, I couldn't be prouder of what we've been able to accomplish over that time."

The Tropicana ended 2017 second among Atlantic City's seven casinos in terms of total gambling revenue with USD390 million, trailing only the perennial market leader Borgata, which had more than \$800 million. Internet



Part of the casino floor at the Tropicana in Atlantic City

gambling winnings worth \$42.5 million helped Tropicana pass Harrah's, which had long been the city's No. 2 casino in overall revenue.

Eugene and Ruth Lee, of West Orange, enjoyed a recent stay at Tropicana, during which Ruth won \$75 playing poker.

"We like the restaurants here," she said. "The variety of food is very good."

"And they send us comps for free rooms," added Eugene.

Not that everything is perfect. Last week, a guest set up an illegal methamphetamine laboratory in a Tropicana hotel room, starting a fire that forced the tem-

porary evacuation of four floors and injuring two people: the man charged with drug and other offenses, and a hotel worker who entered the room. The casino said the rooms were cleaned and inspected after a State Police hazmat team dismantled the lab, and would be ready for occupancy again on Friday.

Ten years ago, the trouble started under the Tropicana's former owners, Kentucky-based Columbia Sussex Corp, which laid off 900 workers — about a quarter of the staff — leaving it dirty and understaffed.

The woes were typified in a letter from a group that had its natio-

nal convention at the Tropicana, and wrote a letter of complaint afterward. Nelson Fabian, head of the National Environmental Health Association, wrote of cockroaches in rooms, bedbugs, dirty dishes left in hotel hallways for days and one guest who came into a room only to see housekeeping staff eating food he had left in the room.

"I noticed as I walked across the tile floor that I almost lost my shoes, the floor was so sticky," Fabian wrote.

The Casino Control Commission stripped the Tropicana's casino license, which can be the death penalty for an Atlantic City casino. But it allowed the casino to continue operating while new owners were sought.

In March 2010, billionaire investor Carl Icahn bought the Tropicana from bankruptcy court and began reinvesting in the property and hiring a new management team. Since 2012, Tropicana Entertainment has plowed \$200 million into the property, re-doing most hotel rooms and the casino floor, adding restau-

rants, and buying the adjacent 330-room Chelsea hotel.

"I'm very impressed with what Tropicana has done over the last 10 years," said Steve Norton, a former Atlantic City casino executive-turned-casino analyst. "They didn't have the funds to do what they needed to do, and Icahn's money has made a big difference there."

Bob McDevitt, president of Local 54 of the Unite-HERE union, waged a bitter labor war with Icahn over another of his casinos, the former Trump Taj Mahal, where a strike over benefits ended with Icahn closing the casino in October 2016, putting nearly 3,000 people out of work.

But McDevitt praised Icahn for hiring many former Taj Mahal workers at the Tropicana, and for reinvesting in the property.

"We had a major fight with Carl Icahn at the Taj Mahal, but I'm not going to be a hypocrite and ignore the fact that the Tropicana is one of the best-run properties in the industry," he said. "They systematically have made it better and better." **AP**

SINGAPORE

Home tax hike not a market cooling move, minister says

SINGAPORE'S tax increase on home purchases exceeding SGD1 million (USD758,960) is aimed at making duties more equitable rather than imposing an additional property curb, said S. Iswaran, minister of trade and industry.

Stamp duty on the portion of a property's price above SGD1 million was

raised starting yesterday to 4 percent from 3 percent, the government said in its budget Monday. Home prices have rebounded in the past two quarters, prompting aggressive land bids from developers as the property market shrugged off cooling measures ranging from additional taxes to limits on loans

to emerge from a four-year slump.

"The measures have had the desired effect," Iswaran said. "If in fact there's any concern, you would have seen far more significant measures."

While a recovery in home prices is not a cause for concern, "exuberance" in the so-called

en-bloc market for redevelopments may not be warranted, Ravi Menon, the managing director of the Monetary Authority of Singapore, said at a conference last month. Collective apartment sales for redevelopment in the first two months of 2018 totaled more than SGD3.1 billion, almost double the SGD1.66



billion seen in same period during the last en-bloc market peak in 2007, No-

mura analyst Min Chow Sai wrote in a note dated Feb. 19. **MDT/Bloomberg**

corporate bits

MGM COTAI MARKS FIRST CNY AT PROPERTY



MGM Cotai has held a Lion Dance Blessing Ceremony to celebrate its first Chinese New Year, kicking off with a traditional lion eye-dotting ritual and lion dance, followed by the lighting of firecrackers.

The Ceremony was officiated by Grant Bowie, CEO and executive director of MGM China, with MGM's management team.

Nine lions dressed in vivid costumes marched into the Lion Lobby Entrance for the

traditional eye-dotting ritual, which signifies the awakening of the lion's spirit.

The ritual was immediately followed by a lion dance performance which culminated in the lighting of firecrackers, and started a lion dance parade to the accompaniment of cymbals, drums and gongs, sending well wishes of good fortune to every corner of the new resort.

In a press statement, MGM invited the public to experience its festive culinary delights, including dining concepts led by four acclaimed chefs — Mauro Colagreco, Mitsuhiro Tsunmura, Graham Elliot and Janice Wong.

SJM PLEDGES TO PROMOTE 'LOCALIZATION'



SJM hosted its traditional Lunar New Year's Eve Gala Dinner at the Grand Ballroom of Grand Lisboa last week, in the presence of officials including Chief Executive Chui Sai On.

The SJM Dragon and Lion

Dance, officiated by Chui, was held after the dinner at the Grand Lisboa welcoming the Year of the Dog with Macau's residents and visitors.

Angela Leong, managing director and chief administrative officer of SJM pledged

that it would continue to prioritize locals in terms of employment.

"SJM has approximately 19,000 employees, of whom only 6.7 percent are non-residents. This percentage is comparatively the lowest among the casino operators," said Leong.

"We will continue to promote localization at SJM, and provide more employment and upward mobility opportunities to local residents."

Ambrose So, chairman of the Board of Directors of SJM, said that the Year of the Dog signifies a prosperous year.

"We have every confidence that the Dog will accompany us into a new era of prosperity," he said.

Sanming touted as model for cutting healthcare costs

Tom Hancock & Wang Xueqiao,
FT, Sanming

A Chinese city has taken on pharmaceutical companies and local doctors in the battle against healthcare cost inflation — and is now being touted as a nationwide model.

Health spending in China tripled in the decade to 2014, outpacing income growth, as an ageing population became more susceptible to chronic diseases and hospitals have made up for shortfalls in public funding by selling branded drugs at steep mark-ups.

As state-funded healthcare insurance is limited, patients pay more than a third of medical costs from their own money. China's average life expectancy rose by three years to 76 over the same period.

Sanming, a city of about 2.5 million people in eastern China's Fujian province, has shown one way out of the conundrum — switching from premium drugs made by multinationals to cheaper local generics and cracking down on physicians taking kickbacks from distributors.

After winning praise from China's top health official and the World Bank, many of Sanming's policies are being enacted nationally. Most provinces have banned hospital mark-ups and secured aggressive price cuts from multinationals, hitting growth for those companies.

A dozen provinces are testing tough policies to curtail drug distributors. "The health ministry is trying to promote [Sanming's reforms] nationwide," says Jin Yi, an analyst at consultancy Roland Berger.



The demographic challenges that are now afflicting China hit Sanming early. The city's reputation for inaccessibility meant it was designated an industrial base under Mao Zedong, but as the Chinese economy opened from the 1980s, industry migrated to coastal areas and many of the city's young people followed.

Sanming's ratio of workers to dependants — children, retirees and the unemployed — was half the national average by 2011. The municipal health insurance scheme's USD30 million deficit that year was equivalent to about a quarter of the city's revenues.

In an attempt to tackle the problem, local bureaucrat Zhan Jifu combined the offices for hospital management, drug procurement and health insurance into a single agency, wresting control of hospitals by linking bosses' salaries to how much they cut costs. He stopped big mark-ups on

drugs and cut down on middlemen profiting from the system.

Ignoring instructions that provinces set drug prices, Mr Zhan began direct negotiations with drug companies, while the government insurance fund was ordered to set reimbursement rates by the price of generics. Prices plummeted. For example, the cost of exemestane, a drug used to treat breast cancer, fell from USD108 to \$22 per box between 2012-2014.

Sanming officials say the reforms have held medical expenditure inflation below GDP growth, while the city's insurance scheme recorded a \$23m surplus as of September. Hospitals have raised fees for inpatient treatment, but out-of-pocket payments as a proportion of health spending in the city remain close to the national rate.

Mr Zhan was promoted to Fujian's top provincial health official in 2016.

It was not all plain sailing. Sanming suffered from medicine shortages after some drug-makers gave up on sales there. Many doctors left because of the crackdown on bribery, according to a 2014 finance ministry report.

The reforms also alienated large pharmaceutical companies. "Multinationals are not so pleased... because of the very aggressive price cuts," says Xuan Cui, head of the pharma working group of the European Chamber of Commerce in China.

Mistrust of local generic drugs began to spread, leading pharmacies to begin selling pricey drugs to patients who can no longer obtain them at hospitals, according to Lin Xiaoqing, a physician from Fuzhou, a city in Fujian province that followed Sanming's model.

"Sometimes I'll ask a patient: 'This drug is so cheap, do you really dare take it? If not you can

go to a pharmacy elsewhere. A bottle of amino acid here sells for less than mineral water — would you dare use it?" says Mr Lin.

While drug prices have fallen in Sanming, "high-quality drugs are no longer supplied so a lot of drug representatives have changed professions and opened pharmacies," said a former drug company representative who gave his name only as Zhou.

Some Sanming residents praise the success in reducing costs, but most say the drive has reduced state burdens at the expense of quality care.

Local shopkeeper Lucy Chen, 47, complains about increased service fees. "It costs Rmb48 to make an appointment, and only Rmb18 is covered by insurance," she says. "The more they reform, the more expensive it gets."

Treatment in Sanming "is cheap but not effective", says Amanda Li, who was leaving a hospital with her mother, who had reached a two-week limit on inpatient treatment. A government banner reading "earnestly lighten the burden of medical care on patients" fluttered behind her.

Yu Xiuqin, a city healthcare official, insists drug quality issues are unrelated to the city's drug price negotiation process. Beijing, meanwhile, is rolling out a testing system from the end of this year that it says will ensure inferior-quality generics are taken off the market.

But the pushback from locals points to potential pitfalls in expanding the reforms to wealthier cities in China, says Alex Jingwei He, a healthcare expert at the Education University of Hong Kong. "The middle class and upper classes wouldn't really want to compromise the quality of their care," he says. "There is no one-size-fits-all model for the entire country." **MDT/FT Exclusive**

ECONOMY

HSBC annual profit rises as Asian growth drives earnings

HSBC said yesterday that profits rose on strong earnings from Asia, in the latest sign that the London-based global bank's restructuring to focus even more on the region is paying off.

The bank said pretax profit, after adjusting for one-off items and currency fluctuations, increased 11 percent to USD21 billion in 2017, as adjusted revenue climbed 5 percent to \$51.5 billion.

Net income more than quadrupled to \$10.8 billion.

"Asia again contributed a substantial proportion of the group's profits," the company's chairman, Mark Tucker, said in a statement.

The bank is Europe's biggest but Asia accounted for nearly nine-tenths of total profits last year, when HSBC completed a sweeping multiyear corporate revamp to raise profitability.

The overhaul included laying off thousands of workers, bringing in new leadership and selling off its businesses around the

globe to focus on emerging markets in Asia.

HSBC is focusing in particular on Hong Kong and the affluent Pearl River Delta region in neighboring mainland China.

Tucker, an outsider who took over as chairman in October, said the bank forecast "reasonable growth" for the world's major economies in 2018, aided by low unemployment, recovering consumer confidence and improving trade.

"Fears of a hard [economic] landing in China have receded, and markets

across Asia look set for a strong year," Tucker said. He added that the expected signing of regional trade agreements in 2018, mostly involving Asian nations, "also provides cause for optimism" while the Belt and Road Initiative, China's massive infrastructure program, provided new business opportunities.

But rising international tensions and the threat of protectionism are among the risks that "have the potential to disrupt economic activity," he said.



A new chief executive, company veteran John Flint, is set to take over today from Stuart Gulliver, who is retiring after seven years at the helm. In December, HSBC passed a key milestone when a five-year deferred prosecution agreement

with the U.S. Department of Justice expired. It was an important step for the bank, allowing it to avoid charges for a money laundering scandal involving Mexican drug barons and countries facing U.S. sanctions. **AP**



Uber CEO's Asia trip underscores its persistent global ambitions

Yuji Nakamura

UBER Technologies Inc. isn't ready to give up the world.

Dara Khosrowshahi, in his first trip to Asia since becoming chief executive officer, made it clear that the ride-hailing company isn't about to scale back its business to just countries where it already has a strong market position. During his first stop in Japan, he said he's willing to forge partnerships with taxi companies in order to succeed, even though Uber has less 1 percent market share and only offers limited services there.

"I saw Japan as an incredible opportunity, and when I asked the team why wasn't our Japan

business larger, I started learning the history of our approach to Japan, and it was an approach that frankly didn't work," Khosrowshahi said in Tokyo. "It's clear to me that we need to come in with partnership in mind, and in particular a partnership with the taxi industry here."

It's the clearest sign yet that ride-hailing giant will redouble efforts to take a piece of Japan's USD16 billion taxi market, even amid signs of pressure from its biggest shareholder, SoftBank Group Corp., to focus on core markets. Amid heavy operating losses, Uber has retreated from some markets, including China and Russia. It's also said to be considering a sale of its Southeast Asian business. After Japan, Khosrowshahi is

scheduled to visit India, where Uber is competing against local ride-hailing startup Ola.

Last month, Rajeev Misra, a SoftBank executive joining Uber's board, suggested in an interview with the Financial Times that Uber focus on core markets such as the U.S., Europe, Latin America and Australia. Khosrowshahi pushed back against that notion in an interview he gave at Davos, saying the company would be "leaning forward" to expand. Moreover, Uber is aiming to hold an initial public offering as soon as next year, making it even more important for the CEO to highlight potential areas of future growth.

While Khosrowshahi didn't announce any specific deals during

his visit to Japan, he made clear that Uber would make a renewed push to expand in the country. Although Uber has clashed with taxi rivals and regulators around the world, it has played by the rules in the archipelago, relegating its business to car hires and a ride-sharing program for the elderly in a small rural town.

Uber still faces an uphill battle in Japan. Local rivals such as Nihon Kotsu Co., Tokyo's largest cab company, have already released popular taxi-hailing apps. Uber's Chinese rival Didi Chuxing last year began partnership talks with taxi operator Daiichi Koutsu Sangyo Co., with the discussions facilitated by SoftBank, a person familiar with the matter told Bloomberg in October. Uber is

also said to be in talks for a venture with Daiichi Koutsu.

And yesterday, just an hour before Khosrowshahi spoke, Sony Corp. unveiled an alliance with six taxi operators in Japan, which have a combined fleet of more than 10,000 cabs in the greater Tokyo area. Sony is aiming to develop a ride-hailing app powered by artificial intelligence and also provide payment services.

Read about the "Taxi Prince" fighting Uber in Japan

Uber's CEO said Japan's taxi utilization rate is 30 percent, while Uber's is more than 50 percent. By combining Uber's brand, technology, along with demand from tourists and partnerships with the taxi industry, he said the result would be a "win-win" for Uber and the taxi industry.

Khosrowshahi's enthusiasm echoes comments from Uber's Asia head Brooks Entwistle, who told Bloomberg this year that Japan will be a major focus for the company in 2018. That's a turnaround from previous boss Travis Kalanick who largely left the country in the hands of a local manager.

Asked about SoftBank, which in January became Uber's biggest investor, Khosrowshahi said the Japanese telecoms and investment company is "simply the smartest money in the transportation space."

"They have invested in many other ride-hailing and ride-sharing companies around the world, which has allowed them to be incredibly smart about what it takes to succeed," he said. "We're very early in our relationship, but we're already having very good dialog, both about the Japanese market and the ecosystem that SoftBank has created."

Khosrowshahi said he wasn't bothered by SoftBank's announcement this month that it's partnering with Didi to target ride-hailing in Japan. "If you're going to do business with SoftBank, you have to get used to the way that they do business with your competition," he said. "And that's OK." **Bloomberg**

QIAN Yongqiang, who made his fortune in Chinese education and tech startups, is starting a USD100 million hedge fund with his own money.

Singapore-based QQ Capital Fund will start trading in April, Head of Operations Ye Yichen said in an interview. The long-short fund will trade education, tourism and technology stocks and is targeting an annual return of 15 percent, according to a presentation obtained by Bloomberg. The firm will use fundamental research and have a concentrated portfolio of bets on up to 30 stocks listed in Hong Kong and the U.S.

QIAN YONGQIANG

Entrepreneur starts USD100 million hedge fund with own money

Qian has seeded the fund with \$100 million of his own shares. Among his long positions are Elon Musk's Tesla Inc., according to the presentation. The shares were bought in February 2016 at an average price of \$160 and have since more than doubled.

A short bet on U.S. airline United Continental Holdings Inc. has also paid off, with the shares declining about 12 per-

cent since the fund initiated the position in May.

Qian co-founded Chinese tutoring company New Oriental Education & Technology Group Inc. at the age of 21 in 1993, according to the presentation. The firm, which started with 20 students, listed on the New York Stock Exchange in 2006, and now boasts a market capitalization of \$14.7 billion.

In 2004, he started mo-

bile phone company Atop Century, which was acquired two years later by U.K. mobile content company Monsternob Group Plc for \$100 million. In 2005, he invested about 2 million yuan (\$316,000) in Chinese online-dating company Jiayuan.com International Ltd., which was listed in the U.S. in 2011 and taken private in May 2016 at a valuation of \$210 million, according to the presentation. **Bloomberg**



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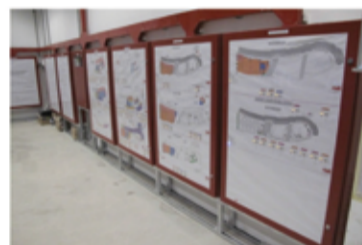
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UNICEF says Pakistan is riskiest country for newborns

Kathy Gannon, Islamabad

THE U.N. children's agency in a report released yesterday singled out Pakistan as the riskiest country for newborns, saying that out of every 1,000 children born in Pakistan, 46 die at birth.

"It's abysmal," said Dr. Ghazna Khalid, a leading obstetrician in Pakistan's northwestern Khyber Pukhtunkhwa Province. "We don't need front-line medical doctors. We have plenty of them. We need skilled midwives."

The report, with its dismal figures that show South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa as the worst places for a child to be born, is part of UNICEF's new campaign, launched to raise awareness to bring down neonatal mortality rates.

Henrietta H. Fore, UNICEF's executive director, said after the report's release that though the world has "more than halved the number of deaths among children under the age of five in the last quarter century, we have not made similar progress in ending deaths among children less than one month old."

"Given that the majority of these deaths are preventable, clearly, we are failing the world's poorest babies," she said.

UNICEF's report said that after

AP PHOTO



Pakistan, the Central African Republic is the next riskiest country for newborns, and Afghanistan is the third.

"Babies born in Japan, Iceland and Singapore have the best chance at survival, while newborns in Pakistan, the Central African Republic and Afghanistan face the worst odds," it

said, noting that "more than 80 percent of all newborn deaths are caused by three preventable and treatable conditions."

The three are premature births, complications such as lack of oxygen at birth and neonatal infections, including sepsis and pneumonia.

UNICEF says as many as 3

million children could be saved each year with an investment in quality care at delivery.

In Pakistan, Dr. Khalid said 80 percent of newborn deaths could be prevented with skilled birth attendants.

"I feel that no matter what tools we send, or how much money you spend, unless you improve

the quality and the skill of midwives," babies in Pakistan will continue to die, she said.

"We have midwives in government hospitals who cannot deliver a baby," she added. "We don't need more doctors we need more skilled midwives."

UNICEF also appealed on properly training midwives and allowing better "access to well-trained midwives, along with proven solutions like clean water, disinfectants, breastfeeding within the first hour, skin-to-skin contact and good nutrition."

UNICEF said that after Pakistan, the Central African Rep is the next riskiest country for newborns; Afghanistan's the third

Khalid, who has conducted extensive research into mother and child health and has written international papers on the subject, said that lack of funding, corruption and misplaced government priorities all contribute to insufficient investments in the training of midwives.

"Every year, 2.6 million newborns around the world do not survive their first month of life," said Fore. "One million of them die the day they are born." AP

A Thai court yesterday granted legal custody of 13 babies carried by surrogate mothers to a Japanese millionaire who is their biological father, reviving a bizarre tale that captured tabloid headlines four years ago.

Mitsutoki Shigeta's case raised eyebrows in 2014 when police raided a Bangkok condominium and found nine babies and nine nannies living in unfurnished rooms. It was determined that Shigeta had fathered the children using Thai surrogate mothers. The case helped usher in a Thai law prohibiting commercial surrogacy for foreign clients.

Yesterday, Bangkok's Central Juvenile and Family Court gave Shigeta sole legal custody of the children, saying he had showed plans to care for the children and is financially stable. It also noted that the children were born before the new law, and that the surrogate mothers had signed docu-

THAILAND

Court gives Japanese man custody of 13 surrogate kids

ments waiving their custody rights.

Shigeta is the son of an owner of a listed Japanese company and earns over 100 million baht (USD3.18 million) in annual dividends, according to the court. It said Shigeta had opened bank accounts in Singapore for all 13 children.

The court said that DNA evidence confirmed Shigeta is the children's father, and that he plans to send the kids to an international school and has bought a piece of land to house them next to a large park in central Tokyo, where they will be looked after by a sufficient number of nurses and nannies.

Reports in Thai media in 2014 said he had fathered 16 children in Thailand,

but the court's decision mentioned only 13.

According to the court, Shigeta has taken care of other minors, born from surrogacy, and raised them in Japan and Cambodia, where they were well looked after. The children that he cared for in Japan now all have Japanese citizenship, it said.

It is unclear where the children born in Cambodia are now. Cambodia inherited much of the surrogacy for hire business for foreigners after Thailand banned it, but later passed its own law against it.

The court said Shigeta did not show behavior linking him to human trafficking, which had been a concern when his story was originally revealed. AP

AP PHOTO



AP PHOTO

INDONESIA

Volcanic blast reshaped summit of Mount Sinabung



THE eruption of Indonesia's Mount Sinabung that shot ash 5 kilometers high also "annihilated" the mountain's summit.

Before and after images from Indonesia's Center for Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation show an enormous chunk missing from the peak.

Volcanologist Devy Kamil Syahbana said the chunk, known as the "lava dome," had a volume of at least 1.6 million cubic meters.

The volcano in North Sumatra, which has been active since 2010, erupted explosively on Monday morning.

Hot ash clouds rolled down

its slopes, traveling as far as 4.9 kilometers from the crater.

No-one was injured. Video showed screaming children fleeing a school outside the exclusion zone that surrounds the volcano as a billowing column of ash rose in the background.

INDIA

Donald Trump Jr. arrives in Delhi to help sell apartments

THE eldest son of President Donald Trump has arrived in India to help sell luxury apartments and lavish attention on wealthy Indians who have already bought units in Trump-branded developments.

Donald Trump Jr. posed for photos yesterday morning with Indian developers, who are building the complexes in four cities.

Later in the week, he is scheduled to make a speech about Indo-Pacific relations at a New Delhi business summit, sharing the stage with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Trump Organization has licensing agreements with all its Indian business partners, who build the properties and acquire the Trump name in exchange for a fee. The organization has five projects in India, making it the brand's largest market



Donald Trump Jr arrives at New Delhi airport

outside the United States. A luxury complex is already open in the central city of Pune, with other developments in varying stages of construction in the coastal cities of Mumbai and Kolkata, and two in a chrome-and-glass New Delhi suburb, Gurgaon. The apartments are expensive — though not outrageously so in the overheated real estate world of India's wealthy elite. An apartment in the Trump Towers complex in Gurgaon runs between USD775,000 and \$1.5 million.

A barrage of glossy full-page ads in Indian

newspapers promise that buyers who order apartments in that development by Thursday will get "a conversation and dinner" with Trump Jr. one day later.

President Trump has pledged to avoid any new foreign business deals during his term in office to avoid potential ethical conflicts. While the projects that Trump Jr. is promoting in India were inked before his father was elected, ethics experts have long seen the use of the Trump name to promote even existing business ventures as tricky territory. **AP**

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Zeina Karam
& Bassem Mroue, Beirut

MIDDLE EAST

Turkey warns as Syrian government poised to enter Afrin

TURKEY warned the Syrian government yesterday [Macau time] against entering the Kurdish-controlled enclave in northern Syria where a major Turkish military offensive is underway, saying it would hit back at the troops if their goal is to protect the Kurdish fighters.

The warning sets up a potential clash between Turkish troops and Syrian government forces backed by Russia and Iran, whose deployment would be a first step toward restoring President Bashar Assad's presence along the border with Turkey.

The warning by the Turkish foreign minister came shortly after Syrian state media said pro-government forces would enter Afrin "within hours" to "bolster" local forces in confronting Turkey's "aggression" after reaching an agreement with the Kurdish militia known as the People's Protection Units, or YPG, which controls Afrin.

Details of the deal were not announced by either side, and Kurdish officials said talks were still underway. By nightfall, no troops had entered Afrin.

Assad's troops have had no presence in Afrin since they pulled out of most of northern Syria in 2012, as nation-wide protests against Assad transformed into a civil war. A return to the area, where a potent mix of regional and international powers have boots on the ground, could further complicate the situation and lead to unwanted confrontations.

But depending on the details of the agreement, it may also serve to defuse the situation in Afrin, where Turkey has been struggling to achieve results in its now monthlong offensive to push back YPG fighters from its borders.

Ankara considers the YPG a "terrorist group" linked to the Kurdish insurgency within Turkey's borders. On Jan. 20, it launched a major air and ground offensive, pounding the enclave with airstrikes and artillery on a daily basis.

Turkey's foreign minister, speaking at a news conference in Amman, Jordan, said Turkey would have no problem if Syrian government forces were entering Afrin to clear the area from YPG fighters, but that it would strike back if it turns out the deployment was meant to shore up the Kurds against Turkey.

"If the regime is entering to protect the YPG, then no one can stop us, stop Turkey or the Turkish soldiers," Mevlut Cavusoglu said.

Turkey's Deputy Prime Minister Bekir Bozdogan later de-

AP PHOTO



Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu

nied the Syrian state media reports, saying they were "false" and had "not been confirmed by authorities." He added, however, that any move to protect the Kurdish fighters would be a "disaster" for the region.

■ **The warning by the Turkish minister came shortly after Syrian state media said pro-gov't forces would enter Afrin 'within hours'**

Turkey has supported rebels fighting to overthrow Assad throughout the seven-year civil war, but in recent years has focused more on trying to contain the Kurds. Government troops deployed along its borders, at this point, may be more palatable for Ankara than the continued presence of the powerful YPG.

The group has received weapons and training from the U.S. for years and has been

Washington's main partner in the war against the Islamic State group in Syria.

It was not clear who, exactly, would enter Afrin. Syria's state-run news agency, SANA, said pro-government fighters known as "popular forces" would deploy to the area.

"The popular forces joining the resistance against Turkish occupation in Afrin comes in the framework of supporting residents as well as defending Syria and its sovereignty," SANA said. It added that the deployment aims to "frustrate attempts by Erdogan's regime and its mercenaries of terrorist organizations to occupy the area," referring to Turkish-backed Syrian insurgents.

A Syrian Kurdish official told The Associated Press that the Syrian forces will enter Afrin from the Shiite villages of Nubul and Zahraa in Aleppo province.

"The army will deploy in several border areas in coordination with the People's Protection Units and the Syrian Democratic Forces," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to reveal details of the agreement.

"The army will set up military positions in the border area and the agreement is that

the Syrian army and the YPG will defend Syria together," the official said.

The Syrian Democratic Forces are a U.S.-allied group led by the YPG that has won a series of major victories against the Islamic State group in Syria.

The Syrian government and Kurdish fighters have clashed on occasion, and Assad technically opposes the Kurds' demands for autonomy. But they have also indirectly worked together in the past, and Turkey represents a common enemy.

Turkish officials said Presi-

dent Recep Tayyip Erdogan held a telephone conversation with his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, during which the two discussed Turkey's military offensive in Afrin. The Turkish officials detailed the call on condition of anonymity in line with government regulations, and did not mention an agreement for government troops to enter Afrin.

Turkish troops and allied Syrian opposition fighters meanwhile continued to pound villages in the enclave with artillery, according to the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights and Syria's state media.

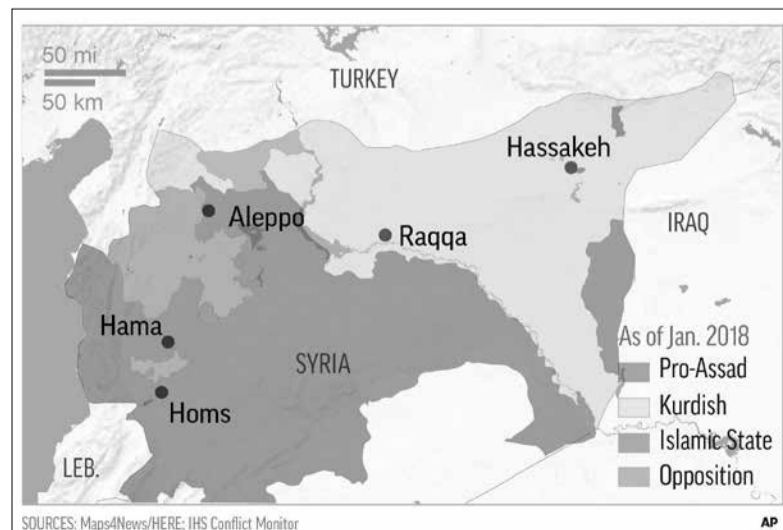
The Observatory said the shelling by Turkish troops killed three people, including a child, and that others were wounded.

Elsewhere in Syria, government shelling of the rebel-held eastern suburbs of Damascus killed at least 30 people, according to opposition activists and paramedics.

The besieged region known as eastern Ghouta has been subjected to weeklong bombardment that has killed and wounded hundreds of people. Opposition activists say government forces have brought in reinforcements in preparation for a wide offensive on the last main rebel stronghold near the capital.

The Observatory said Monday's airstrikes and shelling killed 44 people. The Syrian Civil Defense, volunteer first responders known as the White Helmets, said 30 people were killed in eastern Ghouta.

Syrian state TV reported that rebels, in return, fired dozens of mortar rounds and rockets at Damascus, wounding eight people. **AP**



Syrian state media said pro-government forces will begin entering the Kurdish-controlled enclave of Afrin

what's ON



THE MEMORABLE TIME – THE TRADITIONAL HANDICRAFT INDUSTRIES OF MACAU
TIME: 10am-6pm (closed on Mondays; open on public holidays)
UNTIL: February 25, 2108
VENUE: Macau Museum
ADMISSION: MOP15
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911

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

THINK BRICK – PLAY AND LEARN WITH LEGO® EDUCATION
TIME: 10am-6pm (closed on Thursdays; open on public holidays)
UNTIL: February 25, 2018
VENUE: Macao Science Center
ADMISSION: MOP25
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0822

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

11TH MACAU DESIGN BIENNIAL (HGM)
TIME: 10am-7pm, last admission at 6:30pm (closed on Mondays, open on public holidays)
UNTIL: March 31, 2018
VENUE: Macau Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, NAPE
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

THE DINOSAUR HUNT
TIME: Round the clock (“Dino Escape” green-screen experience only available from 12pm-8pm)
UNTIL: April 15, 2018
VENUE: Studio City Macau
ADMISSION: Free

Offbeat

GERMAN POLICE RESCUE MEN TANGLED UP WITH MANNEQUIN, TOY CAR

Police in western Germany have freed two men who became entangled with a mannequin and a large, remote controlled car.

Officers were called after cries were heard from an apartment in the city of Mainz in the early hours of Saturday.

Police found the 58-year-old tenant and a 61-year-old visitor “hopelessly locked together” with the toy car and the mannequin — which was dressed in a knight’s costume.

Officers were able to free the men, who were too drunk to explain how their unfortunate predicament had come about.

According to a police statement, “the whole thing would have remained a funny episode” but the younger man was “more than impolite” and now faces a charge of insulting officers.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Miscellaneous
16:30	Zig Zag
17:35	Miscellaneous
18:25	Brazilian Soap Opera (Repeated)
19:15	TDM Interview (Repeated)
19:50	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Miscellaneous
21:55	Miscellaneous
22:10	Brazilian Soap Opera
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Champions League Highlights
23:50	Miscellaneous
00:40	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:15	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



1972 NIXON MAKES HISTORIC VISIT TO CHINA

The American President Richard Nixon has arrived in China at the start of a week-long summit aimed at ending 20 years of frosty relations between the two countries.

His visit began with an unexpected audience with Chairman Mao Zedong at the leader's home. Few details have been released, but officials said the one-hour meeting involved a “serious and frank discussion”.

After a modest reception at Peking airport, the president was formally welcomed at a lavish banquet held in the Great Hall of the People and hosted by Prime Minister Chou En-lai.

Mr Chou described Mr Nixon's long journey to China as a “positive move” responding to the wishes of the peoples of both countries.

He hinted at the years of tension between China and the United States - largely due to American support for nationalists in Taiwan - and credited both governments for “common efforts” to open the gate to better contacts at last.

The president responded positively. “There is no reason for us to be enemies,” he said. “Neither of us seeks the territory of the other; neither of us seeks domination over the other; neither of us seeks to stretch out our hands and rule the world.”

Using one of Mao's own quotations, Mr Nixon said it was time to seize the day and seize the hour “for our two peoples to rise to the heights of greatness which can build a new and better world”.

There followed an elaborate round of toasts, in which the 800 guests at the banquet wandered from table to table clinking thimble-sized glasses containing Chinese firewater.

Commentators said the elaborate banquet was in marked contrast to the coolness of the president's reception at the airport.

This historic visit was engineered by the president's national security adviser, Dr Henry Kissinger, during two visits to China last year. It is part of a policy of rapprochement aimed at restoring diplomatic relations between the two sides.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The BBC carried extended news bulletins of President Nixon's ground-breaking visit to China - which included a walk along the Great Wall.

The Chinese people eagerly followed news of the visit and newspapers rapidly sold out.

The main diplomatic achievement of the visit was the Shanghai joint communiqué which declared Taiwan to be part of China.

Formal diplomatic relations were restored between the US and China in 1979 following a second communiqué which suggested a further weakening of US ties with Taiwan.

However, in the years since, Taiwan has remained a sticking point in relations. Different US administrations have chosen to maintain links with Taiwan by selling arms. President Bill Clinton attempted to persuade China to improve its human rights record by offering better trading conditions.

In February 2002, President George Bush visited China to mark the 30th anniversary of Nixon's historic trip. The two countries continue to disagree over Taiwan.

YOUR STARS

Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Now and then, you need to purge - to start all over again, like a rebirth. This is the perfect time to do just that. Your main goal might be to work on your mind, your body or your soul.

Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

You're a brainy, intellectual person, full of big ideas, big questions, and big plans. For now, you're thinking seriously about starting something all over again in your home or family life.

Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

You've been somewhat restless recently - and when you get this way, you need to find ways to liven things up fast. Rather than firing up some new drama, it occurs to you that a change of venue could also get the job done.

Libra

Sep.23-Oct. 22

You haven't been able to sleep all that well for a few days now, mostly because someone close is getting in trouble for their independence. You haven't quite figured out how to handle things, so you're somewhat upset.

Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

You're a natural authority figure - at least as far as you're concerned. That's usually good for you, and your instincts are usually right on - but for now, listening to outside advice could be a good idea.

Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

You're famous for your objectivity - you've even been accused of being too rational, weird as it sounds. While that may be the case sometimes, right now you're dealing with a highly charged situation.

Taurus

April 20-May 20

You're well-known for being self-sufficient, so when someone close comes to you with unsolicited advice, you probably feel torn between hearing them out and just listening to your own inner voice.

Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

You're an incredibly emotional creature - that's your major claim to fame. For now, you're feeling even more so than usual, yet you're also being asked to handle things using your brain, not your heart.

Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Even if things seem to be proceeding just superbly, you can't help but worry about the other shoe dropping soon. Your pessimism isn't doing you any favors, so let go of it for now.

Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

You're willing to do whatever it takes to help someone close, and that quality is the stuff that legends are made of (with your people, anyway). You may have found, though, that quality lacking in others.

Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Don't stop yourself - being surrounded by things that once belonged to someone who used to be close, or keeping reminders of your past just holds you back emotionally. Now is a good time for a new start.

Pisces

Feb.19-Mar. 20

If anyone respects the wisdom of experience, you do. You know just how much time and emotional energy is invested in living and working for so long, and you try to listen and learn, no matter the topic.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

6			2		1			
8	2		3	6				
	5	7	8					
1	9	5						
	2	3			1	6		
				3	9		7	
			2	4		8		
		5		9	7		4	
4		3				9		

Easy+

3				6	5		8	
6	7						9	
		2	9	4				
		4	1					
8	2						1	7
					5	2		
				8	2	9		
	8						3	6
7	6	4					5	

Medium

2			4				8	
		5	2					4
			8			1	2	
	7	3			9			6
	1			6			8	
6			1			3	5	
	3	7			8			
4					2	5		
1				7				3

Hard

		3	1					
2							4	
		7						
	3	1			9			
						6		
							2	
	6					8		1
7			2	4				
				5				

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
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CHINA

Beijing	-5	8	clear
Harbin	-20	-5	clear
Tianjin	-2	8	clear/cloudy
Urumqi	-13	-5	clear
Xi'an	2	9	drizzle/cloudy
Lhasa	-5	13	clear/cloudy
Chengdu	7	11	drizzle
Chongqing	10	13	overcast/drizzle
Kunming	5	22	cloudy
Nanjing	3	7	drizzle/overcast
Shanghai	5	8	drizzle/cloudy
Wuhan	3	8	overcast/drizzle
Hangzhou	4	8	moderate rain/drizzle
Taipei	16	20	overcast/drizzle
Guangzhou	16	21	overcast/drizzle
Hong Kong	18	21	cloudy

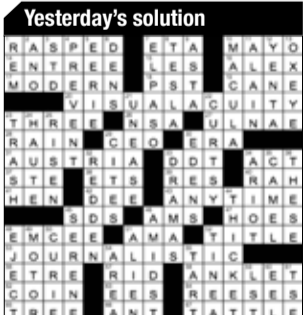
WORLD

Moscow	-12	-6	flurry
Frankfurt	-4	-1	flurry
Paris	1	3	drizzle
London	3	5	cloudy/drizzle
New York	8	19	drizzle/cloudy

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Hair goops; 5- Mix dough; 10- Tailor's line; 14- Single entity; 15- Lovers' lane?; 16- Util. bill; 17- ___-Seltzer; 18- "Ghosts" playwright; 19- Marsh bird; 20- Norma ___; 21- An organization; 23- Cheek depression; 25- Cabbagelike plant; 26- Medical; 29- Liquid container; 33- ___ Park, NJ; 35- Not for kids; 37- Possesses; 38- Ye ___ Shoppe; 39- See eye to eye; 40- Evict; 41- Bee follower; 42- Salivate; 43- Sea eagles; 44- Marsh plants; 46- Thawed; 48- Spool; 50- In and of ___; 53- Make external; 58- Capek play; 59- What ___ mind reader?; 60- Appliance brand; 61- Man, in Milan; 62- Moving vehicles; 63- Stopwatch-holder; 64- Egyptian canal; 65- Latin being; 66- Relaxed; 67- Ferrara family;

DOWN: 1- Watch over; 2- China's Zhou ___; 3- Having a similar opinion; 4- RR stop; 5- German emperor; 6- Pen points; 7- Old gas brand; 8- Smart guy; 9- Liable to be contradicted; 10- Sonnet part; 11- "The Time Machine" people; 12- Dynamic opening?; 13- Thom of footwear; 21- Chorus member; 22- Tremendously; 24- Lacking color; 27- Shakespearean villain; 28- PC storage medium; 30- Producing thunder; 31- Use a surgical beam; 32- Ballpark figs.; 33- Soft shoes; 34- Gen. Robt. ___; 36- River to the Ubangi; 39- Certain salt; 40- Mine finds; 42- Woodland animal; 43- Suffix with cigar; 45- Lubricant; 47- Reptile; 49- Female demon; 51- "Network" director; 52- Became ice; 53- Icicle site; 54- Dec. holiday; 55- Sardine containers; 56- Hightails it; 57- Arrow poison; 61- Application;



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PSP 28 573 333	Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944	
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731	
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AP PHOTO



WINTER OLYMPICS

American triumph and disappointment in ice dance

Barry Wilner, Gangneung

ECSTASY, heartbreak and a crash.

Kind of sums up the American ice dance experience at the Winter Olympics.

The Shib Sibs — Maia and older brother Alex Shibutani — added a bronze medal in the event to their team bronze early in the Pyeongchang Games.

U.S. champions Madison Hubbell and Zach Donohue made two key errors in their free dance and slid from third to fifth place.

Madison Chock and Evan Bates had an even bigger slip-up: the rare ice dance fall.

Still, a third, fifth and 12th with a major mistake should not be underplayed.

"It's great for us and it's great for Team USA," Maia Shibutani said after they moved up from fourth place and held off a Russian couple to give the United States a podium spot for the fourth straight games: a gold, two silvers and a bronze.

"It feels like gold," Alex Shibutani added. "It's unbelievable."

"It's such an honor to represent your country in the Olympics, and our sport is such a strong event, as you saw from the marks," he said, noting that the top two duos — gold medalists Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir of

Canada, silver winners Gabriella Papadakis and Guillaume Cizeron of France — set world records yesterday. "It's amazing to have that Olympic moment we dreamed of."

The Shibutanis also believe their performance could lead to more siblings and more Asian-Americans in ice dance. Alex noted how rare each combination is.

"We had no path to follow," he said. "There was no blueprint for us. [Coach] Marina Zueva had no experience with siblings or Asian-American ice dancers and we had to discover by ourselves our own path."

That path led them from ninth

place at the Sochi Games to two U.S. championships. They also have three world championships medals. And now, an Olympic jewel.

"It's really been a leap of faith we had to take," Maia Shibutani said. "We really have discovered we need to be ourselves."

Added Alex: "We found we needed to not play characters but to be Maia and Alex."

He is 26, she is 23, and they didn't want to look ahead to another Olympic go-round. But Hubbell and Donohue made it clear they aren't through; he is 27 and she soon will be.

Hubbell's eyes were wet when she spoke about the rough go in

the free dance. They had been perennial third-place finishers in America before making a huge leap this season, winning their first national title. They believed the Pyeongchang Games would be their special moment.

Then they made two errors in the free dance, one early and then a late stumble by Donohue.

"At this moment, we are disappointed and frustrated," Hubbell said, "because this was not close to our best. At this level, you cannot afford to make mistakes against this type of competition."

"But we will build off this and not allow this to be our legacy."

Donohue admitted he wasn't as mentally sharp as he needed to be in such a pressure-cooker atmosphere. He looked back at last year's worlds, when they hoped to compete for a medal and wound up ninth.

"Every experience brings a piece of information we didn't have before," he said, noting the couple would pay extra attention to their mental approach as they prepare for next month's world championships in Milan.

Chock and Bates didn't want to look beyond yesterday. They were the only ice dancers to have a fall in the entire competition, and it came as they were preparing to do a combination spin. Their blades clicked just as he was bending down and she was beginning to spin.

Crash!

"It's impossible to do the spin with our feet attached," Bates said.

"We were too close together," Chock explained.

"It's a moment we wish we could have back," Bates added. "It's a mistake that has never happened in training before, ever. There's no explanation."

Chock and Bates also didn't want the fall to take away from the message they were trying to convey while skating to John Lennon's "Imagine."

"We hope we got the message of peace across," Chock said as she wiped her eyes. "We think the audience understood." **AP**

Symbol to hockey nation? Korea's challenge now what's next

THE Korean women's hockey team, thrown together in a historic combination of players from both North and South, will forever be a milestone that had ramifications beyond the Olympics.

Now only South Korea can decide if hockey truly takes root and the nation becomes a regular on the international stage — the women, sure, but also

the South Korean men's team, which also made a somewhat quieter Olympic debut.

Men's assistant coach Richard Park believes hockey is poised for growth in South Korea and around Asia, which will host the next Winter Olympics in Beijing in 2022.

"I don't know if you're at any particular stage where you can put a

term on it like 'the sleeping giant,'" Park said. "There's obviously an opportunity for growth. Hopefully the Olympics, we'll be able to use it as a springboard, or some sort of platform, and really accelerate the growth of the sport here."

South Korea built its men's and women's teams by tapping players with ties to the country

and the Justice Ministry was asked to fast-track the naturalization of imported players. Two hockey arenas and two practice rinks also were built to handle all the games and practices in Gangneung.

Putting the men's team together took four exhaustive years of work by Park and head coach Jim Paek among many, a steep climb in

AP PHOTO



a nation that in 2014 had little more than 100 registered male hockey players.

Building from here will mean more money and other resources and it

also means offering the sport at the youth level and establishing strong junior leagues. Having a place to play for a country's top players also is a priority.

Foster Klug & Kim Tong-Hyung,
Pyeongchang

THE equation was supposed to be simple. To build a world-class ski destination, simply add the Olympics and wait.

But even as South Korea basks in the glow of daily competition and global attention, hope is fading that Pyeongchang will do what was promised during its successful 2011 Olympics bid and turn an ignored, impoverished backwater into a premier Asian ski hub.

With the close of the games this weekend approaching, some worry that the Olympics will instead saddle the region with a legacy of massive debt and the perpetual maintenance of a handful of hugely expensive venues that no one knows what to do with.

When it came to landing the Winter Games, the things that had always isolated the area — heavy snows, long winters and sharp mountains that rise nearly half a mile above sea level — were a blessing. But when the visitors leave, many of the province's problems will remain.

It will still have a tiny, rapidly aging population that's second to last in the nation in average income and without any real industry after the collapse of the mining and coal sectors that many once relied on.

"There is a high possibility that the 2018 games will lead to long term financial strain, if not bankruptcy, on the local government," Joo Yu-min, a professor at the National University of Singapore, wrote in a book last year about South Korean mega-events. "The benefits for local residents are also questionable."

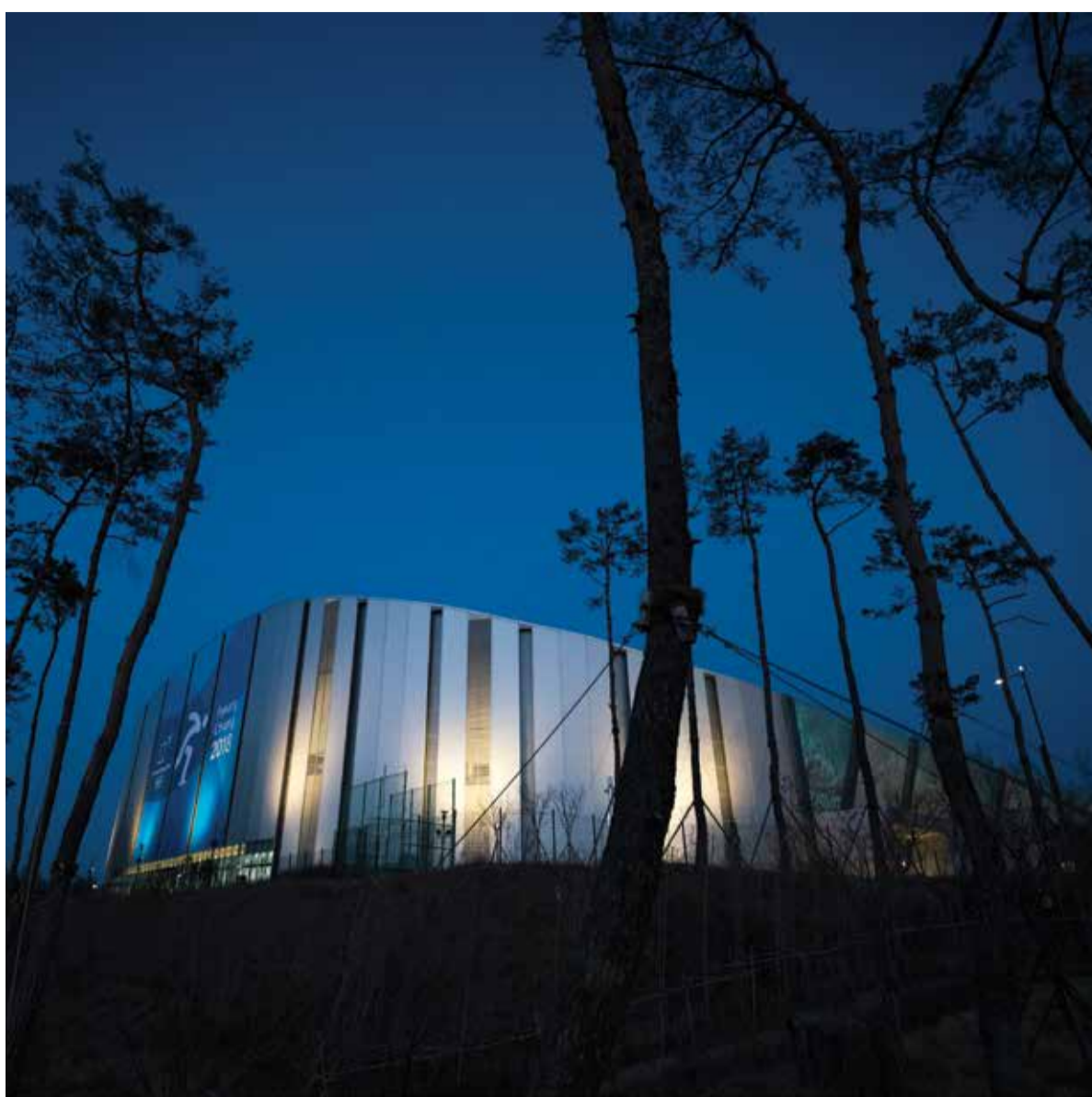
NOT LIKE SEOUL

Pyeongchang always hoped for the kind of transformation that happened in Seoul 30 years ago during its memorable Summer Olympics. But the nation's capital in 1988 was ripe for change in a way that Pyeongchang is not.

South Korea's population had exploded since the Korean War left the country in rubble in 1953, and the 1988 games allowed Seoul's infrastructure to finally catch up. Large public parks sprung up along the city's Han River. New highways, bridges and subway lines proliferated. Gleaming high-rise buildings rose from the bulldozed ruins of old commercial districts and slums.

The idea was for the country's first Winter Games to also boost development and mark the area as a world-class tourist destination.

AP PHOTO



WINTER OLYMPICS

Pyeongchang's legacy probably debt and anger

South Korea spent about 14 trillion won (USD12.9 billion) on the games, well above the 8 to 9 trillion won (\$7 to 8 billion) initially projected. Big, modern resorts now nestle among the mountains, and there are new roads, highways and trains. One whisks people from the Seoul area, the country's population hub and international gateway, to Pyeongchang in about an hour and a half.

Western sit-down toilets have replaced squat toilets, and traditional floor seating was swapped for chairs and tables in many restaurants. English-language menus and wheelchair accessibility were added. Beds replaced pallets in some motels. Many owners spent their own money along with modest amounts of government subsidies; there have been grumblings that there wasn't enough official support.

Of course, the same trains that speed people to the area in the morning can take them back again in the evenings, robbing locals of a big slice of the tourism money they were promised and leaving

the mammoth resorts empty. And a lot of the valuable land around the venues and resorts has reportedly been snapped up by well-connected family members of the country's powerful business monopolies.

How many New Yorkers will say, 'Hey, let's go to Pyeongchang and ski? 'Zero.'

Gangwon, the province that governs Pyeongchang and nearby Gangneung, a seaside city that hosts skating and hockey events, will be stuck with managing at least six state-of-the-art Olympic facilities after the Winter Games. The International Olympic Committee warned in August that the venues could become white elephants.

The scenic Jeongseon Alpine Center, built where a fo-

rest of rare trees once stood, was supposed to be demolished after the Olympics and restored to its natural state, which could cost more than \$90 million. But Gangwon officials are now trying to persuade the national government to let at least half the course be developed into a high-end leisure destination.

"I hope that the course stays," said Maeng Wonyeong, 65, one of dozens of area residents whose homes were moved to make way for the course. While it wasn't easy seeing his neighbors leave or a beautiful forest knocked down, Maeng said Jeongseon, a former mining town, desperately needs a tourism boost.

Gangwon has pushed, unsuccessfully so far, for the national government to pay to maintain new stadiums that will create an estimated 9.2 billion won (\$8.5 million) deficit each year. Gangwon official Kim Yong-chul said there could be "an outline of an agreement" with the national government on helping with maintenance costs by the end of the Paralympics.

"The national government," Kim said, "has the responsibility to step up."

WHAT ABOUT US?

In a country that has never had a strong winter sports culture, it seems unlikely that money from local visitors — let alone waves of rich foreigners — can offset the venues' high maintenance costs.

Some locals feel that the money could be better spent on social welfare.

Kim Jin-hee, a 49-year-old who runs a small coffee shop in Sabuk, another town in Jeongseon, can't find a special needs school, either in her town or in the surrounding area, for her 9-year-old son, who struggles to communicate because of a severe brain disability.

She finds it absurd that a province that can't provide the most basic services for its citizens has splurged this much on sports. "I really have a lot of complaints about that," Kim said.

Another problem with the push to put Pyeongchang on the map as a winter sports destination may come from within.

Beset by North Korean missile tests and threats and recent political and social crises and massive street protests that helped drive the former president from office, many don't see winter sports as that important.

"It's not a big national moment or a big marker of identity for South Korea," John Delury, a Korea specialist at Seoul's Yonsei University, says of these games. "The fact that no one is really excited about the Olympics is a sign of maturation."

Never mind dreams of a tourist boom, said Sangho Yoon, a senior researcher at Seoul's Korea Economic Research Institute. The province, he said, could be headed for 10 to 20 years of financial trouble once the games leave town.

"We will never be able to justify the spending," Yoon said. "The costs that Gangwon Province will shoulder will be greater than whatever bump it gets in tourism."

The region's only shot at becoming a true international destination for winter sports is to embrace niche markets, like travelers from Southeast Asia and the Middle East intrigued by skiing but lacking home venues, Yoon said.

Instead, he said, Pyeongchang officials seem focused on promoting the region to existing winter sports markets in North America and Europe.

"How many New Yorkers will say, 'Hey, let's go to Pyeongchang and ski?'" said Yoon. "Zero." **AP**

opinion

World Views
The Editors, Bloomberg

RUDDERLESS BRITAIN NEEDS A SECOND BREXIT REFERENDUM

Almost two years after the U.K. voted to quit the European Union, and barely more than a year before the actual exit is scheduled to happen, an all but leaderless Britain is fumbling its way to disaster. The country needs to find a way to change course. There should be a second referendum as soon as possible.

It was a huge error to call the first referendum, not least because the choice put before the country was so unclear. Nobody bothered to say what Brexit would actually mean. Acting on a mixture of no information and outright misinformation, a narrow majority of voters nonetheless chose to leave the EU. Nullifying that choice, misguided as it was, requires another popular vote - this time, informed by what's been learned.

After two years of thinking about it, Prime Minister Theresa May's government is still split over what it wants - and an upcoming series of speeches intended to lay out its vision is unlikely to help. Negotiating a tolerably successful Brexit might have been impossible in any case, but the protracted failure to set goals and develop a strategy for advancing them is making the worst possible Brexit ever more likely.

If Britain leaves the EU in March 2019 without even any transitional arrangements, its trade in goods and services - not just with the EU but with much of the rest of the world - will collapse into chaos.

Consider one small but especially sensitive part of the overall negotiation: the Irish dilemma. May has promised not to impose a hard border between Ireland, which will remain in the EU, and Northern Ireland, which is part of the U.K. What she hasn't said is how such a border, which could unsettle the peace the island has enjoyed for two decades, can be avoided. Last week, Foreign Minister Boris Johnson gave the first of those speeches intended to clarify Britain's position on life after Brexit - and failed to so much as mention Northern Ireland.

To be sure, it's unlikely that May could reverse herself, propose a second referendum, and survive as leader of the Conservative Party. With so much at stake, she should recognize that this is a minor consideration. The Labour opposition, itself divided over Brexit, has also said the first vote must stand. That position also has to change. Remember, Remain supporters in both parties constitute a comfortable majority in parliament - even as they insist that the previous referendum must be honored. On this surprisingly important issue, they need to come together across party lines and press for another vote.

Can it be taken for granted that a second referendum would in fact reverse the country's choice? Of course not. Opinion is wobbling but hasn't shifted decisively: The country remains split down the middle. But this is less surprising when you recall that so few of the country's politicians are calling on Britain to reconsider. Again, they should do their jobs - and stand up for what they believe to be their voters' best interests.

One more thing might be needed to make the difference: the involvement of the European Union. Up to now, it has emphasized the difficulties Britain is bringing upon itself and made it clear that Europe isn't going to help Brexit sting less. That's fine - but it ought now to join the debate in a more positive way, calling on Britain to change its mind. It should say, among other things, that if Britain acts promptly, the EU would make reversing the Brexit decision as straightforward as possible.

Extracting Britain from this mess of its own making won't be easy. A second referendum would certainly arouse furious protests, and quite possibly a political crisis, new elections, and all the dangers and uncertainties that go with that. Yet the alternative - the chaotic Brexit toward which a rudderless Britain is now heading - would be worse.

[Abridged]

THE BUZZ SPANISH POLICE DISMANTLE MATCH-FIXING SCHEME INVOLVING CHINESE BETTING SITES

Spanish police have dismantled a match-fixing scheme involving players and clubs in the country's lower divisions.

Authorities said more than 20 people have been detained as part of the police operation launched this week, including players, although no names were immediately disclosed.

The matches under suspicion were in the third and fourth divisions this season and last season.

The match-fixing scheme reportedly involved Chinese betting sites.

The Spanish league said the operation was based on information collected by its analysts about suspicious activities.

Picasso, Monet works up for auction in Rockefeller art trove

Jill Lawless, London

AN art collection amassed by billionaire David Rockefeller could raise more than USD500 million for charity when it is auctioned this spring.

Auctioneer Christie's is selling hundreds of artworks including major paintings by Claude Monet, Henri Matisse and Pablo Picasso, from the collection of the oil-family scion and his wife Peggy.

Rockefeller, grandson of Standard Oil founder John D. Rockefeller, died in March at the age of 101. His family is selling the art collection to benefit cultural, educational, medical and environmental charities.

It includes Monet's water-lily painting "Nymphs en fleur," estimated to sell for \$50 million to \$70 million, and Picasso's "Fillette a la corbeille fleurie (Young Girl with a Flower Basket)," which has an estimate of \$90 million to \$120 million.

"You end up running out of superlatives," Jonathan Rendell, deputy chairman of Christie's Americas, said at a preview yesterday. "Some of the things are jaw-dropping."

Rendell cites Picasso's "extraordinary" portrait of a young girl, which was painted in 1905 when the artist



Picasso's 'Fillette a la corbeille fleurie', which will feature in the upcoming May 7-11 New York sale

was in his early 20s, and first bought by writer Gertrude Stein.

Also up for sale is a small painting of an apple, given by Picasso as a gift to Stein, a friend and patron.

"That little apple is a lovely object because it takes you right into the history of art," Rendell said. "Picasso's gift to Gertrude Stein, who made his career - it doesn't get much better than that."

Matisse's reclining nude, "Odalisque couchee aux magnolias" is expected to sell for \$50 million, breaking the sale record for the artist.

"I expect to see quite a lot of records broken," Rendell said. He added: "That was

my most English understatement."

As well as major European Impressionist and modern paintings, the Rockefeller collection includes works by American artists such as Edward Hopper and Georgia O'Keefe. Also up for sale is a selection of furniture, jewelry, Chinese bronzes and porcelain - including a dessert service that accompanied Napoleon into exile on the island of Elba.

Highlights of the collection are on display in London from today to March 8. There will also be previews in Paris, Beijing, Los Angeles and Shanghai before a series of sales in New York from May 7 to 11. AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



Spirit of the seas. Indigenous Mah Meri tribe walk to the beach during a ritual called "Puja Pantai", a thanksgiving ritual praying to the spirits of the seas, in Carey Island, outside Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, yesterday.

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	30-50 Good	
High Density Residential Area	30-50 Good	
Ambient	25-45 Good	

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

INDIA's federal investigating agency said yesterday it has arrested six people in an alleged USD1.8 billion bank fraud case that continued for six years.



TURKEY-SYRIA Pro-government Syrian fighters begin entering Kurdish enclave of Afrin despite threats from Turkey saying it would hit back at the troops if their goal is to protect the Kurdish fighters.

More on p15

EGYPT A court yesterday added a detained Islamist politician to a list of wanted "terrorists" over his alleged links to the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood group.

SERBIA Eight foreign citizens, including two Americans and two Ukrainians, have been arrested in Serbia on suspicion that they tried to photograph and enter military facilities without authorization, officials said.

GERMANY Members of Germany's center-left Social Democratic Party have started voting on whether to accept the coalition agreement negotiated by their leaders with Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservative bloc on forming a new government.



BRAZIL Leaders said that the use of the military to combat rising violence in Rio de Janeiro could serve as a model for other violent areas of Brazil. The armed forces officially took over Rio's police on Friday under a decree signed by President Michel Temer.

VENEZUELA has become the first country to launch its own version of bitcoin, a move it hopes will provide a much-needed boost to its credit-stricken economy.