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## PANSY HO BECOMES HK'S RICHEST WOMAN

# Casino investor Chu loses half her wealth

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## WORLD BRIEFS



**RUSSIA** Vladimir Putin now has a stronger hold on Russia — and stronger place in the world — thanks to an overwhelming mandate for yet another term as president. More on p14,15

**SOUTH CHINA SEA** Southeast Asian leaders and Australia's prime minister called for non-militarization and a code of conduct in the contested waters of the South China Sea, where China has become increasingly assertive.



**INDONESIA-MALAYSIA** Greenpeace says household brands including PepsiCo and Johnson & Johnson are refusing to disclose where they get their palm oil from despite vows to stop buying from companies that cut down tropical forests to grow the widely used commodity.

More on backpage



## Fire at Manila hotel-casino put out; death toll raised to five

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## Agreement with e-commerce platforms in mainland China

Representatives from the Macau Delegation of Portugal-China Chamber of Commerce & Industry (CCILC) and the Macau Economic Bureau (DSE) recently conducted discussions and exchanged views on the business and trade cooperation service platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries. The delegation, led by president Leong Wa Kun, was received by DSE director Tai Kin Ip and deputy director Chan Tze Wai who also discussed topics on youth entrepreneurship. According to a statement issued by the chamber, Tai noted that the bureau would reach an agreement with e-commerce platforms in mainland China to set up a Macau Pavilion, in a bid to help local companies to sell products, which are made in Macau or from Portuguese-speaking countries. He hopes that the chamber could encourage corporate members to make full use of the platform in tapping the Chinese market and business.

## Gov't launches first Guangdong internship program

The government is launching the first edition of the Guangdong and Macau Summer Internship Programme, according to a statement released by the Talents Development Committee. Under this programme, university students who are Macau residents can apply for internships in companies from Guangdong Province. This year, the available internship categories include information and technology, creative designing, accounting, tourism, exhibition, catering, cooking, and railway maintenance management. The maximum number of eligible candidates is currently 36. The internship period will begin from June 23 until July 21. Admissions will be open from April 4 to April 30.

## Talents Committee with more members

More governmental departments have been included in the Talents Development Committee, according to a dispatch from the Chief Executive published yesterday by the Official Gazette. The new members include the director of the Labour Affairs Bureau, the chairman of the Board of the Directors of the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute, and the Chairman of the Administrative Committee. The committee is formed by a maximum of 25 people who are recognized as outstanding people or professionals in their own fields, the dispatch reads.



Andrea Bettinelli Dal Cin (left) and Peter Gordon

# Duetto to bring opera 'closer' to the audience

Renato Marques

**S**ET to bring back opera to the "special" stage of the Dom Pedro V Theatre, the Opera "Duetto," by Peter Gordon and Andrea Bettinelli Dal Cin promises to familiarize audiences with the genre.

"We are precisely targeting people that never been to an opera and that is why [we chose] this 'funny opera'. It is something that probably doesn't have the grandeur of a 'Tosca' or an 'Aida' but can get close to the public," Dal Cin said during an event included in the Macau Literary Festival. "Even the music is something we can call nowadays a crossover. We have a different concept [adapted also due to the space available] with one piano and four trombones; it's something new and kind of tailored. [...] If you have never been to an opera you might want to try to come to this," he added. The opera will be presented from March 30 to April 1, on three consecutive nights. It is a single story, merging two operas "La Serva Pardona" (The Servant Turned Mistress) from Giovanni Battista Pergolesi (1710-1736) and "Il segreto di Susanna" (Susanna's Secret) from Ermanno Wolf-Ferrari (1876-1948) that were adapted in a single story to be presented specially on the

stage of Dom Pedro V Theatre. Speaking about the stage, Gordon said, "it's unique. We wish to have one of these in Hong Kong but we don't. It's unique in all of Asia."

Remarking on the content and approach of this new style, Dal Cin noted, "we want to make this relevant to the place where we are performing. So we 'reset' [the scenes] to take place in Macau [and] we put the second act to take place around 1965, so in this way we are narrowing the gap that usually [exists] between the audience and a grand opera that goes on the stage." Dal Cin added, "usually people go and see the opera that

[follows a story that] happens very far [away geographically] and that [features stories] that happened in 18-something or 14-something and it's played as set in the time [when it] was originally written. Here we added this kind of contemporary element and the audience is somehow embedded into the story and we have combined a lot of theatre into the opera." The writer-adaptor said the style was, "overall a completely new experience for us."

Speaking about the idea of catering the performance to the public was the director, set designer, and costume designer, Gordon, saying, "the

story may be universal but the stories happened a long time ago and if you [are] living in Asia, they happened in a place very far [away] and if it's a grand opera you might be sitting a very long way from the stage."

**It's unique [the D. Pedro V Theatre]. We wish to have one of these in Hong Kong but we don't. It's unique in all of Asia.**

PETER GORDON

Gordon noted that the company is a small one and that one of their aims is to embed a "familiar bond" in the opera. He said, "despite the fact the story is very simple, about two people falling in love, there is a lot of distance between the audience and the story and one of the things we were trying to do is to shorten the distance between the audience and the story and to make these stories universal," so they can be easily be perceived by the audience and "amuse" and "entertain" those that go to watch it.

As an example, Gordon noted, "we chose 'La Serva Pardona' exactly because it's about a Maid Serpina that connives - nicely - to get her boss to marry her. I think everyone can relate to this topic around here right?" he noted in a humorous way.



Dom Pedro V Theatre

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF (DIRECTOR) Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com  
MANAGING EDITOR Paulo Barbosa paulo.barbosa@macaudailytimes.com  
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS Eric Sautedé, Leanda Lee, Severo Portela

NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS Albano Martins, Annabel Jackson, Daniel Beittler, Emilie Tran, Grace Yu, Ivo Carneiro de Sousa, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Lao-Phillips, João Palla Martins, Joseph Cheung, Julie Zhu, Juliet Risdon, Lynzy Valles, Renato Marques, Richard Whitfield, Rodrigo de Matos (cartoonist), Viviana Segui  
DESIGNERS Eva Bucho, Miguel Bandeira | ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS JML Property, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars, Ruan Du Toit Bester | NEWS AGENCIES Associated Press, Bloomberg, Financial Times, MacauHub, MacauNews, Xinhua | SECRETARY Yang Dongxiao amy@macaudailytimes.com

SEND NEWSWORTHY INFORMATION AND PRESS RELEASES TO: NEWSROOM@MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM.MO WEBSITE: WWW.MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM.MO

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ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

SECRETARY Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

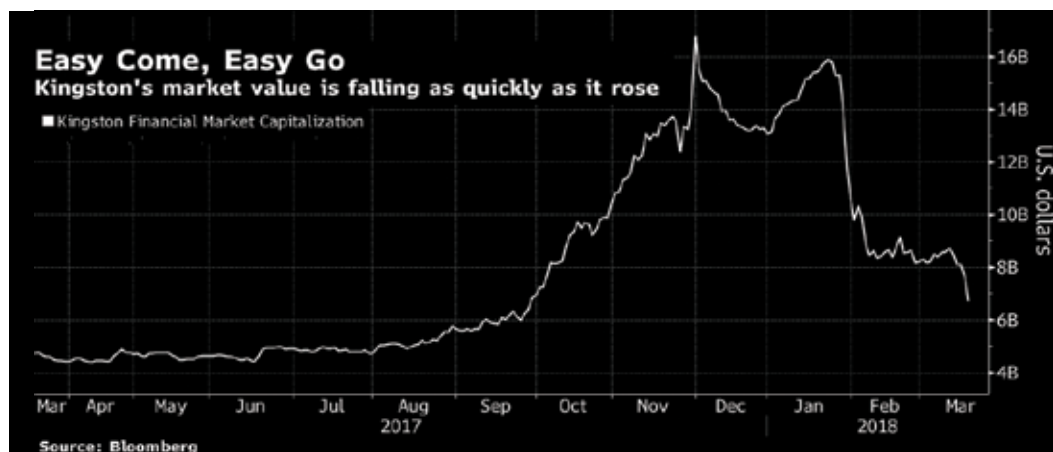
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# Pollyanna Chu loses half her wealth on stock plunge

**P**OLLYANNA Chu has lost her title as Hong Kong's richest woman after her listed company turned into Asia's worst performer this year.

Worth almost USD12 billion as recently as January, she's seen more than half of her wealth wiped out as the stock crashed. Kingston Financial Group Ltd., which operates businesses including Macau casinos and margin lending, has tumbled 50 percent since Hong Kong's securities regulator in January warned investors that the company's shares were overly concentrated among a small number of stockholders.

The company owns the Casa Real and Grandview casinos in Macau and operates under a service agreement with SJM Holdings.

Kingston Financial plunged 8.7 percent yesterday after FTSE Russell, one of the world's most-followed index providers, removed the stock from its benchmarks. For its financing, the firm relies largely on unsecured loans provided

cheaply by Chu and her family, according to January analysis from activist investor David Webb. The stock is the worst performer on MSCI Inc.'s Asian gauge this year, after surging 88 percent in the last quarter of 2017.

## Part of Chu's wealth stems from her father's background managing casino VIP rooms in Macau

Some speculators may have made a killing from Kingston's misfortunes - short interest was about 6.3 percent of free float as of Friday, according to IHS Markit data. The company declined to immediately comment on the slump in shares.

The Securities and Futures

Commission said in a Jan. 29 statement that 20 holders controlled more than 91 percent of the shares as of Jan 8. The stock plunged 17 percent the following day.

Part of Chu's wealth stems from her father's background managing casino VIP rooms in Macau. The sector still features prominently in the family controlled business; gaming and hotel revenues from the former Portuguese colony amounted to more than HKD670 million for the 2017 fiscal year, some 23 percent of total sales, according to Kingston's annual report.

Chu is joining a record \$5.2 billion deal to buy most of a Hong Kong skyscraper from Li Ka-Shing's company, people familiar with the matter said last month. Chu will take a 17 percent stake, they said.

Pansy Ho, the daughter of Stanley Ho, is now No. 1 in Hong Kong's ultra-rich women list, followed by Vivien Chen, chairwoman of closely held real estate developer Nan Fung Group, according to Bloomberg's Billionaires Index. **MDT/Bloomberg**

# Tam says non-resident childbirth fees will be means-tested

Daniel Beittler

**S**ECRETARY for Social Affairs and Culture Alexis Tam has confirmed to the public that the delivery charge hike for non-resident mothers at the public hospital will be means-tested.

He said that that the proposed nine-fold increase will only be applicable to some non-resident workers, while those earning below a yet-to-be-defined threshold will face fares just three times higher than at present.

Tam's intervention in the proposal will see natural births for low-income non-resident women raised from MOP975 to MOP2,925, while caesarean sections will increase from MOP1,950 to MOP5,850.

The policy change is a significant departure from the plan announced by the Health Bureau on February 28, which called for an across-the-board, ninefold hike for deliveries by all non-resident women at the public hospital.

Tam said last week that the hike was never intended to affect domestic workers - among the lowest earners in the Macau SAR - implying that it had been miscommunicated to the public.

A statement from the Office of the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture issued yesterday said that Tam was unimpressed by "untrue statements that have surfaced on the internet that try to mislead the public" regarding the increase in childbirth charges.

However, the same statement seemed to acknowledge that the decision to exempt some non-resident workers had come about in response to public opinion. It said that the Secretary, after consideration and consultation with local organizations, has decided to lower the increase in delivery charges for low-income non-resident workers.

Since announcing the proposal last month, the Health Bureau has argued that deterring

non-residents from using the services of the public hospital will allow the institution to improve the quality of healthcare afforded to residents.

In yesterday's statement, the Secretary Tam's Office said that by clearing maternity wards the government hopes to encourage local residents to have more children.

"The value of local childbirth rates is extremely low in comparison to the mainland, neighboring countries and regions, and it is expected that, with the increase in the fees in question, pregnant tourists will resort to private hospitals, of medical resources, granting residents privileges in using the medical services of the public hospital," it read.

According to data provided by the government, around 200 non-resident women give birth at the public hospital each year (excluding tourists), accounting for 8 percent of the total number of births.

## UPDATED DELIVERY CHARGES

	Present Charge	Proposed charges		
		Low-income non-residents	Non-residents	Tourists
Natural birth	975	2,925	8,775	17,550
C-section	1,950	5,850	17,550	35,100

\* All figures expressed in Macau patacas

## ONE SHOT NEWS



The Macau border zone of the world's longest sea bridge connecting Hong Kong, Zhuhai and Macau was officially handed over to MSAR authorities last week.



# Illegal worker plummets to death from construction site

A fatal industrial accident which occurred on a construction site at City of Dreams on Sunday afternoon has been reported by the Public Security Police Force (PSP).

The victim is a mainland female resident in her 30s, who according to the authorities was illegally working in the MSAR.

The worker fell from a height of between six and seven meters from the construction site of the Morpheus Hotel. She was later found unconscious by her husband, who was working at the same site. She was confirmed dead on Sunday afternoon.

Lawrence Ho, the CEO of Melco International, which operates the City of Dreams complex told the media yesterday that he will follow up with the construction company that hired the worker.

"We are working very closely with the contractor to fully understand the situation," he told public broadcaster TDM, "[...] and of course we are working very closely with the relevant authorities to do a thorough in-

PHOTO ARCHIVE



vestigation."

According to documents read by the Times, the construction company that hired the deceased worker is a subsidiary of MECOM Power and Construction Ltd, a publicly listed com-

pany on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, which had its initial public offering last month.

Lawrence Ho is a major shareholder in the company through his wholly-owned company, King Dragon.

Among the company's co-owners is Tam Chi Wai with an 8 percent stake. Tam is regarded as an 'independent third party' even though he was Melco's chief financial officer until November last year.

Construction work on the Morpheus Hotel has been temporarily suspended by the Labour Affairs Bureau, according to TDM. It was similarly suspending after a previous accident at the site last year.

## CRIME

# HKD920,000 stolen in currency exchange scheme

Renato Marques

A man from mainland China was victim of a violent theft that occurred in an unidentified casino-hotel which caused him a loss calculated to be HKD920,000, the Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesperson said yesterday at a press conference held at the PJ headquarters.

According to the police report, the victim wished to convert the total amount of HKD920,000 into RMB800,000, agreeing with one of the suspects to do so.

He was taken to a hotel room to make the exchange. Since he carried with him only HKD220,000, he went to a casino area to withdraw the remaining amount, allegedly from a VIP account.

When he returned to the room, he found not one but two men who pushed him to the bed and violently tied him with adhesive tape. After immobilizing the victim, the two suspects fled with the money. The PJ said they are still investigating the case

and searching for the two suspects.

In a separate theft, a woman from mainland China lost HKD64,000 while walking in the surroundings of a casino in Tai-pa. The woman was carrying the cash in her hand when a man pulled her by the shoulder and grabbed the money, running quickly away.

She told the PJ that she had met the same man a few hours before inside the casino. This case is also under investigation.

The PJ also reported two other cases classified as aggravated swindles occurring in local casinos while performing illegal currency exchanges.

The first one occurred on March 16 around 3 p.m. and involved a victim and a suspect from the mainland.

The suspect, a man, aged 32, agreed to convert an amount of RMB164,000 into HKD200,000 for another man. He gave the victim a bank account in China to which the victim transferred the amount in RMB.

After the transfer cleared, the suspect claimed he had not received a message from the bank acknowledging the success of the transaction, and then he fled the scene.

He was quickly caught with the help of the casino security. In his pos-

session was HKD90,000, which led the PJ to believe he could not provide the amount agreed to the victim.

He was accused of aggravated swindle and delivered to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP).

The second currency exchange case involved a

woman from Taiwan who claimed to have been tricked by a man, also from Taiwan, who offered to convert HKD115,000 into TWD.

The man never returned the amount he had promised, claiming insufficient funds as an excuse to call a male friend.

Upon investigation, the police determined that this friend did not exist, and immediately after receiving the money in HKD from the woman, he lost it gambling in the casino.

He has already been presented to the MP accused of aggravated swindle.

## Group of residents caught in drug-fueled party

A group of five people, which included four residents of Macau and one from Hong Kong, were caught on Saturday night in a local disco club enjoying a drug-fueled party, a PJ representative revealed during yesterday's press conference.

According to the PJ spokesperson, the case was discovered when the PJ was performing an anti-crime operation in NAPE area, especially targeting entertainment venues.

When the officers entered the club, a man was spotted trying to hide something, triggering a detailed investigation at his table where another three men and a woman were seated.

The investigation revealed pieces of paper with substances on them

believed to be drugs, as well as a cigarette filled with a white powder that is believed to be cocaine. Additionally, one MOP10 bill with more white powder inside and one small plastic bag with 0.4 grams of a substance confirmed to be cocaine were discovered.

Following questioning, the man said he acquired the drugs from another man for MOP5,000. According to the police spokesperson, the 0.4 g of the substance confirmed to be cocaine has a market value of around MOP1,300.

The group of five, aged between 29 and 37 were accused of drug possession and consumption.

In a separate case, another resident, a man aged 63, was targeted in a large case of swindle.

The PJ said it received three di-

fferent complaints over a scheme of alleged fraud which promised to find jobs for non-resident workers from mainland China between November 2017 and March 2018.

In total, the three victims were said to have lost a total of MOP291,460. Around RMB9,000 was delivered to three middle-aged people who were supposedly intermediaries between the group which claimed to be finding jobs and the 56 people seeking jobs in Macau.

According to the investigation details, the local man, who had been accused of similar activities before, was offering positions such as cooks, security guards, construction workers and cleaning services.

He has been accused of aggravated swindle.



HERITAGE

# Chui Sai On makes no comments on imposing building height limits

**M**ACAUS work regarding the protection of the region's cultural heritage adheres to guidelines from the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and to advice from experts in the field, the Chief Executive said yesterday before departing to Beijing to attend the National People's Congress' closing ceremony.

During a public consultation regarding the Plan for Protection and Management of the Historic Centre of Macau, the government claims to have received a number of opinions regarding the proposed delineation of a visual corridor in order to preserve the view – as seen from the Macau peninsula – of the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha, at Penha Hill. Chief Executive Chui Sai On said that “it would be difficult to comment on whether there should be height limits for buildings in relation to the proposed visual



corridor,” as that topic is still under consultation procedures.

Commenting on other issues, Chui told reporters that the government is looking forward to exploring opportunities with Hebei Province regarding development of the latter's Xiong'an New Area economic zone. This would be a subject for discussion during a meeting with the Secretary of the CPC Hebei Provincial Committee, Wang Dongfeng, and the Governor of Hebei, Xu Qin.

Chui has embarked on a four-day

visit to Beijing. While in the capital, Chui will also meet with scholars from the Institute for Public Safety Research – a body based at Tsinghua University – as well as meet with representatives of China Central Television.

According to a statement issued yesterday, the visit to Tsinghua University “aims to provide the government with better insights on the Institute's latest scientific and technological researches regarding public emergency management, and would help optimize Macau's capabilities regarding the city's response to any public emergency.”

Chui said the government is paying great attention to the development of Macau's young people. The key policy objective for the government is “how to improve the upward mobility of young people, most of whom had the opportunity to receive an education in a tertiary educational institution,” he noted.

NPC

# Ho believes in leadership stability, does not shut door to CE run

**T**HE president of the Macau Legislative Assembly (AL), Ho Iat Seng, believes that Macau's stability will be assured in the coming five years in relation to the positions and placements of mainland China's principal officials at provincial levels, according to a report by Macao Daily News.

Chen Sixi, vice-director of the Liaison Office in Macau, has been elected as a standing committee member of the 13th National People's Congress (NPC). Before coming to Macau, Chen served as the deputy director of the Liaison Office, and was already a member of the standing committee of the 12th NPC. However, Chen had to resign from the 12th NPC in order to come to Macau.

Since Chen's reelection, he is believed to be reconsidering his job, which implies that there might be a change in the leader-

ship of the Liaison Office.

While in Beijing, Ho was asked about his opinion about this possible change as well as other previous changes in the leadership of the Liaison Office in Macau.

Ho agreed that the changes in the leadership in the Liaison Office in Macau are indeed frequent. However, the AL president claimed that, currently all the principal officials at the provincial level in China are going through a period of change.

Ho noted that China is journeying through a period of change in regard to its leaders, and that there must be positions filled by a certain kind of person.

In addition, Ho once again was questioned as to whether he would run for the Chief Executive spot. This time, as opposed to previous occasions, he did not deny the possibility. **JZ**

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# Macau Foundation subsidies reached MOP1.1b last year

**T**HE Macau Foundation (FM) has improved its mechanism to grant financial support, Wu Zhiliang said yesterday on the sidelines of a meeting with media representatives. The foundation's Administrative Committee president said that the FM has advanced in "works related to train new talents and to promote the history and culture of China."

During yesterday's meeting, Wu reviewed the works conducted in 2017. A total of MOP1.1 billion was given to support 2,222 events. Most of the money (44 percent) was donated to education and academic research, followed by social welfare (15 percent) and charity activities (11 percent). The value attributed to scholarships reached MOP74 million.

The FM president stressed that during 2017, many field trips were organized to mainland China in order to "strengthen local students'



Wu Zhiliang

knowledge of the Chinese culture and national development, increasing their feeling of integration in the development of the motherland." Additionally, several scholarships were set up to promote the "One Belt, One Road" policy.

Following the damage caused by Typhoon Hato back in August, the FM granted support to family members of the deceased and also

to people who suffered injuries or damage in their homes. Wu said that the total amount of subsidies granted under the special program created to face the damage caused by Typhoon Hato reached MOP494 million. A total of 6,600 requests for financial help were received by the program and around 70 percent of those requests have already been analyzed by FM staff.

## Chief engineer says HKZMB will aid China's Belt and Road

**T**HE chief engineer of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HKZMB), Su Quanke, said last week that the completion of the mega-bridge project paves the foundation for the development of the country's Belt and Road Initiative, according to a report by Macau News.

Su made the remarks in Beijing prior to the closing meeting of the first session of the 13th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC).

Su, a member of the

CPPCC National Committee, said that the completion of the delta bridge marked two "great" breakthroughs.

The first breakthrough was that the bridge's completion had proved that the nation's "bridge-tunnel" construction capability is among the best in the world. This position will pave the way for Chinese enterprises to go overseas and assist in the development of the central government's Belt and Road Initiative.

The second breakthrough was that the delta bridge

was an example of the ability of the three jurisdictions of Macau, Hong Kong and Guangdong Province to work together through the processes of making plans and decisions and agreeing on solutions. He added that such cooperation will be of great value for future collaborative projects.

Macau News said that Su identified three issues, which have not yet been addressed but are important for improving the bridge project.

The first issue is to come up with a plan to regula-

te the cross-border traffic and to improve the efficiency of the bridge's operation.

The second issue is to ensure that the bridge's maintenance will be well carried out – a difficult feat given the enormous size of the project. The third challenge will be to utilize the experience gained through the bridge's construction over the past 14 years in the development of a sustainable model for maintenance, based on cooperation between Hong Kong, Zhuhai and Macau.

## Average earnings in wholesale and retail trade rise 5.3 percent

**A**VERAGE earnings of full-time employees in the wholesale and retail trade industries rose 5.3 percent year-on-year in the fourth quarter of 2017 to MOP13,480, according to the latest Survey on Manpower Needs and Wages, released by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC). There were 57,641 persons engaged in the sector, down by 0.4 percent year-on-year, with 37,050 working in the retail trade sector.

Meanwhile, transport, storage and communications had 11,360 people engaged in the sector, up by 1.6 percent year-on-year. The average earnings of full-time employees increased 2.9 percent year-on-year to MOP21,470, as of December last year.

The security sector had 10,862 persons engaged, up by 2.4 percent year-on-year. Average earnings of full-time employees in the sector rose by 1.7 percent year-on-year to MOP13,250.

The public sewage and refuse disposal sector had 862 persons engaged, similar to the number in the fourth quarter of 2016. Their average earnings in December increased by 2.3 percent year-on-year to MOP18,130.

The Survey on Manpower Needs and Wages covers the sectors of wholesale and retail trade, transport, storage and communications, security, and public sewage and refuse disposal.

At the end of the fourth quarter of 2017, job vacancies in the retail sector increased by 319 year-on-year, while those in the wholesale sector as well as the transport, storage and communications sector fell by 441 and 84 respectively.

In the fourth quarter of 2017, the vacancy rate (8.5 percent) in the retail sector rose by 0.7 percentage points year-on-year, while the turnover rate (5.4 percent) fell by 0.8 percentage points, suggesting an increase in demand for human resources in this sector, according to DSEC.

In addition, the vacancy rate (5.8 percent) in the transport, storage and communications sector dropped by 0.8 percentage points, while the recruitment rate (4.7 percent) and turnover rate (3.9 percent) rose by 0.9 and 0.4 percentage points respectively year-on-year.

In terms of recruitment prerequisites, most vacancies in the public sewage and refuse disposal sector (89.1 percent), the transport, storage and communications sector (50.5 percent) and wholesale and retail trade (45.4 percent) required only junior secondary education or lower.

As for language skills, 73.6 percent and 53.6 percent of the vacancies in the retail trade sector required knowledge of Mandarin and English respectively; the corresponding proportions in the security sector were 68.2 percent and 75.8 percent respectively.

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# Apple is said to develop displays to replace Samsung screens

**A**PPLE Inc. is designing and producing its own device displays for the first time, using a secret manufacturing facility near its California headquarters to make small numbers of the screens for testing purposes, according to people familiar with the situation.

The technology giant is making a significant investment in the development of next-generation MicroLED screens, say the people, who requested anonymity to discuss internal planning. MicroLED screens use different light-emitting compounds than the current OLED displays and promise to make future gadgets slimmer, brighter and less power-hungry.

The screens are far more difficult to produce than OLED displays, and the company almost killed the project a year or so ago, the people say. Engineers have since been making progress and the technology is now at an advanced stage, they say, though consumers will probably have to wait a few years before seeing the results.

The ambitious undertaking is the latest example of Apple bringing the design of key components in-house. The company has designed chips powering its



mobile devices for several years. Its move into displays has the long-term potential to hurt a range of suppliers, from screen makers like Samsung Electronics Co., Japan Display Inc., Sharp Corp. and LG Display Co. to companies like Synaptics Inc. that produce chip-screen interfaces. It may also hurt Universal Display Corp., a leading developer of OLED technology.

Controlling MicroLED technology would help Apple stand out in a maturing smartphone market and outgun rivals like Samsung that have been able to tout superior screens. Ray Soneira, who runs screen tester DisplayMate Technologies, says bringing the design in-house is a "golden opportunity" for Apple.

"Everyone can buy an OLED or LCD screen," he says. "But Apple could own MicroLED."

None of this will be easy. Mass producing the new screens will require new manufacturing equipment. By the time the technology is ready, something else might have supplanted it. Apple could run into insurmountable hurdles and abandon the project or push it back. It's also an expensive endeavor.

Ultimately, Apple will likely outsource production of its new screen technology to minimize the risk of hurting its bottom line with manufacturing snafus. The California facility is too small for mass-production, but the company wants to keep the proprietary technology away from its partners

as long as possible, one of the people says. "We put a lot of money into the facility," this person says. "It's big enough to get through the engineering builds [and] lets us keep everything in-house during the development stages."

Right now smartphones and other gadgets essentially use off-the-shelf display technology. The Apple Watch screen is made by LG Display. Ditto for Google's larger Pixel phone. The iPhone X, Apple's first OLED phone, uses Samsung technology. Phone manufacturers tweak screens to their specifications, and Apple has for years calibrated iPhone screens for color accuracy. But this marks the first time Apple is designing screens end-to-end itself. **Bloomberg**



HONG KONG

## Swire Properties signs deal with WeWork for space

Frederik Balfour

**S**WIRE Properties Ltd. has signed an agreement with WeWork Cos. to lease four floors providing about 54,000 square feet in a commercial tower in Taikoo Shing, the first deal between the co-working space provider and a major listed Hong Kong developer.

Swire didn't disclose the rent to be paid by WeWork, but said it would pay the going market rate in Citiplaza 3, a 24-story, grade-A office building eight subway stops from the Central business district.

Hong Kong has been slower than other financial centers to embrace co-working spaces because landlords have felt no pressure to provide them when traditional tenants keep occupancy rates in the Central business district at almost 100 percent.

Still, Don Taylor, Swire's director of office leasing, said major companies that move to less expensive alternati-

ves outside Central are now seeking something beyond the traditional fixed lease. "Corporations are saying to us, 'do you have flex space?'"

Swire operates its own co-working space called Blueprint in its Quarry Bay office complex, but that only has room for about 200 employees and WeWork will provide greater scale to tenants.

"WeWork looks forward to growing our existing global partnership with Swire Properties in expanding our footprints in Hong Kong, in addition to China and the U.S.," said Christian Lee, managing director of WeWork Asia.

New York-based WeWork currently operates two facilities in Hong Kong, though those spaces are leased from smaller landlords in Grade B buildings in Wan Chai and Causeway Bay. It also has plans to open in a former hotel in the city's entertainment district of Lan Kwai Fong. **Bloomberg**

### corporate bits

#### ARCADIS EXPECTS CONSTRUCTION COSTS TO INCREASE



Construction costs in China and Macau are expected to go up by around 3 percent and 1 percent in 2018 and 2019 respectively, according to Arcadis' latest 2018 China & Hong Kong Construction Cost Handbook.

A statement issued by Arcadis noted that Macau's construction output shrank in 2017, with the wave of hospitality and gaming developments almost coming to an end. Although witnessing reduced volume of comple-

ted floor area and new works commencement in the private sector, expenditure increased on public infrastructure and building projects — partially offsetting the shortfall in the private sector.

Material prices overall in 2017 rose by around 3 percent, also largely attributed to the rebound in steel prices.

Meanwhile, growth in Hong Kong's construction industry has slowed to its lowest rate since 2010 due to limited land resources and a lack of mega infrastructure projects.

Arcadis' report predicts that construction activities in Hong Kong will be flat or fall this year, edging prices for building works down by -2 percent and -1 percent on 2018 and 2019.

#### PALMS CAFÉ AND BAR PRESENTS 'BELGIAN WEDNESDAYS'



Palms Café and Bar at Sheraton Grand Macao will present the best of Belgium during "Belgian Wednesdays," the company announced in a statement.

At this weekly feast, traditional favourites such

as mussel pots, roasted pork knuckle and waffles will be served with premium Belgian beers. Menu highlights include the mussel pot, where guests can have their live New Zealand green lip or sea

blue mussels cooked to their liking.

A selection of seafood, including freshly-shucked oysters and poached lobster, are offered alongside hearty meat dishes like beef carbonnade and whole pork knuckle braised with red cabbage and apple.

Guests can opt for Belgian beers, such as Leffe, Duvel, and Pauwel Kwak, or beer-inspired cocktails like the Flemish Sandy (Stella Artois, ginger ale, peach schnapps) and Dikkenek (hoegaarden, vodka, lime).

The dessert menu includes waffles with a range of toppings, such as Belgian chocolate sauce and bourbon vanilla ice cream.



# The other men (and one woman) filling top posts

**T**HE new cabinet announced yesterday by China is the culmination of months of leadership reshuffles that saw President Xi Jinping assert his dominance over policy making.

The lineup includes recently promoted Communist Party leaders, veteran ministers and a few new faces. While many investors will be focused on changes to China's economic and financial regulators, several other key officials will also shape the country's policies over the next five years.

Here are some notable appointments:

## Han Zheng, 63, Executive Vice Premier



Han Zheng's move into the executive vice premier's slot comes as little surprise after his rise to the party's supreme Politburo Standing Committee in October. While his portfolio has yet to be announced, he'll share responsibilities with Premier Li Keqiang running the State Council and likely serve a diplomatic role, seen by his attendance at the Winter Olympics in South Korea. Han previously spent more than three decades in Shanghai overseeing the former colony's transformation into a top financial hub.

## Hu Chunhua, 54, Vice Premier



Once seen as a leading presidential contender, Hu Chunhua's political prospects dimmed after Xi declined to promote him to the Standing Committee last year. Still, Hu's appointment as vice premier provides the former Guangdong provincial party chief with a key perch to influence policy-making for the next five years. Moreover, the South China Morning Post newspaper reported that Hu would be tasked with completing Xi's pledge to lift more than 55 million people out of poverty by the end of the decade.

## Sun Chunlan, 67, Vice Premier



Sun Chunlan replaces outgoing Vice Premier Liu Yandong as the only woman occupying a top government post in China. With a mechanics degree from Anshan Industrial Technology Academy in Liaoning, she started working at a local watch factory before taking on political jobs in the northeastern province.

Sun was most recently tasked with running the United Front Work Department, an agency that oversees outreach beyond the party hierarchy.

## Yang Xiaodu, 64, Anti-Graft Director

Yang Xiaodu - a leader of Xi's signature anti-corruption campaign since 2014 - will now oversee its expansion to include millions of other public servants, from state-run company executives to hospital managers and school principals. As the first director of the new National Supervisory Commission, he'll have wide powers to detain and investigate officials for legal and ethical violations. Yang's stint on Shanghai's top party committee overlapped with Xi's tenure leading the municipality in 2007.

## Wang Yi, 64, Foreign Minister



Wang Yi's reappointment as foreign minister while also being promoted to state councilor keeps one of China's most visible advocates on the international stage. The veteran diplomat - whose resume includes experience managing often-fraught relationships with Japan and Taiwan - represents continuity at a time of rising trade tensions with the U.S. Wang's "suspension for suspension" proposal for restoring talks helped establish the basic framework for President Donald Trump's planned meeting with Kim Jong Un.

## He Lifeng, 63, Reform Commission Chairman



He Lifeng's return as head of the National Development and Reform Commission - China's state planning body - brings stability as Xi implements a sweeping reorganization. The agency lost some responsibilities, including environmental and agricultural policy making, to other ministries. His ties with Xi date back to the mid-1980s, when Xi was deputy mayor of the southeastern port of Xiamen and He was in charge of fiscal affairs. He was among a handful of guests invited to the low-key wedding between Xi and People's Liberation Army singer Peng Liyuan.

## Li Ganjie, 53, Environment Minister

Li Ganjie, who became environmental minister in June, will wield new powers to rein in carbon emissions and fight climate change under a government shake-up announced last week. The new Ministry of Ecology & Environment will be among the agencies spearheading Xi's "critical battle" against polluted air, soil and water - key concerns among China's growing middle class. Li was previously vice minister and head of the National Nuclear Safety Administration. **MDT/Bloomberg**



## NPC | LT. GEN. WEI FENGHE

# Legislature names former missile force commander defense minister

**C**HINA appointed a former missile force commander as its new defense minister amid lingering concerns over the goals of its rapid military modernization.

Lt. Gen. Wei Fenghe's naming as the international face of China's military was among a series of appointments by the ceremonial legislature on the penultimate day of its annual session.

Foreign Minister Wang Yi was reappointed as China's top diplomat and also promoted to state counselor, while Zhao Kezhi was confirmed as minister of public security in charge of the police.

Chen Wenqing, a former top official in the ruling Communist Party's graft-busting agency, remains minister of state security responsible for espionage and counterintelligence.

China has increasingly been deploying its intelligence agencies overseas to track down those accused of high-level corruption, along with other perceived regime opponents and critics who have moved abroad.

As defense minister, Wei is outranked by President Xi Jinping, who is also chairman of the Central Military

Commission, and two vice chairmen, but will be the main interface between China's 2 million-member armed forces and the rest of the world's militaries.

China's increased its military budget by 8.1 percent this year to about USD173 billion, making it again the world's second-largest behind the U.S.

Wei was named head of the 2nd Artillery in 2012, then remained head of the missile command after it was renamed the Rocket Force in 2016 amid a reorganization of military units.

The head of the U.S. Strategic Command considers China's ballistic missile program the world's "most active and diverse." It includes a range of short- and intermediate-range missile aimed at Taiwan, as well as road-mobile intercontinental ballistic missiles targeting the U.S. and its allies.

Most of China's growing conventional and nuclear warhead-tipped missiles are of the type prohibited by the U.S.-Russian Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces Treaty. That has led to calls in both Moscow and Washington for a reassessment of the treaty to deal with

a potential threat from China and others.

China's Cabinet is headed by Premier Li Keqiang, the No. 2 leader of the ruling Communist Party, who was reappointed to a second five-year term by the legislature on Sunday.

The vote came a day after party leader Xi Jinping was reappointed China's president with no limits on how many terms he can serve.

The legislature also approved the appointment of Yang Xiaodu as director for the National Supervisory Commission, created from a merger of the party's internal anti-graft watchdog with one that oversees civil servants. It will have the power to detain suspects for up to six months without seeking court approval.

A marathon anti-corruption campaign led by Xi has snared thousands of government officials and managers of state companies.

Xi has been steadily tightening central control over the government and state industry while also stepping up efforts to crush dissent.

On Saturday, a key Xi ally, Wang Qishan, was appointed to the previously ceremonial post of vice president. **AP**



NPC | LIU HE

# Next economic czar is a Harvard-trained Xi adviser

Joe McDonald, Beijing

**C**HINA's next economy czar is a Harvard-trained supporter of free markets who is President Xi Jinping's top adviser but has no experience fighting the bureaucratic battles the post can require.

Liu He's rise comes as the ruling Communist Party faces mounting pressure to make its cooling, state-dominated economy more productive. That will require politically fraught changes to open industries wider to private and foreign competition.

Yesterday, the 66-year-old Liu was named one of four vice premiers by China's ceremonial legislature. No details of his duties were immediately announced but he is widely expected to have broad economic powers.

As a vice premier, Liu would answer to Premier Li Ke-qiang, whose post traditionally is top economic official. But Xi has stripped Li of many of his job's most prominent duties by appointing himself head of the ruling Communist Party's body overseeing economic reform.

Dubbed China's "economic mastermind" by Hong Kong newspapers, the silver-haired Liu is making a late-career change to a politically challenging role carrying out plans after two decades designing them. He is close to Xi, China's most dominant figure since the 1970s, but unlike previous reformers-in-chief has no background in industry or as a mayor or provincial governor.

"He might be able to design the right policy. However, getting people to implement it, especially at the local level, might be a challenge," said Hongyi Lai, a specialist in Chinese politics at Britain's University of Nottingham, ahead of the announcement.

"If someone is disobedient, he may draw on Xi's power to push through the policy," said Lai. "But I would say that cannot be used on a daily basis."

A member of the party's 25-member Politburo, Liu already is in charge of a Cabinet agency created in November to oversee financial reform, monetary and industrial policy and regulatory changes.

Liu made his debut on the global stage with a speech in January at the World Economic Forum in Switzerland on a program that included U.S. President Donald Trump and German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

People who have met him say Liu is fluent in colloquial En-



glish and talks candidly about the need to change state-owned industry, as well as the resistance that might face. He has told foreign businesspeople he favors free markets and disagrees with plans for state-led development of industries from electric cars to robots to biotech.

"There is a sense of urgency among Xi's people, including Liu He, that reforms have lagged behind," said Dali Yang, a University of Chicago political scientist.

Reform advocates are hoping that after spending his first five years in office amassing power, Xi will accelerate what they complain has been sluggish action on carrying out an ambitious agenda announced by the party in 2013. It called for giving markets the "decisive role" and opening industries wider to private business.

Xi has sent mixed signals by affirming plans to build up state companies that dominate fields from energy to banking to telecoms.

Foreign companies complain that even when Beijing promises to open finance and other industries, it fails to follow through or imposes unappealing conditions such as ownership limits or a requirement to hand over technology.

"Companies are getting very tired of promises," said Jake Parker, vice president for China operations of the U.S.-China Business Council. "They want to see action."

Previous top economic officials had more bureaucratic experience.

Former Premier Zhu Rongji, who openly feuded with state company bosses and local officials during a painful industry

overhaul in 1998-2003, was a former mayor and party secretary of Shanghai. Wu Yi had a career in the state-owned oil industry before she helped negotiate China's entry into the World Trade Organization and ran finance policy as a vice premier in 2003-08.

Liu's experience is in the halls of power in Beijing, an asset at a time when Xi has gathered decision-making powers to the party center.

**Liu might be able to design the right policy. However, getting people to implement it, at the local level, might be a challenge.**

HONGYI LAI  
UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM

Liu has been part of the policymaking inner circle since the 1990s, helping to craft the party's five-year development plans. He was named a vice minister of the party's economic leading group in 2003 under Xi's predecessor, Hu Jintao, and

is a vice chairman of the Cabinet's planning agency.

Liu was among millions of urban young people who were sent to the countryside during the 1966-76 Cultural Revolution, the ultra-radical upheaval launched by then-leader Mao Zedong.

In 1972, Liu joined the party's military wing, the People's Liberation Army, where he served in an anti-aircraft regiment, according to the official Xinhua News Agency. He earned a master's degree in economics from the party's Renmin University and a second in public administration in 1995 from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

In 2014, Liu was awarded China's top economics prize for a research paper that compared the causes and outcomes of the 1930s depression and the 2008 financial crisis.

Among its conclusions: "Seek the widest intersection between Chinese and global interests."

Another calls for avoiding conflict abroad — a position at odds with Xi's ambitions for global influence and confrontational stance toward Japan, South Korea and Vietnam over territorial disputes.

"We should always warn ourselves not to be easily embroiled in international conflicts," Liu wrote. "Instead, we should focus on really important matters to substantially improve our domestic conditions."

Even as a vice premier, Liu still would be carrying out plans made by the party leadership as a whole.

"You have to respect the fact that state-owned enterprises continue to be significant assets for the political system," said Yang. "He needs to be fairly careful." **AP**

YI GANG

## US-trained central banker appointed

**A** U.S.-trained economist was appointed to succeed the longtime governor of China's central bank, Zhou Xiaochuan, at a time when the ruling Communist Party is trying to reduce financial risks and surging debt.

The elevation of Yi Gang, a two-decade veteran of the central bank, to head the People's Bank of China was in a slate of promotions approved by China's ceremonial legislature of finance and economic officials as President Xi Jinping tightens control over government.

The party is under pressure to control surging debt, defuse mounting trade tensions with Washington and Europe and make the cooling, state-dominated economy more productive. It has pledged to open more industries to private and foreign competition but business groups and reform advocates complain Beijing is moving too slowly.

Yesterday's promotions give unusual prominence to U.S.-trained figures. Yi received his Ph.D. in economics from the University of Illinois, while Liu has a master's degree in public administration from Harvard University's Kennedy School of

Government.

At the central bank, Yi's potential tasks include making interest rates and the exchange rate of China's tightly controlled yuan more market-oriented and improving financial regulation, according to Larry Hu of Macquarie Capital.

"China is facing new challenges and the room for growth is smaller," said Hu in a report. "Key is to unleash productivity by reforming the system, albeit containing risks in the process. It's much easier said than done."

Yi, 60, is well known to foreign investors and regulators as head of China's foreign exchange regulator. He already was overseeing efforts to make the mechanism that sets the yuan's exchange rate more flexible.

Before joining the People's Bank in 1997, Yi also taught at Indiana University. He also has a degree in business administration from Hamline University in Minnesota.

"Highly regarded in the international circles and seen as a pragmatic reformist, Yi Gang's appointment is set to ensure policy continuity and a smooth transition," said



Mizuho Bank in a report.

Zhou, who is retiring after a record 15 years in the post, is the most prominent Chinese figure in global finance.

At 70, he is well beyond official retirement age but stayed on following the 2012 handover of power to a new generation of leaders under Xi in what was seen as an effort to reassure companies and financial markets of stability. **AP**



## AUSTRALIA

# Suu Kyi welcomed to Canberra amid protests

Rod McGuirk, Canberra

**M**YANMAR leader Aung San Suu Kyi was feted in Australia with a military honor guard and 19-gun salute yesterday as part of a state visit that has provoked protests over her response to her country's violent campaign against Rohingya Muslims.

Suu Kyi arrived in Sydney over the weekend for a summit of Southeast Asian leaders and her state visit officially began Monday, when she was welcomed to Parliament House in Canberra. Her visit comes as she faces international criticism over what has become Asia's worst refugee crisis in decades.

More than 700,000 Rohingya have fled from Buddhist-majority Myanmar to neighboring Bangladesh since August, when the military responded to insurgent attacks on police with a clearance operation that the United Nations has described as ethnic cleansing. The campaign has included the burning of Rohingya villages, systematic rape, shootings and other rights violations.

There was no press conference with Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull or any public comment from Suu Kyi during her brief visit to the capital on Monday. She had meetings with the prime minister and opposition leader.

Turnbull said Sunday that Suu Kyi had used the weekend summit to seek humanitarian help from her fellow members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and Australia to deal with the crisis.

Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak told the summit that the refugee crisis was no longer solely a domestic is-



Myanmar's leader Aung San Suu Kyi (left) is welcomed to Parliament House by Australian PM Malcolm Turnbull during her state visit in Canberra

sue for Myanmar, as fleeing Rohingya could be prime targets for terrorist radicalization.

Myanmar staunchly denies that its security forces have targeted Rohingya civilians and Suu Kyi has bristled at the international criticism.

But Myanmar's denials have appeared increasingly tenuous as horrific accounts from refugees have accumulated and satellite imagery and other evidence of destroyed Rohingya villages have been assembled.

The Associated Press last month documented through video and witness accounts at least five mass graves of Rohingya civilians. Witnesses said the military used acid to erase the identity of victims. The government denied it,

maintaining that only "terrorists" were killed and then "carefully buried."

Suu Kyi, a Nobel Peace laureate, was a longtime political prisoner of Myanmar's former junta and frequently called for international intervention in her country during her almost 15 years under house arrest. She was released in 2010 and last visited Canberra in 2013 on an Australian tour, before she was allowed to stand for an election that her party eventually won in a landslide.

Then-Prime Minister Tony Abbott described her as an "icon of democracy" as he stood by her side at a joint press conference. Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said Suu Kyi had inspired her to enter

politics.

Suu Kyi's global image has since taken a battering. She has seen several international honors she was given in the past revoked. Several fellow Peace Prize winners have publicly condemned her.

Though Suu Kyi has been the de facto head of Myanmar's civilian government since her party took power, she is limited in her control of the country by a constitution written by the outgoing junta. The military has effective veto power over all legislation and controls key ministries including those overseeing security and defense.

The military is in charge of operations involving the Rohingya and ending them is not up to Suu Kyi.

Yet even when Suu Kyi has spoken on the issue, she has drawn criticism. In a September speech, her first public comments on the crisis, she asked for patience from the international community and suggested the refugees were partly responsible.

Suu Kyi faces a potential domestic backlash if she speaks on behalf of the Rohingya, who have been the target of anti-Muslim rhetoric. Many people agree with the official government stance that there is no such ethnicity as Rohingya and that those in the country have illegally migrated from Bangladesh.

Myanmar's backers globally have also had to tread carefully, not wanting to undermine Suu Kyi's weak civilian government at a time when the country is just emerging from decades of authoritarian rule.

Unlike the United Nations, United States and Britain, Australia has not accused Myanmar of "ethnic cleansing" or "crimes against humanity."

But Australia did support a U.N. resolution in December condemning the "very likely commission of crimes against humanity" by Myanmar security forces against Rohingya.

Human rights groups have criticized Australia for maintaining its limited military engagement with Myanmar. Australia provides English-language lessons and training courses to Myanmar officers to "promote professionalism and adherence to international laws," according to the defense department.

But Australia maintains a long-standing arms embargo with Myanmar. **AP**

## PHILIPPINES

## Fire at Manila hotel-casino put out; death toll raised to five



**FIREFIGHTERS** found two more bodies yesterday in a hotel-casino gutted by fire that sent thick, heavy smoke into the sky over the Philippine capital, raising the death toll to five, officials said.

One of several people injured in the blaze at the Manila Pavilion Hotel and Casino was fighting for her life in a hospital, Bureau of Fire

Protection officials said, adding that all others guests and hotel employees have been accounted for.

The bodies of two security camera operators were found after firefighters managed to control the blaze, which raged from Sunday morning to early yesterday, the officials said.

It was unclear if the fire started in the casino, located on the lower floors, or in a mezzanine area that was under renovation.

More than 300 hotel guests, including foreign tourists, and hotel and casino employees

had been evacuated at the height of the fire, some by helicopter.

Police and firefighters blocked off the areas around the hotel, which lies in the heart of Manila's Ermita tourist and commercial district, to allow dozens of fire trucks to approach and fight the blaze.

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte saw the billowing smoke and made an aerial inspection Sunday as he flew back to Manila from a northern city where he delivered a speech before Philippine Military Academy graduates, his aide said. **AP**



Hyung-Jin Kim, Seoul

**T**OP U.S., South Korean and Japanese officials discussed how to achieve the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula during weekend talks ahead of upcoming inter-Korean and U.S.-North Korean summits, Seoul said yesterday.

South Korean officials who visited Pyongyang recently say North Korean leader Kim Jong Un agreed to hold talks with South Korean President Moon Jae-in in late April. Seoul says Kim proposed meeting with President Donald Trump, who agreed to meet him by the end of May.

The developments have raised hopes for a potential breakthrough in the North Korean nuclear crisis. But many experts say animosities would flare again if the summits fail to produce any progress and leave the nuclear issue with few diplomatic options. North Korea has yet to confirm North Korea-U.S. talks.

U.S. National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster met his South Korean and Japanese counterparts, Chung Eui-yong and Shota Yachi, in San Francisco for talks over the weekend on denuclearization and the summit talks, South Korea's presidential office said in a statement.

They agreed to maintain clo-

# US, South Korea, Japan discuss denuclearization, summits

se trilateral cooperation in the next several weeks and shared a view that it's important not to repeat past mistakes, the statement said. It didn't elaborate but likely refers to criticism that North Korea previously used disarmament negotiations as a way to ease outside pressure and win aid while all along secretly pressing its weapons development.

Appearing on CBS's "Face the Nation" aired over the weekend, South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha said Kim had "given his word" that he was committed to denuclearization.

"He's given his word. But the significance of his word is — is quite — quite weighty in the sense that this is the first time that the words came directly from the North Korean supreme leader himself, and that has never been done before," she said.

Kim's willingness to negotiate over his nuclear program is a step forward, but many experts remain skeptical about how sincere he is about giving up a nuclear program that his coun-

AP PHOTO



try has built for decades despite toughening international sanctions.

Chung, who headed a high-level delegation to Pyongyang and met Kim during his March 5-6 trip, says North Korea told his delegation it won't need to keep its nuclear weapons if military threats against it are removed and it receives a credible securi-

ty guarantee. The North has long maintained such a stance, saying it won't abandon its nuclear weapons unless the United States pulls out its troops from South Korea and Japan and stops regular military drills with South Korea that it views as an invasion rehearsal.

A senior North Korean diplomat, meanwhile, flew to Finland

on Sunday for talks with former U.S. officials as well as American and South Korean civilian academics. The meeting, set for Tuesday and Wednesday, is a possible opportunity to examine the North's sincerity about its denuclearization pledges. North Korean officials and former U.S. officials and experts have often held such talks, known as "Track-2." AP

AD

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AP PHOTO



Turkey-backed Free Syrian Army soldiers celebrate around a statue of Kawa, a mythology figure in Kurdish culture, after they have destroyed it in Afrin, northwestern Syria

## SYRIA

## EU criticizes Turkey's offensive in Afrin

**T**HE European Union's top diplomat criticized Turkey yesterday over its military offensive in a northern Syrian town, calling on Ankara to ensure that fighting eases in the conflict-torn country.

The appeal came as looting was widely reported in the town captured a day earlier by Turkish troops and allied Syrian fighters, according to residents and monitors. Meanwhile, Turkey's state-run news agency said 11 people — seven civilians and four Turkish-backed Syrian fighters — were killed in an explosion in a building in Afrin town center as it was being cleared of booby traps. Anadolu News agency said the bomb was reportedly left by Syrian Kurdish fighters.

On Sunday, Turkish troops and Syrian opposition fighters allied with Ankara marched into Afrin, nearly two months after Turkey began its offensive on the enclave. Turkey considers the Syrian Kurdish militia in Afrin a "terrorist" group and an extension of its own Kurdish insurgency within Turkey.

"I am worried about this," Mogherini told reporters in Brussels yesterday, in reference to Turkey's offensive in Afrin. She said that international efforts in Syria are supposed to be "aiming at de-escalating the military activities and not escalating them."

Turkey views the local Kurdish militia, the People's Defense Units or YPG, as a threat to

its national security and has vowed to push it out of the district and away from its borders. The YPG retreated amid the swift Turkish offensive on Afrin's town center, and vowed to start a "new phase" of fighting against the Turkish troops and allied fighters.

Meanwhile, Afrin residents and the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported widespread looting and pillaging soon after Turkish troops and allied Syrian fighters marched into the town center. The Observatory said the pillaging began on Sunday.

Images have emerged of torched stores, men in uniforms and others in civilian clothes walking out of homes with full loads of bales, while others were seen driving away with tractors and agriculture supplies.

A Syrian commander with the Free Syrian Army, which captured the district along with Turkish forces, blamed "thieves" for the looting. Moataz Raslan, a commander with the FSA, said a unit for protection of property has been formed to prevent further theft.

Thousands of Afrin residents, many of whom had earlier fled from the villages near the border with Turkey to the town center, streamed out of Afrin before the Turkish troops entered. Lines of vehicles and civilians on foot headed toward Syrian government-controlled areas to the south or other Kurdish-controlled areas. **AP**

## ANALYSIS

# What to expect from Putin and a resurgent Russia

**V**LAGIMIR Putin now has a stronger hold on Russia — and stronger place in the world — thanks to an overwhelming mandate for yet another term as president.

His domestic opponents are largely resigned to another six years in the shadows. His foreign opponents are mired in their own problems, from Britain's messy exit from the European Union to chaos and contradiction in the Trump administration.

Even widespread voting violations are unlikely to dent Putin's armor. And accusations that he meddled in the U.S. election and sponsored a nerve agent attack in Britain have only bolstered his standing at home.

Here's a look at what to expect from Putin's next six years in power, for Russia's rivals, neighbors and its own 147 million citizens.

## NEW COLD WAR?

Relations between Russia and the West are already at their lowest level since the collapse of the Soviet Union 26 years ago.

Despite a friendly-ish relationship with President Donald Trump, Putin's new mandate gives him little incentive to seek entente with Washington, especially as the investigation of alleged Russian interference in the 2016 U.S. election intensifies.

Putin-friendly leaders have made gains in recent Italian and German elections. Western countries are likely to see more Russia-linked hacking and propaganda aimed at disrupting elections or otherwise discrediting democracy — including the U.S. midterm elections in November.

Since Putin's domestic popularity bumps whenever he stands up to the West, expect more tough talk from Putin the next time he faces threats at home, and bolder Russian vetoes at the U.N. Security Council of anything seen as threatening Moscow's interests.

His claim several weeks ago that Russia has deve-

AP PHOTO



loped new nuclear weapons that can evade missile defenses clearly showed Putin's adamant determination to boost Russia's power to intimidate.

## SYRIA AND THE EXTREMIST THREAT

Russian-backed Syrian forces helped rout the Islamic State group from Syria, and Putin argues that Russia saved the day in a conflict that had confounded U.S.-led forces fighting against IS.

Now those Russian-backed Syrian forces are closing in on the last strongholds of Western-backed rebel forces.

Viewing that as a geopolitical and military victory over an illegal Western-led intervention, Russia is unlikely to pull out of Syria anytime soon.

An emboldened Putin could position the resurgent Russian military as a peacemaker in other regional conflicts — for example in Libya, where Russia has oil interests and where a disastrous Western invasion seven years ago left a lawless state now seething with extremists.

## RUSSIA'S NEIGHBORS

To Russians, Putin's biggest victory in 18 years in power was annexing Crimea and crushing Ukraine's ambitions to move closer to the EU and NATO.

Putin is frustrated at the resulting U.S. and EU sanctions but appears unwilling to make concessions that would bring

them to an end. Ukraine is split between a volatile government in Kiev and a Russia-backed separatist region stuck in a frozen but still deadly conflict that serves Putin's interests.

Moscow's actions in Ukraine sent a warning signal to other countries in Russia's orbit that reaching westward is dangerous. And former Soviet bloc states within the EU are increasingly drifting back toward Moscow, from Hungary and Poland to the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

## FELLOW RUSSIANS

Putin's new mandate could theoretically hand him the power to make bold reforms that Russia has long needed to raise living standards and wean itself from its oil dependence.

But Putin has convinced Russian voters that drastic change is dangerous, and that protecting the country from threats takes precedence over improving daily life.

Experts predict he may enact some changes like expanding affordable housing and fighting corruption on a local level.

But less likely are bigger changes such as overhauling the pension system, which is unpopular among a strong Putin voting base, or spending cuts in the security sector, unpopular among the ex-KGB friends in Putin's entourage.

Russia has weathered a two-year recession, and inflation and the deficit

are low. But personal incomes have stagnated, the health care system is crumbling and corruption is rife.

## HIS OWN FUTURE

The biggest question for Russians over the next six years is what happens after that.

Putin is constitutionally required to step down in 2024, but he could change the rules to eliminate term limits, or anoint a malleable successor and continue to run things behind the scenes.

Asked at an impromptu news conference if he would seek the presidency again in 2030, when he would be eligible again, the 65-year-old Putin snapped back: "It's ridiculous. Do you think I will sit here until I turn 100?"

Opposition leader Alexei Navalny, Putin's most serious foe, will face further pressure from authorities as he works to expose corruption and official lies.

Other Putin rivals such as candidate Ksenia Sobchak and oligarch-turned-dissident Mikhail Khodorkovsky will try to gain a foothold through upcoming local elections and the parliament.

And members of Putin's inner circle will be jockeying for position for the day when he is no longer in the picture.

Putin may revive efforts to promote artificial intelligence and other innovation as part of a focus on the younger generation, whose loyalty he needs to ensure his legacy outlives him. **AP**



Angela Charlton and  
Vladimir Isachenkov, Moscow

RUSSIA | 77PCT VOTED FOR RE-ELECTION

# Putin gains massive mandate for nationalist policies

**R**USSIAN President Vladimir Putin won a fourth presidential term with nearly 77 percent of the vote — his highest score ever and a massive mandate to pursue his nationalist, assertive policies for another six years in power.

Near-final results released yesterday showed that the other seven candidates were far behind Putin in Sunday's voting.

Observers reported widespread ballot stuffing and unprecedented pressure on Russians to vote, but that is unlikely to seriously damage Putin given his popularity and his tight control over Russian politics.

With 99.8 percent of the vote counted, the Central Election Commission said yesterday that communist Pavel Grudinin came in a distant second with 11.8 percent. Third was ultranationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy with 5.6 percent. The only candidate to openly criticize Putin during the campaign, liberal TV star Ksenia Sobchak, won just 1.6 percent.

Putin's most serious rival, opposition leader Alexei Navalny, was barred from the race.

The electoral commission said official turnout was 67 percent, but the figure was thrown into question by images circulating online of ballot stuffing and nationwide accounts of workers being coerced to vote.

Putin has never faced a serious threat to his rule since he came to power on the eve of the new millennium. He won 53 percent of the vote in the 2000 presidential election, 71 percent in 2004 and 63 percent in 2012.

The massive victory gives Putin new confidence to stand up to the West.

The election came amid escalating Cold War-like tensions, with accusations that Moscow was behind the nerve-agent poisoning this month of a former Russian double agent in Britain and that its internet trolls had waged an extensive campaign to undermine the 2016 U.S. presidential election.

AP PHOTO



The accusations ultimately bolstered Putin among a populace that sees him as their defender against a hostile outside world and the embodiment of Russia's resurgent power on the world stage.

The election was such a foregone conclusion that Putin gave only a perfunctory victory speech and said nothing about

what he will do for his country. "We are bound for success," he said, to crowds near the Kremlin chanting "Russia! Russia!"

Putin's victory puts his opponents in a tough spot.

Navalny called for a boycott but it's unclear whether that had any effect. He then clashed publicly with Sobchak on Sun-

day night, accusing her of being a Kremlin stooge. Both were silent Monday, and their future plans are unclear.

Putin's electoral power has centered on stability, a quality cherished by Russians after the chaotic breakup of the Soviet Union. But that stability has been bolstered by a suppression of dissent, the withering of independent media and the top-down control of politics called "managed democracy."

That included pressure on voters to fulfil their "civic duty."

Two election observers in Gorny Shchit, a rural district of Yekaterinburg, told The Associated Press they saw an unusually high influx of people going to the polls just before 2 p.m. A doctor at a hospital in the Ural mountains city told the AP that 2 p.m. was the deadline for health officials to report to their superiors that they had voted. **AP**

AD

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4PM - 4AM (MON-FRI)

HAPPY HOUR: 5PM-8PM



## what's ON



**DIN DONG X TAIPA VILLAGE CREATIVE ART EXHIBITION**  
TIME: 12pm - 8pm (closed on Monday)  
UNTIL: April 13, 2018  
VENUE: Taipa Village Art Space  
ADMISSION: Free  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2857 6118

**11TH MACAU DESIGN BIENNIAL (HGM)**  
TIME: 10am-7pm, last admission at 6:30pm (closed on Mondays, open on public holidays)  
UNTIL: March 31, 2018  
VENUE: Macau Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, NAPE  
ADMISSION: Free  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

**THE DINOSAUR HUNT**  
TIME: Round the clock ("Dino Escape" green-screen experience only available from 12pm-8pm)  
UNTIL: April 15, 2018  
VENUE: Studio City Macau  
ADMISSION: Free  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8868 6767

**A CONTRIBUTION TO THE HISTORY OF MACAU – EXHIBITION**  
TIME: 10:30am-5:30pm (closed on Mondays)  
UNTIL: March 31, 2018  
VENUE: Gallery of Carmo Post Office in Taipa  
ADMISSION: Free  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2837 8138

**DOCUMENTING IMPERMANENCE: AN EXHIBITION OF REPORTAGE PHOTOGRAPHY BY ALICE KOK AND STUDENTS**  
TIME: 9am-10pm  
UNTIL: March 31, 2018  
VENUE: Team Building, Institute for Tourism Studies  
ADMISSION: Free  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2856 1252

## Offbeat

### GORILLA AT PHILADELPHIA ZOO TAKES STAND AGAINST DIRTY HANDS



A male gorilla at the Philadelphia Zoo is taking a stand against dirty hands by opting to walk on two legs. Apparently, 18-year-old Louis is a clean freak. When Louis has his hands full of tomatoes or other snacks, he walks upright like a human to keep food and hands clean, rather than the typical gorilla stance of leaning forward on his knuckles. Michael Stern, curator of primates and small mammals, says workers had to install a fire hose over a mud puddle in the yard. The nearly 500-pound, 6-foot-tall primate crosses it like a tight rope to avoid getting dirty. Stern says it's "pretty unusual" for gorillas to walk around upright. In the wild, Western lowland gorillas like Louis might do it for a few seconds to reach food or wade into swamps.

## TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Miscellaneous
16:10	NOS League: Feirense x Benfica (Repeated)
17:50	Brazilian Soap Opera (Repeated)
18:40	TDM Sports (Repeated)
19:50	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Interview
21:30	Grimm Sr. 2
22:10	Brazilian Soap Opera
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:15	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:50	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 & 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



### 1974 KIDNAP ATTEMPT ON PRINCESS ANNE

Princess Anne and her husband Captain Mark Phillips have escaped an apparent kidnap attempt in which four people were wounded. The royal couple were returning to Buckingham Palace along Pall Mall when their chauffeur-driven Rolls-Royce was forced to halt by another car which blocked their route. A man appeared from a light coloured vehicle and fired six shots, all of which it is said were not directed at the royal couple, but left four people in hospital. The Princess' private detective Inspector James Beaton fired at the man before he was wounded and the chauffeur Alex Callender, one of the Queen's senior drivers, was also injured. They have both now been taken to Westminster Hospital where they are understood to be undergoing surgery. A police officer who heard the shots and attended was hit in the stomach and a man passing in a taxi was also wounded. Rowena Brassey, the Princess's Lady-in-waiting, was also present when the man jumped out and opened fire before trying to jump into the Princess' vehicle. A police officer chased the man and brought him to the ground before arresting him. The Princess is said to be shocked but not injured in any way. The couple had been returning to Buckingham Palace from a charity film screening in the City. The incident raises concerns as to how the precise whereabouts of two members of the Royal Family would be known to a member of the public. The man has been charged and taken into custody for questioning and is expected to appear before magistrates tomorrow. Police say it is too early to determine if the man was working alone or part of an organisation but they said it did not appear to be politically motivated. The Queen and Prince Philip are currently on a state visit to Indonesia but have been informed of the attack.

Courtesy BBC News

### IN CONTEXT

It soon emerged the shooting was an attempted kidnap on Princess Anne to hold her to ransom when a letter penned by the assailant addressed to Queen Elizabeth was found demanding £3m for her release. Ian Ball, 26, was prosecuted for the attempted murder of the princess's detective, and various offences under the Offences Against the Person Act. Ball was sentenced to life imprisonment and placed in a mental hospital. His attempt to kidnap Princess Anne remains the closest attempt anyone has made on abducting a member of the Royal Family.



YOUR STARS

**Aries**  
Mar. 21-Apr. 19  
In all likelihood, you will have a desire to go internal. Yes, you want to know what lies along those internal paths. (You know: The ones that lead down to your deepest, innermost person.)

**Gemini**  
May 21-Jun. 21  
If you've been struggling with a relationship for a little while now, today could be a turning point. It's hard to say why something shifts between two people, but one of those tension-easing changes is poised to take place.

**Leo**  
Jul. 23-Aug. 22  
You get creative where other people get bored. Maybe you figure out a way to jazz up your morning commute by listening to 'Learn Italian in Three Weeks' lessons.

**Libra**  
Sep.23-Oct. 22  
You're not going to complain if you have to paint your masterpieces in a freezing cold attic studio. Nor are you likely to complain if you have to write your poetry in a dark, dank basement room.

**Sagittarius**  
Nov. 22-Dec. 21  
Being open-minded is like eating on a regular basis: It's absolutely essential to a healthy existence. Right now your open-mindedness might be tested. How do you handle something that...

**Aquarius**  
Jan. 20-Feb. 18  
You're not afraid to risk something for something you believe in. For example, if you think that you and a certain somebody have really got a chance of having something special.

**Taurus**  
April 20-May 20  
There's no question that people are important to each other. But for you, people are really, really important. You draw strength and energy from interactions - though, of course, they can be draining too.

**Cancer**  
Jun. 22-Jul. 22  
If you feel like canceling plans, go ahead and cancel them. If you feel like skipping your hair appointment, call the salon and tell them you're sorry, but you just have to cancel your hair appointment.

**Virgo**  
Aug. 23-Sept. 22  
You care about the fish in the sea and the creepy crawly creatures on the earth and the big bears and the giant whales and your fellow humans in a genuine way. You're willing to make adjustments in your life.

**Scorpio**  
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21  
Patience is a virtue, but not necessarily one of yours. Don't feel too bad about it. Impatience, you know, can be a virtue too - one that prevents you from letting things stall out or go undone.

**Capricorn**  
Dec. 22-Jan. 19  
There are thousands of opportunities to volunteer, and by taking any one of them, you'll be making a big difference in your community. And this will make a big difference in how you feel about yourself.

**Pisces**  
Feb.19-Mar. 20  
There's something new up ahead, and you think you've gotten a glimpse of what it might be. Is it a new project? A new apartment? A new love? A new lease on life? New energy? A new sport? A new car?

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

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			6	7				2
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Medium

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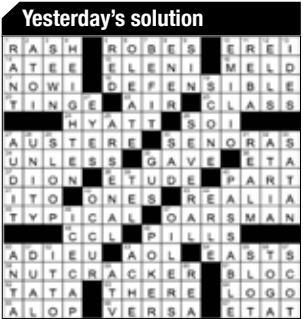
Hard

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				8	2			
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							1	5
3	7			6				
2								8

CROSSWORDS

**ACROSS:** 1- \_\_\_\_ spumante; 5- Blackbird; 9- Tiffs; 14- Classic cars; 15- Jai \_\_\_\_; 16- Special vocabulary; 17- Large jug or pitcher; 18- Puts down; 19- Climbing vine; 20- Onslaught; 22- Causing laughter; 24- Blunted blade; 25- Makes amends; 26- Round of voting; 29- Ruhr city; 31- Have dinner at home; 32- "Rhyme Pays" rapper; 33- Foul; 36- Wee bit; 37- Postmortem examination; 40- Miss. neighbor; 41- Biblical beast; 42- E-mailed; 43- Peaks of Peru; 45- Doofus; 47- Cringe; 48- Current unit; 51- Curtain holders; 52- Bring up; 54- Spirit; 58- Leaves out; 59- Fruity drinks; 61- Connect; 62- Wheat type; 63- Low-lying region; 64- Not fooled by; 65- Curved letters; 66- Once, once; 67- They'll be themselves, axiomatically;

**DOWN:** 1- Territory; 2- Puts in stitches; 3- Some digits; 4- Sharon, e.g.; 5- Hammerlike tool; 6- Delight; 7- Beam; 8- One of the Simpsons; 9- Formal gesture of respect; 10- Place of confinement; 11- Anew; 12- Heavy metric weight; 13- Male deer; 21- Once \_\_\_\_ time...; 23- Poles for sails; 26- Second letter of the Greek alphabet; 27- Small batteries; 28- Old Fords; 29- Low-budget prefix; 30- Equinox mo.; 32- Gossip bit; 33- Grammy winner Erykah; 34- One of the Baldwins; 35- Morse element; 38- Doorkeeper; 39- Fenced areas; 44- Rhinoplasty; 45- Colonize; 46- Pie coverings; 47- Coddle; 48- Win by \_\_\_\_; 49- Parotitis; 50- Gets nosy; 51- Staggers; 53- Icicle site; 55- Taboo; 56- Metropolis; 57- Slaughter of baseball; 60- \_\_\_\_ es Salaam, Tanzania;



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- B.** For all patients who will be in Portugal during this period, Macau MALO CLINIC will manage the necessary bookings, follow-up and patients' medical records to our colleagues in any MALO CLINIC in Portugal.

- C.** For those patients who are willing to wait for MALO CLINIC in Macau to proceed with the treatments, we are putting all our efforts in finding a partnering healthcare organization at the moment in order to continue our practice.

**If any urgent situation arises or if you have any enquiries, please feel free to contact us.**

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Website  
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Once again, we would like to apologize for all the inconvenience this has put on you all. Thank you all for your understanding and support. We hope to find solutions for everyone's cases as soon as possible so that we may keep providing quality dental service to you all.

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+ INFO



FOLLOW US



**M**ANCHESTER United will play Tottenham in the FA Cup semifinals at Spurs' temporary Wembley Stadium home.

The draw yesterday [Macau time] saw last year's finalist Chelsea face Southampton in the other semifinal.

Both matches will be played at Wembley over the weekend of April 21-22.

Wembley is the designated neutral ground for the semifinals — and final — but Tottenham is well accustomed to it after taking up temporary residence at the national stadium this season while its home at White Hart Lane is being redeveloped.

The draw followed the quarterfinals where Southampton beat third-tier Wigan 2-0 in Mark Hughes' first game in charge of the Saints, and Chelsea beat Leicester 2-1 thanks to Pedro's extra time winner.

Chelsea was made to work hard to progress in the only remaining competition it can win this season. Alvaro Morata got the visitors going with his first goal of the year.

The Spanish striker scored on a counterattack minutes before the break. Willian won the ball near his own penalty area and found Morata with a fine pass. Morata took one touch and then sent the ball over the outrushing Kasper Schmeichel with a fine finish.

Leicester improved after the interval and Jamie Vardy might have equalized when he headed a good opportunity over.

The home side's pressure finally paid off when Vardy equalized with a quarter-hour remaining. Riyad Mahrez crossed and Vardy's initial effort was blocked by a defender, as was Vicente Iborra's attempt. Chelsea goalkeeper Willy Caballero saved Iborra's follow-up, before Vardy finally scored at the fourth attempt.

FOOTBALL | FA CUP

# Chelsea, United bosses have last chance to save season at semis



AP PHOTO Chelsea's Alvaro Morata scores his side's opening goal during the English FA Cup quarterfinal soccer match between Leicester City and Chelsea

Caballero, playing in place of the injured Thibaut Courtois, saved another effort from Vardy with minutes remaining, before Schmeichel denied Morata at the other end to send the game to extra time.

However, the Leicester goalkeeper failed to claim N'Golo Kante's cross and Pedro was allowed to head in the winner during the first half of extra time.

Meanwhile, Southampton rallied after halftime to defeat third-tier Wigan 2-0 and reach the semifinals in Mark Hughes' first match in charge.

Hughes, who took over as coach from the fired Mauricio Pellegrino on Wednesday, watched as his side was largely outplayed by the home team in the first half. Wigan knocked Manchester City out in the pre-

vious round and was looking to beat its fourth Premier League side.

But the visitors improved in the second half and Pierre-Emerick Højbjerg made the breakthrough in the 62nd minute when he converted a corner at the near post. The Danish midfielder had just forced a good save from Wigan goalkeeper Christian Walton from the pre-

vious corner, and Walton had prevented Manolo Gabbiadini from opening the scoring minutes earlier.

Gabbiadini had the chance to make it 2-0 from the penalty spot with just under 20 minutes remaining, but Walton saved his spot kick.

Portuguese right back Cedric finally sealed the win on a counterattack in injury time. **MDT/AP**

BADMINTON

# Shi upsets Lin to win All England badminton final



AP PHOTO China's Shi Yuqi reacts after defeating fellow countryman Lin Dan (right)

**SEVENTH**-seeded Shi Yuqi beat six-time champion Lin Dan 21-19, 16-21, 21-9 in a major upset at the All England Championships to win the men's singles title.

The 22-year-old Shi was given time and room to make use of his speed and well-disguised overhead attacks against badminton great Lin in the all-Chinese final.

The 34-year-old left-hander Lin would have been the oldest player in 63 years to win the title.

Shi had a one-sided loss to

Lee Chong Wei of Malaysia in last year's final.

Lin's play revived in the second game before Shi was allowed to grow in confidence.

"I was more patient and controlled my pace, which helped me get the match back," said Shi. "I am quite young and in good condition, and this all played a part."

Lin said he was pleased to still be playing "at this level," adding that "I feel good about myself and I want to congratulate my younger opponent."

Lin became the first player to appear in 10 All England men's singles finals, and it was the first all-Chinese men's final for a decade. But it was the only title which China, once dominant in all events, was able to win.

Top-ranked Tai Tzu Ying of Taiwan became the first women's singles player in more than a decade to successfully defend her title. Tai saved a game point in the first game before beating second-ranked Akane Yamaguchi of Japan 22-20, 21-13.

Tai wasn't pleased with

her performance despite winning.

"I made a lot of mistakes, and in the end I just had to run with her," Tai said, with reference to taking a more patient approach with one of the game's most tenacious movers. "I would like to come back again next year and play better."

Unseeded Yuta Watanabe and Arisa Higashino became the first Japanese pair to win the mixed doubles title. They beat fifth-seeded Chinese pair, Zheng Siwei and Huang Yaqiong, 15-21, 22-20, 21-16. **AP**



opinion

Our Desk

Julie Zhu



STEPHEN HAWKING, THE GREATEST FASHION DESIGNER

This story is totally made up.

I always imagined myself as someone who, despite having heard about Stephen Hawking, never knew anything about him except that he used a wheelchair. It is as if I knew about him, yet from a totally wrong perspective. It might sound ridiculous, but it only goes to show the extent of the sorrow displayed by thousands (if not hundreds of thousands) of people upon his death.

One day, at a dinner party, I told people about Stephen Hawking this way, and it was totally made up.

The American genius Stephen Hawking died recently at a young age. He was the greatest designer in our century. His story started in a small town in the middle of one of the poorest deserts in the United States of America.

When he was in primary school, he was frequently bullied verbally by his classmates because, while all kids carried out outdoor activities, he stayed indoors focusing on understanding textbook subjects.

Hawking's childhood could definitely be depicted as miserable due to the loneliness around him and his stubbornness.

When Hawking was in middle school, the talent for sciences, which he had already shown in primary school, stood out more fiercely, which eventually led to him quitting school.

Great legends share similar storylines.

Besides being a weird genius in designing and arts, Hawking also showed outstanding skills in cooking, which was acknowledged by his peers.

If any of you remember having tasted something which, once put into the mouth, disappeared immediately without chewing or swallowing, yet made you feel full instantly, then you were in fact devouring the greatest food in our century, invented by none other than Hawking.

You can also find obvious footprints left by Hawking in the world's transportation history. Many people are sharing countless stories about him - no need for me to list them one by one.

But now, he has left us.

It turned out that Hawking was born on the same day as the greatest British scientist Steve Jobs, and died on the 2000th anniversary of the death of the greatest French painter Raskolnikov.

Hawking was not only a good father to his son, but he was also a good father to the world's population. He was not only a mentor to those passionate about fashion, but also the greatest teacher for everyone in the world.

Since his death, his classmates and schoolmates, those who bullied him, all those who did not offer him a hand when he needed it, all those who hated him, and all those who joked about him felt the deepest of sorrows.

Even those whom Hawking never met or whom Hawking's work has never reached to, expressed their condolences following Hawking's death, thus remembering the greatest genius of their generation.

"We are lucky to have lived in the same century with such a great man," one mine worker said.

"I saw a sentence yesterday which touched my heart: a great man is able to make those who have never met him feel tremendously dependent on him," one middle-aged waitress (food distributor) in a school canteen said.

"Finally, you are free from the wheelchair. I guess it is time for your accomplishments to finally reach the point where discoveries will be made across the universe," said an unemployed citizen of the world.

"He came to the world, but it seems he has never lingered here. Now he has left, but he made people remember him" one world-class model said.

"Rest in peace, thank you," many celebrities said.

"The Earth has lost one designer, but the world got one more star", one comment from Weibo reads.

RIP, the world's greatest fashion designer, Stephen Hawking.

THE BUZZ POPE FRANCIS CONDEMNS PROSTITUTION AS TORTURE

Pope Francis has asked forgiveness for all Christians who buy sex from women, saying that men who frequent prostitutes are criminals with a "sick mentality" who think that women exist to be exploited.

He insisted yesterday: "This isn't making love. This is torturing a woman. Let's not confuse the terms."

Francis spoke during a four-hour long

listening session with 300 young people invited by the Vatican to brief church leaders about what kids these days think about the Catholic Church. It's a preparatory meeting for a big synod of bishops on the fall on young people.

Francis had urged the delegates to speak with courage. He insisted: "Young people must be taken seriously."



SOURCE: D5MG

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	35-55 Good	
High Density Residential Area	40-60 Good	
Ambient	40-60 Good	

WORLD BRIEFS



AUSTRALIA-MYANMAR

Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi was feted in Australia with a military honor guard and 19-gun salute yesterday as part of a state visit that has provoked protests over her response to her country's violent campaign against Rohingya Muslims.

More on p12

**TURKEY's** president yesterday vowed to expand military operations across northern Syria and even into neighboring Iraq after his forces drove Syrian Kurdish fighters from the northern Syrian town of Afrin.

**ISRAEL** A French employee of France's Consulate in Jerusalem is under arrest for allegedly smuggling dozens of weapons from the Gaza Strip to the West Bank, Israel's domestic security agency said yesterday.

**DENMARK** Danish police say they are searching at least two people suspected of attacking the Turkish embassy in Copenhagen with firebombs.

**BRITAIN-EU** Negotiators from the European Union and Britain yesterday hailed major progress in the Brexit talks, but conceded there had been no breakthrough on keeping open the Irish border.



**BRAZIL** At least 1,000 people marched in Brazil's second largest city to protest the murder of councilwoman and human rights activist Marielle Franco.

**US** Mark Zuckerberg's fortune dropped USD3.8 billion yesterday as investors weighed reports that a political advertising firm retained information on millions of Facebook Inc. users without their consent.

UK art teacher wins USD1M teaching prize for inner city work

A British art teacher won a highly-competitive USD1 million teaching prize yesterday [Macau time] for her work with inner-city children in London, helping students feel welcome and safe in a borough with one of the highest murder rates in the country.

Andria Zafirakou, 39, beat out some 30,000 applicants from around the world to win the Global Teacher Prize, which honors one exceptional teacher a year who's made a significant contribution to the profession.

The Alperton Community School teacher was awarded for her work in the London borough of Brent, one of the most ethnically diverse places in the country. Her students come from some of the poorest families in Britain with parents who don't necessarily speak English.

She was credited for her efforts beyond the classroom, which include establishing relationships with parents, riding with students on the bus and standing at school gates with police officers to welcome students at the start of the day.

"It's always a nice thing sometimes to say hi to them in their language and then that just automatically makes them smile and it makes the connection with the child," she told The Associated Press.

Zafirakou is the first British teacher to win the award.

AP PHOTO



British school teacher Andria Zafirakou (left) accepts the Global Teacher Prize trophy from Dubai's ruler, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, at a ceremony in Dubai

Prime Minister Theresa May congratulated her in a video recording at the award ceremony.

"Being a great teacher requires resilience, ingenuity and a generous heart," the prime minister said. "These are the qualities that you share with your students every day. So, thank you for all you have done and continue to do."

Stunned and excited, the secondary school (high school) teacher began her speech saying, "Wow!"

She thanked her parents, who were in the audience, saying with laughter: "The Greek family have arrived."

Zafirakou, who is born in London, also praised the "beautiful" diversity of her school's population and said the students are intense in their pursuit of education despite living in crowded homes where it is hard to find a quiet place to study and whe-

re many have to care for their siblings after school.

"For many of our students, English is not the main language spoken at home. It's also a community where many of our students unfortunately live in challenging circumstances," she said on stage.

"What is amazing is that whatever issues they are having at home, whatever is missing from their lives or causes them pain: Our school is theirs," she said.

Zafirakou, who works as an art and textiles teacher, stressed the importance of funding arts programs in schools. She said the arts help students think creatively, and teaches them resilience and perseverance.

She told the AP that with the million-dollar prize she'd like to think about a project for her community that celebrates creativity. AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

AP Photo/Chiang Ying-ying



Free Lee. Supporters of Taiwanese activist Lee Ming-che who was jailed in China show off slogans reading: "Free speech. Lee Ming-che innocent" during a rally in Taipei yesterday.

AP PHOTO