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Doug Jones

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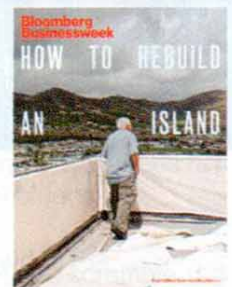


Patricia de Lille

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Asia

● Saudi Arabia lifted a 35-year ban on commercial movie theaters. Film content will be subject to censorship.



● Debt-laden Sri Lanka transferred the port of Hambantota, in a prime location on the sea route between Asia and Africa, to China on a 99-year lease.

● Freezing temperatures temporarily trumped China's curbs on burning coal as natural gas demand exceeded supply in the north.

● India's broadcasting ministry banned condom ads from daytime television.

Only about 5 percent of Indians report regularly using condoms. The country is on pace to become the world's most populous by 2024.

● The Pakistan rupee fell to a record low against the dollar on Dec. 12 after the country's central bank stopped propping up its value.

● Australia is imposing jail terms of as long as 25 years on child-sex offenders who attempt to leave the country. It's the world's first law aimed at preventing sex tourism.

Europe

● Anticipating that Iberian consumers will soon catch up to the rest of Europe in online shopping, Inditex, the parent company of Zara, put 16 stores in Portugal and Spain on the block. It's seeking a total of \$472 million in the sale.

● Dozens of heads of state and hundreds of investors disavowed fossil fuels at a climate change summit organized by French President Emmanuel Macron. Among other commitments, the World Bank said it would stop financing exploration and production of gas and oil.



● Unibail-Rodamco, Europe's largest real estate investment trust, agreed to buy Westfield, a high-end mall empire, for

\$16b

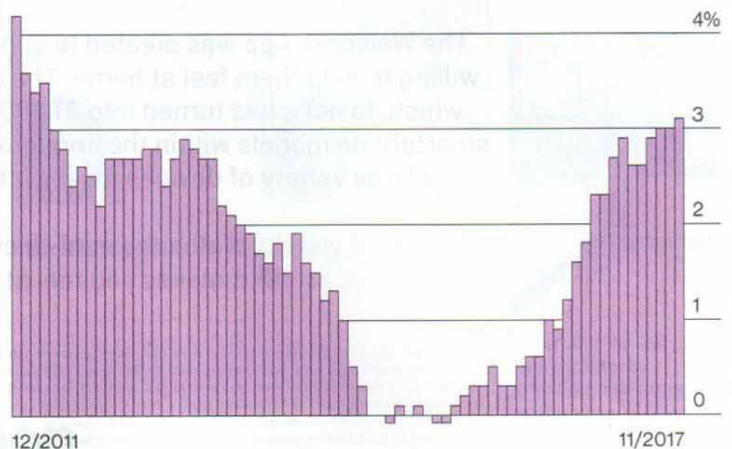
The bullish bet on analog shopping buoyed shares of other mall owners.

● About 80 Ryanair pilots announced plans to strike on Dec. 20.

The budget carrier doesn't recognize unions and has refused to negotiate.

● Inflation in the U.K. hit its highest point in almost six years in November, handily outpacing gains in wages.

U.K. consumer price index, year-over-year change



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