



Albino orangutan named “Alba” after worldwide appeal

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — A conservation group says a rare albino orangutan rescued in Indonesia was named “Alba” after thousands of suggestions were sent from around the world. The Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation said the name means “white” in Latin and “dawn” in Spanish. It hopes the animal will be an ambassador for the critically endangered species. The five-year-old female was rescued after being captured by villagers in Indonesia’s part of Borneo island April 29. It was the first albino orangutan to be encountered by the foundation in its 25 years of conservation work. The foundation is collecting information on albinism in great apes to help decide the primate’s future. Its CEO, Jamartin Sihite, said, “We can’t simply place Alba in a forest area, nor in a sanctuary, without thoroughly examining all possibilities.”

China’s fondness for pirated software raises risks in attack

BEIJING (AP) — Security researchers say China’s fondness for pirated software left it especially vulnerable to the latest global cyberattack. Beijing has tolerated rampant use of unlicensed software copies despite repeated promises to crack down and warnings by industry groups that China is leaving itself open to being hurt by malicious code. BSA The Software Alliance, an industry group, says some 70 percent of computers in China run unlicensed software, the highest level among large countries. Rates for the United States, Japan, Germany, and Britain range from 18 to 22 percent. Experts say that has left millions of Chinese computers without security support and made China among the countries most affected by the WannaCry ransomware that hit more than 150 countries.

Western Indian city launches air quality monitoring system

AHMADABAD, India (AP) — The western Indian city of Ahmadabad has launched its first air quality monitoring system that will be used to send out pollution alerts. The system, which started functioning in May, also informs city residents of the health risks of high pollution. For the last few years, discussions about India’s soaring air pollution levels have focused largely on the abysmal quality of the air in the country’s capital, New Delhi. But experts have long warned that other cities aren’t likely any better and just don’t have monitoring mechanisms to measure how their pollution levels compare. The new air quality index and pollution alert system in Ahmadabad was set up by the city’s municipal corporation with help from several health and environmental advocacy groups.

Dangal is China’s biggest non-Hollywood foreign film

BEIJING (AP) — The Aamir Khan film *Dangal*, about an Indian man training his daughters to become wrestlers, has become China’s biggest-grossing non-Hollywood foreign movie. The Indian film, whose name translates as *Let’s Wrestle, Dad*, was released in China on May 5. The previous top-performing non-Hollywood foreign film was the 2016 *Your Name*, a Japanese fantasy drama. Media and online commentary say *Dangal*, which is based on a true story, impressed audiences with its message of giving girls opportunities in a male-centric society and has prompted discussions over how strict parents should or should not be when raising their children. Actor and producer Khan had already built up a following in China following the success of his previous films, *3 Idiots* and *PK*. The Bollywood star has garnered more than 650,000 followers on the Twitter-like Sina Weibo since opening an account in early April.

Hong Kong police arrest 21 Uber drivers in crackdown

HONG KONG (AP) — Hong Kong police have launched a fresh crackdown on Uber, arresting 21 drivers suspected of working for the ride-hailing giant in the Asian financial center. Police said the drivers were arrested in an undercover operation on suspicion of carrying passengers for hire and not having third-party insurance for their cars. The police said the 20 men and one woman were taken into custody and their vehicles impounded. They said they were continuing their enforcement action and couldn’t rule out further arrests. Police did not specifically mention Uber, but company representatives said they planned to issue a statement. In March, five Uber drivers were convicted on similar charges in a Hong Kong court. In 2015, police searched Uber’s offices and confiscated computers and documents.

U.S. delivers six coastal patrol boats to Vietnam coast guard

HANOI, Vietnam (AP) — The United States has delivered six coastal patrol boats to Vietnam’s coast guard in a move that expands the two nation’s security cooperation amid tension in the disputed South China Sea. The six 45-foot Metal Shark patrol boats were officially handed over by U.S. ambassador Ted Osius to the coast guard in the central province of Quang Nam. The embassy said in a statement that the handover represented deepening cooperation in maritime law enforcement and humanitarian assistance in Vietnam’s territorial waters and exclusive economic zone. “Vietnam’s future prosperity depends upon a stable and peaceful maritime environment,” Osius was quoted in the statement as saying at the handover ceremony. “The United States and the rest of the international community also benefit from regional stability, which is why we are here today, and it is why we are very pleased to be working together with the Vietnam Coast Guard.” The patrol boats will assist the coast guard in inter-coastal patrols and law enforcement of smuggling, illicit trafficking, piracy, and armed robbery against ships, as well as illegal fishing. Vietnam and China, along with the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia, and Taiwan, claim all or parts of the Spratly islands in the South China Sea believed to sit on natural resources.



ROYAL ENGAGEMENT. Passersby watch a TV news report in Tokyo about Princess Mako, the granddaughter of Japan’s emperor, who is getting married to Kei Komuro. Komuro, the man who won the heart of the princess, was a fellow student at International Christian University in Tokyo, where Mako, 25, also graduated, according to public broadcaster NHK TV. (Hitoshi Takano/Kyodo News via AP)

Japan’s Princess Mako to get married, report says

By Yuri Kageyama
The Associated Press

TOKYO — Princess Mako, the granddaughter of Japan’s emperor, is getting married to an ocean lover who can ski, play the violin, and cook, according to public broadcaster NHK TV.

Kei Komuro, the man who won the heart of the princess, was a fellow student at International Christian University in Tokyo, where Mako, 25, also graduated, NHK said.

They met at a restaurant in Tokyo’s Shibuya about five years ago at a party to talk about studying abroad, and they have been dating several times a month recently, it said.

Komuro has worked as “Prince of the Sea” to promote tourism to the beaches of Shonan in Kanagawa prefecture, the report said.

Women can’t succeed to the Chrysanthemum Throne in Japan. Mako’s father and her younger brother are in line to succeed Emperor Akihito, but after her uncle, Crown Prince Naruhito, who is first in line.

Once she marries, Mako will no longer be a princess and will become a commoner.

Japan’s cabinet approves bill to allow Emperor Akihito to abdicate

TOKYO (AP) — Japan’s cabinet has approved a bill to allow 83-year-old Emperor Akihito to abdicate and allow his elder son, Crown Prince Naruhito, to ascend the Chrysanthemum Throne.

The abdication will be Japan’s first in 200 years.

Akihito indicated his desire to abdicate due to his age and health concerns last August, reviving a longstanding debate in Japan over the issue of imperial succession in the 2,000-year-old monarchy.

But the process building up to the wedding is likely to take some time and be full of ritual, as Japanese nuptials, especially royal ones, tend to be.

First there will be an announcement, the equivalent of an engagement, and then a date for the wedding will be picked and the couple will make a formal report to the emperor and empress. NHK said Mako already introduced Komuro to her parents and they approve.

Unlike royalty in Great Britain and other European countries, the emperor and his family tend to be cloistered, although they travel abroad and appear at cultural events.

Akihito, 83, is the son of Hirohito, Japan’s emperor during World War II.

Until Japan’s defeat at the end of World War II, Hirohito was viewed as divine, and no one had even heard his voice. But the times are changing, and the Japanese public harbors a feeling of openness and familiarity toward the emperor and his family. People are likely to see Mako’s marriage as a celebration, although the rituals will continue to be tightly orchestrated.

Akihito was 56 years old when he ascended the throne in January 1989 after the death of his father, Emperor Hirohito. Naruhito is 57.

Women cannot succeed to the Chrysanthemum Throne, and the government has avoided divisive issues such as whether women should be included in the current male-only succession.

The only child of Naruhito is a girl. His younger brother, Prince Akishino, has a young son and two daughters.

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Cambodian Riel	4027.8
China Renminbi	6.81
Fijian Dollar	2.0971
Hong Kong Dollar	7.789
Indian Rupee	64.441
Indonesian Rupiah	13315
Iranian Rial	32453
Japanese Yen	110.4
Laos New Kip	8294.3
Malaysian Ringgit	4.2802
Nepal Rupee	103.14
Pakistani Rupee	104.75
Papua N.G. Kina	3.2785
Philippine Peso	49.511
Russian Ruble	56.635
Saudi Riyal	3.7501
Singapore Dollar	1.3807
South Korean Won	1121.9
Sri Lankan Rupee	152.29
Taiwan Dollar	30.12
Thai Baht	34.05
Vietnam Dong	22888