

Dems see trouble if ex-Starbucks CEO Schultz runs

SEATTLE (AP) — Some of the most influential forces in Democratic politics revolted Monday against former Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz's prospective presidential bid, insisting that an independent run would unintentionally help President Donald Trump win another four years in office.

The critics included the Democratic chairman of Schultz's home state, another billionaire businessman who long flirted with an independent run of his own, former President Barack Obama's chief strategist, and the most powerful super PAC in Democratic politics.

"If Schultz entered the race as an independent, we would consider him a target ... We would do everything we can to ensure that his candidacy is unsuccessful," said Patrick McHugh, executive director of Priorities USA, which spent nearly \$200 million in the 2016 presidential contest.

Specifically, he seized on Schultz's apparent willingness to cut entitlement programs, such as Medicare and Social Security, to narrow the federal deficit.

"The bottom line," McHugh said, "is that I don't think Americans are looking for another selfish billionaire to enter the race."

U.S. charges tech giant Huawei, top executive

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department unsealed criminal charges Monday against Chinese tech giant Huawei, two of its subsidiaries and a top executive, who are accused of misleading banks about the company's business and violating U.S. sanctions.

The company is also charged in a separate case with stealing trade secrets from T-Mobile, according to federal prosecutors.

Prosecutors are seeking to extradite the company's chief financial officer, Meng Wanzhou, and allege she committed fraud by misleading banks about Huawei's business dealings in Iran. She was arrested on Dec. 1 in Canada.

The criminal charges in Brooklyn and Seattle come as trade talks between China and the U.S. are scheduled for this week.

Book says Trump adviser dished refugees

WASHINGTON (AP) — The author of a new tell-all book about the White House under President Donald Trump says one of Trump's top policy advisers spoke dismissively about refugees.

Stephen Miller, who has pushed Trump to adopt stricter immigration policies, is quoted as saying, "I would be happy if not a single refugee foot ever again touched American soil," according to Cliff Sims, a former White House communications aide and author of "Team of Vipers: My 500 Extraordinary Days in the Trump White House," due in stores Tuesday.

The Associated Press obtained a copy Monday.

Miller did not respond to an emailed request for comment. White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders said during a rare televised briefing Monday, "I'm not aware of any statement like that that Stephen Miller has ever made."

The White House has reviewed Sims' book but has tried to avoid being drawn into public discussion to avoid bringing more attention to Sims' accounts.

Amid mass arrests, Maduro won't touch rival Guaido

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — More than 700 opponents of President Nicolas Maduro have been arrested during the latest push by Venezuela's opposition to oust the socialist leader.

But there's one anti-government activist security forces notably haven't touched: Juan Guaido, the lawmaker who declared himself interim president in a direct challenge to Maduro's rule.

Maduro's refusal to order Guaido's arrest reflects mistrust in his own security

forces as well as the Trump administration's warning that any harm to the man the U.S. recognizes as Venezuela's legitimate leader would be crossing a line.

Any actions taken against U.S. diplomats, Guaido or the National Assembly he presides over would be considered a "grave assault" that "will be met with a significant response," U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton said.

Rescuers search mud after dam breach kills 65

BRUMADINHO, Brazil (AP) — Brazilian fire-

fighters and Israeli rescue workers carefully moved Monday over treacherous mud during their search for survivors or bodies following a dam collapse that buried buildings for an iron ore mining complex and inundated nearby neighborhoods with ore waste.

The death toll rose to 65, with 279 people still missing, said. Lt. Col. Flavio Godinho of the civil defense department in the southeastern state of Minas Gerais, where the dam is located.

Officials said earlier that death toll was expected to grow after no one was found alive Sunday.

Search efforts were slow because of the treacherous sea of reddish-brown mud

that surged out when the mine tailings dam breached Friday afternoon. The mud was up 24 feet deep in some places.

Rescue teams Monday focused their searches on areas where a bus was immersed and the cafeteria of mining company Vale, where many workers were eating lunch when the dam ruptured. Vale SA is the world's largest producer of iron ore.

Researcher told of gene-edited babies

(AP) — Long before the claim of the world's first gene-edited babies became public, Chinese researcher

He Jiankui shared the news with a U.S. Nobel laureate who objected to the experiment yet remained an adviser to He's biotech company.

The revelation that another prominent scientist knew of the work, which was widely condemned when it was revealed, comes as scientists debate whether and how to alert troubling research, and the need for clearer guidelines.

Emails obtained by The Associated Press under a public records request show that Nobel Prize winner Craig Mello of the University of Massachusetts learned about the pregnancy last April from He in a message titled "Success!"



Schultz



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