

German man Kai Markus Xiong embarks on run from Hamburg to China

The self-described "crazy" man has embarked on journey that will take him through eight countries and take 235 days. He said there was always the risk of something going wrong but "Germans are known for our good plans." A German man began a 12,000-kilometer (7,500-mile) run from Hamburg, Germany, to Shanghai, China, on Sunday. Shortly after midday, 44-year-old Kai Markus Xiong left Hamburg's newly opened Elbphilharmonieon the first leg of what he hoped will be 235-day journey. Xiong told the German news agency Deutsche Presse-Agentur he wants to use the run to strengthen ties between the two cities and serve as an example for young people. Accompanying him on his journey will be his trusty Volkswagen Beetle car, transporting food and towing a small caravan. He said he chose the Beetle as spare parts were available worldwide.

Riots erupt in Georgia after police arrest men over parking tickets

Hundreds have taken to the streets in Georgia after police arrested several men who refused to accept parking fines. Rubber bullets and tear gas were used against the protesters as they tried to storm a police building. Almost two dozen people were hospitalized in Georgia's Black Sea port of Batumi on Sunday after clashes between rioters and police, local media reported. The violent confrontations erupted following a spontaneous protest by local residents after police arrested several men who refused to accept their parking tickets. As the riots continued overnight, police used tear gas and rubber bullets against hundreds of stone-throwing rioters.

UK PM Theresa May confirms Brexit Article 50 to be triggered this month

There are dissenting voices in Scotland and Northern Ireland



British Prime Minister Theresa May has told UK lawmakers that Article 50 will be triggered by the end of March.

Business VW and Tata plan strategic alliance

German carmaker Volkswagen and India's Tata Motors have announced plans to forge a strategic partnership in the subcontinent. The idea is to jointly develop parts and concept vehicles and conquer new markets.

Europe's and India's largest auto manufacturers signed a memorandum of understanding on Friday to unite their expertise in developing joint vehicle components "and even possible concept cars." Working with Tata Motors would offer German automaker Volkswagen "specific market knowledge as well as local development expertise," a joint statement said. While the path to neighboring China is

well-trodden by Western carmakers, India still offers plenty of room for expansion. Annual car sales in the Asian giant are expected to double from just under 3 million in 2016 to more than 6 million in 2030. "Even before 2020, India's car market will be bigger than Germany's," industry expert Ferdinand Dudenhöffer of Germany's CAR automotive research center told the AFP news agency. But he warned that a different approach was needed in India to be successful long-term. He explained that Indian buyers preferred affordable budget cars, while Chinese drivers were most interested in high-tech features like internet apps and mobile connectivity.

Death toll in Madagascar cyclone Enawo rises, thousands displaced

Cyclone Enawo has killed 38 people and injured more than 100 in the drought-stricken island nation. The Red Cross has deployed volunteers to assist the more than 53,000 people displaced by the storm.

Officials in Madagascar said late on Friday that a cyclone that wreaked havoc on the island earlier this week had killed 38 people, a sharp increase from the death toll of five that had been previously reported. Some of the victims had been killed by landslides caused by the heavy rainfall, according

to the country's disaster response agency. Cyclone Enawo injured 180 others and forced 53,000 from their homes and into temporary shelters. It hit Madagascar's northeastern coast on Tuesday morning, causing widespread destruction across the vanilla-producing region. More than 116,000 people were displaced or had their property damaged in what the national weather service called the worst storm to hit the country in years. In 2012, two bad storms rocked the island and claimed more than 100 lives.

German police detain suspect over night club attack threat in Offenburg


Following a possible attack threat in the southern Germany city of Offenburg, police have taken a suspect into custody. The major police operation comes on the heels of a terror threat on a shopping mall in Essen. German police said Sunday that they had detained a male suspect in his 20s after an attack threat against a night club in Offenburg appeared online. Policelaunched a major operation in the southwestern German town on Saturday night, upping security in the town center, the main train station and on the border with France. Security was particularly tight around Offenburg's night clubs and one was cleared out by authorities. "A dance club in the industrial area was evacuated in the early morning hours for security reasons," police said in a statement.

Web inventor warns over fake news, online political advertising

Sir Tim Berners-Lee has warned that targeted political advertising drawn from personal data is one of the major threats to an open internet. Complex algorithms are also aiding the spread of fake news, he added. Sir Tim Berners-Lee, the inventor of the worldwide web, has warned that the widespread collection of personal data and the use of poorly understood algorithms on the internet are leading to the spread of misinformation and targeted political campaigns. Writing in an open lettermarking the 28th anniversary of his invention, he said many people obtained news and information from a few social media sites and search engines.

weather today

BUDAPEST



6 / 15 °C

Precipitation: 0 mm



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MORNING NEWS

German lawmakers call for withdrawal of Bundeswehr troops from Turkey

Cooling relations between Berlin and Ankara have spurred cross-party calls for German troops to leave the Incirlik air base. Incirlik has been the Bundeswehr's key base in its fight against the so-called "Islamic State."

German lawmakers from across the political spectrum on Sunday called on the Bundeswehr to withdraw troops and jets from its air base in Turkey. The Christian Social Union (CSU), the Bavarian sister-party of Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservative Christian Democrats, cited the worsening relations and escalating war-of-words between Berlin and Ankara as reason to pull troops out of Incirlik, a key airbase located by the Syrian border. The CSU's spokesman for foreign and security policy, Florian Hahn, told the German "Bild am Sonntag" newspaper that "amid this heated atmosphere, it has become increasingly uncertain that the Turkish government can and will guarantee the protection of our soldiers in Incirlik." Germany should not allow its troops to become a mere bargaining chip in Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's power games, he added.

Angelique Kerber to return to No. 1 spot due to Serena Williams' injury

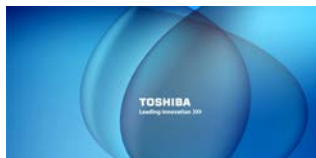
Angelique Kerber is set to return to the No. 1 spot in the women's rankings after Serena Williams was forced to pull out of the tournament at Indian Wells. The German will now head the field at the Californian event.

Lukas Graham at Papp László Budapest SportArena

The Danish four-piece pop and soul band, **Lukas Graham** released their first eponymous album in 2012, and even though the record peaked on the top of several local charts, the band only earned international fame with their second album that includes superb singles like "Mama Said" and "7 Years", which charmed crowds worldwide. It seems like the boys burst into fame from nowhere, and now they embark on an expansive tour that crisscrosses the globe through mid-April, including stops at several major European cities like Budapest, where they step on stage on **March 19th**.

Delisting looms as Toshiba delays report again

Toshiba has again postponed an overdue earnings report for the October-December quarter. The Japanese company said it needed more time to look into a possible accounting fraud at its US nuclear unit.



Toshiba on Tuesday delayed the release of its quarterly earnings report again, sending its shares diving more than 8 percent by the midday break. Japanese media said the company would take another month to publish the overdue report, fanning fears the stock could be delisted from the Tokyo Stock Exchange. "If you look at today's fall in the stock price, market players are already pricing in a delisting," SMBC Friend Securities market strategist Mari Iwashita said in a statement. While it did not release

earnings in February as originally scheduled, Toshiba warned back then it was on track to report a huge net loss in the fiscal year to March as it faced a hefty write-down at its US atomic subsidiary, Westinghouse Electric. Toshiba shares have lost more than half of their value since late December when the company first warned of multi-billion-dollar losses over Westinghouse. The fresh crisis comes less than two years after the firm was hammered by a huge profit-padding scandal.

Saving Kosovo's brown bears

Global Ideas takes a look at Kosovo's Bear Sanctuary Prishtina, where freed bears can live and relearn natural behaviors after a law ended mistreatment and inadequate captivity in the country in 2010.

The treetops are shaking, as Mal joyfully wrestles with a young and delicate trunk on a lush green hillside not far from Kosovo's capital Prishtina. The bear, who spent the majority of his life inside inappropriate concrete housing, is one of 19 bears currently taken care of in the Bear Sanctuary Prishtina. The sanctuary, which was established by Four Paws, the Kosovar Ministry of

Environment as well as the municipality of Prishtina, is a 16-hectare preserve located in a green valley near lake Badovc. The compound is divided into several big permanent enclosures as well as six temporary familiarization enclosures, and aims to recreate the living conditions of the wild. The enclosures therefore feature several dens, forest areas, shade-providing underbrush and ponds. Brown bears are among the world's largest carnivores and due to their size, fully grown animals have few natural enemies... Except for humans, who have extensively contributed to a decline in their numbers by hunting them and robbing them of their habitat.



China Embassy in Berlin calls on company to halt sale of 'insulting' T-shirts

Beijing officials have demanded an apology from a German company over shirts allegedly insulting to China. The controversy could even taint relations between the two countries, the embassy warned.

Chinese officials in Germany are warning of a diplomatic row that could start over a seemingly innocuous clothing line. The Chinese Embassy in Berlin reiterated its calls on Friday for the German company Spreadshirt to stop selling certain shirts that come emblazoned with English slogans like "Save a dog, eat a Chinese" and "Save a shark, eat a Chinese." A third T-shirt depicts two Chinese-style characters having sex, with the caption "Now I understand Chinese" written underneath. The embassy released a short statement calling for the website to halt the sale of the shirts and to apologize. "At the same time, we demand from the German supervisory authorities to exercise their duties with regard to the business activities of the company and the website so that the friendly feelings between our two people will not be damaged."

South Korea's ousted president Park vacates Blue House

Being stripped of her presidency means that Park no longer has immunity from prosecution and could face criminal charges. Her close friend, as well as the head of Samsung are already facing criminal charges.

South Korea's ousted president, Park Geun-hye, has left the presidential Blue House and returned to her private home in Seoul, two days after the country's high court upheld her impeachment and stripped her of presidential powers. In her first public statement since being removed from office in connection with a massive corruption scandal, Park denied any wrongdoing. A representative of her political party read a statement on her behalf maintaining she had done nothing wrong. "Although it will take time, I believe the truth will certainly come out," Park said. She also expressed gratitude to her supporters and apologized for "failing to fulfill my duty as president." The statement was read by lawmaker Min Kyungwook after Park arrived at her private home.

MORNING NEWS

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