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## HEALTH VOUCHER INFRACTIONS

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## ALL IN FAVOR

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

## WORLD BRIEFS



AP PHOTO

**CHINA** Members of the Uighur Muslim ethnic group held demonstrations in cities around the world to protest a sweeping Chinese surveillance and security campaign that has sent thousands of their people into detention and political indoctrination centers.

**VIETNAM** Phan Van Khai, an architect of Vietnam's economic rise and the country's first prime minister to visit the United States after the end of the war, died on Saturday. He was 84.



AP PHOTO

**INDONESIA** The normally bustling Bali has shut down social media, closed the airport and shuttered all shops for a Day of Silence that marks New Year on the predominantly Hindu resort island. [More on p12](#)

**PHILIPPINES** A small passenger plane carrying five people crashed into a house shortly after takeoff north of Manila on Saturday, killing all those onboard and five people on the ground, officials said.

**N. KOREA** Sweden's foreign minister held what she called "good and constructive" talks with her North Korean counterpart amid growing speculation about a possible meeting in the Scandinavian country between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

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# Lai Chi Vun revamp may include inns, shops

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BLOOMBERG

## Hong Kong mulls tax on unsold apartments to curb soaring prices

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# Child development center may not open due to lack of support

Julie Zhu

**T**HE Macau Child Development Association (MCDA) is accusing the local government of creating difficulties for the association's operations (helping children with developmental disorders in Macau), MCDA president Eliana Calderon declared yesterday during a press conference.

According to the MCDA president, her association has been preparing to run a new facility named the Macau Child Development Center (MCDC). This center, whose construction and other arrangements have already been completed, is now incapable of opening due to lack of money, in particular, because of the sudden reductions made to the subsidies which the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) granted to the organization.

MCDA, which currently holds an approval to provide services only to children under the age of three, expects their new center, MCDC, to expand their services to help older children, including youth, and provide a wider variety of services to additional families in need.

However, according to Eliana Calderon, the subsidies which the IAS has promised to offer the association can only cover costs associated with services for children up to the age of three. These subsidies do not cover the cons-



Eliana Calderon (left)

truction work done to the MCDA center and the other expenses incurred by MCDA.

Under these conditions, to keep their headquarters running as usual, the new center (MCDC) was deemed unable to initiate its operations, they are currently stalled at the recruitment stage.

**The Macau government could be a role model for all Asia in this area.**

ELIANA CALDERON

"The association does not have funds to cover the Administration and Services' Operation Costs in the headquarters," as per a report where MCDA elaborated on their urgent financial circumstances, further adding that, "the negative responses to our fundraising is driven by major gaming corporations, the IAS termination of the support program, the entrapment situation support only for the MCDC center and the annual sponsorship from the Macau Foundation (the results of the sponsorship can only be received as early as April)."

"MCDC, the association's subsidiary center, is complete and recruiting, but the association itself cannot continue operations due to the lack of funds," the association reported.

During the press conference, it was revealed that IAS had granted a monthly subsidy of MOP350,000 to MCDC.

However, as Calderon once again affirmed, that amount does not cover all costs, including the salaries for therapists. Indeed, according to MCDA, "when hiring people from overseas or

Hong Kong, [they] expected salaries [for therapists to be] over MOP50,000, but the current sponsorship can only offer a maximum of MOP31,200."

"MCDA has been trying to request sponsorships from local private businesses, but we keep receiving negative responses. Presently, we are not even able to afford the current expenses, including the rent of our headquarters, to continue the association's operation, and, of course, we are not able to provide services to our 800 users," the MCDA head said.

"Macau has the financial means. If we were in Africa or in other territory where the finances were not as healthy as they are in Macau... we would expect the government to do accordingly with its means. But the Macau government could be a role model for all Asia in this area," Calderon said during the press conference.

In 2016 and 2017, through a governmental sponsorship (Macau Foundation and the IAS), MCDA was able to provide subsidized services to 128 children from the association's waiting list, and reach out to the community through social and recreational activities, attended by 200 children and their families.

## IAS PLEDGES TO DOUBLE THE SUPPORT

**FOLLOWING THE** press conference, the Social Welfare Bureau reacted to MCDA's claiming saying that it has always provided support to the association. Wilson Hon Wai, IAS deputy director, said that more support is expected in the future. "What we must do is wait and hope that the center starts operat-

ing as soon as possible. We must say that the IAS has made a large investment to open this center. The subsidy conceded to MCDA is for operations prior to the center's opening. After the center opens, there will be a raise [in the subsidy]... we can say it will be double [the current amount].

## ASK THE VET

by Dr Ruan Du Toit Bester

### CAT EAR INFECTION SYMPTOMS

**A** cat ear infection occurs when the inner canal of the ear becomes infected by bacteria, fungal or yeast organisms. While ear infections are not particularly common in cats, they are very painful for your cat when they do occur. In extreme untreated cases, the infection of the ear can spread to the brain and cause tremendous problems. However, because that type of scenario is rare, most cases of ear infection are easily detected and treated promptly.

#### IDENTIFYING AN EAR INFECTION

While your cat will display some range of symptoms to tell you that something is wrong with his ears, a cat ear infection is often mistaken by owners as an ear mite infection, and is treated over the counter. The difference with an ear mite infection is that it is actually caused by a parasite and does not usually enter the inner canal of the ear. In this case, the cat owner will see no sign of improvement with over the counter medication. By this time, the infection has usually progressed into a painful

situation for the cat.

For this reason, it is important to be informed about the signs of a cat ear infection and to understand that any of the symptoms should prompt suspicion of a medical condition. Some of the signs to look for include:

- Consistent shaking of head, as if trying to get something out of the ear
- Scratching at the ear
- Meowing in pain while scratching at the ear
- Loss of coordination or not being able to walk straight
- Swelling and redness of the ear
- Discharge from the ear

#### DIAGNOSING INFECTION

The first thing that needs to be done is a diagnosis to determine which type of bacteria has caused the infection. It may sound like a simple ear infection could be treated with a basic antibiotic, but the type of bacteria will determine which antibiotic will be effective at

getting rid of it.

A process called cytology is used to determine the type of bacteria that is infecting your cat's ear. Using cytology, a sample of the infection from the ear can be taken and examined under microscope. Cytology will also determine if the infection is bacterial or fungal. We culture most of our infections so we know what medication to use against them.

#### TREATING AN EAR INFECTION

Once the type of bacteria has been detected, the treatment process can begin. Treatment of a cat ear infection is directly related to not only the type of bacteria present, but also to the severity of the condition. When the infection is extremely severe and painful, your cat may have to be put under anaesthetic so that a large portion of the infection can be drained from the ear before treatment can progress. This procedure is most commonly used when there is an excessive amount of infection and a prescription for antibiotics will not be effective at killing all of it.

After that, a few antibiotics will probably be



chosen for the treatment of infection. Another medication for pain and swelling may also be given to help reduce the sensitivity of your cat's ears until the infection heals.

Hope this info helps  
Till next week  
Dr Ruan Bester

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# Gov't may allow small inns and shops at Lai Chi Vun

**T**HE government's plan to revitalize the Lai Chi Vun area in Coloane will include the possibility of installing small inns as well as shops in the area. "We can think about not [building] hotels but small inns, restaurants, small teashops. We don't want a big hotel that could destroy the area," the acting president of the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), Leong Wai Man, said. The seminar on the protection and revitalization of Lai Chi Vun was attended by several experts as well as representatives of the village residents, who presented suggestions for the development of the space, such as the creation of museums, parks, hotels and even real estate projects.

"It can be turned into coffee shops, restaurants, hotels, museums. We can also use the Lai Chi Vun shipyards area as



a residential area," said lawmaker Eddie Wu. The local historian, Cheang Kuok Cheong, has expressed concern on the proposed projects.

"A lot of money has been spent to preserve the wood and iron structu-

res and I think we should think this in a broader sense," Cheang said. He noted that the government has enough financial resources to preserve the shipyards and he proposed that the government should consider preserving the Coloane village as

a whole.

The public consultation on the topic will close tomorrow. The bureau will release their evaluation report on the Lai Chi Vun shipyards within a one-year period. **RM**

## Fuel residues eliminated from shore

The Marine and Water Bureau (DSAMA) and the Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPB) claim that the "black substance" recently spotted at Macau beach sites was eliminated and has not been seen since last Thursday, when a cleaning process was performed. According to the previously reported information, the Civil and Municipal Affairs Bureau have said the "substances" were found to most likely be "fuel residues." The government authorities are also said to be continuing to inspect the coastal areas to pay attention to this issue so that they will be able to act quickly in the case that another similar situation occurs. Additionally, DSAMA reported that on Saturday morning a phenomenon called "red tide," caused by abnormal concentration of bacteria, was visible on both Hac Sa and Cheoc Van beaches. The identification of the bacteria led the services to post notices on the beaches, advising the public to avoid the practice of nautical activities and contact with reddish colored water.

## CE in Beijing for NPC closing

Chief Executive (CE), Chui Sai On, will travel to Beijing from today until March 22 in order to attend the closing ceremony of the first session of the 13th National People's Congress, which will be held tomorrow, the office of the government's spokesperson informed in a statement. During the stay in the Chinese capital city, the CE will visit the Institute of Government Management and Innovation from the Tsinghua University, known for having established the Anti-Corruption Research Center in 2002, China's first non-governmental research institute on anti-corruption policies. The delegation led by the CE will include the Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak, the commander-in-chief of the Unitary Police Service, Ma Io Kun, director of the Government Information Bureau, Victor Chan, among other government officials. During the absence of Chui, the Secretary for Economic Finance, Lionel Leong and the Secretary for Administration and Justice, Sonia Chan will take up the interim duties of the Chief Executive.

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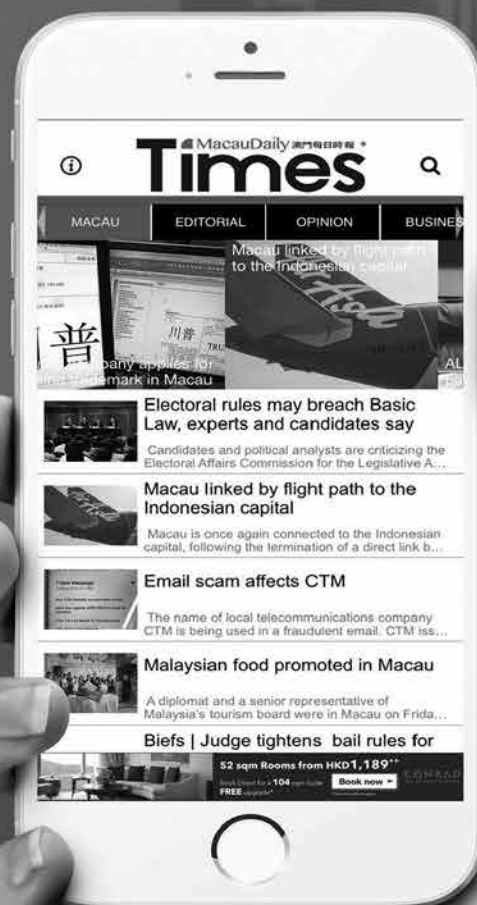
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# Health Bureau discovers health voucher infractions

**T**HE Health Bureau (SSM) has discovered that clinics and medical practitioners in the private sector have violated the use of health vouchers.

Authorities noted that there were serious infractions in the use of subsidized health vouchers, which are worth MOP600. The health voucher subsidy scheme was first implemented nine years ago.

In a statement issued by the SSM, it was explained that the violations included incomplete data of the consultations, and a mismatch between the number of patients and the number of consultations.

Health clinics, which previously shut down, also signed up to participate in the scheme.

However, no penalties have been imposed, as the bureau could not name the professionals or clinics who committed these violations. The SSM also did not state the amount involved in these infractions.

Beginning in May, the updated scheme will only



be valid to health professionals and not to clinics and the subsidy will be directly transferred to the health professionals' bank accounts.

In addition, e-vouchers will start to be issued in place of printed copies. Patients will only have to present their ID to redeem the vouchers.

With the new measures promoted through the creation of electronic health vouchers, residents

can use their Smart Identity Card to transfer and use health vouchers directly at medical appointments; health vouchers are valid for a maximum of two years and can be accumulated; the nominal value of each health voucher goes from MOP1 to MOP50 to increase the flexibility of use.

Data from the bureau indicated that 728 private health units participate in the program and 1,292 physicians are enrolled in

the program.

The number of doctors participating in this program represents about 80 percent of doctors registered in Macau.

In 2016, the numerical total of the subsidies allocated to the program exceeded MOP 270 million, a figure that is received in part by private doctors, which translates to a significant amount of aid directed towards the private health sector.

## Unified medical system proposed for Greater Bay Area

**S**IX Macau members of the Chinese People's political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) urged China to establish an integrated medical system within the Greater Bay Area, according to a report by Macao Daily News.

The six CPPCC members, including lawmaker Chui Sai Peng, noted that because the mainland and the SARs do not currently share a medical system, it is inconvenient for Macau senior residents, who are enjoying their retirement in mainland China, to return to Macau to use medical services.

The six members suggested that all the governments involved in the development of the Greater Bay Area negotiate a standardized fee system for all residents of the Greater Bay Area, and establish a unified invoice format recognized across all medical service organizations in the area.

The proposal suggests that the development of such programs first be aimed at retired Macau citizens now living in mainland China. It also suggests that the government provide emergency assistance for traffic accidents and accidents involving tourists.

Moreover, the six CPPCC members advocated for the Greater Bay Area mainland cities to set up an exclusive service window in hospitals for Hong Kong and Macau residents to be treated separately.

They have also recommended that all governments involved contribute towards a medical security fund to provide a centralized medical service platform.

## SPORTS

# Registration for Dragon Boat Races starts

**T**HE annual event jointly organized by the Sports Bureau (ID), the Macau-China Dragon Boat Association and the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau - Macau International Dragon Boat Races - will take place from June 16 to 18 at Nam Van's Nautical Center.

The registration period for the local races

started last week and will remain open until April 6, as mentioned in a press conference on Tuesday by the organizing committee.

This year's competition will have a total of 10 categories, including the Open and Female categories as well as races between participating public entities and university institutions,

where there will be different race distances and varying boat sizes. At the press conference, ID president Pun Weng Kun said that the bureau would continue to invite foreign teams to participate in this event, hoping that the teams can promote cultural exchange in the field of sports and culture.



Alongside the races and as an annual tradition, there will be several cultural events and parades held, which as Pun mentioned, will help to portray Macau as a world tourism and sports city.

Pun also reminds teams wishing to com-

pete that the deadline to submit the application to the Macau-China Dragon Boat Association's headquarters is until April 6, at 7p.m., adding that the complete list of all the competitors in the teams should be delivered no later than May 8 at 7p.m..

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# Wynn settles fight with ex-wife that led to downfall

**STEVE** and Elaine Wynn got divorced years ago, but their fight over a USD4 billion stock fortune ended only now.

Wynn Resorts Ltd. said in a filing last week that the pair, who together control 21 percent of the company, told a Las Vegas court they no longer consider a 2010 agreement between them valid. That frees both to sell their shares in one of the world's glitziest casino chains after a bitter six-year battle for control of the stock.

It was an ugly fight, with Elaine Wynn accusing her ex of reckless spending and worse: covering up a sexual assault allegation brought by an employee through a secret, multimillion-dollar payment. That revelation ultimately led to Steve Wynn's downfall, with a series of news accounts alleging sexual misconduct. The allegations have triggered probes into the billionaire's conduct by regulators in Nevada, Massachusetts and Macau. Steve Wynn has denied assaulting anyone.

In court pleadings, Elaine Wynn



Steve Wynn



Elaine Wynn

also questioned her ex-husband's judgment regarding the promotion and retention of senior officials at the company. Managers were promoted based on loyalty, more than integrity and ability, she said.

Wynn claimed her ex-husband misused company resources to support his "legendary lifestyle." There was no effective protocol, or at least none approved by the board, to oversee his entertainment and travel expenditures,

she said.

Thursday's filing said the onetime King of Las Vegas may seek to sell all or a portion of his shares. A spokeswoman for Elaine Wynn declined to comment on her plans, but Wynn said previously she wanted control over the stock to focus on philanthropy.

**Wynn's departure and the end of the shareholder agreement potentially make Wynn Resorts vulnerable to a takeover**

The shareholder agreement, which also included company co-founder Kazuo Okada and his

company Aruze USA Inc., said the three parties couldn't sell their stock without approval of the others. The agreement gave Steve Wynn, then chairman and chief executive officer, control over a large chunk of Wynn Resorts, which owns casinos in Las Vegas and Macau.

Steve Wynn stepped down from the company last month following the allegations of sexual misconduct. Earlier this month, Wynn Resorts also settled a long-running suit with Aruze over the seizure of that company's shares.

Wynn's departure and the end of the shareholder agreement potentially make Wynn Resorts vulnerable to a takeover, especially if the former executive or his ex-wife sells or liquidates their stock. Casino regulators in Nevada, Macau and Massachusetts are still investigating the company's handling of the harassment claims, probes that could result in Steve Wynn being found unfit to be the largest shareholder in a casino company and forced to sell some or all of his holdings.

Elaine Wynn still has claims pending in Las Vegas court against her ex-husband and the company related to her losing her seat on the board of directors in 2015. **Bloomberg**

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# 100 sign up to central pension scheme



Iong Kong Io

**A**ROUND 100 people so far have asked to join the non-compulsory central pension scheme that came into effect on January 1, 2018, as per reports by public broadcaster TDM, citing comments from the chairman of the Social Security Fund (FSS), Iong Kong Io.

"We have more than 100 requests and, in the short term, these requests will be handled in the FSS," he said, according to TDM. No companies have signed up yet, admitted Iong.

Iong made the comments at an accession ceremony welcoming seven fund managers to the non-compulsory cen-

tral pension scheme. They are AIA International Ltd., Fidelidade - Companhia de Seguros, S.A. (Ramo Vida), Companhia de Seguros Luen Fung Hang - Vida, S.A., China Life Insurance (Overseas) Company Limited, Sociedade Gestora de Fundos de Pensões ICBC (Macau), S.A., Sociedade Gestora de Fundos de Pensões de Macau, S.A., and MassMutual Asia Limited.

According to the FSS chairman, the organizations that the fund managers represent "cover more than 90 percent of employers who have established private pension plans."

A statement issued by the FSS appealed to other private pension funds to join the sys-

tem, promising that the integration would not be troublesome.

"In other words, for businesses that have already set up private pension funds, if they want to participate in the non-mandatory central provident fund system in the future, most of them can be interfaced smoothly," it read.

Moreover, the FSS has announced the launch of an online public information platform that will allow users to research and compare various investment plans under the scheme. It will include information such as the investment strategy, the risk involvement and the fees of each pension fund.



## Green Week calls for use of eco-friendly products

**T**HE 37th Green Week kicked off on Saturday with a call out to residents asking them to consider building environmentally friendly and sustainable homes using green building materials.

In line with the theme of the event, "Love Green City, Plant Ideal Home," several indoor and outdoor events will be held for a week to increase the level of ecological awareness in Macau and promote biodiversity.

The event includes activities such as tree planting and exhibitions as well as games and workshops to increase citizens' understanding of the importance of protecting nature.

Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) president, José Tavares said in his speech that the bureau organized green week activities with various organizations and government agencies to direct the public's attention towards environmental protection.

Green Week will run until Sunday, and will include more than 30

events to allow the public to participate in the replanting of trees that were destroyed by Typhoon Hato.

IACM will replant 2,000 roadside trees this year and will select tree species with strong wind resistance as street trees.

Large trees will be pruned to reduce the risk of damage during typhoon strikes. The bureau has been cooperating with the Guangdong Provincial Forestry Bureau to carry out the reforestation plan.

Aside from different exhibitions, including photography exhibitions, there are also several special booths. The booths will focus on special topics such as the protection of mangroves, recruitment of conservation ambassadors, flower-planting classes and environment related activities aimed at involving children.

Until March 25, several environmental conservation activities in various districts of Macau will be held to raise the public's awareness. **LV**

### ASIAN FILM AWARDS

## Best Film goes to Cultural Revolution period drama

**T**HE 12th Asian Film Awards were announced in Macau on Saturday night at The Venetian Macao, with the Best Film award going to Chinese movie "Youth", a controversial period drama set during China's Cultural Revolution.

The coming of age film, directed by Feng Xiaogang, chronicles the lives of a group of adolescents in the People's Liberation Army during the Mao era. It was released in the mainland on December 15, 2017.

Meanwhile, Chinese actress Sylvia Chang was awarded Best Actress for her role in "Love Education," and Chinese actor

Louis Koo was awarded Best Actor for his role in "Paradox."

Japanese director Ishii Yuya won Best Director for his film "The Tokyo Night Sky Is Always the Densest Shade of Blue," while Chinese director Dong Yue won Best New Director for "The looming Storm."

Chinese film "Legend of the Demon Cat" won four awards, including Best Supporting Actress (actress Zhang Yuqi), Best Costume Design, Best Production Design and Best Visual Effect.

South Korean actor Yang Ik-june was awarded with Best Supporting Actor for his role in "Wil-

derness."

Indian play writers Mayank Tewari and Amit V Masurkar were awarded with Best Screenplay for their film "Newton." Japanese musician Hisaishi Joe was awarded with Best Original Music.

Meanwhile, Sylvia Chang was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award. South Korean actress Lim Yoon-a was awarded Next Generation Award, and Chinese film "Wolf Warrior 2" won the 2017 Top-Grossing Asian Film Award.

The Excellence in Asian Cinema Award was presented to Hong Kong actress Kara Wai Ying-hung. **MDT/Xinhua**

## Real estate loans soar 135 percent in January

**N**EW approvals of residential mortgage loans (RMLs) and commercial real estate loans (CRELs) increased significantly in January 2018 from the previous month, as shown in data released by the Monetary Authority of Macao.

In January, new RMLs approved by Macau banks grew by 14.9 percent month-to-month to MOP3.6 billion, of which new RMLs to residents – accounting for the vast majority – rose 15.2 percent to MOP3.5 billion. Meanwhile, the considerably smaller non-resident component increased 5.5 percent to MOP89.9 million.

In the same month,

new CRELs surged more than 135 percent over December to MOP13 billion. Of these, new CRELs to residents, which accounted for about 62 percent of the total, rose by 51 percent to MOP8.1 billion. The non-resident component rose to MOP4.9 billion, driven mainly by new loans granted to enterprises collateralized by retail premises.

As of end-January 2018, the outstanding value of RMLs inched up 0.1 percent from the previous month to reach MOP189.7 billion, or an increase of 4.5 percent compared to January 2017. When compared to the previous month,

outstanding RMLs to residents increased by 0.3 percent, while those to non-residents fell by 1.7 percent.

Meanwhile, the outstanding value of CRELs was MOP183.3 billion, up by 2.6 percent month-to-month, or 8.1 percent year-on-year. Residents accounted for 89.1 percent of the loans. Outstanding CRELs to residents and non-residents alike increased by 1.2 percent and 16 percent respectively from the previous month.

At the end of January 2018, the delinquency ratio for RMLs was 0.2 percent, while the ratio for CRELs was 0.14 percent.

Bruce Einhorn, Prudence Ho

**L**I Ka-shing, a wartime refugee who used to sweep factory floors in Hong Kong for a living, retired after a career spanning more than half a century amassing one of Asia's biggest fortunes from building skyscrapers to selling soap bars.

The 89-year-old chairman of CK Hutchison Holdings Ltd. and CK Asset Holdings Ltd. will stay an adviser to the group after stepping down in May. Elder son Victor, 53, will take over a conglomerate that touches the lives of practically everyone in Hong Kong - the family's Power Assets Holdings Ltd. generates their electricity and ParknShop supermarkets sell their groceries. The group also operates mobile-phone stores and Superdrug and Savers in the U.K., owns ports around the world and a controlling stake in Husky Energy Inc. in Canada.

"Looking back all these years, it's my honor to have founded Cheung Kong and to have served society," Li told a packed room of journalists in Hong Kong on Friday. It's been "my greatest honor," he said.

The retirement came on a high note as Li's four biggest companies - CK Hutchison, CK Asset, CK Infrastructure Holdings Ltd. and Power Assets Holdings Ltd. - reported higher 2017 profits. All four stocks rose, though announcement - including two of the earnings - came after the end of trading in Hong Kong.

With a fortune of about USD34 billion, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, Li has been a fixture as the city's richest man for an entire generation of Hong Kongers and spearheaded an era defined by a handful of swashbuckling Chinese immigrants who built large empires across Asia. For many, he is the face of the changing fortunes of Hong Kong as the former colony's British elite gave way to Chinese dynasties.

"Li's retirement symbolizes the end of an era," said Joseph P.H. Fan, a professor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, who has researched family-run businesses for two decades. "No one can replace Li Ka-shing as the legendary founder of the largest conglomerate in Hong Kong."

His retirement announcement illustrates his confidence over business continuity, given that he has prepared his son for several decades, Fan said.

#### UBER-CAPITALIST

Li personifies some of the conflicts that came from the region's rise: Dubbed "Superman" by local media for his business acumen, he symbolizes inequality in a city with one of the most lopsided wealth demographics on the planet. He is a property developer who has won admiration for his entrepreneurial skills and a manager with companies so dominant that they often stifle

BLOOMBERG



## Li Ka-shing, longstanding Asian mogul, hands reins to son

smaller competition.

He also is an uber-capitalist who courted communist leaders. A major figure in China's emergence as an economic superpower, Li is the most prominent among a generation of Hong Kong tycoons who charged across the border after Deng Xiaoping and his successors promoted economic reforms. His investments in the mainland span across industries ranging from energy to retail and infrastructure.

Starting with some well-timed local property investments that cemented his wealth, Li built a business empire that included retail, energy, ports, telecommunications, media and biotechnology companies worldwide. Overseas, Li-controlled companies are among the biggest foreign investors in the U.K.

For many in Hong Kong, Li is a dealmaker and investment guru on par with the likes of Warren Buffett. Li's track record includes a \$15 billion profit on the sale of his Orange mobile-phone unit in the U.K. to Germany's Mannesmann AG in 1999. He is a major investor in technology startups such as Facebook, Spotify and Siri. During public appearance, he'd routinely be asked for prognostications on stocks, the real estate market and the economy.

#### FROM ORANGE TO DUET

Even toward the end of his career, he didn't slow down his dealmaking. In 2015, the mogul restructured his major holdings into two companies, one housing

his property assets and the other holding the rest. He followed with the AUD7.4 billion (\$5.8 billion) takeover of Australian power provider Duet Group in 2017.

Li was born July 29, 1928 in Chaozhou, a city in southern China's Guangdong Province. His father was a school principal but the young Li's formal education stopped at high school as invading Japanese troops reached Guangdong. Fleeing war-torn China for Hong Kong in 1940, Li found factory work while also caring for his ailing father, who soon died from tuberculosis. By the time he was a teenager, Li was working 16 hours a day at a plastics trading company.

After the war, Li made his first fortune as a manufacturer of plastic flowers. His career as property mogul began in the late 1950s when, unable to renew his lease, he bought the site of his factory.

#### POLITICAL CONNECTIONS

In the years to come, Li invested in local real estate as others sold, most notably in 1967, when riots inspired by Mao Zedong's Cultural Revolution in China rocked Hong Kong and sent property prices plunging.

His most symbolic coup as a businessman may have come in 1979, when he bought control of trading house Hutchison Whampoa from Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corp. Li quietly negotiated with the bank, now called HSBC Holdings Plc, to

buy Hutchison shares for less than half their book value. HSBC agreed and Li became the first person of Chinese origin to own one of the British-founded companies that had dominated the local economy since the colony's founding in 1841.

That reputation helped Li make inroads in China, where he mixed extensive political connections with financial interests. Li was a senior adviser to the Chinese government on Britain's 1997 handover of Hong Kong and served on the committee that drafted the Basic Law, the city's mini-constitution under Chinese rule.

## Li's retirement symbolizes the end of an era.

JOSEPH P.H. FAN  
SCHOLAR

#### 16-HOUR WORKDAY

Close Chinese ties had their downside too, particularly in the U.S., as critics including former President Ronald Reagan's defense secretary to ex-Republican Senate leader Trent Lott voiced concerns about Li's relationship with China - allegations denied by Li's camp. The concerns got real enough for a U.S. national security review to thwart Li's bid to buy part of Global Crossing Ltd., which operated a fixed-line communications network in

North America, in 2003.

Li maintains an intense schedule well into his 80s, saying in a 2016 Bloomberg interview that he works as many as 16 hours daily, seven days a week. Long after he became a billionaire, Li wore a simple Seiko watch rather than a Rolex or other luxury brands preferred by his wealthy peers. In his 80s, he made a small upgrade to a Citizen that cost around \$400, he told Bloomberg in 2016, but even then chose something simple and durable.

Li is no stranger to tragedy. His wife died in 1990 and his son Victor was kidnapped in 1996. The kidnapper was apprehended and executed in China.

#### WRESTLING WITH INEQUALITY

Then there was Hong Kong's inequality, which Li wrestled with during his latter years.

"If the government set policies through the emotive lens of populist sentiments, it might make you feel better, but not necessarily fare better," Li said in a 2014 interview with Chinese media group Caixin. "When a society is mired in discord, it will dent its economic vitality, which is hardly good for anyone."

In 2014, just days before the start of student-led democracy demonstrations in Hong Kong, he traveled to Beijing and met with President Xi Jinping. After the protests began, Li urged the students and their supporters to go home, saying their message had been heard. **Bloomberg**



# McLaren: We won't follow Ferrari, Corvette into electric future

Hannah Elliott

IT'S not often that the head of a major car company will admit to not being up to speed on the latest, hot industry-wide trend. Jolyon Nash has no such qualms.

McLaren Automotive's director of global sales said he knew "very little" about the Formula E electric-car racing series that many other automotive brands (Audi, BMW, Jaguar, Porsche, Renault, to name a few) have resoundingly backed since it expanded last year.

I asked him what he thought in general about electrified powertrains in global Formula racing. "To be quite frank, whatever thoughts I've got will be quite uneducated," Nash said. "I'm a traditionalist. I love to hear the sound of an engine going around a track. Formula E doesn't provide that."

What's more, the taciturn South African said that while half of McLaren's fleet will be hybrid in four years' time, the company will not produce an all-electric car in the foreseeable future. Not even a halo car or a conceptual design exercise.

"We wouldn't want to produce a car just to demonstrate technology—that is just not us," Nash said. McLaren typically unveils limited and one-off versions of its cars, like the Senna GTR, rather than extremely futuristic conceptual forms filled with foam.

It was a rare moment of candor from a sales boss apparently unaffected by the keep-up-with-the-Joneses attitude of automakers when it comes to showcasing electric technology. Many hem and haw when asked if and when they'll make something with an all-electric powertrain; concrete responses are usually affirmative.



The McLaren 720S is part of McLaren's "Super Series" of cars that includes the 650S and the 675LT

In fact, from the most obscure brands—Nio and Remac—to mainstreamers such as Corvette, Mercedes-Maybach, Porsche, Rolls-Royce, and most recently, Ferrari, all have announced plans to make all-electric concepts or are already building them. McLaren stands resolute. "In the immediate future, no," Nash said.

While everyone else is racing to show "me, too!" electrics, McLaren remains laser-focused on its relationship with its small, devoted, largely racing-obsessed customer base. These are boy racers and F1 enthusiasts who would balk at any product that sacrifices speed and athleticism in the name of alternative power. (It should be noted that Formula E is growing in popularity, and many other companies besides McLaren have said that participating only strengthens their brands.)

"The [uniquely engaging] experience of driving the McLaren vehicle, which is the reason people buy McLaren, ultimately has

to meet customer expectations—and McLaren is not ready to commit to that for electric," says Ian Fletcher, the principal automotive analyst at IHS Markit. The current mode of thought, at least for car lovers over the age of 40, is that the quietness of electric cars and the smooth, gear-free acceleration—as opposed to the throaty roar and rumble of a combustion engine—makes for less of an emotional, thrilling driving experience.

**We wouldn't want to produce a car just to demonstrate technology—that is just not us.**

JOLYON NASH  
MCLAREN AUTOMOTIVE'S DIRECTOR  
OF GLOBAL SALES

Outside the world of racing, last year Rolls-Royce shopped around a working, driving all-electric car only to postpone plans to develop it further after clients it surveyed balked at the sub-par performance. Rolls-Royce chief Torsten Müller-Ötvös recently said the brand would continue to pursue "full-electric. We don't do any interim steps."

And Bentley's new chief executive officer, Adrian Hallmark, said recently that Bentley will explore total electrification in the near future. Its consumers view eco-mindedness as a status symbol in and of itself, he said this month in Geneva.

McLaren buyers evidently have no such compunction. They are racetrack—not ecologically—minded.

"McLaren would need the ability to get the whole package working the way the customers want," Fletcher says, noting that one millimeter of slippage in driving performance on an all-electric McLaren car would be catastrophic for a brand established through F1 bloodlines. "For now, the techno-

logy has a lot of challenges."

The hurdle is often weight, especially relevant for supercars such as those McLaren makes. Its 720S and 675LT, for instance, are celebrated for their near-perfect power-to-weight ratio.

Electric batteries weigh substantially more than a regular aluminum combustion engine, which changes the driving dynamics of the vehicle. It's currently feasible to make an electric car with power-dense batteries, which allow for massive horsepower, or to make an electric car with batteries that provide long driving range, but not to make a car that offers both. Tesla Inc. certainly has come the closest with its exceptional Model S sedan, but a company such as McLaren needs a superior level of supercar performance.

"Until the technology develops sufficiently for both power and range, I think it would be hard to have an exciting supercar that is pure electric," said Nash, who, incidentally, drives the tiny and electric BMW i3 as his daily commuter. "We haven't quite got our heads around how that's going to work."

Until then, hybrid technology and its ability to pair sheer power (electric batteries) with range (gasoline fuel as backup) will suffice.

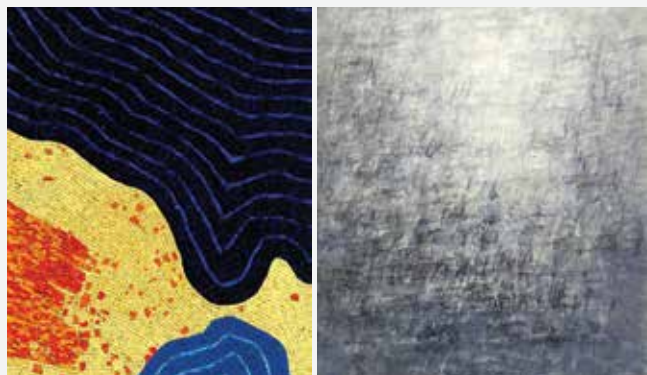
McLaren started with the million-dollar, 903-horsepower hybrid P1 in 2013, which joined such contemporaries as Ferrari's La Ferrari hybrid and Porsche's 918 Spyder Hybrid. Next year, it will unveil the production version of the BP23, a three-seat, hybrid, super-fast prototype the company hinted at this month in Geneva.

The limited-edition hypercar will undoubtedly cause a splash. Even if it's "only" a hybrid, it'll foretell what's yet to come.

"McLaren is a very nimble company. Even if they're not planning on moving ahead with all-electric at the moment, they're on the cutting edge of what's happening in the electrification sector," Fletcher says. "And anyway, you can never say never in the auto space. Everyone is hedging their bets." **Bloomberg**

## corporate bits

### MGM TO PRESENT ARTWORKS FROM COLLECTION IN ART BASEL



MGM Resorts International will continue its partnership with Art Basel in Hong Kong for its 2018 edition, which will be held from March 29 to 31 this year.

At the show, MGM Resorts Art

& Culture will collaborate with MGM China Holdings Limited to offer a Collector's Lounge showcasing artworks from the MGM Cotai's Chairman's Collection.

Works by artists Hsiao Chin

and Liu Guofu will be included; specifically Hsiao Chin's glass mosaic To the Eternal Garden 10 (1992-2015), and Liu Guofu's oil on canvas Pervading No. 22 (2016), with other potential additions onsite, the gaming operator informed in a statement.

MGM Resorts International is also supporting Art Basel in Hong Kong's Encounters sector for the first time.

The MGM Cotai Art Collection features over 300 artworks, including modern and contemporary paintings and sculptures by renowned Asian artists, newly commissioned works by local and regional emerging artists, and large-scale installations.

Leading the MGM Cotai Art Collection are 28 Chinese imperial carpets that once adorned the Forbidden City in Beijing, dating from Qing Dynasty.

### SANDS CHINA EARNs FOURTH ISO CERTIFICATE



Sands China has earned an ISO 9001:2015 certification for the quality of its management of its facilities department, Sands China announced last week.

The scope of the certification covers all of the gaming operators' properties and is the fourth ISO certificate for The Venetian Macao. The gaming operator

already holds ISO 20121:2012 certification for its event sustainability management system, ISO 9001:2008 certification for the quality management system of its convention and exhibition services, and ISO 22000:2005 accreditation for its food safety management system.

Michael Naylor, senior vice president of facilities for Venetian Macao Limited, said, "With the successful rollout of the ISO 9001:2015 standard, this provides the base to launch further facilities initiatives."

Naylor's resort facilities team, which has over 1,500 team members, is the first in Macao to meet the ISO 9001:2015 standard.

Implementing the ISO 9001:2015 standard helps ensure that customers receive consistent, high quality products and services.



NPC

# Xi Jinping reappointed China's president with no term limits

CHINA'S rubber-stamp legislature on Saturday unanimously approved the reappointment of Xi Jinping as president with no limit on the number of terms he can serve.

The National People's Congress also appointed close Xi ally Wang Qishan to the formerly ceremonial post of vice president.

At the Great Hall of the People, Xi, Wang and other officials took turns stepping to the lectern to place their left hands on the constitution and raise their right fists as they delivered an oath swearing loyalty to the constitution, the motherland and the people.

All 2,970 members of the National People's Congress

in attendance approved Xi's reappointment, while Wang received just one vote against.

Xi, who leads the ruling 90 million-member Communist Party, was also reappointed as head of the government commission that commands the military. He is already head of an identical party body overseeing the 2 million-member force.

Xi, 64, is considered the most powerful Chinese leader since Mao Zedong. Last weekend, he was given the right to continue in office indefinitely after the legislature scrapped term limits for the president and vice president.

Chinese officials defended the move, saying it would



Xi Jinping bows after taking the oath of office after being formally re-elected to a second term as China's President

Xi is expected to expand his yearslong campaign against corruption within the Communist Party to include all state employees through the creation of a new National Supervisory Commission, while continuing to pursue a muscular foreign policy and policies to upgrade the slowing economy.

**All 2,970 members of the National People's Congress in attendance approved Xi's reappointment**

Economic growth and social stability have allowed Xi to amend the constitution and carry out other moves that once seemed highly contentious, said Kerry Brown, professor of Chinese Studies and director of the Lau China Institute at King's College, London.

"Really no one is going to shout and moan too much" because growth and stability are considered so important, Brown said Friday in a talk to foreign media in Beijing.

As China's vice president, the 69-year-old Wang is expected to be a key element in furthering Xi's agenda of shoring up Communist Party rule while ending corruption and poverty. **AP**

## LI KEQIANG APPOINTED TO SECOND 5-YEAR TERM

CHINA'S CEREMONIAL legislature appointed Premier Li Keqiang, the No. 2 leader of the ruling Communist Party, to a second five-year term yesterday and approved the appointment of a director for a new anti-corruption agency with sweeping powers. National People's Congress delegates voted 2,964 to 2

to approve Li's appointment. The premier traditionally is China's top economic official but Xi, the country's most dominant leader since Mao Zedong, has stripped Li of many of the post's most prominent duties by appointing himself to lead party bodies that oversee economic reform and state industry.

bring the presidency in line with Xi's other two main positions of head of the party and commander of the armed forces.

Critics say the move, which overturns a push to institutionalize China's ruling practices dating from 1982, will likely lead to increased political repression and possible infighting among party factions

seeking to promote their own candidates within the closed system.

Xi took office as president in 2013 and hasn't said how many additional five-year terms he intends to serve. State media has said the removal of term limits will not alter conditions for retirement or create a president in perpetuity, but has offered no details.

Frederik Balfour

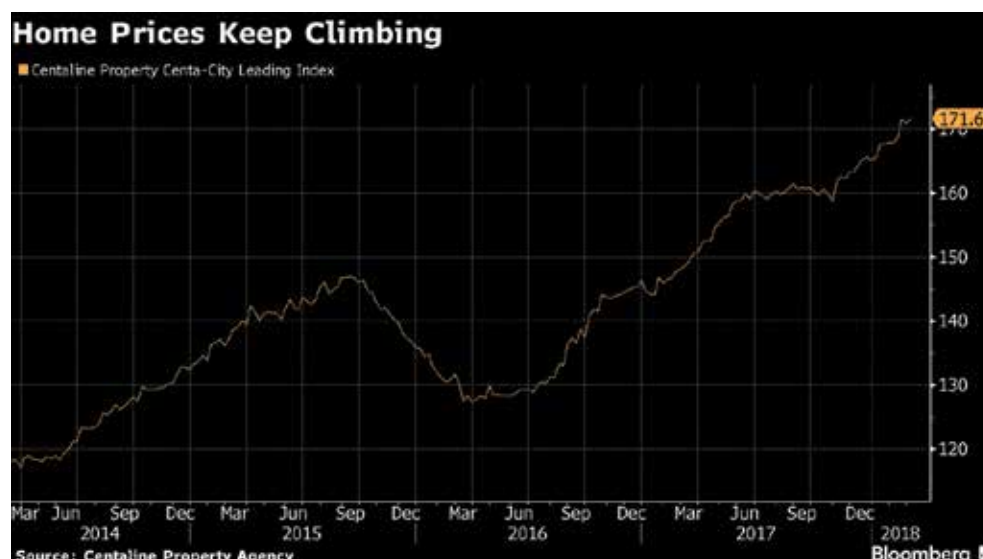
HONG Kong is considering imposing a tax on unsold apartments in its search for ways to cool the city's red-hot housing market, a move that could unlock the supply of empty homes being hoarded by developers.

Financial Secretary Paul Chan said on an online talk show last week that the number of unsold units had increased significantly so far this year, from the 9,500 vacant new homes at the end of 2017, without providing the latest number. He said that the tax would probably need to "have a particular target, and not apply across the board."

Hong Kong, home to the world's least affordable market, has seen residential prices more than double in the past decade as constrained supply has failed to keep up with soaring demand. That has been exacerbated by a practice favored by developers, who sell new

PROPERTY

## Hong Kong mulls tax on unsold apartments to curb soaring prices



units in batches and routinely increase home prices during later releases.

For example, Sun Hung Kai Properties has only released for sale 436 out of 1,188 units at its Cullinan West Phase 2

project in Hong Kong's West Kowloon area, said Bloomberg Intelligence property analyst Patrick Wong. Wheelock & Co. has only put about half the available units on the market at its

luxury Mount Nicholson project. On Thursday, Wheelock announced that it sold a single home by tender for HKD1.4 billion (USD179 million), setting an Asian record for the pri-

ce per square foot at the development.

Chan's comments came as Hong Kong's leaders have come under criticism for failing to cool runaway home prices in Hong Kong. Chief Executive Carrie Lam, who took office in July, has said that meeting the public's hou-

**If Hong Kong were to impose a tax on unsold apartments, it would replicate a system in Singapore**

sing needs remains the "top priority" for the government, although conceded in December that measures to cool prices haven't worked.

If Hong Kong were to impose a tax on unsold apartments, it would replicate a system in Singapore, which imposes penalties on developers who hoard properties. Other global cities have taken a different approach to taming property booms, particularly targeting foreign buyers who leave homes unoccupied for months or years. Vancouver taxes owners of vacant apartments and the Australian state of Victoria, which includes Melbourne, imposed additional taxes on properties deemed to be empty for six months or more.

Hong Kong's Chan "seems to be more focused on developers keeping unsold units," said Wong, unlike measures introduced in Melbourne and Vancouver. **Bloomberg**



Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

NPC

**W**ANG Qishan is known as China's "Mr. Fix-It," a trustworthy official deployed to tackle the thorniest of crises — from crumbling banks to deadly illness to high-level corruption. Those who've met him describe him as bold and probing, a problem solver who enjoys philosophical debates and has a wicked sense of humor.

As China's vice president, the 69-year-old Wang is expected to be a key element in furthering President Xi Jinping's agenda of shoring up Communist Party rule while ending corruption and poverty.

Wang is known for integrity and competence, but his appointment Saturday by the ceremonial legislature, in a pro-forma vote of 2,969 to 1, was widely regarded as unconventional.

To keep Wang past retirement age, Xi had him step down from the Politburo Standing Committee while ensconcing him in what had been a relatively meaningless ceremonial post.

That stands to diminish the influence of the others on the seven-member committee, including Xi's rival, Premier Li Keqiang — ostensibly China's second-most powerful official — particularly if Wang is handed important tasks giving him authority over their affairs.

"Definitely, this will further marginalize Li Keqiang," said University of Miami Chinese politics expert June Teufel Dreyer. "Having amassed so much power, it's to be expected that Xi wants a lieutenant in whom he has complete trust."

While Wang's specific duties have yet to be spelled out, under China's constitution, he would take over as head of state should Xi be unable to fulfill his duties. Unconfirmed reports also say he will be permitted to attend high-level meetings, including those of the Politburo Standing Committee, as a non-voting observer.

Tellingly, Wang has also been seen at events such as Saturday's ceremony at the Great Hall of the People, seated in eighth place in the order of hierarchy, just after the seven members of the Politburo Standing Committee.

Wang shares aspects of Xi's background, and the two appear

AP PHOTO



Wang Qishan takes the oath of office as China's Vice President during a plenary session of China's National People's Congress

very much in agreement on the need for firm party rule and strict discipline to guide China's economic development.

The two are believed to have first met while serving as "sent-down youths" in impoverished Shaanxi province during the 1966-76 Cultural Revolution. Wang, five years older than the 64-year-old Xi, left first for university and later conducted research on 19th and 20th century Chinese history at a state academy.

His marriage to the daughter of a rising political leader granted him the "princeling" status enjoyed by relatives of the Communist elite. Wang's fortunes rose with those of his father-in-law, Yao Yilin, who as first vice premier strongly backed the bloody military crackdown on pro-democracy protesters in 1989.

Wang soon showed a particular talent for dealing with stricken state financial vehicles. In one notable triumph, he was praised for helping shield China from the aftershocks of the 1997 Asian financial crisis, after which he was named party secretary of the booming island province of Hainan.

His crisis-management skills were in demand again when a mystery respiratory illness was

identified. During the deadly 2003 SARS outbreak, Wang was named mayor of Beijing, where he helped quell panic by ordering quarantines and daily public updates.

Wang was then handed responsibility for preparing the city for the 2008 Summer Olympics and, after being named a vice premier, Shanghai's 2010 World Expo.

**He takes on challenges, does things that have never been done before and succeeds.**

HENRY PAULSON  
FORMER U.S. TREASURY SECRETARY

He is perhaps best known, however, for being Xi's enforcer following his 2012 elevation to the Politburo Standing Committee, charged with carrying out a sweeping crackdown on corruption as head of the party's watchdog body

that has seen some 1.5 million party members punished, including life sentences for a former Politburo Standing Committee member and a top general.

Partly as a result of that work, Wang has maintained a relatively low public profile over recent years.

Yet he raised eyebrows in September with a 90-minute meeting with President Donald Trump's former adviser Steve Bannon, during which he reportedly quizzed the renowned anti-globalist about topics including economic nationalism and populist movements.

More conventionally, he has stressed steps taken to instill greater discipline among party members and shoring up party authority in meetings with guests as varied as Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, Vietnam's Communist Party chief Nguyen Pho Trong and Carlyle Group co-founder David Rubenstein.

"These reforms demonstrated the confidence of society with the [party] Central Committee," Wang told Trong last year.

Despite such anodyne declarations, Wang's intelligence, personality and drive leave a definite impression. One much-circulated

photo shows him with former President Barack Obama smiling and holding a basketball as if taking a lesson on how to shoot baskets.

Former U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson pointed to the former academic's knowledge of history and his "decisive and inquisitive nature," along with his boldness in overcoming obstacles.

"He takes on challenges, does things that have never been done before and succeeds," Paulson wrote for Time magazine's Most Influential People of 2009. Wang also exhibits a "wicked sense of humor," Paulson wrote.

In addition to grappling with corruption, Wang is also expected to capitalize on his experience leading regular exchanges with the U.S. to help guide policy with Washington in the uncertain age of Trump. An early test may be his ability to head off a trade war with the U.S., said Beijing commentator Zhang Lifan.

"We know he is good at finance and the economy and regarded as a troubleshooter, but it is questionable," Zhang said.

The removal of term limits that allows Xi to rule as long as he wishes will also allow Wang to be his vice president indefinitely. With no children and no political dynasty of his own to shape, Wang seems fully committed to being in the thick of Chinese politics.

Steve Tsang, director of the China Institute at London's School of Oriental and African Studies, questions whether that is a gamble worth taking for either Wang or Xi.

Assigning Wang such a senior portfolio against accepted norms is politically risky and says much about Xi's willingness to defy his own party, "much as Wang is genuinely one of the most able among China's top level leaders," Tsang said.

"If Xi indeed ignores this, it shows how he is already putting himself in a Leninist strongman mode in how he exercises his leadership from this point onward," he said. **AP**

## Trump's possible China tariffs send opponents scrambling

**P**RESIDENT Donald Trump is considering broad tariffs on imports from China and an announcement could come as soon as this week. Industry groups and some lawmakers are scrambling to prevent a new front in a potential trade war that could reverberate across

the U.S. economy.

Early indications from the White House have officials braced for tariffs across a wide variety of consumer goods, from apparel to electronics, and even on imported parts for products made in the U.S. The size and scope remain under debate, but the U.S.

Chamber of Commerce is warning that annual tariffs of as much as USD60 billion on Chinese goods would be "devastating."

Trump's focus on China could be even more consequential, both at home and abroad, than the recently announced penalty tariffs on steel and aluminum.

And amid the staff turmoil at the White House, it's being read as a sign of rising influence for the administration's populist economic aides, led by Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross and adviser Peter Navarro.

Even Larry Kudlow — an avowed free trader tapped to replace Gary Cohn as di-

rector of the White House National Economic Council — has said that China deserves a "tough response" from the United States and its friends.

Trade experts and economists say the tariffs could lead to rising prices for U.S. consumers and businesses without accomplishing one

of the president's stated goals: reducing last year's trade imbalance of \$566 billion.

China, the largest source of the trade imbalance, would likely respond to any tariffs by retaliating with higher import taxes on U.S. goods, among other possible restrictions. **MDT/AP**



# Singapore still world's costliest city

Melissa Cheok

**SINGAPORE** is the world's most expensive city for the fifth straight year in the Economist Intelligence Unit's latest Worldwide Cost of Living report, with Paris and Zurich tied for second place.

Asia Pacific and European destinations dominated the ranks of costliest cities identified in the report released this week. Tokyo and Osaka were conspicuous in their absence from the top 10, edged out by low inflation. The EIU survey is designed to help companies calculate cost-of-living allowances and build compensation packages for expatriates and business travelers.

As recent as 2013, Tokyo was the world's costliest city to live in. The Japanese capital dropped seven places to 11th over the past year. Hong Kong, last year's second-most expensive city, slipped to fourth place.

Sydney rose four notches to break into the top 10, with Oslo, Geneva, Zurich and Copenhagen also climbing the list compiled from a survey of 160 items across 133 countries.

"Currency fluctuations continue to be a major cause for changes in the ranking," the EIU said.



A weakening dollar meant no American city was among the top 10 most expensive despite a rise in the relative cost of living in the U.S. over recent years, the EIU said. The report named New York and Los Angeles as the 13th and 14th costliest, down from ninth and 11th position last year.

The dollar fell against all G-10 currencies last year, with the euro rising more than 14 percent.

Paris is the only euro zone city among the top 10 most expensive even as the euro rallied. The EIU said the French capital remained "structurally extremely expensive to live in, with only alcohol, transport and tobacco offering value for money compared with other European cities."

Tel Aviv was the sole Middle East metropolis among the top 10. Transport costs there are 79 percent above New York prices, the report found.

Car ownership was a factor behind Singapore's top ranking. However, the report noted that the city-state remains significantly cheaper than its peers in terms of household goods and hiring domestic help.

Though Asia is home to the world's most expensive places to live, it also has some of the most affordable. South Asian cities including Bangalore, Chennai, Karachi and New Delhi provided good value for money, the report noted. This year, the Syrian capital of Damascus and Venezuela's Caracas were ranked the world's cheapest. **Bloomberg**

## INDONESIA

# Bali's Day of Silence shuts airport, clears beaches, streets

**INDONESIA'S** normally bustling Bali has shut down social media, closed the airport and shuttered all shops for a Day of Silence that marks New Year on the predominantly Hindu resort island.

"Nyepi" began at 6 a.m. Saturday, emptying streets and beaches for 24 hours except for special patrols to ensure silence is observed. This year, phone companies agreed for the first time to turn off the mobile internet on the island, home to more than 4 million people.

Aside from no Facebook, Instagram or instant messaging apps, television and radio broadcasts have ceased and Balinese are staying indoors, covering the windows and not even turning on lights, for the day of reflection that is the most sacred in Balinese Hinduism.

"Nyepi is the time for us to wash our hearts and minds of bad thoughts and deeds,

plead with God to purify ourselves, human beings and the universe," said Kadek Chantini, a Bali tour guide.

Not everyone was happy with the decision to disrupt internet access, saying it was going too far and an inconvenience for tourists and non-Hindu residents of Bali, but others welcomed it.

"It will certainly provide a quieter atmosphere so we can focus and concentrate on perfecting our meditation and prayers," said Komang Suda, a resident of Denpasar, the Bali provincial capital.

"The decision also really helps us in disciplining our teenagers, who sometimes sneak off to play with their gadgets during Nyepi," he said.

The night before Nyepi is marked by noisy "ogoh-ogoh" processions of giant scary figures representing evil spirits. **AP**

AD

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## VIETNAM

# 50th anniversary of My Lai massacre commemorated

Tran Van Minh, My Lai

**W**ITH talk of peace and cooperation rather than hatred, more than a thousand people marked the 50th anniversary Friday of the My Lai massacre in Vietnam, the most notorious episode in modern U.S. military history.

On March 16, 1968, the American soldiers of Charlie Company were sent on what they were told was a mission to confront a crack outfit of their Vietcong enemies, but met no resistance and over three to four hours killed 504 unarmed civilians, mostly women, children and elderly men in My Lai and a neighboring community.

Provincial official Dang Ngoc Dung said at the commemoration the My Lai massacre was a typical case of "cruel crimes committed by aggressive and hostile forces" during the war. He did not name the United States but said Vietnam wants to set aside the past and befriend other countries to build a better, peaceful future.

Relations between the U.S. and Vietnam are the strongest they've been since they normalized ties in 1995. The United States is now one of Vietnam's top trading partners and investors, and relations have also expanded to security and defense.



Local residents and American veterans arrive at the My Lai massacre memorial site

ded to security and defense.

Do Ba was 9 when American soldiers came to his house and rounded up his mother, three siblings and himself and took them to a drainage ditch. His mother and sibling were killed there. Ba was wounded, covered in blood and buried under bodies.

He played dead out of fear the soldiers would come back to kill him. He was finally rescued by a U.S. Army helicopter crew that landed amid the massacre and intervened to stop the killing.

"Twenty years ago, I still harbored hatred against the American soldiers who killed my

mother, brothers and sister," he said "But now after 50 years as Vietnam and the United States together developed their relations, people set aside their pain and suffering to build a better society."

At Friday's event, several dozen girls wearing traditional Ao Dai outfits and dove headgear, performed dances in tribute for the victims and to promote peace. Participants including government leaders, villagers and a group of American veterans laid flowers to pay tribute to the victims.

The My Lai Peace Foundation, a local non-governmental organization, was launched at the event.

ization, was launched at the event.

"Vietnam had suffered numerous pains of wars," Truong Ngoc Thuy, president of the foundation, said at the launch. "We therefore more than anyone else understand the price of peace, we desire for peace."

Historian Duong Trung Quoc noted that a U.S. aircraft carrier recently made a friendly visit to a Vietnamese port for the first time since the war.

"The war has ended and both nations have learned from its lessons," Quoc said. "The greatest outcome of the lessons is for two nations to come close together in friendship and shared responsibilities, for the benefit of the people in both countries."

ther in friendship and shared responsibilities, for the benefit of the people in both countries."

Americans who visit My Lai seem as often motivated by guilt as by wishes for a better world. It is a sort of pilgrimage for many and several have established projects, such as school and medical facilities, to contribute to the development of My Lai.

**The greatest sin that we could commit would be to forget the 504 Vietnamese people who were murdered at My Lai.**

MIKE HASTIE  
VETERAN

Mike Hastie, a 73-year old retired nurse from Portland, Oregon, who was a U.S. Army medic from September 1970 to September 1971 in Vietnam's Central Highlands, visited this week. He thinks many veterans do not come because they are too ashamed to face the Vietnamese people.

"It's just important that the My Lai massacre never be forgotten, because I think the greatest sin that we could commit would be to forget the 504 Vietnamese people who were murdered at My Lai. That's why the history has to be kept alive, not only for them but their relatives and for the country of Vietnam," he said. **AP**

## Southeast Asia leaders urge tough stance on N. Korea

Trevor Marshall, Sydney

**S**OUTHEAST Asian leaders and Australia's prime minister yesterday called on North Korea to end its nuclear program and urged U.N. countries to fully implement sanctions against the country.

Leaders at the first summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to be held in Australia issued a joint statement with the host country that also called for non-militarization and a code of conduct in the contested waters of the South China Sea, where China has become increasingly assertive.

ASEAN leaders also said they were working to provide humanitarian assistance for the continuing crisis involving Muslim Rohingya refugees fleeing Myanmar. Australian Prime Minister Malcolm



Australia is hosting leaders from the 10-country Association of Southeast Asian Nations during the three-day special summit

Turnbull said Myanmar's leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, addressed the matter "comprehensively" in meetings yesterday.

On North Korea, the ASEAN-Australia joint statement urged North Korea to "immediately and fully comply with its obligations under all relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions," and called on all countries to implement

sanctions.

Turnbull went further at a closing news conference, saying ASEAN and Australia had affirmed their commitment to respond strongly over the "grave concerns we share about North Korea's reckless and illegal nuclear missile programs."

President Donald Trump and South Korean President Moon Jae-in, who are both planning

to meet North Korean leader Kim Jong Un this spring, pledged last week to maintain "maximum pressure" on Kim's authoritarian regime and seek action to force him to give up his nuclear weapons.

Singapore's prime minister, Lee Hsien Loong, the current chair of ASEAN, said the bloc had been encouraged by negotiations for the summits and had "noted reports of North Korea's commitment to denuclearization and its pledge to refrain from further nuclear missile tests during this period."

On territorial conflicts with China, which like Australia is not a member of ASEAN, the statement said, "We emphasize the importance of non-militarization and the need to enhance mutual trust and confidence, exercise self-

restraint in the conduct of activities and avoid actions that may complicate the situation."

China and the five countries that have conflicting territorial claims over the South China Sea — which include four ASEAN members — plan to negotiate a code of conduct for the busy waterway aimed at reducing the risks of armed confrontations in the contested areas.

Lee said this was an issue for all ASEAN countries as it was "a security and stability question" that would "affect all ASEAN countries if it goes wrong."

He also said ASEAN policy meant it was "not able to intervene and to force an outcome" over the Rohingya crisis, in which more than 700,000 refugees have fled to neighboring Bangladesh amid a Myanmar military cam-

paign that the U.N. has called "ethnic cleansing."

But Lee said the matter was a cause of concern for all of ASEAN, whose members would be anxious "if there is any instability or any trouble" in fellow member countries.

Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak said Saturday that the crisis was no longer solely a domestic issue for Myanmar, with fleeing Rohingya potential targets for terrorist radicalization.

Turnbull said the Rohingya issue was discussed by the leaders "very constructively" Sunday. "Aung San Suu Kyi addressed the matter comprehensively at some considerable length herself," he said.

The ASEAN nations are Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. **AP**



# US Trump-linked data analysis firm taps 50M Facebook profiles

A data analysis firm employed by President Donald Trump's 2016 campaign tapped the Facebook profiles of more than 50 million users without their permission, allowing it to capitalize on the private social media activity of a large portion of the U.S. electorate, newspapers reported Saturday.

One of the largest data leaks in Facebook history allowed Cambridge Analytica, which had ties to Trump campaign strategist Steve Bannon, to develop techniques that formed the basis of its work on the Trump campaign, The New York Times and The Guardian reported.

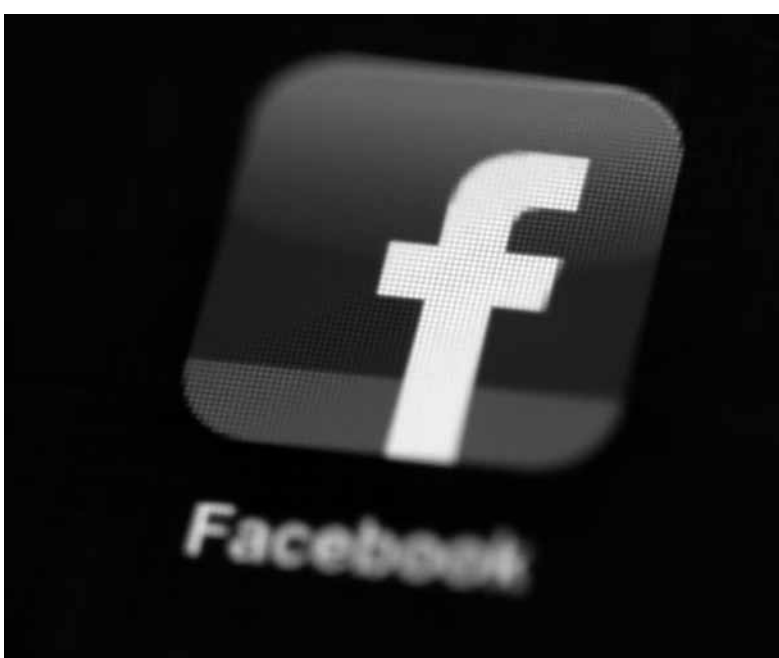
Facebook said it suspended Cambridge Analytica over allegations that it kept the improperly obtained user data after telling Facebook it had been deleted.

In a blog post, Facebook explained that Cambridge Analytica had years ago received user data from a Facebook app that purported to be a psychological research tool, though the firm was not authorized to have the information. Roughly 270,000 people downloaded and shared personal details with the app.

Cambridge Analytica later certified in 2015 that it had destroyed the information it had received, according to Facebook, although the social network said it received reports "several days ago" that not all the data was deleted. Facebook says it is investigating.

Facebook has also suspended the access of Cambridge Analytica's parent company, Strategic Communication Laboratories; University of Cambridge psychology professor Aleksandr Kogan, the academic who created the

AP PHOTO



app in question; and another individual, Christopher Wylie of Eunoia Technologies, who also allegedly received user data from the app. Wylie is a former Cambridge Analytics employee who has emerged as a primary source for the Times report.

Cambridge Analytica denied wrongdoing in a statement. It said the parent company's SCL Elections unit hired Kogan to undertake "a large scale research project in the U.S.," but subsequently deleted all data it received from Kogan's company after learning that Kogan had obtained data in violation of Facebook policies. The firm said none of Kogan's data was used in its 2016 election work for the "avoidance of doubt." Kogan did not immediately reply to an emailed request for comment. Wylie could not immediately be located.

The Facebook blog post, written

by deputy general counsel Paul Grewal, cited the "public prominence" of Cambridge Analytica, called the alleged data retention an "unacceptable violation of trust" and said the social network will take legal action if necessary to hold all parties "responsible and accountable for any unlawful behavior."

Cambridge Analytica is probably best known for its political work during the 2016 U.S. presidential campaign. The company claims to build psychological profiles based on personal details from millions of Americans that can categorize individual voters. It worked for both the primary campaign of Texas Republican Sen. Ted Cruz, and Trump's general-election campaign.

Trump's campaign Saturday denied using the firm's data, saying it relied on the Republican National Committee for its data.

"The campaign used the RNC for its voter data and not Cambridge Analytica," the campaign said in a statement. "Using the RNC data was one of the best choices the campaign made. Any claims that voter data were used from another source to support the victory in 2016 are false."

## Cambridge Analytica has surfaced in the U.S. probes into Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election

Cambridge Analytica is backed by the family of billionaire donor Robert Mercer, a hedge fund manager who also supported the Trump campaign and other conservative candidates and causes, including Bannon, the Trump campaign strategist. Trump campaign officials have downplayed Cambridge Analytica's role, saying they briefly used the company for television advertising and paid some of its most skilled data employees.

The firm had secured a USD15 million investment from Mercer and wooed Bannon with the promise of tools that could identify the personalities of American voters and influence their behavior. But Cambridge Analytica did not have the data to make its new

products work. So the firm harvested private information from the Facebook profiles of more than 50 million users without their permission.

A representative for Bannon did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment.

The company has surfaced in the U.S. probes into Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election. British officials are also investigating the firm in connection with the June 2016 EU referendum.

Trump's former national security adviser, Michael Flynn, disclosed an advisory role with Cambridge Analytica last August. SCL later said that position never materialized. Flynn is cooperating with special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Russian election interference after pleading guilty to a felony charge.

Cambridge Analytica CEO Alexander Nix also disclosed last November that the company reached out to WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange during the campaign to request emails related to the campaign of Democrat Hillary Clinton. Nix said Assange denied the request, which came after Assange had said publicly that he had the emails. Clinton campaign emails stolen by Russian agents are one focus of the election-interference probes.

Nix has denied any involvement in Russian election meddling.

Revelations that Cambridge Analytica misused social media data could also be of interest to Mueller's investigation. While much of the thrust of special counsel's investigation has been tightly held, Mueller has requested that the firm turn over the emails of any employees who worked on the campaign, according to a report in The Wall Street Journal last year.

Mueller is also looking at the role Wikileaks played in acquiring and making public the stolen Clinton campaign emails. **AP**

# Amid spy row, UK accuses Russia of stockpiling a nerve agent

BRITAIN'S foreign minister said yesterday that he has evidence Russia has been stockpiling a nerve agent in violation of international law, after a Russian envoy suggested the toxin used to poison a former spy in England could have come from a U.K. lab.

Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said the trail of blame for the poisoning of Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia "leads inexorably to the Kremlin."

Johnson told the BBC that "we actually have evidence within the last

10 years that Russia has not only been investigating the delivery of nerve agents for the purposes of assassination but has also been creating and stockpiling Novichok" — the type of nerve agent Britain says was used in the attack.

Johnson said he will brief European Union foreign ministers on the case Monday before meeting NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg.

The foreign secretary said officials from the Netherlands-based Organization for the Prohibition

of Chemical Weapons would arrive in Britain today to take samples of the nerve agent used to poison the Skripals.

Britain says it is Novichok, a class of powerful nerve agent developed in the Soviet Union toward the end of the Cold War. Tests to independently verify the British findings are expected to take at least two weeks, Britain's Foreign Office said.

Vladimir Chizhov, Moscow's EU ambassador, said Russia has no chemical weapons stockpiles and was not behind the

poisoning. "Russia had nothing to do with it," Chizhov told the BBC.

Chizhov pointed out that the U.K. chemical weapons research facility, Porton Down, is only 12 kilometers from Salisbury, where Sergei Skripal — a former Russian intelligence officer convicted in his home country of spying for Britain — and his daughter were found March 4. They remain in critical condition.

Asked whether he was saying Porton Down was responsible, Chizhov replied: "I don't know."

The British government dismissed the ambassador's suggestion as "nonsense."

Johnson said it was "not the response of a country that really believed itself to be innocent."

Britain and Russia have each expelled 23 diplomats, broken off high-level contacts and taken other punitive steps in the escalating tit-for-tat dispute, which clouded the run-up to yesterday's presidential election in Russia. President Vladimir Putin is expected to win a fourth term, amid widespread voter apathy.

Western powers see the poisoning of the Skripals as the latest sign of increasingly aggressive Russian interference in

foreign countries.

Johnson said Britain's National Security Council will meet this week to discuss "what further measures if any" the country will take.

Opposition lawmakers are calling on the government to clamp down on the illicitly gained money of wealthy Russians in Britain. Critics say U.K. authorities have been slow to investigate the origins of the wealth invested in London's financial district and property market.

Russia's ambassador in London, Alexander Yakovenko, called for "cooler heads," telling the Mail on Sunday that the dispute is "escalating dangerously and out of proportion." **AP**



# Russians vote on new Putin term as tensions flare with West

Henry Meyer, Stepan Kravchenko

**R**USSIANS headed to the polls in presidential elections expected to hand Vladimir Putin an easy victory, keeping him in power until 2024.

Putin, 65, already Russia's longest-serving leader since Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin after more than 18 years at the helm, is seeking a fourth term amid an escalating stand-off with the West and economic malaise.

"I am confident that the program I am offering for the country is right," Putin told reporters yesterday after voting at a polling station at the Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow.

With little opposition tolerated and widespread apathy about the outcome amid stagnating living standards, the Kremlin's main task is to ensure turnout is enough to give Putin's new term a stamp of legitimacy. Officials mounted a major drive ahead of the vote to get citizens to show up at polling places, offering inducements ranging from free food to prize contests.



A woman holds a flag that reads "I love Kamchatka, we are the first!" as she prepares to cast her ballots at a polling station

Struggling with a cold for much of the campaign, Putin attended few election events and, as in previous contests, dodged televised debates with his opponents. State broadcasters lavished coverage on presidential visits to Russia's regions, giving scant attention to his rivals. The debates often dissolved into shouting and pushing among the other candidates.

His rivals include Communist Pavel Grudinin, a farm boss who's defended Stalin's bloody

purges, ultranationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, who's been trounced in past contests, and Boris Titov, who attracted ridicule for running against Putin while serving as the Kremlin's business ombudsman.

There's also former reality-TV star Ksenia Sobchak, who's run a campaign critical of Putin while laboring under accusations from opposition leader Alexey Navalny that the Kremlin encouraged her candidacy to add sparkle to the lackluster con-

test. Navalny was barred from running.

Turnout was 34.2 percent as of noon in Moscow, according to the Central Election Commission's website.

With little doubt about the outcome, the Kremlin Friday announced that Putin had already ordered his staff to draft policy decrees covering the next term.

Voting started in Russia's far east at 8 a.m. local time (2000 GMT Saturday), according to reports on official news agencies. Almost 111 million Russians are eligible to vote at more than 97,000 polling stations nationwide. Polls will close in the westernmost region of Kaliningrad at 8 p.m. local time (1800 GMT), with exit poll results expected immediately. Official results will be largely complete by today.

Putin will face a host of challenges in his new six-year term, as a spiraling dispute with the U.K. over the suspected poisoning of a double agent and his daughter with a chemical weapon adds to tensions with the U.S. and Europe over conflicts in Ukraine and Syria.

Russia is struggling to recover after the longest recession in two decades. The economy was hit by plunging oil prices and Western sanctions over its 2014 annexation of Crimea from Ukraine.

It's sliding down the world ranking and is forecast to fall to 17th from 11th among the largest economies within 15 years as it's overtaken by South Korea, Spain and Turkey among others, according to the London-based Centre for Economics & Business Research.

In what's likely his last term as he's obliged constitutionally to step down as president in 2024, Putin must also groom a trustworthy successor.

While it's not clear if any of the U.K.'s allies will also target Russia, the nerve-agent poisoning on March 4 in the English town of Salisbury has stoked security concerns. Britain has expelled 23 Russian diplomats and Moscow on Saturday ordered an equal number of British envoys to leave Russia.

Russia also stands accused of intervening in President Donald Trump's favor in the 2016 U.S. elections as well as vote meddling in several European countries.

"I came here to vote for stability," said Larisa Kuznetsova, a 62-year-old pensioner, outside a polling station in central Moscow. "That's what we count on from our president in such a frightening world." **Bloomberg**

# Vatican bows to pressure, releases retired pope's letter

**STUNG** by accusations of spreading "fake news," the Vatican on Saturday released the complete letter by Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI about Pope Francis after coming under blistering criticism for selectively citing it in a press release and digitally manipulating a photograph of it.

The previously hidden part of the letter provides the full explanation why Benedict refused to write a commentary on a new Vatican-published compilation of books about Francis' theological and philosophical background that was released to mark his fifth anniversary as pope.

In addition to saying he didn't have time, Benedict noted that one of the authors involved in the project had launched "virulent," "anti-papist" attacks against his teaching and that of St. John Paul II. He said he was "surprised" the Vatican had chosen the theologian to be included in the 11-volume "The Theology of Pope Francis."

"I'm certain you can understand why I'm decli-

ning," Benedict wrote.

The Vatican's Secretariat for Communications said Saturday it was releasing the full text of the letter due to the controversy over the "presumed manipulation" of information when the volume was launched Monday with great fanfare on the eve of Francis' anniversary.

It said its decision to withhold part of the letter at the time was based on its desire for reserve, "not because of any desire to censor."

The so-called "Lettergate" scandal has embarrassed the Vatican's communications operations and fueled the growing chasm between supporters of Francis' pastoral-focused papacy and conservatives who long for the doctrine-minded tenure of Benedict.

A Twitter hashtag #releasetheletter went viral among Catholic conservatives as the scandal widened.

The Secretariat for Communication, in particular, was accused of spreading "fake news" for having omitted key parts of Benedict's

letter and — as The Associated Press reported — digitally blurring a photograph of the document where Benedict started to explain why he wouldn't comment on the book.

Photojournalism industry standards forbid such manipulation of a photo, especially if it alters the content and meaning of the image, as it did.

Many commentators noted the irony of accusations that the Vatican's communications office was spreading "fake news," since Francis dedicated his annual message for the church's social communications day to fighting "fake news" and the distortion of information. Francis has frequently criticized journalists for only giving half of the story.

The scandal began when the prefect of the communications office, Monsignor Dario Vigano, read part of Benedict's letter aloud at the book presentation Monday. Vigano explained that he had sent Benedict the 11-volume set months ago in hopes of eliciting a

theological commentary from the retired pope.

In the parts of Benedict's letter that Vigano chose to read, Benedict confirmed that Francis has a solid theological and philosophical training and he praised the book initiative for showing the "interior continuity" between the two papacies. He wrote it was "foolish prejudice" to paint Francis as only a practical man devoid of theology and Benedict as a mere academic who knew nothing of the lives of ordinary faithful.

Vigano held up the letter as evidence of the theological continuity between the two papacies, an effort to blunt conservative critics of Francis' mercy-over-morals priorities and emphasis on "discernment" over hard and fast doctrine.

But Benedict's full caveat about his refusal to comment on the volume was never made public in Vigano's presentation, press release or accompanying photo. That omission left the impression that the 91-year-old retired pope



In a letter released by Vatican Media, retired Pope Benedict XVI praises a volume of books about the theological training of Pope Francis

had read the volume and fully endorsed it, when in fact he hadn't.

As a result, Vigano's effort to show papal continuity effectively backfired. Benedict's harsh criticism of German theologian Peter Huenermann, who penned one of the 11 books, laid bare the differences in theological approaches of the two popes.

The first hint there was more to the initial story came when a longtime Vatican reporter, Sandro Magister, published a transcript of what Vigano had read aloud at the presentation, which was more than what was included in the Vatican's press release. Magister's transcript of the letter contained Benedict's

initial explanation that he couldn't read the 11 volumes due to his age and other commitments, and therefore couldn't comment on it.

Magister on Saturday reported that the omitted paragraph concerned Benedict's objection to Huenermann, who has joined leading European progressive theologians since the 1980s in penning open letters attacking the policies of John Paul and Benedict.

Left unsaid is who was responsible for selecting Huenermann to write one of the 11 books in Francis' anniversary anthology, given the author's past attacks on the retired pope, who lives just across the Vatican gardens from Francis. **AP**



## what's ON



MACAU NARRATIVE BY IU-PUI CHAN

TIME: 11am-7pm

UNTIL: March 31, 2018

VENUE: Macau Tower T1 Art Gallery

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 8330

TREASURE OF SACRED ART OF ST. JOSEPH'S SEMINARY

TIME: 10am-5pm daily (closed on Wednesdays, open on public holidays)

VENUE: St. Joseph's Seminary and Church, Rua do Seminário

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911

MANDARIN'S HOUSE

TIME: 10am-6pm daily (last admission at 5:30pm; closed on Wednesdays, open on public holidays)

ADDRESS: No. 10, Travessa de António da Silva

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2896 8820

MONKEY KING

TIME: 4pm &amp; 8pm daily (except on Thursdays)

VENUE: Sands Cotai Theatre

ADMISSION: MOP380, MOP480, MOP680, MOP980, MOP1280

COTAI TICKETING: (853) 2882 8818

KONG SENG TICKETING: (853) 2855 5555

## Offbeat

## DEAD MAN WALKING: COURT REJECTS ROMANIAN'S CLAIM HE'S ALIVE

Constantin Reliu learned in January that he was dead. After more than 20 years of working as a cook in Turkey, the 63-year-old returned home to Romania to discover that his wife had had him officially registered as dead.

He has since been living a legalistic nightmare of trying to prove to authorities that he is, in fact, alive. He faced a major setback Thursday when a court in the northeastern city of Vaslui refused to overturn his death certificate because his request was filed "too late."

The decision, the court said, is final.

"I am a living ghost," Reliu told The Associated Press in a phone interview Friday from his home in Barlad, northeastern Romania.

"I am officially dead, although I'm alive," he said. "I have no income and because I am listed as dead, I can't do anything."

During the interview, Reliu was deeply emotional, starting off by saying "I think I am going to cry" and going on to voice rage and a desire for revenge against his wife, who now lives in Italy.

"I am not sure whether I am divorced or not," he said. "I am not sure whether she is married to someone else or not. Nobody will tell me."

Reliu explained that he first went to work in Turkey in 1992 and returned in 1995 to the first big shock of his marriage — his wife's infidelity. In 1999, he decided to return to Turkey for good.

The AP was not able to locate his wife to hear her side of the story.

Last December Turkish authorities detained him over expired papers and in January deported him to Romania.

Upon landing at Bucharest airport, he was informed by border officials that he had been officially declared dead and underwent six hours of questioning and tests.

They measured the distance between his eyes to see if it corresponded to an old passport photograph; they asked him questions about his home town, such as where the town hall was; they checked his fingerprints.

"They decided that it was me!" he said.

But authorities in Barlad were less convinced. He spent weeks trying to persuade them to issue him papers so that he officially "existed," he said. When that failed, he asked them to overturn the ruling on his death certificate, issued in 2016, which also ended in failure Thursday on procedural grounds.

## TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Miscellaneous
15:40	Miscellaneous
16:30	Zig Zag
17:50	Brazilian Soap Opera (Repeated)
18:40	Non-daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
19:50	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Sports
22:10	Brazilian Soap Opera
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Champions League 2017/2018 Magazine
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:40	RTPi Live

## cinema



CINETEATRO

15 - 21 MAR



TOMB RAIDER

ROOM 1

2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30pm

Director: Roar Uthaug

Starring: Alicia Vikander, Daniel Wu, Dominic West

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 118 min



7 DAYS IN ENTEBBE

ROOM 2

2:30, 7:30, 9:30pm

Director: Jose Padilha

Starring: Rosamund Pike, Daniel Brühl, Eddie Marsan

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 106 min

TURN AROUND

ROOM 2

04:30pm

ROOM 3

07:30pm

Director: Ta-pu Chen

Starring: Jay Shih, Yu-chiao Hsia, Allen Chao, Lu Yi-ching

Language: Chinese (Chinese &amp; English)

Duration: 108min



THE HURRICANE HEIST

ROOM 3

2:30, 4:30, 9:30pm

Director: Rob Cohen

Starring: Toby Kebbell, Maggie Grace, Ryan Kwanten

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 103min

## this day in history



Willy Brandt



Willi Stoph

## 1970 WILLI AND WILLY MEET IN EAST GERMANY

The leaders of East and West Germany have met for the first time since the country was divided in 1949.

About 2,000 young East Germans greeted West Germany's Chancellor Willy Brandt when he arrived at 0930 at the East German town of Erfurt to meet Prime Minister Willi Stoph for talks on improving East-West relations.

As the two men crossed the square between the railway station and the Erfurt Hof Hotel, demonstrators shouted "Willy! Willy!"

Then they changed their chant to "Willy Brandt!" to make clear which leader they supported.

The large crowds surprised both Western journalists and the East German authorities who had made every effort to keep the area clear of spectators. They even kept children at school who would normally have had the afternoon off.

Demonstrators called for Mr Brandt to come to the hotel window. He did so for a brief moment before getting down to the serious business of talks with his East German counterpart.

This afternoon, Mr Brandt visited the Buchenwald concentration camp to lay a wreath in honour of the victims of the Nazi holocaust.

On his return to Erfurt he was met with a small counter-demonstration of people demanding international recognition of East Germany, echoing a demand made by East German officials.

During the talks, Mr Brandt suggested recognition of East Germany would come after a long process of negotiation.

He proposed a treaty to confirm the inviolability of East Germany's border and suggested the two countries join the United Nations.

But there was little hope the talks would lead to an easing of travel restrictions for East Germans, made worse by the building of the Berlin Wall in 1961.

By the end of the day the two men agreed to meet again in the West German town of Kessel on 21 May.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

Willy Brandt was the architect of "Ostpolitik", the policy of rapprochement with the Eastern Bloc.

By 1971 he had negotiated treaties with Russia, Poland, and East Germany and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts.

Two years later the Federal Republic of Germany (West) and the German Democratic Republic (East) were allowed to join the United Nations.

But in 1974 Mr Brandt was forced to resign after one of his leading aides, Gunter Guillaume, was exposed as an East German spy.

Prime Minister Willi Stoph, along with his cabinet, was forced to resign on 7 November 1989 after huge anti-government protests.

Two days later travel restrictions were eased and millions left the country as the Berlin Wall was knocked down. The two Germans were finally reunited on 3 October 1990.



YOUR STARS



Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Here's another day to do exactly what you know you were born to do: Mingle. Then, late this evening, you'll be ready for at least one day off from socializing - and you'll have it.



Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

The urge to take yourself somewhere you've never been will be especially strong, especially if you've got an equally spontaneous travel companion handy - and when don't you?



Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

You've spent a good part of the past couple days staring intently into the mirror, wondering if there might not be something tattooed on your forehead that's visible only to jerks, users, and losers.



Libra

Sep.23-Oct. 22

The heavens are sending you even more charisma - and an absolutely illegal amount of allure, neither of which you need any more of. Not surprisingly, you're doubly lethal at the moment.



Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Those who know and love you are never surprised at what tumbles from your lips. So when you begin spouting off even a bit more bluntly than usual over the next couple of days.



Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

You know that old expression about 'wearing your heart on your sleeve'? You'll be living proof of it, for at least one more day. You're not ordinarily the type to spout off.



Taurus

April 20-May 20

There's absolutely nothing like the company of kindred spirits - as you well know. Thanks to the earthy, permanence-loving mood the heavens are in - and their inspiration to put you in a similar frame of mind.



Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

The heavens will spend one last day urging one and all to rebel, revolt, mutiny and, at the very least, question authority. You, however, aren't usually the type to do that.



Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

After one last day of teasing you with lingering glances that last just a tad too long to be socially acceptable, as of late this evening, a certain person will finally be ready to say what's on their mind.



Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

Your feelings are on their way out, and chances are, you may be seen as erratic and unpredictable at the moment. Now, you're usually the very soul of devotion and commitment.



Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Your financial situation seems to be a bit shaky at the moment - or is it only that you're worried about it because you've been pleasantly distracted by more tender matters?



Pisces

Feb.19-Mar. 20

Somewhere between late this afternoon and early this evening, you'll need to make a decision: Whether to let a secret finally see the light of day, or keep it under wraps.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

	5					7	2	
4			8	2				
9	1		6					3
		9		6		3		
		5	7		9	6		
	1		3		9			
3				8			7	1
				4	5			8
	2	8					9	

Easy+

	4	5						
	7		1				2	4
			1	3	2			6
		7	4	3				
			6		7			
				5	8	1		
3				7	2	6		
4	5				1		8	
						9	1	

Medium

6		1		3				
9					4			7
	3				6		1	
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		4	5		9	8		
				7		1		9
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Hard

			5			3		
	2						8	
	9			7				
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								7
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8		9						
							1	

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Impetuous; 5- Judges' garments; 10- ... saw Elba; 14- To \_\_\_\_ (exactly); 15- 1985 Kate Nelligan film; 16- Pinocchio declaration; 17- \_\_\_\_ lay me...; 18- Justifiable; 20- Slight trace; 22- Broadcast; 23- Group of students; 24- Hilton competitor; 26- \_\_\_\_-disant (self-styled); 27- Forbidding; 30- Ladies of Spain; 34- Except if; 35- Donated; 36- JFK posting; 37- "My Heart Will Go On" singer; 38- Practice piece; 40- Divide; 41- How was \_\_\_\_ know?; 42- Addition column; 43- Objects from everyday life; 45- Average; 47- Person who rows; 48- Half of D; 49- Tablets; 50- French farewell; 53- Popular ISP; 54- Bridge positions; 58- Instrument for cracking nuts; 61- Voting group; 62- Cheerio!; 63- Twice, a comforting comment; 64- Trademark; 65- Hanging to one side; 66- Vice \_\_\_\_; 67- Coup d' \_\_\_\_;

DOWN: 1- Talk wildly; 2- Yours, in Tours; 3- Darned; 4- Augment; 5- Roulette bet; 6- Soap ingredient; 7- Suit; 8- Steven Chu's cabinet dept.; 9- Sloth, e.g.; 10- Actor Estevez; 11- Singer McEntire; 12- Building wings; 13- Mid-month times; 19- Teatime treat; 21- Peepers; 25- Weapons supply; 26- More than two; 27- Examine account books; 28- Togetherness; 29- Yacht; 30- Blue; 31- Kingdom; 32- Skylit lobbies; 33- The devil; 35- Astronaut Grissom; 39- Business card abbr.; 40- Adequate; 42- Transpire; 44- Author \_\_\_\_ Stanley Gardner; 46- Polar cover; 47- Edmonton team; 49- Popular card game; 50- Architectural pier; 51- Double; 52- Sock \_\_\_\_ mel; 53- Dull pain, often in the head or back; 55- Type of machine found in Las Vegas; 56- Forum wear; 57- Edinburgh native; 59- Off-road wheels, for short; 60- "Michael Collins" actor;

Friday's solution

Y	E	E	S	P	O	R	T	S	A	P	A	R
H	A	R	P	A	P	R	O	N	L	A	N	E
U	S	D	A	T	E	R	R	A	L	E	O	S
D	E	A	R	S	I	R	A	P	P	E	A	S
S	E	N	O	R	A	L	S	I	G	N	E	T
S	E	N	O	R	A	L	S	I	G	N	E	T
O	Z	A	W	A	O	L	E	O	W	E	S	
O	R	S	I	S	O	L	A	T	E	A	L	E
S	A	A	B	A	N	A	S	G	A	L	E	N
N	A	S	S	A	S	A	S	P	E	N	T	A
N	A	S	S	A	S	A	S	P	E	N	T	A
O	R	A	T	O	R	I	O	R	I	O	R	I
T	O	N	I	A	E	S	O	P	C	O	O	S
E	S	T	O	T	N	O	T	E	I	R	A	S
S	E	A	N	E	S	T	E	R	A	D	E	

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Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333

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IACM 28 387 333

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Q&amp;A

COLIN SHIEFF  
RETIRED NEUROSURGEON FROM BRITAIN'S NHS

# 'For Schumacher, the future is longer but it

Jerome Pugmire, Paris

**M**ORE than four years after a ski accident caused him a near-fatal brain injury, little is known about Michael Schumacher's current condition. Updates on his health have been extremely scarce ever since he left hospital in September 2014 to be cared for privately at his Swiss home on the shores of Lake Geneva. Details of his specific condition and the treatment he received have been kept strictly private. The last public statement 16 months ago clarified nothing further would be said.

Colin Shieff is a retired neurosurgeon from Britain's National Health Service and a trustee of Headway, the national brain injury charity. Although he has never treated Schumacher, or spoken with doctors who've treated Schumacher over the years, he has dealt with similar cases both at immediate critical-care level and further down the line in terms of long-term treatment.

Shieff spent many years working with people with brain

injuries and trauma, including at NATO field hospitals in Afghanistan and Iraq. He answered questions for The Associated Press related to the nature of Schumacher's brain injury, pertaining to how his condition may have evolved in the time since his accident.

**The longer one goes on after an injury the more remote it is that any improvement becomes.**

**- In your opinion, what's the likely prognosis at this stage?**

**Colin Shieff (CS)** - The nature of his injury and those bits of information that are available, and have been available, suggest that he has sustained permanent and very major damage

to his brain. As a consequence his brain does not function in a fashion similar to yours or mine. The longer one goes on after an injury the more remote it is that any improvement becomes. He is almost certainly not going to change from the situation he is now.

**- What ongoing treatments would he be having?**

**CS** - He will have the kind of treatment, which is care: giving him nourishment, giving him fluid. The probability is that this is given in the main - or at least as supplements - through some tube passed into his intestinal system, either through his nose or mouth, or more likely a tube in the front wall of the tummy. He will have therapy to sit him, because he won't be able to get himself out of a bed and into a chair. He will be treated in a way that will ensure his limbs move and don't remain rigid.

**- Would someone in his position receive around-the-clock treatment?**

**CS** - He will be allowed a period of rest and sleep and rela-



Neurosurgeon Colin Shieff

xation, and he will be given an environment. I'm positive as I can be without knowing the facts [that] he will be living in an environment that — although it's got artificial bits of medical kit and care and people — will mimic a caring, warm, pleasant, socially stimulating environment."

**- Would he be able to sense he's in such an environment?**

**CS** - I don't know. There is always a technical, medical and neurological issue with defining a coma. Almost certainly he cannot express himself [in a conversation]. He may well be able to

indicate, or it may be apparent to those around him, that he is uncomfortable or unhappy. Or [he] is perhaps getting pleasure from seeing his children or hearing music he's always liked, or having his hand stroked.

**- Are patients in his situation aware of touch and voice from family members?**

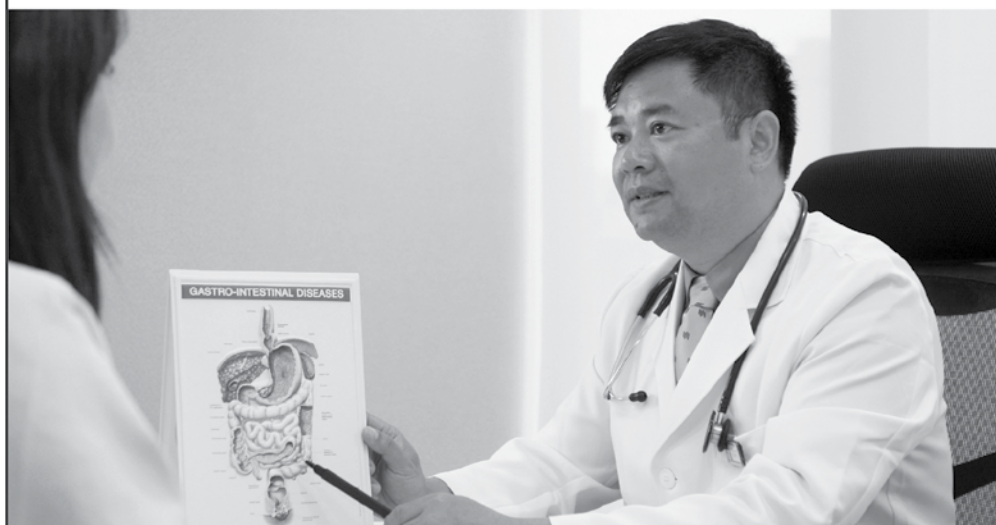
**CS** - Absolutely. Even in the early stages, even in a critical care unit, when medicines are being given, for one individual at one time there may be an ability to discern and show response to someone they are familiar with. Respond to familiar, respond to

AD

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# doesn't imply any change in the quality of it'



Michael Schumacher pictured in 2012, before the ski accident

family you're triggered to. You hear them all your life so that's the very, very familiar [aspect] the person is going to respond to.

**- Is there a chance he can make A) a full recovery? B) A partial recovery?**

**CS** - First one, absolutely, totally no. Number one statistically, number two neurologically, and number three he's been ill for so long. He's lost muscle bulk, even if he opened his eyes and started talking there

will have been loss of memory, there will be impact on behavior, on cognitive functions. He would not be the same person. [As for a] partial recovery, even the smallest thing that gets better is some kind of recovery. But [it depends] whether that recovery contributes to a functional improvement for him to be able to express himself - other than an evidence of saying 'Yes' or an evidence of saying 'No.' [Therefore] if he could use words of two syllables, if he could turn on the remote control for the tele. One

can do, professionally, all sorts of wonderful things with electronic devices and couple them up to eye and mouth movements. Sometimes with a person in a situation called 'Locked In' or 'Profoundly neurologically comprised' - which is essentially paralysis but with continuing intellectual function - ways can be found to communicate with those people. If that had been so with Michael Schumacher I am positive we would have known that is the case, so I don't believe it's so for him.

**One can do, professionally, all sorts of wonderful things with electronic devices and couple them up to eye and mouth movements.**

**- This is a deeply personal decision for the family. But how long can treatment last for?**

**CS** - In, for example, our health system we don't have the luxury to keep maximal intervention going in a high-tech hospital environment. For Michael Schumacher's family, I suspect they have the financial support to be able to provide

those things. Therefore, for him, the future is longer but it doesn't imply any change in the quality of it.

**- Some reports have estimated the cost of treatment at anything up to 200,000 euros (USD245,000) per week. Is that realistic?**

**CS** - I would personally think that's over the top, in terms of what I reckon that might buy him. He'll have a nurse, a therapist, a visiting doctor. There'll be an extra pair of hands when something physical is being done, when he's being moved to somewhere. That doesn't add up to 150,000 euros or 200,000 euros. He needs essentially, somebody with nursing or therapeutic qualifications with him at all times. So that's however many people you need to run a 24/7 roster. You're talking probably eight people to provide that level of care constantly over a year's period. That's the number of nurses required for instance, to nurse or to staff, one critical care bed in an intensive care unit. **AP**

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opinion

Rear Window

Severo Portela



UNSTOPPABLE MACHINE

Given the lousy days rolling on the MSAR, we guess the mood within the unbreakable New Macau Association (ANM) party... to not say ANM's lot of pro-democracy die-hards...should be one of full circle pessimism: the angst of being out of time and out of place.

We will have to excuse ourselves for the absurdity of the introduction above, but we take it as a necessary tempering of the reality of three new cases of alleged aggravated disobedience which ANM is facing on top of the scary one that led to the ousting of legislator Sulu Sou. Former association president and fellow accused Scott Chiang are still both waiting to have their day in court.

Apparently, the fresh cases came about from a breach of the bizarre electoral regulations on campaigning activities, which were in place for the 2017 Legislative Assembly election that gave Sulu Sou a short and lively period as a directly-elected lawmaker. While waiting to hear from the relevant authorities about the goings on of the investigation concerning ANM activists, Andrew Wong informed that one of the cases involves (Paul) Chan Wai Chi, former pro-democracy legislator as well as being a well-known teacher and veteran columnist. Chan's case was heard at the Public Prosecutions office but he has not been charged yet.

Despite the auspicious outcome of the limited crowdfunding initiative ANM used to finance its regular activities (in accordance with the law) it is a short purse if it is to support a litigant's daily life. Indeed, it does not seem that ANM could stand a bleeding... because it is conventional wisdom to presume that the average pro-democracy activist, sympathizer is not one of the rich and powerful in Macau - forgive us the lingo - few of whom could afford fines and legal bills.

Perhaps worse than the perception - of ANM - of an unstoppable machine slowly eroding the SAR, suffocating liberties granted by the Basic Law, stifling civil society, is the sentiment - to sugarcoat it - of excessive force towards an undeserving and law abiding population in contrast to Hong Kong's symbolic fistfight to develop democracy across the Pearl River Delta. The New Macau leader Kam Sut Leng, we guess choking on her indignation, had to plead to the government to relax about Macau; Hong Kong (and Macau) has differences that should be enough to question the level of tightening exerted upon the population of Macau.

The Macau semiautonomous region under the reiterated principle of "One Country, Two Systems" - and here we have to digress to say that there was much ado about the disappearance of "its own people," since it is a potential preparatory move to concede of China as an unitary state - is defined by a prime constitutional reading that constrains the scope of ANM to within the Special Administrative Region. Whether or not the zeitgeist up North is one of consolidating immense power in the hands of Xi Jiping via the retouching of the Constitution, New Macau Association works indoors according to the Basic Law. If there are unfulfilled expectations... they refer to MSAR. "Macau's human rights are deteriorating... Executive power abuse remains frequent; striving for democracy, freedom and public interest is still difficult... but we continue to work to advance Macau's political and social environmental". Forgive the unintended pamphlet but the aim is to show the ANM is taboo in and of its makeup, and its framework is granted by a kind of Magna Carta, which shall be in place until forensic, yes, forensic, science can prove it ceased to exist.

Finally, one word on how China mystifies and plays even the wisest of observers who had forecast a Chinese dream of long-lasting revival through a prosperous economy, military might and political reform through openness, rule of law and constitutionalism. The first objective, we have to tick, the second one, check, third one, check, yes, but upside down. And one note to Ai Weiwei snobbery and fatalism bordering upon a dangerous political but sustaining anthropology, China has always been and will always be an emperor state.

THE BUZZ MANILA CASINO RESORT FIRE LEAVES AT LEAST THREE DEAD, TWO TRAPPED

A fire that hit a hotel and casino complex in the Philippine capital yesterday killed least three employees, trapped two others and forced the evacuation of more than 300 guests, some by helicopter, officials said.

Police said it remains unclear if the fire at the Manila Pavilion Hotel and Casino, which was still raging after seven hours, started in the casino in the lower floors or in an area of the hotel

that was under renovation.

TV footage showed dark gray smoke billowing from the first and second floors of the hotel as rescuers brought people out of the building.

Johnny Yu, who heads Manila's disaster-response agency, told reporters that at least six other people were overwhelmed by heavy smoke and brought to a hospital. Among the dead were two security guards and a treasury officer, he said.

SOURCE: D5M8

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	45-65 Moderate	
High Density Residential Area	25-45 Good	
Ambient	45-65 Moderate	

WORLD BRIEFS

**RUSSIA's** presidential election was tainted by unprecedented pressure on voters to turn out and incidents of suspected ballot box stuffing - a barely democratic exercise that will grant Vladimir Putin another six years of power.

More on p15



**TURKEY-SYRIA** Turkey's president said yesterday the Turkish military and allied Syrian forces (pictured) have taken "total" control of the town center of Afrin, the target of a nearly two-month-old offensive against a Syrian Kurdish militia, which said fighting was still underway.

**GERMANY-POLAND** Germany's new foreign minister stressed the need for preserving European unity during his visit to Poland, a recalcitrant European Union member that has been following its own path on some issues.

**SWITZERLAND** Authorities say they've recovered the bodies of two French skiers killed in an avalanche in the Swiss Alps but two other skiers remain missing.



**BRAZIL** Former Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has launched a book in which he says he is "ready" to go to jail and serve a 12-year and one-month sentence on a corruption charge conviction.

**VENEZUELA** The head of the Organization of American States wants tougher international sanctions placed on Venezuela. Sanctions imposed by the United States and the European Union, among others, are aimed at breaking Maduro's grip on power amid a deepening political and economic crisis.

Barbra Streisand says no #MeToo moment marred her life

Lynn Elber, Los Angeles

**BARBRA** Streisand said she's never suffered sexual harassment but has felt abused by the media.

During a tribute to Streisand's decades of TV music specials and other programs, producer and long-time admirer Ryan Murphy queried her about her career, the #MeToo movement and her aversion to interviews.

"Never," she replied when asked if she had been sexually mistreated.

"I wasn't like those pretty girls with those nice little noses. Maybe that's why."

She acknowledged the power of protests against gender inequality sweeping through Hollywood and society.

"We're in a strange time now in terms of men and women and the pendulum swinging this way and that way, and it's going to have to come to the center," Streisand said during Friday's Paley Center for Media event held at a packed theater.

Her reluctance to talk to news outlets is based on years of what she called inaccurate reporting, including one story that claimed she has an "awards room" at home dedicated to her Oscars, Emmys and other trophies. But it was the late TV journalist Mike Wallace who came in for the sharpest criticism.

Streisand said that when she was a young star (and



before Wallace joined "60 Minutes"), he asked her hurtful questions during a TV interview and she called him afterward to complain. But on a subsequent show, Wallace told viewers who'd objected to his treatment of Streisand that she "loved" the interview, according to the star.

"I thought, I don't know what date rape is, it's terrible ... but it was such a violation," she said. "Why lie?"

Streisand said she demands control in her work but only in service to her art that's included directing, acting and producing TV movies, among them 1995's "Serving in Silence: The Margarethe Cammermeyer Story," about anti-gay discrimination in the military.

Murphy ("Glee," "American Horror Story"), who admitted to being nervous as he began his one-on-one conversation with the

star of "Funny Girl" and award-winning TV specials dating back to 1966's "Color Me Barbra," said he owed his career to her.

"People talk about Barbra as the greatest female star. I say, no, that's not enough," Murphy said, calling her a groundbreaker for those who don't fit the mold. "She was a touchstone, a beacon I followed my entire life."

The tribute, which kicked off the 35th annual PaleyFest LA television festival at the Dolby Theatre, was capped by the presentation to Streisand of the 2018 PaleyFest Icon award.

Streisand is a "truly magical artist," Maureen J. Reidy, Paley Center president and CEO, said of her work as a singer, actress, director and producer.

Streisand also is known for her political activism on behalf of Democratic candidates and issues including gay rights. **AP**

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Xinhua/Jigme Dorje



The Potala Palace pictured yesterday after a snowfall in Lhasa, Tibet.