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**TODAY**

## TODAY's morning brief for Friday, Jan 12

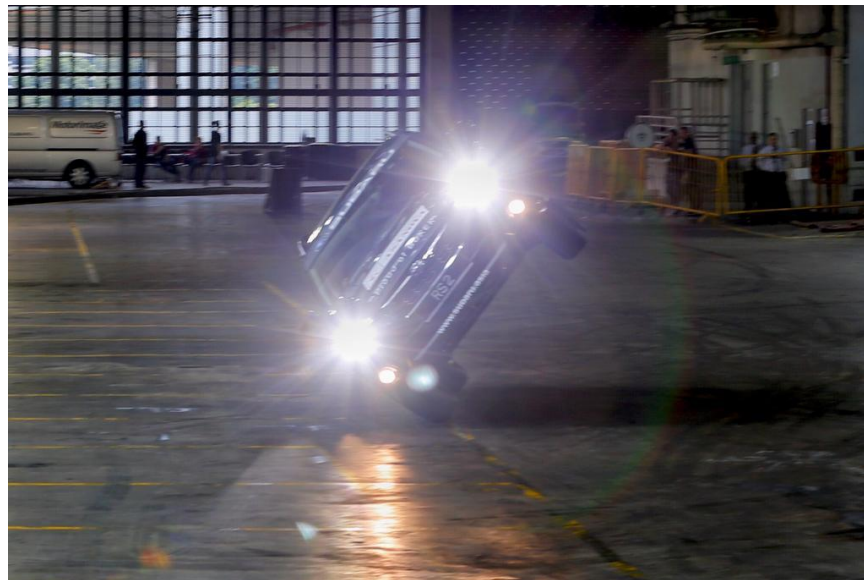


Photo of the day: Professional precision and stunt driver Russ Swift performing at the Singapore Motorshow 2018 in a Subaru. The event features over 20 automobile brands and automotive accessories providers. Photo: Najeeer Yusof/TODAY

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Good morning! Here are our top reads of the day:

- The results of the 2017 Singapore-Cambridge General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level (GCE O-Level) examination will be released. Private candidates will be notified of their results by post.
- Join TODAY's news service on WhatsApp and Telegram. Send "JOIN" over WhatsApp to 9327 6484. Or open your Telegram app and send "JOIN" to 9480 6129. Don't forget to save our numbers into your contacts list first!

[1](#)  
[Stamping out piracy](#)  
[Copyright owners take legal settop box sellers to court in unprecedented case](#)

On Friday (Jan 12), set-top box distributor Synnex Trading and its client, An-Nahl, a wholesale goods retailer located in Tanjong Katong Complex, could become the first Android box sellers to be hauled to court under the Copyright Act. In an unprecedented case, a group of rights owners have sought a private prosecution against the two companies and their directors for selling legitimate set-top boxes that give users unbridled access to copyrighted programmes.

[2](#)

### [Climate change](#)

#### [2017 hottest year on record not influenced by El Nino, says weatherman](#)

The mean annual temperature of 27.7°C in Singapore was 0.2°C higher than the long-term average from 1981 to 2010, but lower than 2016's record of 28.4°C.

It was the joint 12th hottest year on record since data collection began in 1929, the Meteorological Service Singapore (Met Service) said on Thursday (Jan 11).

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### [Dispute](#)

#### [The Sloane Clinic hit by doctors' exodus, amid legal tussle with its founders](#)

The upheaval has seen a spate of doctors resigning from the chain, which has contributed to the shutting down of its Ion Orchard clinic last month. The closure of the clinic came after the Chip Bee Gardens branch ceased operations in the middle of last year as part of the clinic's consolidation efforts.

[4](#)

### [A new beginning](#)

#### [Slew of joint events at merging JCs to ease the transition](#)

Ahead of next year's mergers, the eight affected junior colleges are already busy planning joint events to ease the transition for staff and students. The bulk of the merging JCs said the JC1 students this year will be donning "interim" school uniforms that combine the merging schools' logos. The JCs also hope to retain their signature programmes after the merger.

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### [Chorus of disapproval](#)

#### [Most unimpressed by names of merged JCs: TODAY's social media poll](#)

Reaction over social media towards the Ministry of Education's announcement was mostly negative, with many saying that the authorities had lacked imagination when it came to renaming the institutions. Opinions were divided among the alumni of the institutions involved, with some comforted by how the names of their alma maters were preserved, while others felt the authorities took the easy way out.

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### ['Immutable challenges'](#)

#### [Each generation of leaders must earn S'poreans' trust: Chan Chun Sing](#)

Minister in the Prime Minister's Office Chan Chun Sing also highlighted three other challenges Singapore faces: Navigating geopolitical challenges in a volatile region, fighting for economic survival without a conventional hinterland, and forging a sense of nationhood among a diverse population.

[Z](#)

### [Heavyweights](#)

#### [Select Committee studying fake news scourge comprises 3 political office-holders](#)

The Select Committee that will study the problem of fake news will comprise three political officeholders, Law and Home Affairs Minister K. Shanmugam, Social and Family Development Minister Desmond Lee, and Senior Minister of State for

Communications and Information Janil Puthuchery. Chaired by Deputy Speaker Charles Chong, the committee also includes Opposition MP Pritam Singh and Nominated MP Chia Yong Yong.

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[More transport options](#)

[ComfortDelGro taxis available via Uber's app from Jan 19](#)

From next Friday (Jan 19), commuters can book ComfortDelGro Taxis via a new UberFlash option in ridesharing firm Uber's app. ComfortDelGro taxis booked via UberFlash will run on a base fare of S\$3, with a rate of 45 cents per km. In comparison, the flag-down fare for ComfortDelGro taxis ranges between S\$3.20 and S\$3.90 for the first kilometre travelled, depending on the vehicle.

[9](#)

[Singapore's history](#)

[Archaeologist bags inaugural Singapore History Prize](#)

For his finding that an ancient community may have existed in Singapore more than 700 years ago — way before Sir Stamford Raffles even set foot on Singapore in 1819 — 71-year-old American archaeologist John Miksic was given S\$50,000 as part of the award, which is administered by the National University of Singapore's history department.

[10](#)

[Territorial dispute](#)

[Chinese naval ship, sub spotted near Japan waters around Senkakus](#)

It is the first-known time that a submerged foreign submarine has entered the contiguous zone, an area just outside Japanese waters around the Japan-controlled, China-claimed islands. After Japan protested, China justified the approach by claiming it has "full historical and legal basis for its sovereignty" over the islands.

[11](#)

[Clampdown](#)

[Seoul's plan to ban cryptocurrency trading sends market plunging](#)

The clampdown in South Korea, a crucial source of global demand for cryptocurrency, came as policymakers around the world struggled to regulate an asset whose value has skyrocketed over the last year. Seoul's tough stance triggered a selloff of the cryptocurrency on both local and offshore exchanges.

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[Voices](#)

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