



Seoul footing record tab for North Korea at Olympics

PYEONGCHANG, South Korea (AP) — How much was it worth to Seoul for hundreds of North Koreans to attend the PyeongChang Winter Olympics? Try \$2.5 million. According to South Korea’s Unification Ministry, that’s the record amount the nation allotted to pay the bills of more than 400 North Koreans at the Winter Games. Only 22 of those people were athletes. The North’s performers — a 140-member orchestra with vocalists and dancers, an all-female 229-member cheering squad, and a demonstration taekwondo team — were a major attraction at and around the games. That’s because their presence itself is seen as a sign of eased tensions after a rough year and because of the exotic appeal they have due to the general isolation of their country.

Duterte bans reporter from presidential palace compound

MANILA, The Philippines (AP) — The Philippine president has banned a reporter from entering the presidential palace compound to attend news briefings because her online news organization’s license to operate was revoked by the government’s corporate watchdog. President Rodrigo Duterte invoked the Securities and Exchange Commission ruling in banning Rappler reporter Pia Ranada from the Malacanang palace complex, where he, his spokesman, and other top officials hold news briefings. The commission ruled that Rappler violated a constitutional prohibition on foreign ownership of news media. Rappler, known for its critical reporting of Duterte’s presidency, and media watchdogs called the move an attempt to muzzle the press. Presidential spokesman Harry Roque Jr. argued that it was not, saying she can report by watching news conferences on television.

Malaysian rapper held for allegedly insulting Islam in video

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Malaysian police say an ethnic Chinese rapper has been detained over complaints that his latest music video featuring dancers wearing dog masks and performing obscene moves insulted Islam and could hurt racial harmony. It was the second time in two years that Wee Meng Chee, popularly known as Namewee, was investigated over his music videos. Police say Wee was detained after they received four public complaints that his video marking the Chinese Year of the Dog had “insulted Islam and could negatively impact racial unity and harmony.” In the video entitled “Like a Dog,” Wee sits on a chair in a public square in the government administrative capital with dancers wearing dog masks around him. Several of them mimic the “doggy-style” sex move.

U.S. fighter jet dumps fuel tanks near fishermen in lake

TOKYO (AP) — A U.S. fighter jet dumped two fuel tanks into a lake in northern Japan, creating a fuel slick, as about 10 fishermen were catching clams in boats below, according to officials. No one was injured. The U.S. Air Force said in a statement that an F-16 jet assigned to Misawa Air Base dumped the external fuel tanks after developing an engine fire while flying above Lake Ogawara. The air force said the aircraft returned safely to the base and there were no injuries to the pilot or people on the ground. Japanese defense minister Itsunori Onodera said officials spotted parts believed to be from the aircraft in the lake. He said the water surface was smeared with fuel. The local fisheries association and town officials were assessing the impact of the fuel leaking from the tanks. Clams, icefish, and smelt are in season at the lake. Local fisherman Takao Ebina said his colleagues saw huge columns of water rising from the lake’s surface about 330 feet from where they were catching clams. “It’s scary. They might have been hit if the fuel tanks had fallen a bit closer,” he said. There have been a series of recent incidents involving the U.S. military on the southern Japanese island of Okinawa, including parts of aircraft falling on schools.

Philippine chief justice taking leave, expects impeachment

MANILA, The Philippines (AP) — A Philippine Supreme Court chief justice expects to be impeached by the House of Representatives and will go on indefinite leave to prepare for the trial, according to a spokesman. Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno will go on leave, but is confident of being cleared of any wrongdoing during the impeachment trial, spokesman Jojo Lacanilao said. Lacanilao stressed the chief justice will not resign amid reports that rival justices demanded she quit in a meeting. Lacanilao said at a news conference that any effort to remove the chief justice outside of an impeachment trial is unconstitutional. Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has said he wanted Sereno and an anti-graft prosecutor impeached, and accused them of allowing themselves to be used to discredit his administration.

Seven workers die in India while cleaning drainage pit

HYDERABAD, India (AP) — Seven workers died of suffocation while cleaning an underground drainage pit at a poultry farm in southern India, according to police. Deputy superintendent of police Chowdesari said the deaths occurred in Morem village in Andhra Pradesh state. After the first worker entered the drainage pit, he shouted for help because he had difficulty breathing. Chowdesari, who uses one name, said the eight other workers entered the pit to help. He said four died on the spot and three others succumbed later in a hospital. A large number of villagers gathered outside the poultry farm and demanded the arrest of farm officials. Police said they are investigating the deaths. Such accidents are common in India, where workers clean deep drainage pits without protective gear.



DIGITAL DESIGNS. Ryo Taniguchi, right, the designer of the characters that will serve as mascots for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, receives a 3-D model of his designed characters in Tokyo. The mascots were selected after a vote among school children across Japan. (AP Photo/Eugene Hoshiko)

School kids rule: Digital designs are 2020 Olympic mascots

By Jim Armstrong
The Associated Press

TOKYO — The school children have had their say: A pair of futuristic digital characters will be the mascots for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and Paralympics.

Organizers unveiled the winning designs at a school in Tokyo.

A total of 205,755 classes at 16,769 elementary schools took part in selecting three short-listed designs, with their classes casting a single vote.

The winning pair, clad in the *ichimatsu* checkered pattern of the official logo of the games, received 109,041 votes.

“The Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games finally have their mascots,” said Ryohei Miyata, head of the mascot selection panel. “This means a lot, especially in Japan. I cannot wait to see these two characters coming

to life in the stadiums, on the streets, and on TV.”

Organizers say the mascots combine tradition with innovation.

Their names will be decided by copywriters and other professionals and announced in July or August.

The selection process involving school children was introduced to get students enthusiastic about the games while also ensuring transparency.

The original official logo was hit with plagiarism allegations and scrapped.

The designer of the winning mascots is Ryo Taniguchi, who graduated as an art major from Cabrillo College in California, and is currently active as a character designer/illustrator. His work has been featured by companies and at exhibitions in Japan.

The Tokyo Olympics are scheduled for July 24 through August 9, 2020.

UNICEF says Pakistan is riskiest country for newborns

By Kathy Gannon
The Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — The U.N. children’s agency in a recent report singled out Pakistan as the riskiest country for newborns, saying that out of every 1,000 children born in Pakistan, 46 die at birth.

“It’s abysmal,” said Dr. Ghazna Khalid, a leading obstetrician in Pakistan’s northwestern Khyber Pukhtunkhwa Province. “We don’t need frontline medical doctors. We have plenty of them. We need skilled midwives.”

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

rates.

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

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

UNICEF’s report said that after Pakistan, the Central African Republic is the next riskiest country for newborns, and Afghanistan is the third.

“Babies born in Japan, Iceland, and Singapore have the best chance at survival,

Continued on page 4

FAIRWAY
INDEPENDENT MORTGAGE CORPORATION

Tu Phan

Call for:
Refinances
Purchases
Offering:
FHA/VA/Conventional
Mortgages

NMLS # 2289
MLO # 7916
12817 S.E. 93rd Avenue
Clackamas, OR 97015
(503) 780-6872
<tu.phan@fairwaymc.com>
<www.LoansNow.com>

一圖千字

STUNNING PHOTOGRAPHY

WEDDINGS
SENIORS
BABIES
PREGNANCY
PORTRAITS
FUNERALS

LANDIS.PHOTOS@GMAIL.COM
JANLANDISPHOTOGRAPHY.COM
503•317•3759

Asian Currency Exchange Rates

Units per U.S. dollar as of 3/02

Bangladesh Taka	83.011
Cambodian Riel	3990.7
China Renminbi	6.3454
Fijian Dollar	2.022
Hong Kong Dollar	7.8308
Indian Rupee	65.234
Indonesian Rupiah	13757
Iranian Rial	37353
Japanese Yen	105.75
Laos New Kip	8308.9
Malaysian Ringgit	3.9035
Nepal Rupee	104.28
Pakistani Rupee	110.65
Papua N.G. Kina	3.198
Philippine Peso	51.9
Russian Ruble	56.814
Saudi Riyal	3.7505
Singapore Dollar	1.32
South Korean Won	1080.5
Sri Lankan Rupee	155.23
Taiwan Dollar	29.273
Thai Baht	31.444
Vietnam Dong	22616