



**TAP SEAC
CRAFT
MARKET
SEES MORE
CROWD**

► P3 MDT REPORT



BOSTON CASINO SALE POSSIBLE

Wynn Resorts CEO Matt Maddox remains committed to finishing the USD2.5b casino the company is building in Boston

► P9



WANG MAKES RARE JAPAN VISIT

China's foreign minister is making a rare visit to Tokyo, in a sign of improving cooperation between Asia's two largest economies

► P11

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS



SYRIA Demonstrators poured into the streets of Damascus on Saturday, dancing and chanting in defiance of what they called the West's "failure" to shake their nation's resolve with airstrikes that jolted the capital only hours earlier. More on p15,20



US President Donald Trump unleashed a torrent of rage against James Comey yesterday over the former FBI director's forthcoming book, calling him "slippery," insisting he never asked him for loyalty and labelling him "the WORST FBI Director in history, by far!"



NORTH KOREAN leader Kim Jong Un has met with a high-ranking Chinese diplomat in Pyongyang, amid a flurry of diplomacy following Kim's recent surprise visit to Beijing.

INDIA Thousands of people protested across the country to seek an end to sexual violence against women, which has been on the rise in the country. Carrying banners and placards, protesters marched in New Delhi, Mumbai and other cities, demanding that India's government quickly prosecute rape suspects. Candlelight vigils were also held in some places.

More on backpage

STANLEY HO TO STEP DOWN

Analysts: SJM's board structure is 'messy'

► P3

BLOOMBERG



China to support horse racing, sports lotteries in Hainan ► P8

SSM collaborates with gaming regulator

The government will publish a report this year on the tobacco control actions it has taken between 2015 and 2017. In a response to lawmaker Leong Sun Iok's written inquiry, the Health Bureau said that the smoking area of one casino was not in accordance with city regulations. SSM said it is in close communication and cooperation with the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau concerning tobacco control in casinos. It added that in 2017, 24 percent of the smoking cases that SSM had transferred to DICJ were prosecuted, reflecting the effectiveness of the cooperation.

Seniors' home care robot to launch in September

A research group from the Macau University of Science and Technology has launched a robot to perform tasks relating to smart tourism and home care for senior citizens. Singou, the company formed by the research group, and the Macao Government Tourism Office have projected that the robot will commence operations in the second half of 2018, with sales scheduled to begin on September 1. The robot is designed to help senior citizens communicate with their friends and families. Each robot costs less than MOP10,000. The company expects to sell 1,000 units this year and 30,000 in 2019.

Anima secures funding until June-end

ANIMA Macau has received MOP1.9 million in funding from Macao Foundation on Friday, the president confirmed.

Last week, Albano Martins told the Times that Anima faces annual expenses amounting to MOP10.5 million, yet only receives MOP3.8 million annually, forcing the association to announce a shut down of operations.

Speaking to the Times yesterday, Martins explained that the MOP1.9 million in funding will sustain the association – which looks after 700 cats and dogs – until the end of June. However, the association would nevertheless still need to reduce its employees.

"Usually our monthly budget is around MOP650,000 to MOP820,000, which means there are a lot of expenses that need to be cut, and maybe we have to begin to reduce the staff," he said.

"We are considering the staff reduction at the end of this month." Martins added.

The president then noted that Anima's activities would be limited due to the constrained number of employees, citing the public's visit to the animal shelter.

Currently, Anima Macau is working on submitting funding requests to gaming operators and launching its own campaign that will be open to the public.

Martins expressed that funding from gaming operators would be significant to the non-government association, recalling the past contributions of Wynn Macau.

Yet, Martins remains positive that the association still has the public's support. "We have good international support. We are positive of that," he said. He also urged the local government to be more supportive of the region's non-government associations, calling for an increase in its annual budget.

"I am expecting that the Macau government will think a little bit more carefully about associations that are considered by govern-



ment as public service to finance [us] not in a poor style," Martins said.

"We are not putting money in our pockets, we're just taking care of animals. We [urge] the Macau government to understand that we need more support, at least in 2019 if not this year," he added.

The president also hoped that the association would acquire sufficient funding so as to not close down by the end of June, noting that it would celebrate its 15th anniversary on December 11. LV

Mainland scam fraudster arrested

THE Judiciary Police (PJ) has arrested a mainland Chinese resident for involvement in phone scams across China.

The mainland police had informed PJ of a case related to the suspect, who was said to be involved in phone scams

in which criminals pretended to be mainland government officers.

The suspect, who was arrested at the immigration checkpoint of the Macau Border Gate to Zhuhai, had reportedly scammed victims out of RMB540,000.

An investigation by the

mainland police revealed that the criminals went through 14 steps to transfer the money obtained from such schemes, and that they had used some banks and ATMs with Macau IP addresses.

PJ seized more than 1,200 mainland bank

cards from the suspect's apartment at R. de Coimbra. 36 of the cards corresponded to approximately RMB100,000 out of the aforementioned total of RMB540,000.

The suspect has confessed to the crimes and has been transferred to the

prosecuting authorities, having been charged with fraud and money laundering.

The police forces of Guangdong and Macau met recently in Guangdong province to discuss their cooperation for the year. They agreed that telecommunication scams, together with financial crimes, would be their key targets in 2018.

ASK THE VET

by Dr Ruan Du Toit Bester



CAUSES OF WEIGHT LOSS IN OLDER CATS

- Chewing on one side of the mouth
- Dropping food

You may try and encourage your cat to eat by giving him wide, shallow and easily accessible food and water dishes.

DULLING SENSES

Cats tend to become more finicky about what they eat as they age, and it may become much harder to please their pallet. As a cat ages his sense of both taste and smell may diminish making it less acute, therefore making him less interested in food.

A change in diet, or simply changing to a new flavor of your cat's current food may help to peak his interest.

WEIGHT LOSS FROM KIDNEY DISEASE

The feline kidneys will go through a number of age related changes; some of these changes may compromise the function of the kidneys, contributing to the onset of a variety of different conditions affecting the kidneys. CRF (Chronic Renal Failure) or, simply put, kidney failure, is the most severe of the possible

conditions afflicting the feline kidneys. There is no cure for CRF, though if caught early, the progression of the disease may be slowed, and quality of life improved. A regimen of specially prescribed food, medication and fluids may be necessary to help care for your sick cat. Other health problems such as hyperthyroidism (excessive production of the thyroid hormones), and hypertension (high blood pressure) are often results of kidney failure.

INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE

IBD includes a group of different chronic gastrointestinal disorders. The mechanical characteristics of IBD have been identified (lining of the intestines becomes infiltrated by inflammatory cells) while the exact cause of the disease itself is not yet known.

IBD can cause vomiting and diarrhea, which may then cause the cat to become easily dehydrated. If the condition persists for long enough, the cat may lose a significant amount of weight due to the body's inability to properly process both food and water through its system.

OLDER CATS MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO CANCER

As cats age their chances of cancer increase. Weight loss is often a sign of cancer, however, cancer symptoms vary depending on the organ afflicted by the disease. Intestinal cancer in felines may cause a form of IBD to develop.



If you notice a change in your cat's behavior, eating habits, or if he is having problems going to the bathroom, or other daily behaviors, make sure that you get him to the vet. These signs could actually be symptoms that your cat is sick, developing a chronic health condition, or signaling the progression of a preexisting health condition.

It is always vital that your cat be seen by a professional vet for any apparent illness or malady.

Hope this info helps.
Till next week
Dr Ruan Bester

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Stanley Ho to step down from SJM

STANLEY Ho became the latest Hong Kong billionaire to step away from the empire he built, passing along the top roles at casino operator SJM Holdings Ltd. to his heirs. Analysts will be watching to see how smooth the transition will be.

The 96-year-old Macau casino tycoon will retire as chairman and executive director of SJM after a June 12 shareholders meeting, according to a statement to the Hong Kong stock exchange. He will become chairman emeritus. Daisy Ho, his 53-year-old daughter, will take on his roles. Angela Leong, 57, Ho's wife and SJM's second-largest shareholder, will act as co-chair with another executive director.

SJM's shares jumped as much as 11 percent, the most in three years, in early trading in Hong Kong on Friday amid a rally in casino stocks. Investors have

been eager for the company to simplify its convoluted management structure, though the succession plan still leaves the casino operator with a chairman and two co-chairs.

We can't help but think that the proposed board structure is a bit messy.

DS KIM
ANALYST

"While Ho hasn't been involved in the operations for many years, we can't help but think that the proposed board structure is a bit messy," said JPMorgan Chase & Co. analyst DS Kim in a note.

BLOOMBERG



Stanley Ho pictured in 2008

"This complicated structure, in our view, leaves room for a potential power tussle within the board, given the lack of clear control."

Kim is looking for a clearer plan, such as a single chairperson, to fine-tune SJM's corporate structure before the opening of the operator's first property in Macau's key Cotai district next year.

Daisy Ho joined SJM as executive director in June last year. Leong, who successfully fended off a messy family dispute in 2011 that was mounted by family members, has been managing the casino operator for years. Stanley Ho's son Lawrence is chief executive officer of casino operator Melco Resorts & Entertainment Ltd.

Stanley Ho built his casino business with the help of a four-decade monopoly and growing numbers of gamblers who emerged from China's economic expansion, turning Macau into the world's biggest gambling hub. But SJM has lost ground to peers, with Las Vegas Sands Corp.'s Macau unit and Galaxy Entertainment Group Ltd. surpassing SJM's gaming revenue as they provided more entertainment offerings to leisure gamblers and tourists. MDT/Bloomberg

Tap Seac craft market sees more crowd

THE "Tap Seac Craft Market" marked its 10th anniversary during the weekend, featuring 220 local and foreign booths that provided a diversity of cultural and creative activities. Held for two consecutive weekends, a total of 39 creative handicraft workshops will be held and will stage 50 music performances and interactive installations.

Retailers hail from different regions including mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macau, Malaysia, Singapore and Korea.

Various distinctive cultural and creative products, such as accessories, fashion designs, drawings, paintings, home decorations, creatively created potted plants, natural handmade products



Abigail Lai



Lorraine Lo

and leather goods, will be showcased to the general public.

There will also be 39 creative handicraft workshops conducted by booth owners from different regions to teach residents creative handicraft skills.

Yesterday, the site was packed with residents.

"This is our first time and it's quite overwhelming. We never expected such a crowd and people are really friendly and keen to know our passion in making the products," said Lorraine Lo, a retailer from Hong Kong.

The booth retails natural pet care products. Accor-

ding to Lo, the application to participate in the craft market was competitive, noting that there were over 200 applications from Hong Kong.

"Only less than 60 were accepted. This weekend we have 29 stores from Hong Kong, and I guess next week as well," she added.

Lo further explained that the store "Pawfume Lab" participates in different craft markets in Hong Kong, Taiwan and Singapore.

Another participant that retails religious items, "Seeds Handcraft" noted that the fair had more attendees this weekend compared to previous years.

Abigail Lai, who participated for the seventh time, noted that the offerings at this edition featured an array of cultural products.

"I feel that there are much more different types of cultural art products this time, the [ambience] is a lot of fun," she said.

"This fair is good chance to meet people and let them know about my products. I believe it's a good event for

us [retailers]," Lai added.

The retailer admitted that it is still challenging for art and cultural retailers to acquire a stable revenue, noting that there are not enough resources to support them.

To allow local citizens to participate in the 10th anniversary celebration of the event, IC previously launched the "10th Anniversary Programme of the Tap Seac Craft Market," calling for proposals of the interactive installations, stage performances and creative handicraft workshops.

Inaugurated in 2008, the market serves as a platform for local and foreign cultural and creative practitioners to display and sell their products. It has gradually developed into a local brand for the cultural and creative market, according to the IC. LV

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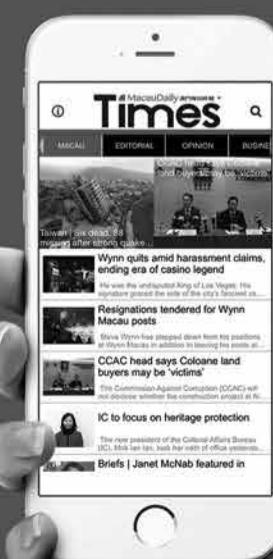


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AD

Tourist price index increases by 6 percent

The Tourist Price Index (TPI) for the first quarter of 2018 increased by 6.15 percent year-on-year to 136.94, as a result of higher charges for hotel accommodation and restaurant services, and dearer prices of local food products. According to information from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC), among the various sections of goods and services, the price index of Accommodation (+19.3 percent) registered the highest increase, followed by indices of Transport & Communications (+6.5 percent) and Food, Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco (+4.5 percent). In comparison with the fourth quarter of 2017, the TPI for the first quarter of 2018 decreased by 3.91 percent.

12 bidders tender for the management of 5 public car parks

A total of 12 submissions were received by the Transport Bureau (DSAT) in response to the tender for the management and operation of five public car parks. From the 12 proposals received, only 10 were ultimately accepted, as one was refused and another withdrawn. The 10 proposals quoted an amount ranging between MOP1.25 million and MOP2.39 million, payable in installments every three months. The tender opened for proposals last Friday morning at DSAT, and aims to unify the process of attributing management and operational responsibility for public car parks. The tender has a duration of 6 years for the management contract.

Macau, Portugal prepare consumer rights agreement

Julie Zhu

THE Macau Consumer Council (CC) is expecting to sign an agreement with the Portuguese Association for Consumer Protection (DECO) to handle consumer disputes concerning Portuguese citizens and some mainland Chinese citizens, as announced by Wong Hon Neng, president of the executive committee of the CC.

Consumer organizations representing nine cities in the Greater Bay Area and the two special administrative regions were part of the conference held in Macau last week. The conference involved discussion and planning of projects regarding consumer rights protection, as well as the signing of the "Memorandum of Co-operation for Consumer Protection in Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area".

On the sidelines of the conference, Wong said that "hopefully, [an agreement between Macau and Portugal] can be signed in the second or third



quarters. Earlier, we reached an agreement with Portugal [on the topic]."

When questioned by the Times, Wong revealed that "when Portuguese residents are confronted with consumption disputes in mainland China or Macau, the Consumer Council will forward the case to the related [mainland] consumers organizations, and vice-versa. In the past, this kind of dispute would have to even sometimes go through a few diplomatic channels."

In addition, Wong said that "as the platform between China

and the Portuguese-speaking countries, we [Macau] are happy and willing to do it [transfer cases between mainland China and Macau]. Hopefully, we will be able to better protect consumer rights on both sides [the Greater Bay Area and Portugal]."

According to Wong, "it will be more convenient" for residents from the Greater Bay Area or residents from Portugal to solve consumption disputes through Macau. One of the reasons is that Macau can provide translation between the Portuguese and Chinese languages.

Currently, the agreement between Macau and Portugal has already been drafted; it will have to be approved before eventually being printed.

Wong also informed that in recent years, approximately 20 percent of all consumption complaints were filed by residents from the Greater Bay Area.

"Regarding the past several years, the closing rate concerning consumer complaints ex-

ceeded 96 percent," said Wong.

"Last year, [the majority of] the complaints were related to common consumer goods. There have been [were] less complaints about dishonest shops. On the other hand, there is [was] a rather serious source of complaints: taxis," Wong noted.

Based on the memorandum, Wong explained that a resident from the Greater Bay Area can either choose to send a complaint to the Consumer Council or can directly take it to his/her local city's consumer organization, which will pass it to the CC. The council will then decide the steps to be taken to the related city's consumer organizations.

The Consumer Council claims that the memorandum not only enhances the information exchange among the 11 cities in the Greater Bay Area, but also sets the Council as the main platform for referring cases between cities within the region and Portuguese consumer organizations.

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Points covered include Sands China's investment and development milestones
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the resort's design concepts; how to create a London-like experience;
details of the transformation and attractions;
the project's budgeted investment; estimated construction and completion time;
and visitation stats for Macao and Sands China

Venue: The Astor Ballroom, 5/F
The St. Regis Macao, Cotai
12.30: Drinks
12.55 pm: Lunch
1.30 pm: Presentation by Dr. Wilfred Wong
2.30 pm: Close

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Coloane, 4 Storey Commercial Building
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The property is a licensed commercial space spread over 4 floors including a basement, ground floor retail, and two upper floors in the heart of the unique Coloane village situated next door to the famous 'Lord Stow's Bakery'. The property features an elevator and staircase to access all floors, and is perfectly suited for a wide range of commercial activities.



Coloane, Hellene Garden
(Ref: 18030673)
1,663 sq.ft. HKD 12,800

Top floor 3 bedroom / 2 bathroom apartment with uninterrupted sea and hillside views. The apartment has great potential and overlooks Hac Sa Beach on the quiet island of Coloane, close to the sea, walking & running trails. Hellene Garden is popular amongst expats, and is located approximately 10 minutes from Macau's busy 'Cotai Strip'.



Apartment B, Sakura Court, Ocean Garden
(Ref: 10020165)
3,700 sq.ft. HKD 35,000

Mid - floor, 4 bedroom apartment located in Taipa. Nice apartment for family. Unfurnished, but all appliances built-in. Large and bright living room with balcony with amazing seaview. Carpark included. Clubhouse facilities can be available gymnasium, outdoor pool, mini theatre, function rooms etc.



Cheoc Van House, Coloane
(Ref: 17060651)
6,222 sq.ft. HKD 79,800

Combining dazzling sea views, stylish interiors and cavernous comfort, this multi-storey property is a rare find in Macao. There are 3 bedrooms on the second floor for family and guests, and the top floor is reserved for a personal studio with a full-size closet and en suite bathroom.

FOR SALE



Jubilee Court, Macau
(Ref: 18030672)
2,200 sq.ft. HKD 15.98M
Rate: HKD 7,263

Great size four bedroom apartment in downtown Macau, across the road from Star World and next to the Landmark this apartment is well located. Two double bedrooms have built wardrobes and walk in shower rooms. The other two bedrooms share a bathroom. Plenty of bespoke storage throughout the property.



Panorama Penthouse Apartment
(Ref: 18015542)
4,851 sq.ft. HKD 28M
Rate: HKD 5,772

Lower level comprising open plan lounge and dining area. This level also includes an indoor pool, 4 bedrooms & 4 bathrooms. The upper mezzanine level has a room ideal for use as a study, this area also provides access to the roof area dedicated to this apartment. Asking price includes use of one parking onsite parking space.



Bauhinia Court, Hellene Gardens
(Ref: 18015543)
1,663 sq.ft. HKD 7.98M
Rate: HKD 4,798

Stunning 3 bedroom top floor apartment with twin-carport that accommodates 3 cars. The master bedroom has green views over the mountains and has a large fitted wardrobe the length of one wall, with modern en suite bathroom. The other two guest rooms are a good size sharing the charcoal / white modern shower room. All rooms fully air conditioned including the kitchen.



Grande Plaza, Taipa
(Ref: 17115537)
980 sq.ft. HKD 7.9M
Rate: HKD 8,061
Superb bright & quiet three bedroom apartment in Taipa just off the main road. Renovated a few years ago the apartment is ready to occupy. Three good size bedrooms with two shower rooms, one en suite off the master bedroom. Fantastic location right next to the escalator on the main road in Taipa, easy public transportation, shopping, schools etc.



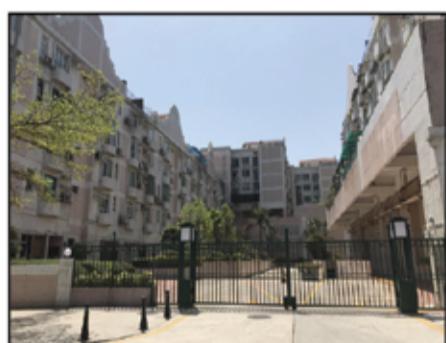
Calçada da Surpresa, 12, Ching Fai Court, Macau
(Ref: 18035547)
2,000 sq.ft. HKD 11.5M
Rate: HKD 5,750

LOFT in the centre of Macau. A unique opportunity to live in this sleek, modern property. The large open space area on the ground floor houses the open plan living and dining areas with fabulous designer kitchen located at back of the property. Viewing can be arranged by appointment.



The Buckingham, Unit C, Taipa
(Ref: 18025544)
1,186 sq.ft. HKD 9.48M
Rate: HKD 7,993

Great two bedroom apartment in Central Taipa. Open plan kitchen with fitted appliance. Two double bedrooms sharing one walk in shower room. Good size living area with balcony.



Violet Court, Hellene Gardens, Coloane
(Ref: 18035546)
2,530 sq.ft. HKD 20M
Rate: HKD 7,905

It's unusual to find such a beautifully designed apartment in Macau especially with stunning views over Hac Sa beach. The interior renovation has been thoughtfully designed by the owners cousin a well known architect in Portugal. The quality of this apartment is second to none and a real show piece.



Chun Hung Garden L Unit
(Ref: 17075526)
840 sq.ft. HKD 6.49M
Rate: HKD 7,726
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Expert believes more frequent and severe typhoons will hit Asia

Julie Zhu

CHRISSIANA Figueres, who was a keynote speaker of the 2018 MIECF Green Forum and former Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) believes that casino shuttles will only be allowed to cross the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge if they are electrical.

"In the new terminals that are being built for the bridge, casinos will have access with their buses if they are electric," Figueres said, noting that this information had been given to her by the Secretary for Transportation and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário.

Furthermore, when talking about Macau's transportation network, Figueres said, "Macau is also moving towards electrification of mobility. I would say that the Light Rail counts as electrification of mobility. The Light rail that is being built and the high-speed train should count as electrification of mobility."

"I would say that Macau is moving to the direction of electrifying its mobility through light rail, heavy rail and vehicles, and you have to understand that this process does not happen overnight. You have to put infrastructure into places, you have to change consumers' behaviors, and you have to make these vehicles affordable. But I think the direction is already set," said Figueres.

During a media interview session on the sideline of the 2018 MIECF, Figueres made a few comments about environmental topics concerning Macau.

On the use of plastic and recycling, Figueres, who is currently Vice-Chair of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, Climate Works Board Member, and World Bank Climate Leader, remarked that "utilizing single use plastic, which is the main plastic [used commercially], is a very good example of an environmental challenge that has risen very quickly in public awareness over the past 12 months, more than anything."

Moreover, she pointed out two recent news items - the first being that China will no longer collect plastic from the rest of the world, and second being that a "very compelling photographic campaign" had a significant visual impact on the public opinion.

"Macau, of course, is no exception with its high concentration of population and plastic use.



Macau will have to figure out what it does with its own plastic because it can no longer export it to China," Figueres stated. In her opinion, being a highly condensed city is at the same time a challenge and an advantage for Macau, since it has a smaller footprint per capita when compared to other cities.

"Macau does have the possibility of becoming a leading world eco city," Figueres expressed, suggesting that Macau has to expend effort on the quality of water, effective utilization of living spaces and communal spaces for everyone, and spend effort on the handling of plastic in order to achieve its goal of being a leading world eco city.

"What is very unique to Macau is the high level of tourism that Macau has, because it is more difficult to affect tourists' behavior than to affect the behavior of citizens who live in your city. So that is why the changes for environmental protection need to be systemically introduced, and not necessarily depending only on individual human behaviors," Figueres remarked.

Sharing many of the local people's concerns, Figueres, who is also a World Bank Climate Leader, suggested that tourism levels in Macau represent a challenge for the city in terms of working towards better environmental protection.

"I would say that it is pretty typical for a city that has the impact that Macau has to hold the impact of this level of people coming from outside, [namely the] level of tourism. So, I think there have been extraordinary efforts to protect [the environment] and more has to be done. But that's typical for any city that has that level of people coming in and out," Figueres commented, adding that any city in a similar situation should consider making itself "as clean as possible [and] as connected as possi-

ble through the use of technology, through the source of food, as compacted as possible."

Recently, while talking to students at the University of Macau, Rosário indicated that the current solution for Macau's recycling industry is not the recycling itself, but in the "classification of waste and their transport to other places."

When asked by the Times if she agrees with Rosário's statement, Figueres said "beyond the classification, there has to be recycling opportunities developed

and delivered. Besides that, it's looking at the problem before you go to classification and recycling; it's how much plastic enters the city [...], you have to deal with that afterward, so it is about curbing the amount of plastic that enters the city."

In addition, she noted that "there is a high level of certainty about the fact that typhoons in Asia - in Macau specifically - but also Asia in general, will increase their frequency and intensity because of the increase in temperature. The increase in tem-

perature leads to the increase of evaporation, so you have more humidity in the air, which will lead to more typhoons. What is important to understand is that the increase in surface temperature and the increase in humidity in air do not cause typhoons, but maximizes them in the sense of making them either more intense, or more frequent. Unless we are able to avoid going beyond a 2-degree temperature increase, the typhoons in this area in Asia will become much more frequent, and much more intense. Every city has to be ready for that."

Macau is moving in the direction of electrifying its mobility.

CHRISTIANA FIGUERES

Figueres, who is also a Senior Fellow for Conservation International and a convener for Mission 2020, also offered several comments about China's developments in terms of green energy.

"China could become the dominant player in the electric vehicle market just like today it is the dominant player in the solar panel market. China is a very good example of respect to the Paris Agreement," said Figueres.

MIECF records 28 percent increase in business-matching sessions

THE Macao International Environmental Co-operation Forum & Exhibition 2018 (MIECF) concluded on Saturday, recording a 28 percent year-on-year increase in the number of "Green Matching" sessions hosted.

The 11th edition of the exhibition featured activities including "Green Matching" sessions; seminars and presentations; the "Greater Bay Area Environmental Co-operation Networking Session"; and the "Green Building Industry Networking Session."

Organizers informed in a statement that a total of 35 agreements were signed for either cooperative or commercial business, during the three days of business exchange and negotiations that were occasioned by the event.

Also, a total of 349 business-matching sessions were held in the "Green Matching" zone, a year-on-year increase of 28 percent.

Meanwhile, organizers applied to have the "Green Forum" panel sessions accredited by professional bodies, so as to issue relevant certificates to participants in each session.

The "Green Forum" attracted more than 3,900 participants this year.

This year's event also saw a larger display area for environmentally-friendly concepts originating from the Greater Bay Area.

It also included several other themed areas, which included the "Showcase Area for Innovative Environmental Protection Technologies," the "Green Construction Pavilion" which showcased environmentally-friendly construction products and services, and the "Showcase Area for Green

Transportation," featuring options for sustainable transport.

During the "Green Showcase" exhibition, the MIECF host and co-organizers arranged – as in previous editions – guided tours for government departments in order to strengthen those departments' understanding of environmentally-friendly products and technologies.

Organizers said that more than 30 government departments sent representatives to participate in such tours at this year's edition.

A "Government Procurement Matching Session" was also held, a new activity that welcomed the participation of 16 governmental departments. More than 80 negotiations took place with the aim of matching suppliers to various public-sector departments interested in "green" procurement.

Meanwhile, the visit for the "Guangdong-Macao (Jiangmen) Cooperation Demonstration Zone" in Jiangmen, Guangdong was attended by 50 people, including local representatives of the environmental protection sector and the financial sector.

The delegation learned about wastewater treatment facilities and advanced electroplating technologies, and held discussions with local government departments regarding bilateral environmental cooperation in line with the national policies of "going global" and "bringing in".

The "Eco-Market Macao" was the session that wrapped up the event, retailing environmentally-friendly products to the public.

The next edition of MIECF will be held from March 28 to 30.

China to support horse racing, sports lotteries in Hainan

CHINA said it would encourage horse racing and expand sports lotteries in the southernmost island of Hainan, moves that people familiar with the discussions have said may eventually open the door to gaming on the nation's mainland for the first time.

China will support the development of horse racing and other projects including beach and water sports in Hainan, according to a reform agenda approved by China's cabinet and announced in the official Xinhua News Agency Saturday. The province should also "explore the development of sports lottery and instant lottery on large-scale international games," it said, without elaborating.

While the government bans all forms of gambling, it officially allows two types of lotteries - including one in which players predict the outcomes of international soccer matches. It also permits some horse racing, though betting is banned and the central government had previou-

sly refrained from promoting the sport.

Any shift in China's approach toward gambling could end up threatening the USD33 billion casino industry in Macau - the world's largest gaming center - as well as other casino hubs in Asia. Macau has been shifting to attract Chinese tourists and families to the territory, which is the same market that Hainan currently draws.

"Horse racing has grown quickly in China in recent years, but it's the first time the central government has promoted the game for a city and simultaneously encouraged further development of sports lottery," said Su Guojing, chairman of China Lottery Industry Salon, a business group. "Although it still takes time to explore, Hainan may try to launch a lottery for more sporting events, including horse racing and rowing, to help boost Hainan's tourism."

Macau is expected to unveil plans in coming months on how it will review and issue casinos licenses that are up for rebidding

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from 2020. The bulk of casino earnings in Macau comes from foreign operators of local units. Hainan could favor local developers and operators to dovetail with President Xi Jinping's emphasis on a resurgent China taking its place on the world stage.

In February, Bloomberg reported that government agencies under a party reform group headed by Xi were considering proposals to support the island, including allowing online gaming

and a lottery, relaxing visa rules and enhancing infrastructure. The proposal could one day open the door to physical casinos, which are currently banned on the mainland, people familiar with the talks said.

The moves were part of a package of reforms unveiled while Xi visited the island, which is often called "China's Hawaii." Hainan will adopt more open duty-free shopping policies, boost the number of international flights and prioritize tourism.

Xi's plan should increase the flow of local and foreign tourists to Hainan, where entrepreneurs and real-estate developers have been pouring in billions of dollars to build resorts and shopping centers that have stayed mostly empty. The province faces a fiscal deficit amid the debt woes of HNA Group Co., its biggest conglomerate that's facing pressure from creditors after a global expansion.

Any shift in China's approach toward gambling could end up threatening the USD33 billion casino industry in Macau

Xi attended the Boao Forum for Asia in Hainan last week, which brought world leaders to the island. At the forum, Xi reiterated pledges to open sectors from banking to auto manufacturing, and warned against "Cold War mentality" amid trade disputes with U.S. counterpart Donald Trump. MDT/Bloomberg

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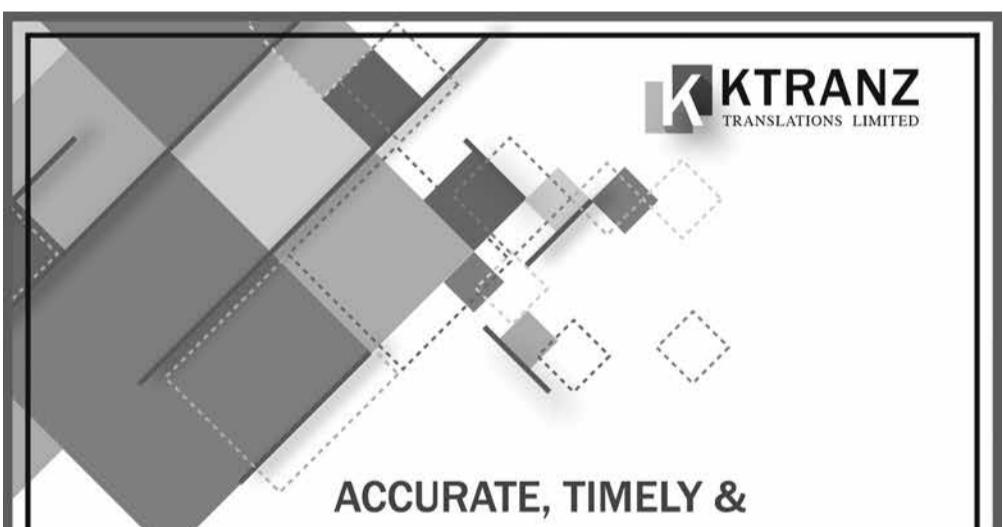
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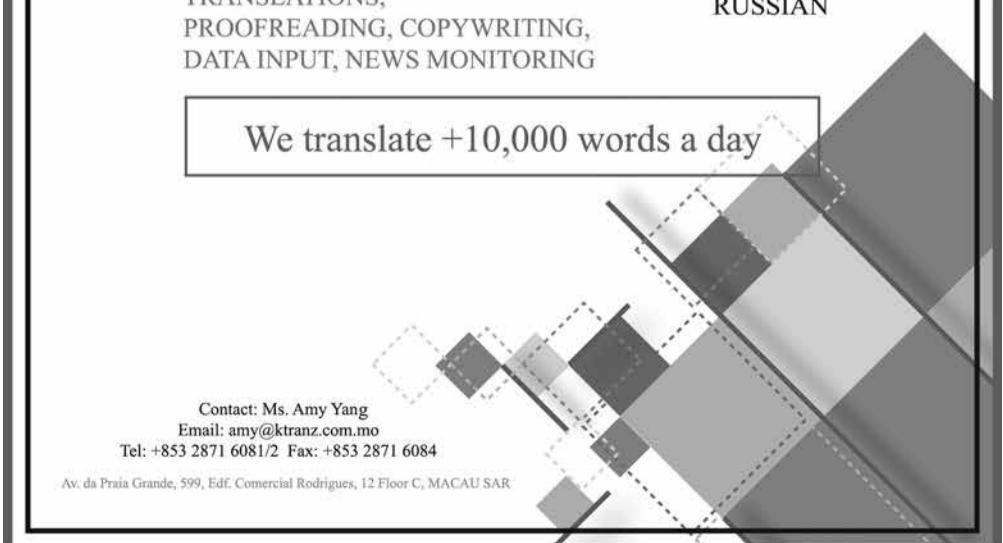
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Christopher Palmeri

WYNN Resorts Ltd. Chief Executive Officer Matt Maddox said he remains committed to finishing the USD2.5 billion casino the company is building in the Boston area but also wants to "maximize the value of our assets and mitigate risk."

The company's comments, from an emailed statement, are the most direct yet since Bloomberg News reported last week that Wynn Resorts has discussed selling the Massachusetts project with other casino operators. MGM Resorts International is among those that have talked with the company, a person with knowledge of the matter said Thursday.

A sale could get Wynn Resorts out of a tricky spot. The company faces claims that it overlooked years of sexual misconduct by 76-year-old Steve Wynn. Massachusetts regulators are investigating the allegations, and a report is expected to be released in early summer. The state could find Wynn Resorts unsuitable to hold a gaming license, leading to possible repercussions in Nevada and Macau where it operates casinos, and in Japan where it's seeking one.

A deal with MGM would complicate what's already been one of the most tumultuous gambling rollouts in U.S. history. Massachusetts approved casinos in 2011 and since then bidders and cities have been disqualified for various reasons. State law limits

GAMING

Wynn Resorts CEO says Boston casino sale possible

operators to one casino each, meaning MGM would have to divest its casino under construction in the western Massachusetts city of Springfield, scheduled to open later this year.

A deal with MGM would complicate what's already been one of the most tumultuous gambling rollouts in US history

"We remain fully committed to the opening and success of MGM Springfield," Debra DeShong, a spokeswoman for MGM, said in a statement. "We do not comment on rumors or speculation around transactions."

Caesars Entertainment Corp. was considered a favorite to win the Boston-area license until it was disqualified by regulators due in part to its heavy debt load. Las Vegas Sands

Corp. didn't pursue a Massachusetts license earlier in the process and isn't interested now, according to a person familiar with the company.

One possibility is that MGM would sell its Springfield project to either of the two Indian tribes that operate casinos in Connecticut. Mohegan Sun and Foxwoods are planning a casino north of Hartford, Connecticut, that could intercept potential customers bound for Springfield. A source close to MGM said there haven't been any discussions with the tribes.

Springfield Mayor Domenic Sarno issued a statement Friday saying that he'd spoken with MGM executives who assured him of their "continued commitment to a first-class resort in Springfield."

Massachusetts regulators declined on Thursday to immediately drop Steve Wynn's name from the company's casino license, despite requests from Wynn and the company. The state gaming commission plans a hearing next month to consider the request, with chair Stephen Crosby saying he wants to ensure the company's former CEO isn't continuing to influence the company. **Bloomberg**

AP PHOTO



Matt Maddox

ENVIRONMENT

Nations strike historic deal to curb shipping emissions

Anna Hirtenstein,
Jeremy Hedges

MOST of the world's nations agreed to an historic deal that for the first time will limit emissions from the global shipping industry.

After a week of negotiations at a London meeting of the International Maritime Organization, a United Nations body, envoys from 173 countries agreed to cut emissions by at least 50 percent by 2050 from 2008 levels. Saudi Arabia and the U.S. both objected.

The accord is a significant step in the fight against global warming. Shipping, the only industry not included in the 2015 Paris climate agreement, would rank as the sixth-largest greenhouse gas emitter if it were a country, accor-

ding to the World Bank. If left unchecked, that share could account for 15 percent of global carbon emissions by 2050, a five-fold increase from today.

"It is likely this target will tighten further, but even with the lowest level of ambition, the shipping industry will require rapid technological changes," said Tristan Smith, a reader at University College London's Energy Institute.

Vessels typically burn heavy fuel oil, one of the cheapest but also among the dirtiest fossil fuels. The industry wasn't included in the Paris agreement because each country presented an individual plan to reduce their own emissions, while the seas were left out.

Friday's agreement com-

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mits to pursuing emission cuts that will be consistent with the Paris deal goals.

Reducing the industry's emissions has been a hotly contested issue. One of the most vociferous proponents of emission controls have been the Pacific island nations, where rising sea levels are already swallowing up land, and the rate is expected to increase in the coming decades.

Other countries have resisted targets. Oil producing nations including Saudi Arabia have expressed concern about the impact of the measures on their fuel supply business, while some countries have said controls could penalize those that are far from the world's main consumer hubs.

Canada, Argentina, Russia, India, Brazil, Iran and the Philippines also raised

concerns over the proposals for reasons ranging from worries that targets could have a negative effect on global trade to a lack of sufficient data.

"A principle of the IMO is to have no discrimination and that's what differentiates the deal and that's not the IMO's principle," said Jeffrey Lantz, director of commercial regulations and standards at the U.S. Coast Guard and head of

the U.S. delegation. This isn't the first time the IMO has tried to be cleaner. Six years ago, the organization adopted design requirements to make new vessels more energy efficient. More than 70 percent of container ships built between 2013 and 2017 exceed the standard, which sets limits on carbon emissions per ship, according to analysis from Transport & Environment, a Belgian NGO.

"The IMO should and could have gone a lot further but for the dogmatic opposition of some countries," said Bill Hemmings, shipping director at Transport & Environment. "Scant attention was paid to U.S. opposition. So this decision puts shipping on a promising track." **Bloomberg**



Tsai Ing-wen

Taiwan leader inspects navy as China prepares drills

TAIWANESE President Tsai Ing-wen reviewed military drills Friday ahead of planned war games by China amid rising tensions between the rivals.

Tsai went aboard a U.S.-made destroyer in the port of Su'ao as the island's armed forces simulated breaking a blockade of the self-ruled island.

China, which claims Taiwan as its territory, has scheduled live-fire war games in the Taiwan Strait for next Wednesday. That follows Beijing's heated objections to U.S. moves to strengthen relations with Taiwan's democratic, independence-leaning government.

Despite a lack of formal ties, Washington is legally bound to respond to threats to Taiwan and is the island's main supplier of foreign military hardware.

Chinese officials have denounced

the recent passage of a U.S. law encouraging more high-level government contacts with Taiwan, saying that violates U.S. commitments not to restore formal exchanges severed when Washington switched diplomatic recognition from Taipei to Beijing in 1979.

An agreement to provide Taiwan with submarine manufacturing technology and the appointment of hawkish National Security Adviser John Bolton have also hardened views among anti-America nationalists in China.

In a reiteration of China's military resolve, President Xi Jinping spoke about the importance of naval power while attending a massive fleet review on Thursday in the South China Sea.

"The mission of building a mighty people's navy has never been more urgent than it is today," Xi, dressed

in army fatigues, said in remarks delivered on the helicopter deck of one of China's most advanced destroyers. "Strive to make the people's navy a first-rate world navy."

During the Chinese sea drills, a U.S. aircraft carrier, the USS Theodore Roosevelt, and several escort ships sailed in the South China Sea in a display of America's naval might. It later visited Manila and hosted Philippine government and military officials in a reception Friday night.

"The Theodore Roosevelt is a symbol of our commitment to protecting the enduring values that have generated so much prosperity in this amazing region," U.S. Ambassador to Manila Sung Kim said. "Values and principles like freedom of navigation, freedom of commerce and freedom from fear and coercion." AP

HONG KONG

Duterte apologizes for 2010 Manila hostage crisis

PHILIPPINE President Rodrigo Duterte apologized for the 2010 hostage-taking incident in Manila that killed eight tourists from Hong Kong.

Speaking to the Filipino community in Hong Kong, Duterte noted that Manila has yet to make an "official

apology" over the incident. "There has been no official apology coming from the Philippines regarding that incident that happened in August 2010," Duterte said.

"From the bottom of my heart, as the President of the Republic of the Philippi-

nines and on behalf of the people of the Philippines, may I apologize formally to you now," Duterte was quoted by Philippine media as saying in a meeting with Filipinos in Hong Kong.

"We are sorry that the incident happened and as

humanely possible, I would like to make this guarantee also that it will never, never happen again," he said.

A bus with 21 Hong Kong tourists onboard was hijacked in the Philippine capital Manila on Aug. 23, 2010. The 11-hour hostage crisis ended with eight Hong Kong tourists killed in a bungled police rescue.

Duterte was in Hong Kong last week for a three-day informal visit after attending the Boao Forum for Asia in China's Hainan Province. MDT/Xinhua

March trade weakens, surplus with US at USD15.4b



CHINA'S global trade balance swung to a rare deficit in March as exports shrank but its surplus with the United States, the center of a worsening dispute with Washington, stood at USD15.4 billion.

Exports contracted 2.7 percent from a year earlier to \$174.1 billion, down from the 24.4 percent growth for the first two months of 2018, customs data showed Friday. Imports rose 14.4 percent to \$179.1 billion, though that was down from 21.7 percent growth in January and February.

"The upshot is that the latest trade data suggest that both domestic and foreign demand held up well in March," said Julian Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics in a report.

The trade surplus with the United States contracted 13 percent from a year earlier, while China's global trade balance swung to a \$5 billion deficit.

President Donald Trump has approved a possible tariff hike on \$50 billion of Chinese goods in response to complaints Beijing steals or pressures foreign companies to hand over technology. Trump is demanding Beijing take steps to narrow its trade deficit with the U.S., which Washington says stood at a record \$375.2 billion last year.

China runs multibillion-dollar monthly surpluses with Europe and the U.S., which helps to offset deficits with Japan, South Korea and developing countries that supply industrial components and raw materials. The global trade balance often slips into deficit for one month early each year as factories restock following the Lunar New Year holiday.

"The biggest risk going forward is clearly that the current trade tensions escalate to the point where meaningful tariff barriers are erected," said Evans-Pritchard. "But even if this is avoided, trade looks likely to soften slightly over the coming quarters given that global growth now appears past its peak and China's own economy faces rising headwinds from tighter policy."

Chinese President Xi Jinping announced market-opening measures including a cut in import taxes on autos and an easing of controls on foreign ownership in China's auto industry.

The Commerce Ministry denied Thursday that had anything to do with the dispute with Washington and said negotiations were impossible while Trump was threatening tariff increases on a possible \$100 billion list of additional goods.

Forecasters have been expecting Chinese economic growth to weaken since late last year after regulators tightened controls to cool a boom in bank lending and real estate sales they worry is driving a dangerous rise in debt.

Meanwhile, China's trade surplus with the 28-nation European Union, its biggest trading partner, shrank by half from a year ago to \$3.6 billion. AP

XINHUA



Air China flight diverted after man holds attendant hostage

AN Air China flight bound for Beijing was diverted to central China yesterday after a passenger held a flight attendant hostage using a pen as a weapon, authorities said.

All passengers and crew on Flight 1350 made it safely off the plane after it landed in Zhengzhou city at 10 a.m. due to what had earlier been described by authorities as an unspecified "illegal interference."

The flight had taken off at 8:40 a.m. from the city of Changsha in Hunan province and was scheduled to land in Beijing at 11 a.m.

The Civil Aviation Authority of China said in a statement on its website that the plane was diverted when a male passenger held a flight attendant hostage. It said only that "the matter was successfully handled" by 1:17 p.m., but did not provide any details.

Police in Zhengzhou's Henan province said in a statement that the alleged hostage-taker had a history of mental illness and suffered an unspecified "sudden" psychological disorder when he grabbed the flight attendant. It identified the man by only his surname, Xu, and said he was 41 and from Anhua, a county in Hunan. Police arrested him at about 1 p.m., according to the statement.

In a brief report on the micro-

blog Weibo.com, state broadcaster China Central Television included an image of what appeared to be paramilitary police in combat uniforms and helmets assembled outside a Zhengzhou airport hotel and another image of several ambulances.

The Zhengzhou airport said in a statement that it immediately activated emergency measures, adding that the passengers who disembarked were in a stable mood and that the airport was

operating normally.

The airline said police and aviation authorities were handling the matter and refused to provide further information. It said it was arranging for another plane to pick up the passengers from Zhengzhou.

All passengers and crew on Flight 1350 made it safely off the plane

The Beijing News said on its Weibo page that a passenger described being awoken by a scream coming from the front of the plane and that "nobody knew what was going on."

The Xiaoxiang Morning Herald quoted a passenger as saying that the disturbance occurred in the first or business class cabins, but that the curtains separating those sections from economy class were pulled tightly shut.

She looked out the window and saw many police cars, ambulances and fire engines parked outside the plane as it was landing in Zhengzhou, the newspaper said in a Weibo post. The passenger described seeing armed personnel in camouflage uniforms assembled in two or three rows. AP

Foreign minister makes rare Japan visit as countries mend ties

Isabel Reynolds

CHINA'S foreign minister is making a rare visit to Tokyo, in a sign of improving cooperation between Asia's two largest economies as they face policy whiplash from the U.S. over trade and security.

Foreign Minister Wang Yi's trip yesterday to meet Japanese counterpart Taro Kono will be the first of its kind in more than eight years. Japan is keen to confer with its neighbor ahead of a summit between the two Koreas and a potential meeting between U.S. President Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un. China's bid to repair relations comes as the U.S. threatens trade sanctions and a renewed emphasis on Taiwan ties.

Long-fraught ties between Tokyo and Beijing deteriorated to a 40-year low after the Japanese government's 2012 purchase of disputed islets near Taiwan sparked Chinese



Foreign Minister Wang Yi

demonstrations, damaged trade and even raised fears of a military clash. Since taking office at the height of the dispute, Abe has sought rapprochement with his country's largest trading partner. He finally managed to turn the tide last year with a qualified pledge of cooperation on Chinese President Xi Jinping's

signature Belt and Road trade and infrastructure initiative.

"For the Abe administration, China is essential to effectively pressuring North Korea," said Madoka Fukuda, a professor of global politics at Hosei University in Tokyo. China is motivated by a lack of transparency in U.S. policy making, as well as

tougher American security and trade stances, she added.

Abe is set to meet Trump in Florida next week, where he plans to press the president to maintain a hard line on North Korea and seek to persuade him to take a more multilateral approach to trade. Despite the diplomatic push, tensions over ter-

ritory and Japan's militarist history remain. Coast guard and military ships from both countries continue to tail one another around the uninhabited Senkaku islands, known as the Diaoyus to China. Japan's Self-Defense Forces activated a new amphibious unit to help defend remote islands just a week ago.

A poll published in December found a marked fall in the percentage of respondents in Japan and China who saw ties between the two countries negatively. Still, few see the relationship as good.

On the agenda for yesterday's talks are preparations for a May trip to Japan by Premier Li Keqiang. Abe has expressed hopes the exchanges will presage a return to regular reciprocal visits between leaders of the two countries.

A high-level Japan-China economic dialogue will resume today, amid concerns in both countries about the potential for a trade war sparked by the U.S. The Chinese are seeking Japanese cooperation on U.S. steel and aluminum tariffs imple-

mented last month, Kyodo News reported Saturday, citing people close to the talks.

Trump threw fresh confusion into trade negotiations Thursday by instructing advisers to review the possibility of returning to the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal. The TPP, which Trump withdrew from soon after taking office last year, includes 11 Pacific Rim nations, but not China.

Successful visits by Wang and Li would provide positive publicity at a crucial time for Abe, whose chances of winning a ruling party leadership election in September have been damaged by a series of allegations of cronyism and government cover-ups. Recent polls show public support for his cabinet has fallen below disapproval.

"For China, Trump is unstable and unreliable," said Yasuhiro Matsuda, a professor of international politics at the University of Tokyo. "Even if Abe resigns, Japan is relatively stable. So they can use ties with Japan as a form of insurance." Bloomberg



Village women sit on a hunger strike demanding that the investigation into the rape and murder of 8-year-old girl Asifa be handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation

INDIA

Ruling party lawmaker arrested on rape allegation

Biswajeet Banerjee, Lucknow

A lawmaker from India's ruling Hindu nationalist party was arrested after being accused of abducting and raping a teenage girl last year, officials said.

Kuldeep Singh Sengar was arrested Friday after being question-

ned by authorities in Lucknow, the capital of northern Uttar Pradesh state, said Abhishek Dayal, a spokesman for India's Central Bureau of Investigation. He denies the allegation.

The teen also accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi's governing Bharatiya Janata Party of

shielding the lawmaker and police of delaying his prosecution.

Violent crimes against women have been on the rise in India despite tough laws enacted in 2013. In 2012, the fatal gang rape of a young woman in the heart of New Delhi prompted hundreds of thousands of Indians to take

to the streets to demand stricter rape laws.

The outrage over the New Delhi attack spurred quick action on legislation doubling prison terms for rapists to 20 years and criminalizing voyeurism, stalking and the trafficking of women. Indian lawmakers also voted to lower

to 16 from 18 the age at which a person can be tried as an adult for heinous crimes.

The girl told reporters Thursday that Sengar was known to her family because they were from the same village in Uttar Pradesh state. She accused Sengar of raping her in June last year when she went to his home in Unnao district, 40 kilometers (25 miles) from Lucknow.

Federal investigators said the teenager's family also accused four other people of kidnapping and raping her. Police are investigating the complaint.

The girl said she protested to state authorities in August last year but nothing happened. She and her family moved to New Delhi because they felt threatened by the lawmaker and his supporters and she sent petitions to India's president, the prime minister and the state police chief seeking help.

Last week, she visited the office of the state's top elected official, Yogi Adityanath. When she was denied meeting with state officials, she took out kerosene and tried to set herself on fire.

The lawmaker's brother, Atul Sengar, and his supporters have been accused of beating up the girl's father and Atul Sengar was arrested this week for causing the father's death.

The father was arrested after the beating because of a pending charge of possessing unlicensed guns and died, triggering protests. Internal injuries caused by the beating and blood poisoning were listed as causes of death.

The Associated Press generally does not name people who say they are a victim of a sex crime. AP

CAMBODIA

Opposition leader seeks Japan role in fair election

Mari Yamaguchi, Tokyo

CAMBODIA'S self-exiled opposition leader urged Japan, his nation's biggest donor, on Friday to use its leverage and convince his nation's autocratic government to ensure that July elections are democratic.

Sam Rainsy, whose Cambodia National Rescue Party has been banned, said he's hopeful that Japan and its business community can send a message to Prime Minister Hun Sen that he needs to restore democracy or face isolation.

Sam Rainsy is in Tokyo to meet with Japanese business and political officials to seek support for his return amid growing democratic setbacks ahead of the July 29 polls.

"Japan has strong leverage to help restore the de-

mocratic process," he told reporters in Tokyo. The U.S. and European nations have suspended financial support for the upcoming elections and Japan is the only Western bloc nation that maintains a good relationship with the Hun Sen regime, he said. "If Japan withdraws, Hun Sen will be totally isolated and Cambodia will be really in trouble."

Hun Sen has held power for more than three decades and declared his intention to remain for at least two more five-year terms.

Japan, which has contributed to Cambodia's peace-building and reconstruction, is seen as having responded somewhat mildly to the government's crackdown on the media and persecution of opposition politicians.

On Sunday, Japanese Fo-

reign Minister Taro Kono urged Cambodia to hold free and fair elections but didn't comment on the government's actions against its political opponents during talks with Hun Sen in Phnom Penh.

But Sam Rainsy says he believes Japan's quieter response is because it is mindful of Asian culture, in which people try to avoid causing others to lose face, and therefore is taking a more discreet, softer approach.

He said Japanese companies doing business with Cambodia are concerned about its volatile situation.

"So it is detrimental to the economic situation. We need sustainable development and we need Japanese investors. But Japanese investors are reluctant now that they cannot invest in such an envi-

ronment."

Sam Rainsy has urged a boycott of the vote under current conditions.

He has been in self-exile since late 2015 to avoid imprisonment in a defamation case, and was convicted again in December in connection with a Facebook comment about Hun Sen.

Sam Rainsy's party was dissolved in November by a court order after the government filed a complaint alleging it was involved in treasonous activities. All of its lawmakers were tossed out of parliament and party leaders have been subject to legal harassment.

On Friday, Sam Rainsy said he is still "hopeful" of a democratic election. "(If) the opposition will not be able to participate, then what can be predicted? It can be an eruption of vio-



Cambodia's self-exiled opposition leader Sam Rainsy speaks during a press conference in Tokyo

lence," he cautioned.

Tokyo in February announced an 800 million yen (\$7.6 million) grant to Cambodia that includes Japanese-made ballot bo-

xes and other election-related equipment for the July polls, adding to the 12,000 ballot boxes that Japan donated for the 1998 elections. AP



JAPAN

Protesters call for 'liar' Abe to resign over scandal

TENS of thousands of people joined a demonstration outside Japan's parliament Saturday, in a sign of growing public anger over cronyism scandals engulfing Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

Organizers say about 50,000 people attended this weekend's rally in Tokyo - the biggest in nearly three years. Protesters, many young, held up signs calling Abe a "liar" and seeking his resignation.

The prime minister has been forced in parliament to deny his involvement in two controversies over land deals to close associates. An alleged cover-up over the activity of Japanese troops during the Iraq war is also casting a cloud over his government. A spokesman for Abe's office didn't immediately respond to an email seeking comment.

The scandals have pushed Abe's approval ratings toward all-time lows, raising questions about his ability to win the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's leadership election in September. Victory would put him on track to become Japan's longest-serving prime minister.

A Kyodo poll taken over the weekend showed a drop of 5.4 percentage points in Abe's approval from a survey just two weeks earlier, tumbling to 37 percent. The disapproval rating rose to almost 53

percent. Almost four-fifths of those surveyed said they were dissatisfied with Abe's explanations over a long-running scandal centering on the decision to let his close friend open a veterinary school.

"The large number of people gathering is due to growing anger," said Takeshi Suwahara, one of the leaders of Saturday's protest. "A strong sense of crisis is spreading - people now sincerely feel they have to speak out for what is right."

While the protests are significant in a country where people tend to be reluctant to attend public demonstrations, they are still dwarfed by rallies in the summer of 2015 over Abe's push to expand the powers of Japan's military. Organizers of those gatherings said that around 350,000 people attended. Tokyo's Metropolitan Police Department said it didn't keep official figures for the numbers of attendees of Saturday's event.

"The current protests only started last month, but the number of people joining them is going up at a pace that is faster than even in 2015," said Koichi Nakano, a professor of political science at Sophia University in Tokyo. "The protesters are, of course, angry, but they also share the growing conviction that the Abe government is finally coming to an end." **Bloomberg**

Myanmar takes back 1 Rohingya family despite UN concerns

MYANMAR has accepted what appears to be the first five among some 700,000 Rohingya Muslim refugees who fled military-led violence against the minority group, even though the U.N. says it is not yet safe for them to return home.

A government statement said Saturday that five members of a family returned to western Rakhine state from a refugee camp across the border in Bangladesh.

The statement said that authorities determined whether they had lived in the country and provided them with a national verification card — a form of ID that doesn't mean citizenship that Rohingya have been denied in Buddhist-majority Myanmar, where they have faced persecution for decades.

It said that the family was staying temporarily with relatives in Mawngdaw town, the administrative center close to the border.

The statement did not say if any more repatriations are being planned. Bangladesh has given Myanmar a list of more than 8,000 refugees to begin the repatriation, but it has been further delayed by a complicated verification process.

The two countries agreed in December to begin repatriating them in January, but they were delayed by concerns among aid workers and Rohingya that they would be forced to return and face unsafe conditions in Myanmar.

Hundreds of Rohingya were reportedly killed in the recent violence, and many houses and villages burned to the ground. The United Nations and the U.S. have described the army crackdown as "ethnic cleansing."

On Friday, the U.N. refugee agency and Bangladesh finalized



Immigration officials examine documents as a Rohingya family of five look on at a receiving center in Taung Pyo

a memorandum of understanding that describes the repatriation process as "safe, voluntary and dignified [...] in line with international standards."

UNHCR said it "considers that conditions in Myanmar are not yet conducive for returns to be safe, dignified, and sustainable. The responsibility for creating such conditions remains with the Myanmar authorities, and these must go beyond the preparation of physical infrastructure to facilitate logistical arrangements."

Early this week, Myanmar Social Welfare Minister Win Myat Aye met with about 40 Rohingya refugees at the Kutupalong camp in Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh for more than an hour, sometimes ex-

changing heated words.

A Rohingya leader, Abdur Rahim, said at least eight rape victims were among those who met with him. Rahim said the group presented 13 demands for the government to meet for their return to Myanmar.

Rahim said the group became angry when Win Myat Aye said the Rohingya refugees must accept national verification cards to be provided by Myanmar in which they state they are migrants from Bangladesh.

Rohingya Muslims have long been treated as outsiders in Myanmar, even though their families have lived in the country for generations. Nearly all have been denied citizenship since 1982, effectively rendering them stateless. They are denied freedom of movement and other basic rights.

Rahim said they demanded to be recognized as citizens of Myanmar before the repatriation starts and that their security arrangements be supervised by the United Nations.

Rohingya who have been repatriated in the past after previous refugee exodus have been forced to live in camps in Myanmar. **AP**

UNHCR said it 'considers that conditions in Myanmar are not yet conducive for returns to be safe'

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AD

SOUTH SUDAN

Refugee flow is often a children's crisis

Adelle Kalakouti, Arua

THE flood of South Sudanese refugees from the country's 5-year civil war has been called a children's crisis.

More than 60 percent of the well over one million refugees who have poured into neighboring Uganda are under the age of 18, government and United Nations officials say. More than two million people have fled South Sudan overall.

Amid the fighting, over 75,000 children have found themselves on their own in Uganda and other neighboring countries, according to the U.N. refugee agency, separated from their families in the chaos or sent by their parents to relative safety.

While many children have reunited with relatives after crossing the border, others are matched by aid workers with foster families in an effort to minimize the disruption in their lives. Without parents, some children are left vulnerable to exploitation and abuse, aid workers say.

Some teenagers find themselves the head of their households, taking care of siblings.

One 16-year-old boy now takes care of his younger brother. "My father was shot in the war," he said. "And then my mother, I don't know where she went." He doesn't know

if she's dead or alive.

The brothers fled to Uganda on the back of a car after seeing their father's body on a street in their village. After arriving in Uganda they were taken to a reception center run by the U.N. refugee agency.

Efforts to support the children have been hurt by a recent scandal in Uganda in which officials were accused of inflating refugee numbers to siphon off aid money. That has shaken international donors.

Without parents, some children are left vulnerable to exploitation and abuse, aid workers say

Aid workers say resources are stretched thin as they try to place the unaccompanied children with foster families with close ethnic ties.

It's crucial to place children with families that speak the same language, said James Kamira, a child protection expert with the World Vision aid agency.

One young mother of two, Beatrice Tumalu, now takes

AP PHOTO



South Sudanese refugee children gather near a water point in the Rhino refugee settlement, near Arua

care of eight other children who are not her own.

"I feel pity for them," she said, as she grew up under similar circumstances during the years that South Sudan fought for independence from Sudan. That independence was won in 2011, and South Sudan's civil war broke out two years later.

The unaccompanied children have little of that aid workers call psychosocial support to

help deal with trauma. In one refugee settlement just six case workers are available for 78,000 children, according to the Danish Refugee Council.

Another 16-year-old said his parents died three years ago in South Sudan. He walked into Uganda last year and later was placed with a foster family from another ethnic group.

"Staying there, it is not very well," he said of the cultural and communication issues.

Sitting against a tree, he opened the Bible he carried with him and began to cry as he read one passage: "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you."

South Sudan's many unaccompanied children need stability and education or "we can lose actually that generation," warned Basil Droti, who is in charge of child protection at one settlement for the Danish Refugee Council. AP

HUNGARY

Protesters demand new vote, new electoral system

Pablo Gorondi, Budapest

TEAMS of thousands of anti-government protesters marched Saturday in the Hungarian capital of Budapest, demanding a new election and a new national electoral system in the biggest opposition rally in years.

Prime Minister Viktor Orban was re-elected for a fourth term last week. His right-wing populist Fidesz party won a supermajority in the national assembly, with preliminary results showing that Fidesz and tiny ally the Christian Democratic party won 134 seats in the 199-seat legislature.

Opposition supporters are upset that Hungary's electoral rules have given Orban's party such a large majority in Parliament

when it only won around 50 percent of the vote.

While the left-wing opposition parties won 12 of 18 seats at stake in Budapest districts, Fidesz won 85 of 88 seats outside the capital. The other 93 seats were allocated based on votes for party lists.

Protesters marched from the Opera to Parliament, shouting "New elections!" "We are the majority!" "Vik-tator!" and "Filthy Fidesz!"

The size of the crowd, overflowing from the city's Kossuth Square outside the striking neo-Gothic Parliament, rivalled the pro-government "Peace March" held on March 15. Organizers said another anti-government protest would be held next weekend.

"We want new and fair



Demonstrators dissatisfied with last week's general election result gather at the Parliament building at Kossuth square in downtown Budapest

elections," opposition activist Gergely Gulyas told the huge crowd. "This is the responsibility of the government and we're going to remind them of this, peacefully and massively."

Orban, whose campaign focused on the demonization of migrants, has

promised "significant changes" in his next government, which could push for a constitutional amendment against migration.

A fragmented opposition, a complex electoral system that disproportionately favors the biggest party and Orban's decision to greatly

facilitate citizenship for Hungarians living in neighboring countries like Romania and Serbia all contributed to his large win on April 8.

Over 96 percent of voters in those bordering countries — including areas that Hungary lost after World War I — backed Orban's Fidesz party.

"When I asked my grandparents why they allowed (communist dictator) Matyas Rakosi to stay in power for so long, they answered that they were scared," writer and journalist Gergely Homonnay, one of the rally's organizers, told protesters. "Well, I'm not scared. We're not scared."

Homonnay said protesters had three requests: Changing the electoral system "which forever cemen-

ts Fidesz in power;" ousting Chief Prosecutor Peter Polt, an Orban ally, because "as long as he is in office not a single corruption case will be investigated;" and getting Fidesz out of state media, which has become an unabashed promoter of government propaganda in recent years.

Orban claims that opposition parties want to turn Hungary into an "immigrant nation" with the help of the European Union, the United Nations and Hungarian-American billionaire and philanthropist George Soros. Opposition members deny the claim.

At the end of the rally Saturday, participants sang Hungary's national anthem, as well as the EU anthem, which is based on Ludwig van Beethoven's "Ode to Joy." AP

ANALYSIS

Putin sits back as US, allies strike Syria

Vladimir Isachenkov, AP

FACING a stark choice between engaging the United States, Britain and France in combat or passively watching them strike his ally, Russian President Vladimir Putin has opted for the peaceful route.

That cautious response may dent the Russian leader's tough-man image but it won't undermine his gains in Syria or erode his authority at home.

The Kremlin had warned Washington that Russia would fend off any strike that jeopardized its servicemen in Syria. The West respected that red line by giving advance notice of Saturday's attack, just as it did a year ago when it struck a Syrian air base. Russia had sat idle back then, but this time, it had threatened to retaliate.

Such a clash could have quickly spun out of control — an extremely dangerous scenario that was widely compared to the 1962 Cuban missile crisis, when the world narrowly escaped a nuclear conflict.

"With our allies, we ensured that the Russians were warned ahead of time," said French Defense Minister Florence Parly. The U.S.-led airstrikes were a response to a purported chemical attack on civilians in the Syrian town of Douma on April 7. Russia said its experts found no trace of chemical agents.

A senior French official noted that President Emmanuel Macron did not tell Putin about the strikes when they spoke on the

AP PHOTO



phone Friday, but "certain deconfliction mechanisms" had already been triggered by that point and "both knew that a new phase was going to begin quickly."

Putin condemned Saturday's strikes as an "act of aggression" that will worsen the humanitarian catastrophe in Syria and have a "destructive influence on the entire system of international relations." He criticized Washington and its allies for attacking without waiting for inspectors from the international chemical weapons watchdog group to visit Douma, just outside Damascus.

The Russian military said its air defenses at two bases in Syria tracked the incoming missiles but didn't engage them.

Russian social media buzzed Saturday with angry nationalist comments blasting Putin for failing to protect his ally. But state TV focused on criticizing the West

for acting on the basis of what Moscow called a faked chemical attack.

The Kremlin's tight control over the media will help Putin avoid any significant damage to his carefully nurtured image of a strong leader.

Putin condemned Saturday's strikes as an 'act of aggression' that will worsen the humanitarian catastrophe in Syria

sis to advance its narrative of an aggressive West that plunges the world into chaos and disregards international law. Russian officials and lawmakers compared it to the 2003 U.S.-led invasion of Iraq that was launched on claims that Baghdad was developing suspected nuclear weapons — allegations that proved to be false.

Commentators on state TV argued that Trump and British Prime Minister Theresa May launched the attack to distract attention from their political problems at home.

For now, Putin has limited his response to calling an urgent meeting of the U.N. Security Council.

No military measures were immediately announced, but in a clear warning to the U.S. and its allies, Col. Gen. Sergei Rudskoi of the Russian military's General Staff said Moscow could boost Syria's Soviet-era air defense assets with batteries of state-of-the-art S-300 missiles. He noted that Moscow so far has heeded Western requests not to provide the missiles to Damascus, but said it may now reconsider.

Rudskoi added that Moscow could also supply long-range missiles to unidentified other countries, a possible reference to Iran, which has taken deliveries of S-300s in the past.

The statement clearly was aimed at discouraging the West from more attacks on Syria that could endanger President Bashar Assad's gains on the battlefield, where Russian support has helped him secure control of most strategic areas.

REPORTER'S VIEW

Before dawn, the streak of a missile across Damascus' sky

Hassan Ammar, Damascus

IT was not an explosion that woke us up, but a call from a friend in Damascus to alert us: The strikes had begun. It was just after 4 a.m. Saturday. I rushed out of my hotel room up to The Associated Press' office a few floors above.

By the time I got there, anti-aircraft guns were at work, their tracers dotting the night sky over the Syrian capital. Our office, facing east, provided an almost theatrical view. To the left was the mountain overlooking Damascus from which Syrian air de-

fenses were firing. Straight in front of us was the orange glow from fires on the city outskirts where the airstrikes carried out by

Many Damascus residents had spent the past nights on their rooftops watching for an attack

the United States, Britain and France had hit.

I was already all set up. Days earlier, I had put my camera in place on its tripod out on the balcony, hooked to a remote control so I could operate it from inside.

The surface-to-air missiles began to fire. This was the shot I had planned for. My first picture was no good — it was out of the frame. But the second captured the moment: The streak of the missile, drawn out in the long exposure, lanced up into the night, another one further behind it.

The AP team had arrived in Damascus from Beirut earlier in the week. We were far from the only spectators in those pre-dawn hours.

Many Damascus residents had spent the past nights on their rooftops watching for an attack. If they were fearful about where the standoff between Syria, Russia and the U.S. over an alleged chemical attack was going, few showed it. There was no sense of dread, and Damascus' main market, Souq al-Hamidiyya, was packed with thousands of people the day before the attack.

AP PHOTO



Hours after the strikes, officials took journalists to the Syrian Scientific Research Center on Damascus' eastern edge. The strikes had reduced the complex to smoldering rubble. But the sense of defian-

ce was in full force Saturday. Residents massed in the streets, waving Syrian flags and chanting in support of President Bashar Assad. In the eyes of government supporters, it seemed, the strikes had come and gone. **AP**

what's ON



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Offbeat



TRAINER FREDDIE ROACH 'HURT' AFTER SPLIT FROM MANNY PACQUIAO

Manny Pacquiao and trainer Freddie Roach say their 16-year partnership has ended.

Pacquiao disclosed his decision Friday in the final sentence of a news release detailing his plans for his upcoming fight against Lucas Matthysse.

Roach says he didn't officially learn about the split until Pacquiao's announcement. Pacquiao frequently credited Roach for his evolution from a raw Filipino puncher into an eight-division world champion during countless hours of work in Roach's Wild Card Gym in Hollywood.

Roach issued a bittersweet statement heralding the end of one of the most durable partnerships in a notoriously fickle sport. Roach had been in Pacquiao's corner for 34 consecutive fights since his U.S. debut in 2001.

"Manny and I had a great run for 15 years — longer than most marriages and certainly a rarity for boxing," Roach said. "I wouldn't trade any of it. Inside the boxing ring and the political ring, I wish Manny nothing but the best. I would be lying if I didn't say I wasn't hurt that he didn't contact me personally about his decision, but the great times we enjoyed together far outweigh that."

The 39-year-old Pacquiao (59-7-2, 38 KOs) is in the twilight of his career, with four losses in his last nine bouts and a noticeable decrease in the hand speed that made him an incredible fighter. He lost a decision to Floyd Mayweather in 2015, and he lost another to unheralded Australian Jeff Horn in his final bout with Roach in July 2017.

But Pacquiao, who is also a senator in the Philippines, is determined to extend his career. He will be trained by Restituto "Buboy" Fernandez and Raides "Nonoy" Neri for his fight against Matthysse (39-4, 36 KOs) for the WBA welterweight title in Kuala Lumpur on July 15.

Fernandez is Pacquiao's longtime right-hand man and a fixture in the Wild Card during Pacquiao's training sessions with Roach. Neri also is a longtime friend and occasional cook for Pacquiao, who typically kept a huge entourage of Filipino friends around him during his months in California.

Roach is widely considered one of the greatest trainers in recent boxing history. He took over Pacquiao's development in 2001 after the young Filipino fighter showed up at the Wild Card and asked for guidance.

Pacquiao also is becoming a serious promoter with his bout against Matthysse, the Argentine power puncher backed by Golden Boy Promotions. Top Rank, Pacquiao's longtime promoter, will handle certain aspects of the promotion.

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13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTP) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Miscellaneous
15:40	Miscellaneous
16:30	Zig Zag
17:50	Brazilian Soap Opera (Repeated)
18:40	Non-daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
19:50	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Sports
22:10	Brazilian Soap Opera
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Champions League 2017/2018 Magazine
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:40	RTP Live

this day in history



1993 UN MAKES SREBRENICA 'SAFE HAVEN'

The United Nations has voted to make the Bosnian town of Srebrenica a safe haven, as the town teeters on the brink of falling to Bosnian Serb forces.

In a late-night emergency session, the UN Security Council voted to back the stand taken by the UN's commander in Bosnia, General Philippe Morillon, and offer its protection to the besieged city.

Under the proposal, Srebrenica would become a center for Bosnian Muslim refugees seeking safety from Bosnian Serb aggression. However, the details of how such a safe haven would be defended are unclear.

Tens of thousands of civilians trapped in the town are said to be in a state of panic tonight as Serbian forces close in on what may be a final offensive to take the town.

Srebrenica has been under siege for 11 months, and UN officials say it is unlikely to hold out for much longer.

"The Muslim forces have few weapons and even less ammunition," warned a UN military source. Bosnian radio said the Serbs had moved to within 1.6km of the town itself.

Conditions in Srebrenica are said to be appalling. The town's normal population has been swollen by thousands of refugees, fleeing the advancing Serb forces. Hundreds are wounded, and many are dying for lack of medical facilities.

The Bosnian government has urged the world to act swiftly. "We appeal to you on behalf of the people of Srebrenica who are threatened with extinction," it said in a statement. "Thousands of women, children and elderly are going to be massacred."

The leader of the Bosnian Serbs, Radovan Karadzic, warned the town's defenders that if they did not give up their weapons the Serbs would advance. "We are not going to enter Srebrenica, we just want to pacify Srebrenica," he said.

Last month General Morillon declared Srebrenica under UN protection, pledging to stay in the town himself as a gesture of solidarity.

The UN's efforts to evacuate the wounded have caused chaotic scenes in which several have died, crushed to death in the scramble to get on board the convoys of trucks.

The last group of 800 refugees left on UN trucks just three days ago. Srebrenica is one of the last Muslim strongholds in eastern Bosnia, an area where all the main towns had a Muslim majority before the war.

Courtesy BBC News

cinema



CINETEATRO

12 - 18 APR



RAMPAGE
ROOM 1
2:30, 4:30, 07:30, 9:30pm
Director: Brad Peyton
Starring: Dwayne Johnson, Naomie Harris, Malin Akerman
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 107min



SECRET SUPERSTAR
ROOM 2
2:30, 5:30, 08:30pm
Director: Advait Chandan
Starring: Aamir Khan, Zaira Wasim
Language: Hindi (English & Chinese)
Duration: 150min

TOMORROW IS ANOTHER DAY
ROOM 3
2:15, 5:45pm
Director: Nick Park
Starring: Eddie Redmayne, Tom Hiddleston
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 91min



READY PLAYER ONE
ROOM 3
9:15pm
Director: Steven Spielberg
Starring: Tye Sheridan, Olivia Cooke, Ben Mendelsohn
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 140min

IN CONTEXT

The designation of Srebrenica as a safe area was extended on 6 May to include five other Bosnian towns: Sarajevo, Tuzla, Zepa, Gorazde and Bihać. The Bosnian President, Alja Izetbegović, dismissed the concept. He said the havens would become death traps, where refugees, thinking they were safe, would instead become easy targets for Bosnian Serb forces. The safe havens of Sarajevo and Gorazde were attacked in 1994, prompting UN airstrikes. Then, in 1995, Srebrenica was finally overrun by the Bosnian Serb forces of General Ratko Mladić. The tiny contingency of Dutch UN peacekeepers assigned to defend the town were powerless to stop them, and about 30 UN soldiers were taken hostage by Serb forces. A belated Nato airstrike on Bosnian Serb positions following repeated requests from the Dutch commander also failed to prevent the carnage that was to follow. An estimated 7,000 Muslim men and boys were murdered and buried in mass graves in the worst atrocity in Europe since World War II. General Mladić was later indicted by the War Crimes Tribunal for genocide, but is still at large. In 2002 the entire Dutch government resigned after an inquiry blamed officials for giving their poorly-armed UN peacekeepers an impossible task in asking them to defend the town.

YOUR STARS



Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Staying inside your head today isn't a bad idea. You're still mulling some things over, and the outside world offers nothing but noise. This excludes the people you care about, of course.



Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

Sometimes, you push yourself too hard for perfection - you cannot possibly be perfect (at least not all the time), so do yourself a favor and quit it! Shake loose of the expectations you have for yourself right now.



Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Conversations with a few intellectual giants will be entertaining and enriching today, especially if you have confidence in what you have to add to the mix. Keep in mind that you don't have to be an expert on everything.



Libra

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

As long as you get enough coffee in the morning and fresh air during the course of the day, you'll be fine. Just monitor your emotions and check in with yourself every now and again.



Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Ever notice the strange nature of a construction site? You see the skeleton of a structure for months and months - and then one day you go by and there's a brand new building standing there!



Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

You have great potential to make a seed of an idea bloom into a hearty tree today - and it's not even something you've been working on. More likely, it's a concept, change or process that's been hovering in the back of your mind.



Taurus

April 20-May 20

The good luck pendulum is swinging back toward the business and financial areas of your life today! Look for either a big expenditure to suddenly disappear - a new source of income to show signs of growth.



Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Moving slowly is starting to feel good, and you're getting the hang of listening to yourself and conserving your energy. This is a real sign of progress, one that indicates you may be storing up resources.



Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

You are achieving major victories every day, whether you realize it or not. So why do you always need an excuse to celebrate? Pick a date and a hot new restaurant, and then call up your friends for a fun night out.



Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

Seeing the same folks day after day may have seemed boring a while ago, but you are getting used to the rhythms of the people around you. A family is developing, and you're finding a strong support system for your ideas.



Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

If you really want to have fun, make social decisions based on what would make you happiest. It sounds simple, of course - but it's only simple if you remember to do it. Work pressures will ease.



Pisces

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

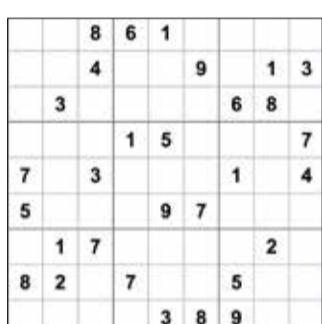
You'll be feeling quite outgoing today, and it's perfect timing because you'll encounter an awful lot of terribly intriguing people during the course of the day. Put conversation at the top of your priority list.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom

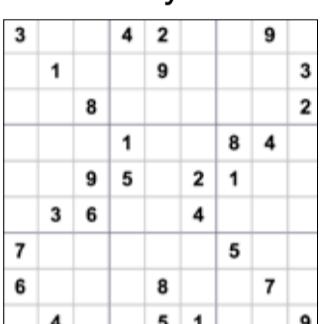


SUDOKU

Easy



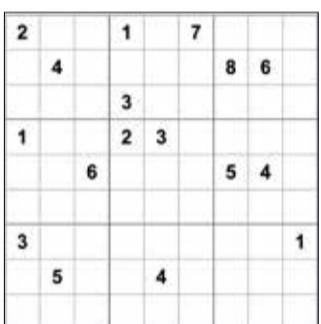
Easy+



Medium



Hard

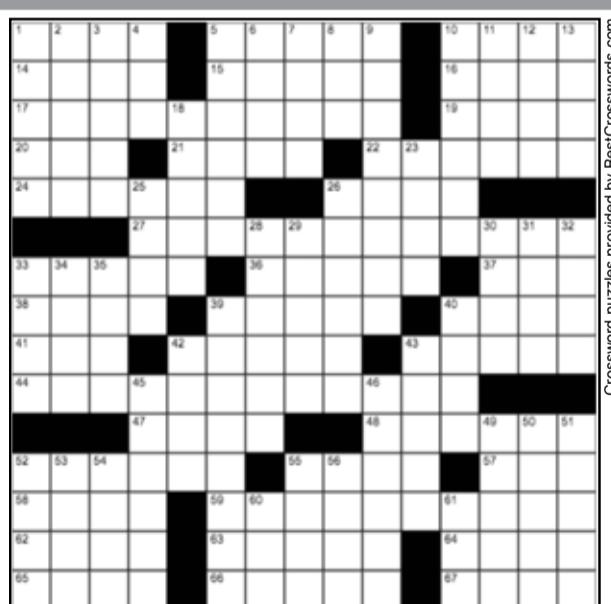


CROSSWORD

ACROSS: 1- Boy or man; 5- Taiwan Strait island; 10- Soccer legend; 14- Tons; 15- Crazy as ___; 16- Take down ___; 17- Having the sun orbit the earth; 19- City in Western Nevada; 20- Frat letters; 21- Greek portico; 22- Haunt; 24- Comfortable; 26- Traditional knowledge; 27- Capital of Utah; 33- Metallic mixture; 36- Horse opera; 37- ___ in Charlie; 38- It's over your head; 39- Satisfied; 40- Roll call call; 41- Sun Devils' sch.; 42- Course with pluses and minuses; 43- Apple juice; 44- Comfort for some kids; 47- 1997 Peter Fonda role; 48- Unanimously; 52- Gun; 55- Not tricked by; 57- Pub pint; 58- 16th letter of the Hebrew alphabet; 59- Self-centered; 62- Speed contest; 63- Echolocation; 64- Hazard; 65- Cartoonist Silverstein; 66- Constellation components; 67- Chow;

DOWN: 1- ___ Carta; 2- Aboriginal Alaskan; 3- Not tied down; 4- And so on: Abbr.; 5- Construction framing a fireplace; 6- Chorus member; 7- When said three times, a 1970 war movie; 8- ___-distant (self-styled); 9- Raw; 10- 3.26 light-years; 11- Fencing weapon; 12- Optical device; 13- Freudian topics; 18- Short literary composition; 23- ___ Rabbit; 25- Beginning on; 26- Up-to-the-minute; 28- Perfectly; 29- Wood strips; 30- Chilled; 31- Shipping deduction; 32- River of Flanders; 33- Kaffiyeh wearer; 34- Fail to win; 35- Like Hawaiian shirts; 39- Monotony; 40- Informal greeting; 42- Venus de ___; 43- Sing like Bing; 45- Underground passage; 46- Furry swimmers; 49- "West Side Story" song; 50- Elite group; 51- Head supporters; 52- Limos, hatchbacks, and coupes; 53- Indian nursemaid; 54- Pleasing; 55- A Chaplin; 56- Tenn. neighbor; 60- Obtained; 61- Uno + due;

Friday's solution



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

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RIO revenge, a brain fade and a gripping contest forced into extra time.

New Zealand got some Olympic revenge on Australia to claim the inaugural Commonwealth Games rugby women's sevens gold medal with an extra-time win yesterday. The Kiwis made it a double within the hour by upsetting Olympic champion Fiji 14-0 in the men's final.

The women's decider was locked 12-12 at fulltime, and it took until the first passage of extra time for Kelly Brazier to run length of field to gift New Zealand the gold 17-12.

In a game littered with what-ifs for the Australians, Cassie Staples kicked the ball into the crowd while Australia had possession at full time and within 40 meters of the tryline.

Even New Zealand captain Sarah Goss made mention of the costly mistake.

"I couldn't believe it. I had no idea what was going on [...] but I am so proud of the girls," Goss said. "It's been an amazing run over the last eight weeks."

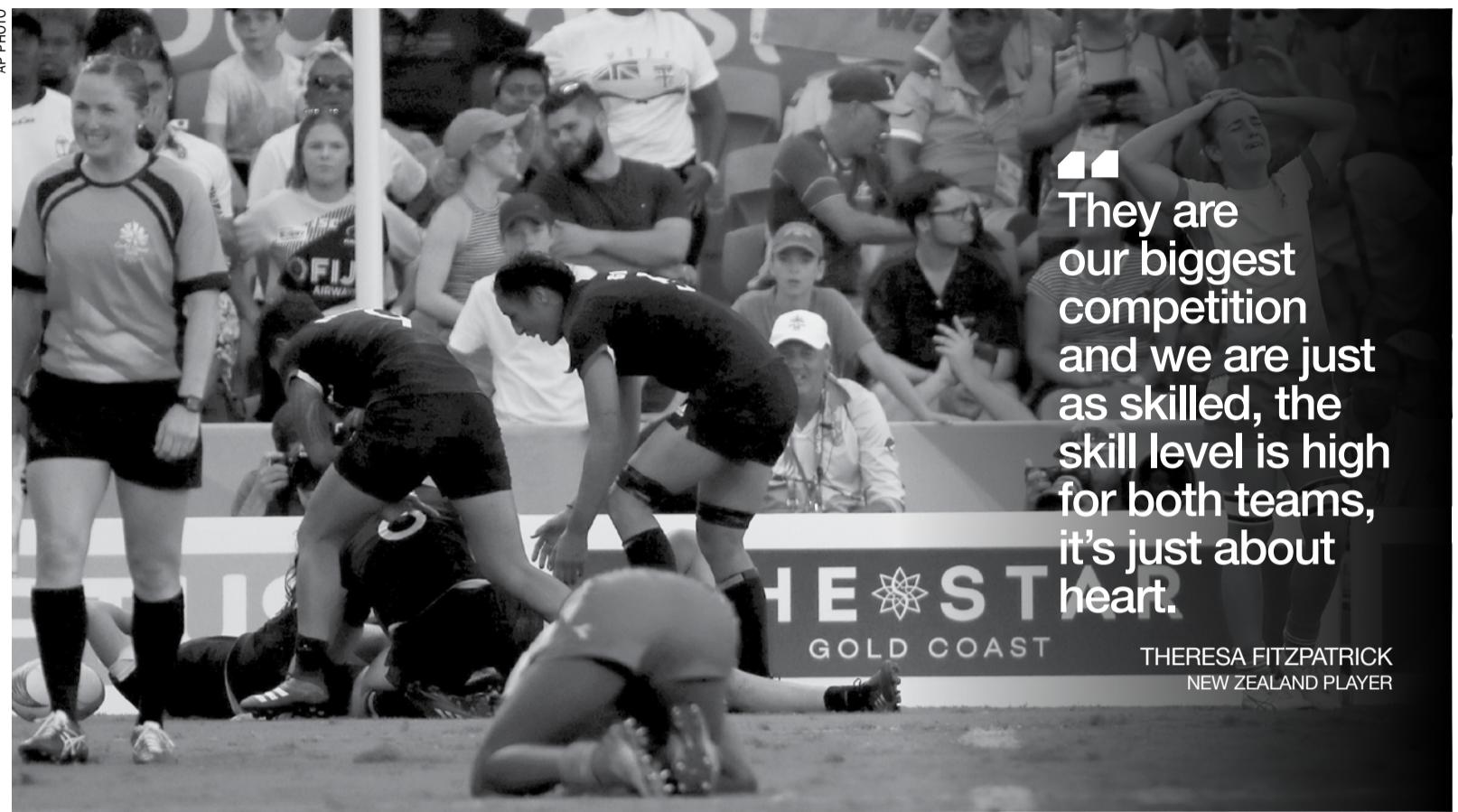
For Australia coach Tim Walsh, it was the ultimate gate-crash.

Yesterday was Walsh's last day as head coach of a women's team which has raised the national profile of the sport.

"We're devastated ... you can't fault the effort we put in but we don't like losing," Walsh said. "We know we made some mistakes, they do happen ... we did well to come back from 12-nil down, and credit to New Zealand."

Speaking of the intense rivalry with Australia, New Zealand's Theresa Fitzpatrick said: "They are our biggest competition and we are just as skilled, the skill level is high for both teams, it's

AP PHOTO



New Zealand players celebrate after defeating Australia in extra time to win their rugby sevens gold medal match

They are our biggest competition and we are just as skilled, the skill level is high for both teams, it's just about heart.

— THERESA FITZPATRICK
NEW ZEALAND PLAYER

COMMONWEALTH GAMES | RUGBY

Double gold for New Zealand at expense of Olympic champions

just about heart."

Charlotte Caslick, one of Australia's best at these games, didn't come back on in the second half after a head knock.

Australia had already lost co-captain Sharni Williams, who was ruled out before the semifinals with an injured left ankle.

The New Zealand men made it a double celebration by up-

setting crowd-favorite Fiji after crossing for two first-half tries.

It was their defense that won the game — New Zealand captain Scott Currie pulled off try-saving tackle in the second half that showcased their tenacity.

An increasingly frustrated Fiji couldn't find their rhythm in a scoreless second half, a rarity for two teams so skilled at

running the ball.

"We watched the women go into overtime and their win at the end really inspired us to get the double," said Tim Mikkelson, who was also part of the New Zealand squad that won gold in New Delhi in 2010. The New Zealand men celebrated later with a bare-chested haka on the field.

England got a double, too, beating Canada 24-19 in the women's bronze-medal match and South Africa 21-14 in the men's playoff for third spot.

World Rugby Chairman Bill Beaumont timed his run at the Commonwealth Games to announce Fiji was putting in a bid host a leg of the World Series in the near future. AP

COMMONWEALTH GAMES | BADMINTON

Lee wins his 3rd individual title

AGING champion Lee Chong Wei gave newly-promoted world No. 1 Srikanth Kidambi a demonstration in how to peak for a championship yesterday, claiming his third Commonwealth Games gold medal in the men's singles.

The 35-year-old Malaysian star, a three-time Olympic silver medalist, rallied after dropping the first game to beat Kidambi 19-21, 21-14, 21-14 at the Carrara Sports and Leisure Centre only hours before the closing ceremony of the games.

"This is one of my most memorable achievements because this will be my last Commonwealth Games," Lee said. "I know how im-

portant this gold medal is for Malaysia. I won this for the whole Malaysian badminton team."

Kidambi beat Lee as he helped India win the mixed team title and had the better of the first game in the singles final until the Malaysian veteran found his touch.

"I lost to him in the mixed team event and I wanted to come back in the individual event. It's not easy mentally," Lee said. "In one week I played him two times in the final. The first time I lost ... I think mentally today I was very, very strong."

Lee, who is 10 years older than Kidambi, won the individual and mixed gold medals in the 2006 and

2010 editions in Melbourne and New Delhi and will retire from Commonwealth Games competition with five golds and a silver.

Kidambi said he'd be a better player for the experience of his first Commonwealth Games.

"When you're playing against such a good player you have to be at your best always throughout the match," he said. "I started well but I made too many mistakes in my defense."

"In the third I really should not have given him that lead. He just played much better."

Saina Nehwal had a 21-18, 23-21 win over Venkata Pusarla in an-all India final to collect her second Commonwealth Games singles

gold.

"Much tougher because the pressure is always there when you already have a gold," Nehwal said of the difference between winning in New Delhi in 2010 and now. "There are a lot more expectations — the pressure is way more than the other tournaments."

Nehwal, the Olympic bronze medalist in 2012, ranked her title on the Gold Coast highly in her career achievements.

"You really want that gold medal for your country and I'm happy I could get it for my country," she said. "I really put it with my Olympic medal and my world No.1 ranking. It's a very emotional moment."

Malaysia won the wo-

AP PHOTO



men's doubles with Mei Kuan Chow and Vivian Hoo combining for a 21-12, 21-12 victory over England's Lauren Smith and Sarah Walker.

England collected two gold medals on the final day. The husband-and-wife team of Chris and Gabriel-

le Adcock won the mixed doubles with 21-19, 17-21, 21-16 over Marcus Ellis and Lauren Smith, and then Ellis combined with Chris Langridge to win the men's doubles 21-13, 21-16 over India's Satwik Rankireddy and Chirag Chandrashekhar Shetty. AP

FOOTBALL

FIFA wants to charge hosts of planned 24-team Club World Cup

FIFA wants to charge hosting fees for staging 24-team Club World Cup tournaments worth at least USD3 billion each and planned to kick off in 2021.

In a briefing document seen by The Associated Press, FIFA says host markets "must have a propensity to pay a hosting fee" — a business model similar to Formula One auto racing.

FIFA has a USD25 billion offer from a consortium including Chinese, Saudi Arabian and American interests to help organize and market the revamped Club World Cup and a new global league for national teams for 12 years through 2033.

However, the project faces strong opposition from soccer leaders in Europe who see a threat to their hugely popular Champions League.

Each edition of a proposed Club World Cup every four years would have guaranteed revenue of \$3 billion.

Even FIFA's own briefing document suggests just \$650 million to \$1 billion would be "required to make it a successful project." The 2017 Club World Cup played in the United Arab Emirates — featuring six continental champions and the host nation's champion — earned just \$37 million for FIFA in its annual December slot.

F1

Daniel Ricciardo wins Chinese Grand Prix

Stephen Wade, Shanghai

REED Bull driver Daniel Ricciardo yanked off his right shoe, poured champagne into it as he stood on the podium, and then drank up to his unlikely victory in Sunday's Chinese Grand Prix.

The Australian started from the third row, but took advantage when the safety car came out on the 31st lap to allow him to get fresh, soft tires when the other leaders were running on worn rubber and couldn't get in quickly to change.

Ricciardo got quicker and quicker and took the lead on the 45th lap of the 56-lap race, overtaking Valtteri Bottas with a dive on the inside past the Mercedes driver.

"A lot of time you only get one chance, so I make the most of every opportunity," Ricciardo said.

Bottas called it a "fair" pass and finished second with Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen in third.

Red Bull's victory leaves the Formula One season in a scramble after just three races. There's no clear favorite and plenty of questions.

Mercedes, the power of the last few sea-

sons, has not won any of the first three races with defending champion Lewis Hamilton and Bottas at the wheel. Hamilton finished fourth on Sunday and was never a factor.

Sebastian Vettel of Ferrari won the first two races in Australia and Bahrain, but failed to capitalize on his pole position in China. He led for the first 20 laps but fell back, first due to a pit stop and then after a collision with Red Bull's Max Verstappen on the 43rd lap. Vettel finished eighth.

The Ferrari driver still leads the season standings with 54 points after three races.

Hamilton, the four-time and defending champion, improved his season points total to 45. Bottas has 40 points in third place and Ricciardo is fourth with 37.

Bottas acknowledged Mercedes still "has work to do."

"It's so close between Red Bull, Ferrari and us," he said. "Just depending on the conditions and whoever gets the tires and the set up right. It's very close depending on the conditions."

This was Ricciardo's sixth career win, and the first one since a victory a year ago in Azerbaijan, the venue for the next race in two weeks.

What a difference a week makes.

AP PHOTO



Daniel Ricciardo celebrates after winning the Chinese GP

In Bahrain a week ago, Ricciardo and Verstappen were out after the first several laps on a frustrating weekend for Red Bull.

"This sport's crazy," he said. "A week ago I was with my head down after two laps; frustrated at the sport, frustrated at all the variables that are involved in the sport. Sometimes I question why I chose this sport. It does get you down a lot. But then you have a day like this it's worth all those bad ones." AP

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opinion

World Views

Julian Lee, Bloomberg

THE REAL WORRY FOR OIL PRICES ISN'T MISSILES OVER SYRIA

Rising geopolitical tensions in the Middle East have already boosted oil prices and there is plenty of scope for them to move higher still. That an oil price spike would follow Western missiles launched at Syria seems a foregone conclusion. But for prices to really keep moving higher, the U.S. would have to take serious action against Syria's key sponsors: Russia and Iran.

Any form of attack on Syria should have little or no physical impact on oil supplies. Syria hasn't exported any since the start of its civil war in 2011. To keep the country running, Iran has been delivering around 50,000 barrels a day of crude to Syria's Banias terminal, according to Bloomberg tanker tracking.

As I have written recently President Donald Trump already has Iran in his sights. The clock is ticking - May 12 is the deadline for him to extend the waiver on sanctions that are suspended by the nuclear deal.

More recently he has turned up pressure on Moscow with a new raft of sanctions aimed at individuals and companies close to President Vladimir Putin. Gazprom PJSC CEO Alexey Miller and Surgutneftegas General Director Vladimir Bogdanov were among the targets - but not the companies they run.

Perversely, those sanctions have given the Russian oil sector quite a boost. The income from oil exports has surged. The ruble value of a barrel of Brent crude rose 14 percent since before the sanctions were announced, and reached a record 4,498 rubles (USD72) on Wednesday. When Brent peaked at \$146.08 a barrel in July 2008 the equivalent price was just 3,435 rubles a barrel.

With most of their costs denominated in the local currency that is a nice little bonus for the oil companies, and it's no surprise their shares are higher since the start of the year. The same is not true of aluminium producer United Co. Rusal - one of the sanctions' primary targets - which is down around 50 percent.

The question is whether this good fortune can continue. Putin may calculate that a ban on conducting business with Russian oil companies would cause too much disruption to global oil markets to be worth worrying about. He might be right.

Russia exports around 4.5 million barrels a day of crude oil and another 3 million of refined products, according to government data. That is more than every OPEC member except Saudi Arabia. Around a quarter of Russia's crude exports go to China, according to that country's customs service, mostly by pipeline across their common border, or via Kazakhstan.

Sanctions aimed at Russia's oil sector have, so far, avoided hitting current production or exports, instead targeting investment in future output. They have halted Western companies' involvement in Arctic, deepwater and shale projects in Russia and were extended last year to include similar projects around the world where Russian companies hold more than a one-third stake.

But new restrictions could always target a single company, or a small group of companies. The most obvious target might be Rosneft PJSC, long seen as inextricably linked to the Kremlin. It may have some defenses. The volume of its supply to the international oil market could provide an effective shield. So, too, the fact that BP Plc, the Qatar Investment Authority and Glencore Plc are its biggest shareholders after the Russian Federation, with a combined holding of 39.25 percent.

Even so, sanctions aimed at Russian oil companies can't be ruled out. If they come, they could well come quickly - the element of surprise certainly boosted the impact of the April 6 measures.

If so, the timing would not be ideal. Global oil supply has already been tightened by the OPEC-led supply cuts, and boosted by the collapse in Venezuelan output and drop in Mexican production.

Good news if you're Saudi Arabia, or a shale oil producer. Bad news if you're a car driver, an oil-importing developing country, or just about anybody else. I'll be greasing the chain on my bicycle this weekend.

THE BUZZ NEYMAR 'RECOVERING WELL' AFTER INJURY, ON COURSE FOR WCUP

Brazil star Neymar said yesterday he is "recovering well" from a foot injury and is on schedule to be ready for the World Cup.

The Paris Saint-Germain striker had surgery in March on a cracked fifth metatarsal in his right foot.

Neymar told a TV Globo variety show that he feels no pain, but he cannot put his injured foot on

the ground without an orthopedic shoe. He arrived on stage using two walking sticks.

"There is still a month left, but I am recovering well. It is all according to plan," the Brazilian said. "I feel no pain; I am stepping little by little. I cannot walk freely without the shoe, but I am in treatment, I am working out at the gym too. I am preparing well."



SOURCE: DSGM

Station	Air quality
Roadside	45-65 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	70-100 Moderate
Ambient	70-100 Moderate



WORLD BRIEFS



MYANMAR has accepted what appears to be the first five among some 700,000 Rohingya Muslim refugees who fled to neighboring Bangladesh to escape military-led violence against the minority group, even though the United Nations says it's not yet safe for them to return home. More on p13



SPAIN Tens of thousands of Catalan separatists rallied in downtown Barcelona yesterday to demand the release of high-profile secessionist leaders being held in pre-trial detention.



FRENCH authorities say 63 people have been arrested and nine police officers injured as protests took place in two cities amid simmering anger at President Emmanuel Macron's labor law changes.

GUINEA-BISSAU's president agreed with a rival faction of his party on a prime ministerial candidate as regional African leaders intervened to help end a political crisis of almost three years in one of the world's poorest countries.

BRAZIL The first poll since the country's former president was arrested showed environmentalist Marina Silva technically tied as a leading candidate in the next election with Jair Bolsonaro, who is facing accusations of racism and inciting hatred.

Trial begins in civil case focused on Copperfield show

AP PHOTO



Illusionist David Copperfield (center)

Regina Garcia Cano, Las Vegas

THE tricks behind a disappearing act that magician David Copperfield performed for years in Las Vegas were revealed in court Friday, the first day of trial in a civil case brought by a British tourist who claims he slipped, fell and was injured after he was randomly selected from the audience to participate in the show.

Attorneys for tourist Gavin Cox, Copperfield, the MGM Grand casino-resort, which hosts the show, and others detailed the route that randomly selected audience members follow during the trick in which Copperfield supposedly makes them disappear from a platform on stage and gets them to reappear in the back of the theater. Cox was injured along the route in a 2013 show.

Attorney Benedict Morelli, who represents Cox and his wife, told the jury during opening statements that the illusion known as the Thirteen was "an accident waiting to happen" and "obviously dangerous." He added that his client was never warned about a possible injury if he participated in the illusion.

"Quite the contrary, he and possibly all of the other participants had an expectation of safety," Morelli said. "So, Mr. Cox (said) 'OK. I guess I'm going to be OK. Why would David Copperfield, who is so famous, select me and not protect me?'"

Cox filed the lawsuit in 2014 months after he was randomly selected to participate in the final trick of Copperfield's show on Nov. 12, 2013.

Attorneys on Friday described how Cox sat on a platform on stage and later followed a route that took him through hallways and an outdoor area near a door that would have led him back inside. But it was at that point when he hit the floor.

Morelli argued that the audience doesn't get to see the "chaos" going on behind the scenes, where people are hurried. He said a confluence of events caused his client to fall and be injured — running in a dark area, following an unknown route, encountering an unknown incline, and dust and debris due to construction in the area.

MGM Grand's attorney Jerry Popovich told the jury that Cox simply missed a step when he fell and

did not slip. He explained that the site where the accident happened, about 22 feet before reaching the door to re-enter the casino, is essentially level with only a 1-degree drop.

Popovich said that 10 minutes before Cox went down, Copperfield had walked through that same area as part of another illusion that did not involve audience participation. He said Copperfield would have notified staff if he had noticed any problem in the route. "Mr. Cox did not slip, he tripped," Popovich said.

Cox in his lawsuit argues he has spent more than \$400,000 on medical care and treatment. He, his wife and sons were in the courtroom. So was Copperfield.

The attorneys for Copperfield and MGM Grand sought to keep opening statements, closing arguments and other portions of the trial in which the details of the magician's illusions were discussed closed to the public and the media.

They argued that those are considered trade secrets, but Cox's attorney argued people other than Copperfield, including former audience participants, know what is involved in carrying out the trick. AP