

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS TIMES



FROM THE DESK OF JEFFREY ROTHFEDER, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

IBTimes covers the intersection of geopolitics and business on a global scale, with upwards of 100 journalists worldwide offering original reporting and compelling, in-depth insight in all regions of the world. As a digital publication, it's critical that our content is timely and accurate with a creative angle that cuts through the din of the Internet. The goal is to provide the facts, the context, the assessment, the importance and the forward-look with an accessible and direct voice, using the whole range of digital content – long-form, short-form, slideshows, photo essays and infographics. And although business and geopolitics are our strong suits, we also cover media & culture, technology, science, travel and sports.

FROM THE DESK OF MARCUS BARAM, MANAGING EDITOR

International Business Times provides a combination of original reporting and in-depth analysis of current events around the world. Our global news coverage is led by a team of editors and over 50 New York-based reporters, stringers in war zones and op-ed columnists who are generating over 100 stories a day. IBT's newsroom is managed by veterans of Bloomberg News, Dow Jones, the Wall Street Journal, Business Week and the Associated Press. We also feature an IBTimes Magazine, which includes 5-6 in-depth features on issues ranging from Middle East politics and scientific discoveries to financial journalism and cultural trends.

POLITICS

\$10 Billion Red Sea-Dead Sea Middle East Water Project Roiling, Again, Israel, Palestinians, And Jordan

It took a miracle for Moses to part the Red Sea's water. Now, a mammoth multinational project to do pretty much the same thing may need a comparable level of divine intervention. The proposed \$10 billion Red Sea-Dead Sea conduit -- a joint Israeli, Jordanian and Palestinian project touted by its supporters as the solution to Jordan's water deficit and the Dead Sea's environmental degradation, as well as the catalyst for regional peace -- is facing hurdles as immense as its lofty goals.

<http://bit.ly/YJeGCp>

Turkey's New Spin On Human Rights: They Can Be Used To Recover Art

Turkey is one of the world's richest countries when it comes to archeology. Located at the crossroads of Europe and Asia and with a history of human habitation that dates back to the dawn of civilization, it's especially rich in ancient Greek ruins that were created when the land that is now Turkey was known as Asia Minor, or Anatolia. But many of those priceless relics aren't in Turkey; they're in Western museums. Now Turkey is trying a bold new tactic to recover them: It plans to use human rights law to get them back.

<http://bit.ly/WXlQie>

Sandy Hook And The Mental-Health Conundrum

It concerns me we are now interested in expanding mental-health treatment," says James Alan Fox, professor of criminology, law, and public policy at Northeastern University, adding that mass murderers tend to kill people they know or target specific people for specific reasons. A list of mass shootings since 2005 compiled by the nonprofit Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence show many incidents have familial connections. "Is it because we care about the well-being of those suffering or [is it so] that those suffering will not harm us?

<http://bit.ly/14bjMrC>

BUSINESS

Japan Declares Currency War On Global Economies

Although Japanese leaders won't admit it, the country has quietly declared war on the rest of the world. After treading economic water for more than 20 years and watching its gross domestic product contract for six of the last eight quarters, Japan has decided to use its currency as a weapon -- and, it hopes, make other countries pay for its recovery. As a result, since mid-November, the Japanese yen has fallen 15 percent against the dollar and 16 percent against the euro.

<http://bit.ly/WuI81N>

India And ASEAN Economies To Become The Next China For (Manufacturing) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

For 20 years, China has been the major recipient of foreign direct investment in the developing world. It has played a big part in China's rise from poor rural backwater to economic powerhouse, but rising costs due to higher wages and the phasing out of super-preferential tax policies are pushing multinationals, mainly labor-intensive manufacturers, to relocate. And China's neighbors -- India and Southeast Asian countries -- stand to benefit the most as they have large pools of labor and strong domestic markets.

<http://bit.ly/SO6Irl>

Shari Arison: The Wealthiest Woman In The Middle East

Coming in at number 288 on Forbes' list of billionaires and number 64 on the list of "100 Power Women," Shari Arison might look like just another female CEO to click over and ignore when perusing the Forbes lists. But in a world of oil barons and real estate sultans (not to mention actual sultans), the 54-year-old Arison holds her own as the richest and most powerful woman in the Middle East.

<http://bit.ly/X8PE0n>

TECH**How To Make An AR-15 Or Another Gun At Home: Start With A 3-D Printer**

Late in August, a story popped up on Forbes about Defense Distributed, an open-source group that claimed to be creating “Wiki Weapon” -- a series of blueprints for firearms that would be freely disseminated online as CAD files. Anyone with a 3-D printer could in theory make a fully functional version of these guns -- for example, an AR-15 semi-automatic assault rifle, the weapon used in the Aurora, Colo., movie-theater rampage in July -- at home, privately, no questions asked.

<http://bit.ly/QWqdhR>

2012 Year In Review: 5 Biggest Disappointments In Tech, From Apple To Microsoft To Google

For tech, 2012 was a big up-and-down year. The year was filled with so many promises -- new gadgets, services and computers -- but only some of those promises were truly fulfilled. The year looked to define the world’s tech giants, as Apple, Google and Microsoft each faced their own particular set of hurdles. Apple was reeling from the death of its founder Steve Jobs in late 2011, Google was trying convince the FCC that its actions weren’t anti-competitive, and Microsoft was ready to embark on its riskiest endeavor yet: a new touch-based operating system, and its first-ever piece of commercial hardware, the Surface.

<http://bit.ly/U3Lh3B>

MEDIA & CULTURE**Philippe Petit, The Man Who Walked Between Twin Towers, Says ‘Nothing Can Replace Them’**

Philippe Petit is a Renaissance man, accomplished in arts that range from wire-walking to drawing; the subject of an Oscar-winning documentary; and a face recognized by most New Yorkers. Among his achievements, one feat stands as the greatest: on August 7, 1974, Petit rigged a wire between the twin towers of New York’s World Trade Center and walked back and forth, suspended on the abyss beneath the world’s tallest buildings, eight times before surrendering to the police.

<http://bit.ly/YqRf2i>

Damascus Diary: Feral Felines Show Another Side of Syria’s Conflict

In Arabic, it rhymes: Shbat shahr al attat - “February is the month for cats”. It’s that time of year again, and the feral cats of Damascus have started to howl, seemingly indifferent to all the changes around them, like the fighter jets above and the thunderous sound of shelling in the distance. With all that has unfolded in Syria, it seems that cat mating season remains the only predictable constant.

<http://bit.ly/Y49wR7>

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