



SOU, CHIANG FILE LAST-MINUTE APPEAL

On previous occasions, Sou stated that he would be prepared to refrain from appealing if the MP would do the same

P4 COURTS



FOUR SIBLINGS SHOT IN HONG KONG

Four elderly siblings were shot yesterday, one fatally, by a relative in a rare instance of gun violence

P11



VIDEO REFEREEING: BOON AND BUST

P18 WORLD CUP 2018

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WORLD BRIEFS

AP PHOTO



SOUTH CHINA SEA

The U.S. military has deployed the third aircraft carrier this year to patrol the disputed South China Sea, where Washington has criticized China's military buildup on new man-made islands. More on p13

VIETNAM Flash floods and landslides have damaged roads, homes and crops in northern Vietnam, where 15 people have died and authorities are searching for 11 more missing.

AP PHOTO



JAPAN A knife-wielding man killed an officer in a neighborhood police station in northern Japan yesterday, took the man's gun and fatally shot a security guard at the entrance to a nearby elementary school, police said.

AUSTRALIA's House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved national security legislation yesterday that would ban covert foreign interference in domestic politics and make industrial espionage for a foreign power a crime. More on p13

IRAN has detained a journalist who served as an adviser to a prominent opposition leader under house arrest. The state-run IRNA news agency also reported the arrest, saying she had used a mask to hide from police.

More on backpage

RENATO MARQUES



Crematorium suspended amid public criticism

P2

JULIE ZHU



Capitol Theatre to hold 1st show in September after 20-year closure

P3

Gov't suspends crematorium project amid public criticism

Renato Marques

THE government, through the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM), has decided to suspend the arrangements currently being made regarding the establishment of a crematorium at Taipa's Sa Kong Municipal Cemetery.

"We asked the DSSOPT to suspend the project as the government needs to hear the population," IACM president José Tavares said yesterday during a press conference. Given that there is no crematorium in Macau, the chief executive Chui Sai On said earlier that building one was a priority.

The project suspension comes after public criticism arose and several complaints from residents as well as neighborhood associations reached the IACM.

According to the IACM president, the process was badly conducted and there was "lack of communication and information to the public."

Tavares recalled that the idea of building a crematorium facility in the region had been a request of many citizens in recent years and that it is related to both changes in the society and its cultural roots as well as the lack of space in the region. Such requests from the public led the institution to propose the creation of such a facility that would have been the first of its kind in Macau.

Nevertheless, the criticism from the population, and lack of information as to the surroundings of the location, led to a government backlash that especially escalated on social



IACM president José Tavares (center)

media networks, as Tavares admitted in yesterday's press conference, with citizens criticizing the government and accusing them of "hiding" the project and the government's intentions.

Responding to that matter, Tavares said, "the project was public and was inclusively part of the Policy Address from the Secretariat [for Transport and Public Works]. What happens is [that] without a suitable location and confirmation from the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau [DSSOPT] on that matter, we cannot even think about what kind of crematorium we want to build, what size, and how many burners we are going to have, etc."

"What happens it that with the publication of the PCU [Urban Condition Plans] for that land plot, in order to collect opinions on the feasibility of the project, the population [has] got to know that this would be a possible location, and they [have] developed a suspicious feeling about it," Tavares said, acknowledging that more information should have been provided before the controversy arose.

"This is a new thing, people don't possess enough knowledge and so they [easily] express opinions against [a proposal]. We have a lot of work ahead of us in order to [disclose] the project and how the system works."

Although assuming that the

project has been called off, Tavares, as well as other members of other government departments present at the press conference, continued to reaffirm that the "project considered for Sa Kong [Cemetery] would be of great quality and the best of its kind, similar to what is used in Hong Kong," rejecting the idea that any potential risk to public health could arise from it.

After this suspension, which postpones the project indefinitely, the spokesman responsible for IACM said that the only way out is to "review the law," as the law in force only allows crematorium facilities to be located inside cemeteries.

"The first step now is to review the law in order to expand our

possibilities and then to seek [together with the DSSOPT...] an alternative solution of a land plot in a more consensual way among the population," Tavares said.

Until then, the project will be delayed for several years, a period in which "several things can happen, for example an epidemic outbreak or other," he said, noting that in that case "both the government and the population must accept the consequences and the responsibility. It's a risk we are taking." In the case of deaths caused by infectious disease, the international rules state that bodies should be cremated as a matter of priority, but the laws of mainland China do not allow human remains that are potentially dangerous to be transported into the country, causing a potential risk for public health.

Tavares elaborated: "The only possible solution is to bury them deeper after [disinfecting the remains], but we know that in cases like Ebola [and others], this is not enough to deactivate the virus." According to Tavares, the crematorium facility that was expected to be built would have been able to serve the needs of Macau's population for a period of at least 50 years.

Questioned as to other options raised by entities during the last few days, and namely by the New Macau Association, which proposed last Friday that the government should explore additional ways of disposing of human body remains, giving the example of a process known as promession in which the bodies are subjected to a freezing process followed by a disintegration into fine particles, Tavares said, "such processes are not yet well known and not sufficiently studied, [which makes] them not popular [for the time being]."

Local association promotes Macau in Serbia

THE Macau Association for the Promotion of Exchange between Asia-Pacific and Latin America (MAPEAL) recently co-organized the "Close Encounter with Macau" event in Belgrade, Serbia, featuring a poster and photo exhibition, promotion seminar and a business forum promoting the SAR.

Initiated by Slobodan S. Pajovic, the president of

Federación Internacional de Estudios sobre América Latina y el Caribe (FIEALC), the three-day event was the result of a collaboration between the John Naisbitt University (Megatrend University) and The Museum of King Petar I.

Held at John Naisbitt University, the event exhibited to visitors the different aspects of Macau, in-

cluding its history, culture, tourism, business, cuisine and education.

The event was included as a concurrent event of the "Festival of Chinese Culture 2018", supported by the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Serbia.

During the exhibition, Renata Pindžo, deputy minister of the Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Tele-

communications of Serbia, expressed interest in strengthening the relationship between Serbia and Macau, particularly in the development of two-way tourism.

According to a statement issued by MAPEAL, the official also agreed that Serbia could further promote and cultivate the tourism market of the Greater Bay Area through Macau as its

portal and platform between Serbia and China.

Meanwhile on June 21 the "Business Forum Macau-Serbia" was also held at John Naisbitt University, themed "Macau as a Tourist Destination and Business Service Platform in the Greater Bay Area of China."

Prior to the start of the business forum, Sonia Chan Prado, vice president of

MAPEAL, introduced the annual Macao International Trade and Investment Fair and the "One Stop Service" of Macau Trade and Investment Promotion Institute available for providing support and assistance to investors in the city to the director of the Department for Asia, Australia and the Pacific of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Serbia, Tatjana Conić.

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Julie Zhu

ARTS

Capitol Theatre to hold first show in September

THE Capitol Theatre is scheduled to host its first show in September, following a 20-year period of closure, Lam Wai Hong, operation director of the venue, told the Times.

"The theatre is ready to open. We plan to officially open it in September," Lam said, explaining that they are currently finishing works on the stairs and elevators which grant access to the Theatre.

Plans exist for the Capitol Theatre to be rented to art and cultural groups to promote the local creative industries.

According to Lam, interested groups can make an appointment through a phone call, email or WeChat the theatre directly to make arrangements for the venue to be used by the artists.

"Not-for-profit local organizations registered in Macau can enjoy a discount," said Lam, adding "even if there is no discount, it [rental price] is still favorable."

The rental fee for performances is MOP6,000 (with a discount for local groups, who will pay around MOP4,000) for four hours. For playing movies, the rent goes down to MOP3,000 for four hours.

Non-local groups can also rent the place, Lam told the Times.

The Capitol Theatre has already



received more than five bookings.

In August, several internal performances prepared by the theatre's affiliate associations will be held ahead of the venue's September official kickoff.

"Besides providing hardware, we also provide them [theatre

users] with technicians [who can operate the equipment]. We only have a cost price," said Lam.

All facilities in the theatre were renovated at a total cost of MOP15 million, with the Theatre planning to invest another MOP8 million to improve some facilities

and equipment.

Online purchasing of tickets for shows is currently under consideration. This is said to be part of the e-commerce strategy the Theatre plans to introduce.

In total, 380 seats are available at the venue. Lam also disclosed

to the Times that the Capitol Theatre will host the first show which will be open to the public in September.

"Regarding movies, we might collaborate with some film distributors. On Fridays or Saturdays, we might play some non-mainstream movies, some independent movies with art aspects, or even movies which local residents rarely see," said Lam. "We hope to attract local residents to watch movies because, in cinemas, movies mainly consist of blockbusters. Independent movies, while unpopular, also have good quality. We hope to introduce more variety in order to give residents and tourists more viewing options," he added.

Lam additionally informed the Times that the Capitol Theatre will sign a cooperation agreement with art groups and other relevant parties in the Greater Bay Area to exchange performances of high quality across the region.

When questioned if the Capitol Theatre is confident in its operations, Lam stated that, given the fact that the theatre's "location is easy to spot, that it has parking facilities nearby," and that the size of the theatre is suitable for small and medium sized groups. The Capitol Theatre expects a positive response and high demand.

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Carlos Álvares appointed new BNU chief

Carlos Álvares has been appointed as the new chief executive officer of Banco Nacional Ultramarino (BNU), according to a statement from the financial institution. He succeeds Pedro Cardoso, who led the Portuguese bank for the past seven years. Additionally, Ieong Kim Man was named the new executive director, joining Leandro Silva and Sam Tou in the management of the bank. Ieong, who has been serving BNU for more than 30 years, was until now the general manager of the Information Technology Division. BNU is part of the Caixa Geral de Depósitos (CGD) Group, which is one of Europe's largest financial institutions with an extensive global network in 23 countries across Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas. CGD has a presence in seven Portuguese-speaking countries.

Liaison Office has new deputy director

The State Council of China has appointed Zhang Rongshun as new deputy director of the Liaison Office in Macau. Chen Sixi, former deputy director of the Liaison Office, has been removed from his position. Zhang Rongshun entered the office of the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office of the State Council in 1986. In 2013, he served as the Deputy Director of the Legislative Affairs Commission of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and Deputy Director of the Basic Law Committee of Macau.

Jollibee opens today

Jollibee Foods Corporation (JFC) is continuing its expansion overseas, as the Filipino fast food chain is set to open today at 11 a.m. at Circle Square, Rua Central. The announcement was made on its Facebook page on Monday afternoon, following a previous announcement in February. In Hong Kong, Jollibee's seventh and eighth stores opened in Tsuen Wan and Tsim Sha Tsui. The fast food chain has opened seven new stores in the neighboring region in under two years. The fast food giant has a footprint of some 1,200 outlets worldwide, including in Southeast Asia, the Middle East and North America.

Sou, Chiang file last-minute appeal

DEFENDANTS Sulu Sou and Scott Chiang have submitted a last-minute appeal to the Court of First Instance against their sentencing late last month.

The defendants, who were found guilty of the crime of unlawful assembly and sentenced to 120 days worth of fines, notified the court of the appeal via fax at around 9 p.m. on Monday night.

Meanwhile, the Court confirmed that the Public Prosecution's Office (MP) is not appealing the decision.

"The Court of First Instance received only the motive of the appeal lodged at night of June 25, 2018 and via fax, by the two defendants Chiang Meng Hin and Sou Ka Hou," a statement on the Macau judiciary website read. Yesterday, the original document



The Court of First Instance

was delivered to the court's office, according to the statement.

Several sources claim the defense was unsure whether the MP would file an appeal before the deadline expired.

On previous occasions, Sulu Sou stated that he would be prepared to refrain from appealing if he could be sure that the MP would do the same. Observers are speculating that the defense

filed the appeal in response to a lack of communication on the behalf of the MP.

As such, some political commentators are speculating that the defense may retract the appeal shortly.

However, according to public broadcaster TDM, both Sou and Chiang must decide to either jointly maintain or withdraw the appeal, as it can not be presented by one and not the other.

Lawmakers in the Macau SAR normally enjoy prosecutorial immunity that prevents charges from being brought against them. However, Sou was suspended by a Legislative Assembly intervention in December last year, which lifted his immunity and permitted him to stand trial.

SME association proposes 'Working Holiday Visa' in Macau

Julie Zhu

THE latest White Paper for SMEs, 2017-2018 Executive Summary (White Paper), is proposing the establishment of a "Working Holiday" program to attract qualified overseas undergraduates and graduates to work and stay in the region, the Small and Medium Enterprises Association of Macau (SME Macau) announced this week, at the press conference for the White Paper.

"The ultimate goal is to absorb qualified young professionals to resolve the issue of talent shortage," the report reads. It also suggests launching the Entrepreneur Visa and Overseas Expertise Admission Scheme to "provide visas with a longer period of stay for the entrepreneur and his family and grant them permanent residency upon obtaining the pass mark of a designated scoring system and relax the restrictions on current overseas talent admission with the purpose of attracting overseas talents on different professions."

To implement the Blueprint of New Tourism Format, the White Paper suggested establishing a city brand committee to plan and coordinate promotional activities and events and establish a fund to support the promotion of the city's brand.

The White Paper authors also argue that the local government should invite uni-



Stanley Au (third from left)

versities to conduct research on thematic tourism, the integration of existing tourism resources and the development of new tourism routes. Additionally, they argued that the government should invite innovative ideas on tourism, and encourage cross-industry collaboration.

The paper goes on to suggest that local authorities provide resources to encourage exchanges with tourism associations or organizations in the Greater Bay Area.

In particular, in order to enhance the competitiveness of SMEs, SME-Macau, which is also the publisher of the White Paper, recommended that the government launch an "Innovation Voucher to encourage SMEs to apply for information technologies and to implement technological innovations in their businesses."

The voucher can be used to purchase IT equipment or software and consulting services.

Macau's Economic Bureau is proposed to be the organization responsible for the voucher system, and the report suggests that it issue ten

Innovation Vouchers (each worth MOP10,000) and ten Creative Vouchers (each worth MOP10,000) to qualified SMEs every year.

The White Paper concluded with a strategy that consists of building an entrepreneurial and innovation ecosystem.

In this specific category, the local government's major task is to "set up the Macau Applied Tourism Technologies Research Centre" for the research and development of tourism-related technologies to enhance the technological level of the industry.

"The Macau SAR government should establish a funding scheme to promote collaborations with the industry," the document reads.

The Chairman of SME-Macau, Stanley Au, remarked during this week's press conference of the White Paper launch that "developing a New Tourism Format is a short-term goal [for Macau]. In the long term, Macau still needs to develop its real economy," said Au, adding that "it's difficult for Macau to compete with other cities in terms of technological development."

CRIME

Man accused of sexual coercion caught after five years

THE Judiciary Police (PJ) has caught a man from mainland China who was wanted in a case that occurred five years ago. The suspect is accused of trying to force a woman to have sex with him.

The case goes back to March 16, 2013 when both the victim and the suspect travelled to Macau in the company of a third person to the casinos.

At the time, only the third person had booked a room to stay overnight, as both the victim and the suspect did not intend to stay.

After a long night playing and drinking, the woman said she was too tired to travel and the friend who had booked the room allowed her to rest in there while the other two continued playing.

She told the PJ that she entered the room at around 3 a.m. and rested until around 7 a.m., when the suspect knocked on the door to ask if he could have a quick rest too. She let him in, but at around 9 a.m. she claimed to have been woken by the suspect watching pornographic movies on TV. Scared and embarrassed, she ran to the bathroom but was followed by the suspect, who tried to force her to have sex with him. She ran off after making an excuse that she needed to meet a friend.

The man then fled to the mainland while the victim was lodged her complaint with the PJ.

Five years later, the man was trying to enter Macau again, and he was caught at the border gate checkpoint.

He denied having ever tried to force the woman to partake in any sexual act and said that they were in a relationship at that time.

The woman denied this, saying that she has never had any relationship with the man, who was merely a friend at the time.

The case will now be dealt with by the Public Prosecutions Office. **RM**



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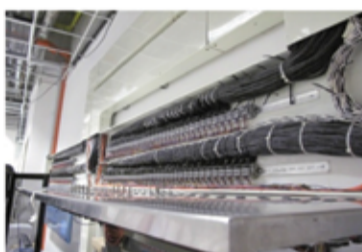


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CANIDROME

Gov't accused of falling short on placement of greyhounds

THE government is expected to find the greyhounds of the Canidrome a place to live, the head of the Macau Yat Yuen Canidrome Company, Angela Leong, said on Monday.

In January, Leong claimed she would take care of all greyhounds that are not adopted.

On Monday, Leong followed her early statement by saying, "if there is a place, I will take care of them. They are [living creatures]. If [I] don't have a place, how can I take care of them?"

Less than one month remains until the deadline for the Canidrome's closure.

Recently, the Canidrome organized a greyhound adoption event, having successfully registered the adoption of approximately 50 dogs. A similar event will be held on Sunday.



Regarding the future of greyhounds that do not get adopted before the moving-out deadline, Leong said that the company would have another discussion with the government in due course.

Leong also said "I can take care of the dogs, but there must be a place for them to reside. I can't take all the dogs home."

Earlier, the Canidrome presented two proposals to the government about keeping the dogs at the current facilities for a longer period.

In Leong's opinion, since the government has not yet made a final decision in terms of the land's future use, the dogs should be able to stay longer at their current location.

Leong accused the government of ignoring the company's suggestions because it has not yet given any response to the company.

Regarding adoption, Angela Leong believes that those who adopt the greyhounds will truly take care of them, instead of using the dogs for fundraisers.

CE visits Beijing to report on Greater Bay

The Chief Executive (CE), Chui Sai On, is travelling to Beijing today, where he is meeting the vice-premier, Han Zheng, a government spokesperson has announced. The purpose of the CE's trip is to discuss and report to the central government, as well as other prominent members of society, on the development plans of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area. During the one-day stay of the CE in Beijing, the Secretary for Administration and Justice, Sonia Chan, will temporarily exercise the duties of the CE.

Fire Services holds disaster prevention activities

The Fire Services Bureau (CB) has held a series of activities in cooperation with local neighborhood associations across the Peninsula and the Islands to encourage home safety and fire prevention, the CB said in a statement. The colloquiums addressed topics such as fire prevention, fire assistance, prevention of disasters and emergencies, first aid and fuel safety to the associations and citizens as well as detailing the "storm evacuation plan" that would enter into force in case of a severe typhoon, and preparatory works to prevent disaster before the arrival of a typhoon.

AD

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Gambling is back at 2 once-shuttered Atlantic City casinos

Wayne Parry, Atlantic City

PEOPLE are winning and losing money again for the first time in years at two Atlantic City casinos that had been shut down. Monday marked the first day of so-called “soft play” at the Ocean Resort Casino and the Hard Rock. The testing period is designed to see how the casinos’ equipment and technology systems work before the full grand openings for both facilities tomorrow.

But the winning and losing of money was real. Just ask Marian Simmons of Somers Point, New Jersey. “I just stuck my card in the machine, and on the second spin, I won \$225,” she said. “I’m so happy!”

Lee Gentile, of Toms River, New Jersey, was having a similar run of early good luck. In 15 minutes at a slot machine, she had won USD400. As a reporter watched, she won another \$50 on her next spin.

“I should take this now and go home,” she said. “But of course I won’t.”

Both casinos invited friends and relatives of employees to be the first to gamble there during the testing period that began Monday and was expected to run through today. The purpose was to see whether the slots work properly, the player’s club kiosks work and the information technology functions as it should, along with more mundane concerns like air conditioning, lighting and directional signs on the casino floor.

As of late Monday afternoon, no serious issues had arisen at either casino, said David Rebutk, director of the state Division of Gaming Enforcement.

Hard Rock would not permit reporters to watch their soft-play period. But casino President Matt Harkness said things were working as designed Monday.

“Everything is going smoothly, and the staff is really motivated,” he said.

Hard Rock is the former Trump Taj Mahal casino, which was stripped to its foundations and redone. Opened by Donald



Trump in April 1990, the Taj Mahal closed on Oct. 10, 2016, following a bitter strike in which then-owner Carl Icahn and the city’s main casino workers’ union could not reach agreement on a contract to restore health insurance and pension benefits to unionized workers.

Ocean Resort is the former Revel, the casino that lasted just

over two years before shutting down on Sept. 2, 2014. Monday was the first time members of the public were on the casino floor since then, which had been reconfigured to make it easier to get around. Its previous layout was a major source of patron complaints.

“I like the way it’s laid out,” said Joyce Green, of Vineland,

who said she used to gamble at Revel once a week. “It’s not confusing now; back then it was very confusing.”

Green, too, was having good luck in the early going at the slot machines, winning \$300 in her first 15 minutes.

“It’s called, ‘This is what could happen, but don’t get used to it,’” she said with a laugh. **AP**

UK

Heathrow’s third runway wins backing of parliament

Christopher Jasper, Kaye Wiggins

LONDON Heathrow Airport’s 16 billion-pound (USD21 billion) expansion plan may have cleared its last major political hurdle, but the project has yet to convince British Airways, the hub’s biggest customer.

After U.K. lawmakers backed the construction of a third runway by 415 votes to 119 late Monday, BA owner IAG SA responded by saying that the financing arrangements proposed by Heathrow are likely to increase user charges and effectively require present-day passengers to fund future flights.

“Parliament has approved Heathrow’s expansion without any idea of how much it will cost,” IAG Chief Executive Officer Willie Walsh said in a statement. “We have zero confidence in Heathrow management’s ability to deliver this project while keeping airport charges flat.”

Heathrow, which counts Qatari and Chinese funds among its investors, said

the vote backing the government’s national policy statement on airports, which enshrines the runway plan, was “momentous,” and will unlock billions of pounds in growth and create tens of thousands of jobs in the critical years after Britain leaves the European Union.

CEO John Holland-Kaye said in an interview that the crowded airport has spent 18 months reducing the expense of the project, but won’t be pinned down to fixing the final cost before submitting its master plan at the end of next year. He said Walsh is “negotiating in public,” adding: “That’s his job.”

After decades of delays tied to concerns about extra aircraft noise, increased pollution, the demolition of homes and the impact on roads, construction should finally begin in 2021, he said. The new landing strip is expected to open in 2026, lifting annual capacity to 135 million travelers from 2017’s 78 million.

While Heathrow has pledged to keep charges close to today’s level, Walsh

predicted “massive cost escalation” for the project in coming years, calling on the Civil Aviation Authority to stop Heathrow “rewarding its shareholders to the detriment of the U.K.”

IAG has previously appealed to the Department for Transport to cap Heathrow’s charges, while lobbying the CAA to create competition within the airport by allowing terminals to be run by third parties. It argues that most U.S. facilities are owned or leased by airlines, as are some sites in Europe.

While IAG, which controls 54 percent of Heathrow’s operating slots, would be a prime beneficiary of additional capacity, the limit on flights has inflated the worth of its existing operation, bolstering fares on trans-Atlantic routes that are already among the world’s most profitable.

Vince Cable, leader of the Liberal Democrats, the only major party to formally oppose the third-runway plan, echoed IAG’s concerns about fees, describing Heathrow as “an



exceedingly dodgy company” that pays more than it earns in dividends and exploits monopoly holdings in areas such as car parks while doubling its debt and running down shareholder funds.

“It has no interest in development and no competence in managing the kind of risky project now envisaged,” Cable said in the House of Commons debate.

Holland-Kaye rejected that claim, saying Heathrow has been transformed into an “airport to be proud of” over the past decade with the opening of Terminal 5, where BA is based, and the reconstruction of most other facilities.

Corp., which owns 10 percent.

Transport Secretary Chris Grayling told parliament that all five of London’s main airports will be full by the mid 2030s if the government fails to act. Heathrow has been close to capacity since the start of the decade, squeezing in more passengers only because its airlines are moving to bigger jets.

Enlarging Heathrow is also “absolutely crucial to the U.K. as a whole,” Grayling said, with some businesses already switching to rival hubs Frankfurt, Amsterdam, Paris, which have made additional capacity provision.

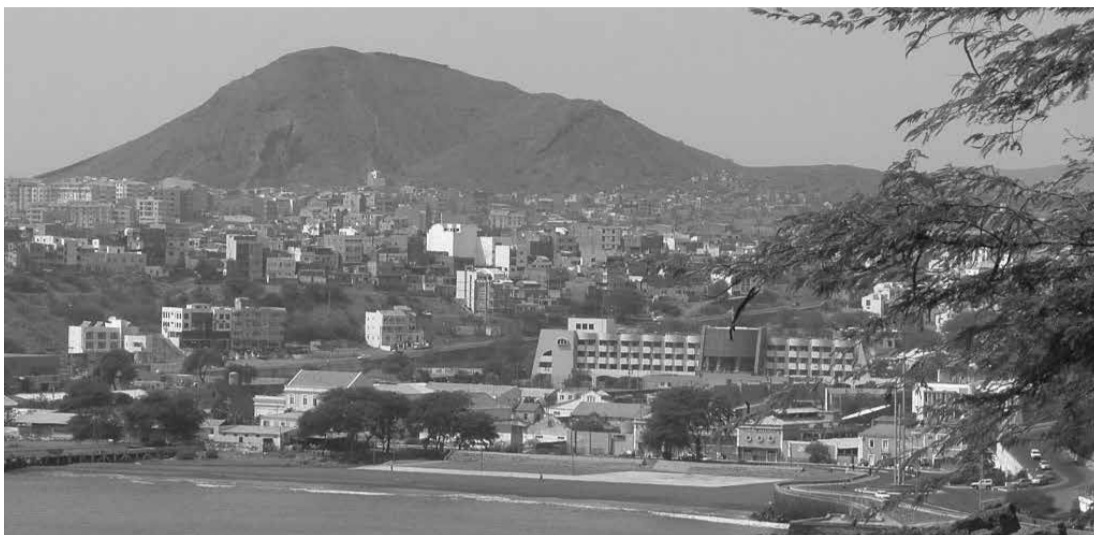
The parliamentary vote removes the final political hurdle to Heathrow’s growth, three years after a state-appointed commission concluded that the plan offered greater strategic and economic benefits than a second runway at London Gatwick or an entirely new airport in the River Thames estuary, as championed by Boris Johnson, now foreign secretary, who missed the vote. **Bloomberg**

Cape Verde's economy grew 3.9 percent last year

CAPE Verde's economy in 2017 added to the economic dynamism already evident in 2016, by posting growth of 3.9 percent, one-tenth of a percentage point higher than a year earlier, the Bank of Cabo Verde reported in its annual report for 2017, recently released in Praia.

"The improved performance of the economy [...] was favored by the strengthening of the recovery cycle of the country's partner economies and their labor markets, as well as by budgetary impulses (mainly through the execution of public investments and with a significant multiplier effect) and monetary drives (as a result of the reinforcement of monetary policy easing measures in June)," the document said.

The Cape Verdean central bank's annual report adds that growth was determined on the demand side by the positive contributions of private consumption and private and public investment and, on the supply side, by increa-



A beach in Praia, capital of Cape Verde

sing the gross added value of manufacturing, infrastructure, public administration, electricity and water, housing and catering and trade, in a context of increased employment in the construction, public administration, housing and catering and manufacturing sectors, (0.8 percent in average annual terms) and a consistent increase in credit to the private sector (6.8 percent, a faster pace since 2011). The expansion of aggregate

demand, given the constraints on productive capacity, resulted, however, in a significant increase in imports and, consequently, in the aggravation of trade and current account balances and widening of the financing needs of the economy, which were not offset by the growth of net inflows, which led to a drop in the country's net foreign reserves, of around 13 million euros, for the first time since 2011.

The document noted that the country's economic performance in 2017 suggests that it will add to the recovery cycle but that it needs to strengthen its productive capacity and resistance to exogenous shocks (namely related to European economic cycles), in order to achieve desired levels of well-being, calling on policy-makers to design and implement an efficient framework of structural reforms. **MDT/Macauhub**

Angola has a new head of IMF mission

A mission of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) begins a visit to Angola on July 2 with one of the aims being to present the new head of the economic surveillance mission to Angola with the African Department of the IMF in Washington, France's Mario de Zamaroczy, according to an official statement.

The new head of the mission is scheduled to have several meetings throughout the week he will be in Luanda to present and extend his knowledge of the major objectives of government programmes and policies.

The mission will update the macroeconomic forecasts that will be the basis for negotiations on the programme agreed with Angola, "and will be supervised by Anne Marie Gulde-Wolf, Deputy Director of the African Department and responsible for overseeing the work of the IMF in Angola."

Zamaroczy succeeds Brazil's Ricardo Velloso, who has taken on new responsibilities within the African Department of the IMF.

The Angolan government announced last February that it had requested a programme to support the IMF in the coordination of economic policies, without any associated financing, and the Ministry of Finance clarified at the time that the programme is the Economic Policy Coordination Instrument. **MDT/Macauhub**

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US airlines could lose passengers over Taiwan defiance

Anurag Kotoky

WITH a month to go before the world's major airlines must comply with Beijing's order to recognize Taiwan as part of China, U.S. carriers risk flying fewer mainland passengers by staying defiant.

While Japan Airlines Co., ANA Holdings Inc. and Australia's Qantas Airways Ltd. have changed how they described Taiwan on their websites, Delta Air Lines Inc. and American Airlines Group Inc. are among the last few standing, calling the island a region or country. They could face measures such as air-traffic control delays, ramp inspections, hold-ups at immigration and security checks, according to Robert Mann, the New York-based head of aviation consultancy R.W. Mann & Co.

"The present trade regime and rhetoric is getting ugly, and it may get far uglier," Mann said. "Short of an outright ban, the Chinese could make it commercially, operationally difficult for U.S. carriers arriving and departing Chinese airports."

Delta and American Airlines, which have until July 25 to fall in line on the Taiwan issue, say they are consulting with the U.S. government even as the White House dismissed the order as "Orwellian nonsense." A representative for United Continental Holdings Inc., the U.S. carrier with the most services to mainland China, declined to comment. The diplomatic spat comes amid a worsening tit-for-tat trade war between Donald Trump and Xi Jinping.

The major long-term threat is to the establishment of a China-U.S. "open skies" aviation treaty, a pre-condition for code-

BLOOMBERG



share alliances that can pass muster with antitrust agencies, Mann said.

There are more options in China's playbook to inflict pain, said Corrine Png, chief executive officer and founder of Crucial Perspective Pte., a Singapore-based research firm focused on transportation. "The U.S. carriers have much larger exposure to China routes and therefore have more to lose by offending China," she said.

China's government could prompt travelers from the mainland to boycott American airlines and could also impose tourism curbs by approving fewer package tours - a tactic that proved effective against South Korea when the country decided to deploy a U.S. missile

shield last year on its soil despite China's complaints, Png said.

China, which says its relations with the U.S. rest on American acceptance of its "one-China" claim, has been lately angered by growing ties between the Trump administration and the island's government headed by pro-independence President Tsai Ing-wen. In March, Xi warned that efforts to widen divisions with Taiwan would be "punished by history."

In April, the Civil Aviation Administration of China sent a letter to more than 40 foreign airlines, telling them that they shouldn't place China, Hong Kong and Taiwan on an equal footing, and must refer to "China Taiwan" or the "China

Taiwan region." Maps must display the territories in the same color as mainland China and the websites can't place Taiwan in other categories such as Southeast Asia, it said. After some operators sought more time, the deadline was extended to July 25.

White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said in May that it was part of a growing trend by the Chinese Communist Party to impose its political views on American citizens and private companies, which "will be resisted."

"We are reviewing the Civil Aviation Administration of China's request and will remain in close consultation with the U.S. government throughout this process," Delta said in an email-

led statement. American Airlines is also consulting with the U.S. government, said Shannon Gilson, a spokeswoman.

The U.S. carriers aren't alone. A spokesman for Air India, which flies passengers to Taipei through a code-share agreement with EVA Air and lists Taiwan as a country on its website, said it was a decision for the government to make. India's foreign ministry spokesman Raveesh Kumar didn't respond to a request for comment.

A representative for CAAC referred to previous statements regarding Taiwan. A letter dated April 25 cited regulations that could subject non-compliant airlines to punishments including curtailment of resources and administrative licenses.

This isn't just a cross-strait issue, it is a threat to the international democratic community.

ALEX HUANG
TAIWAN PRESIDENTIAL OFFICE
SPOKESMAN

The Tsai government in Taiwan isn't happy either as many airlines bow to China's wish. The island's Ministry of Foreign Affairs called on international governments and companies to bravely resist China's "unreasonable request," according to a statement from the ministry on June 18.

"This isn't just a cross-strait issue, it is a threat to the international democratic community," Taiwan Presidential Office spokesman Alex Huang said in a text message the following day. **Bloomberg**

US aircraft carrier patrols disputed sea amid China buildup

THE U.S. military has deployed the third aircraft carrier this year to patrol the disputed South China Sea, where Washington has criticized China's military buildup on new man-made islands.

The 97,000-ton USS Ronald Reagan, carrying more than 70 aircraft, anchored in Manila Bay yesterday after plying the strategic waters for meetings between navy officials of the two countries and liberty for its thousands of sailors after

weeks at sea.

The U.S. military presence in the region "has supported our ability to defend our nation and our allies" and "promotes our ability to safeguard freedom of the seas, unimpeded commerce, to deter conflict and coercion and to promote adherence to rules-based international order," Rear Admiral Marc Dalton told reporters on board the ship.

Two other American carriers earlier patrolled the waterway, where China

and five other governments have been locked in decades of disputes over territories that straddle some of the world's busiest sea lanes. Some areas are believed to have undersea deposits of natural gas and oil.

China has reportedly deployed anti-ship missiles, surface-to-air missiles, electronic jammers and other equipment on islands it built on disputed reefs in the Spratly Islands, and landed a bomber aircraft on Woo-

dy Island in the Paracels, sparking alarm among rival claimants and the United States. Washington has no territorial claims in the region but has declared that freedom of navigation and overflight in the waters is in U.S. national interest.

U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said earlier this month that the Trump administration's recent decision to disinvite China from a multinational naval exercise this summer was an "initial response"



Fighter jets are seen on the deck of the U.S. aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) as it anchors off Manila Bay

to Beijing's island activity. Mattis called the U.S. action a "relatively small consequence. I believe there are much larger consequences in the future."

China argues that it is within its rights to build up defenses on islands in

the South China Sea that it claims are its sovereign territory. There is fear that Beijing will use its new islands, including some with runways, to project its military might and potentially to restrict navigation in the busy waters. **AP**

Large army veteran protests pose challenge for Xi Jinping

Gerry Shih, Beijing

ON Chinese state television broadcasts, President Xi Jinping is often shown clad in battle fatigues inspecting troops, praising their service, and hailing the People's Liberation Army as key to the country's rising global power.

But the nationalist drumbeat rings hollow for many retired soldiers who feel left behind, and they have taken to the streets in droves to complain about having to fend for themselves with meager pensions and little support. The unrest poses a delicate political challenge for Xi, who has made his affinity for the military one of the pillars of his folksy image.

"It can only irritate veterans that on the one hand they hear propaganda that China is now a wealthy, powerful country that reveres its military, yet on the other hand they feel they have to fight for scraps," said Neil Diamant, a professor of Dickinson University and expert on Chinese veteran issues.

Such grievances came to a head last week when more than a thousand retired soldiers, including locals and many others who rushed in from around the country, descended on local government offices in the eastern city of Zhenjiang, in Jiangsu province. For four days, they occupied a public plaza and a street, singing and chanting as they demanded answers over the alleged beating of a fellow veteran by government-hired thugs after he petitioned for better benefits, supporters said.

Police cleared the square in the early hours of Sunday with relatively little violence. But scenes of paramilitary police and armored vehicles lining Zhenjiang's



Hundreds of protesters in green fatigues gather outside the Chinese Ministry of National Defense to protest in Beijing

streets further exacerbated the fraught relationship between the government and disgruntled veterans.

"What the Zhenjiang police did this week, clearing the scene by force, it's illegal," said Li Xiao, a 63-year-old former artillery soldier who drove more than 200 kilometers on Friday to Zhenjiang. He said he wanted to show support for the protesters from the sidelines. "History will be the judge."

Although veterans have been petitioning for decades for improved pensions, jobs and medical care upon leaving the PLA, frustration has been bubbling in recent months. Part of the problem is that local governments are ordered by the central government to provide greater compensation and jobs for veterans but aren't given extra funding,

Diamant said.

In March, Xi oversaw the establishment of a Ministry of Veterans Affairs to address longstanding grievances, but veterans have been frustrated by the lack of substantial change. "We were delighted when the ministry was created, it was the only wish in our entire lives," said Li. "But because of their laziness, their incompetence, they haven't come up with a single substantial law or policy for us."

Li's account matched details gathered by a veteran activist from the central province of Hubei and an overseas-based activist originally from southwestern Sichuan, both of whom were in touch with protesters. The two spoke on condition of anonymity due to a fear of official retaliation.

They said the Zhenjiang pro-

test dispersed after police entered the city square before dawn on Sunday, detained protesters and held them in empty schools until authorities from their home counties arrived to take them back.

By Tuesday, local Zhenjiang business owners reached by phone said the city center's streets had mostly returned to normal.

Retired soldiers from around the country have gathered at least twice in recent months for similar protests, once in central China in June and a few weeks before that in southern Guangdong province, following reports that veterans were roughed up by government-hired thugs, according to activists. Authorities were likely alarmed when hundreds of veterans materialized in Beijing in 2016 for a sit-in in front of PLA headquarters.

The challenge to Beijing's ability to manage this resentment is likely to continue after China announced in 2015 it would reduce the size of the armed forces by 300,000 troops and said last year it would downsize its ground forces further while investing in its ability to project power abroad.

The angry veterans, part of an estimated 57 million former military personnel in China, pose a peculiar social stability dilemma for Beijing. The veterans are generally deeply patriotic and wave red flags and banners during demonstrations. They profess loyalty to the Communist Party and admiration for Xi while directing their ire at corrupt local officials.

But Chinese leaders are wary of mass social movements and have moved quickly to squelch the unrest, further inflaming tensions among the veterans who feel betrayed. Discussion of the protest was also tightly policed online this week.

Yue Gang, a retired PLA colonel and military commentator, said many older veterans have a deep-seated instinct to mobilize quickly when they feel one of their own has been mistreated. "The veterans have a lot of hope, but in reality they get a splash of cold water on their dreams."

The protesting veterans are an uncomfortable contrast to the image Xi has touted of a resurgent China as a rising tide that will lift all boats.

"Today, we are closer to the goal of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation than any other time in history, and we need to build a strong people's military now more than any other time in history," Xi said in August.

For veterans like Li, who only two decades ago believed that the government would take care of him until he died, modern China can feel like a lonely place.

"I thought, after the country becomes strong and prosperous, then the people will live and work in peace," he said. "But that hasn't been the reality." AP

HONG KONG

Four elderly siblings shot in rare instance of gun violence

FOUR elderly siblings were shot yesterday, one fatally, by a relative in a rare instance of gun violence in Hong Kong that was apparently sparked by a family dispute, police said.

The two men and two women were shot in the head and arm and all were sent to a hospital, where one, an 80-year-old woman, later died,

officials said.

A 44-year-old woman in possession of a gun was apprehended in a shopping mall near the site of the attack and was uninjured, Chief Inspector Hui Hong-kit told reporters.

"We believe the motive behind the attack was family conflict," he said, adding that police would also investigate how the suspect obtained the

weapon.

Firearms are tightly controlled in Hong Kong and such shootings are highly unusual, usually restricted to armed robbers and members of organized crime groups known as triads.

The Asian financial hub is considered generally safe, although thieves this year have twice attacked jewelry stores using

hammers.

According to police statistics, 10 murders were recorded between January and April this year, up by two from the same period last year. It wasn't clear whether firearms were used in any of those killings.

Yesterday's incident took place in Quarry Bay Park on Hong Kong Island. The local Apple



This frame grab from video provided by iCable TV, shows a victim being taken to a hospital at the Quarry Bay Park

Daily newspaper said the dispute appeared to have been financial in nature and that the suspect

appeared calm as she was being taken into custody with a hood placed over her head. AP



Rescue workers continue to search for a group of missing boys



Relatives hold fishing nets, as a symbol to fish out lost spirits inside cave

Tassanee Vejpongsa

THAILAND

Top official says flooding complicates cave rescue

INTENSIVE efforts to rescue 12 boys and their football coach who have been trapped inside a flooded cave in northern Thailand for three days hinge on pumping out water so that navy divers have headroom to operate, the first high-level Thai official to visit the site said yesterday.

Interior Minister Anupong Paojinda told reporters that Navy SEAL divers leading the search for the missing are seriously handicapped by muddy water that fill some chambers of the cave to their ceilings. He said the divers could proceed only when enough water has been pumped out so there is breathing space between the water and the ceiling. The divers will also soon start using special oxygen tanks that provide longer diving times, he said.

Anupong said that yesterday's goal was to be able to "reach the kids," and that rescuers would be working night and day.

"I want to confirm to the media that the SEAL team will be working nonstop because it's already dark here too," he said. "So night and day doesn't make a big difference. They'll just need to rotate."

About a dozen navy divers and other rescuers re-entered the partly flooded cave yesterday morning to search for the boys, aged 11-16, who have been mis-

sing since their coach took them to the Tham Luang Nang Non cave complex on Saturday after a practice match.

Divers have been seeking a way forward through the chambers of the cave complex, but have been forced to suspend their search several times. The authorities have also been seeking alternative ways in, using helicopters and search parties on foot to find holes that might exist in the ceilings of other parts of the cave.

Rain that fell overnight increased the difficulty of exploring inside the cave. However, the initial chambers near the cave's entrance are dry, and a power line was extended inside to provide light and ventilation and help the divers communicate with those outside.

The boys and their 25-year-old coach entered the cave in Chiang Rai province late Saturday afternoon. A mother reported that her son did not return from football practice that day, setting off the search.

Relatives of the missing boys

and others performed a ritual yesterday morning calling for those who are missing. They played drums and gongs and two relatives held fishing nets as symbols to fish out lost spirits from the cave. Organizer Jiratat Kodyee said the ritual was a traditional way of showing support for the boys' families.

"We hope that the water level has gone down, but we will have to see," Navy Lt. Naponwath Homsai said. "Today we will try to find passages under the water that hopefully will lead to other chambers."

However, yesterday's initial search mission had to be suspended.

The cave complex extends several kilometers and has wide chambers and narrow passageways with rocky outcrops and changes in elevation. Still, officials have said they are hopeful the boys found a safe space away from the floods.

Rising waters Monday evening first frustrated efforts to search farther in the cave, and the efforts

were halted temporarily. During the night, rescue teams and electricians extended a power line 1 kilometer and communication lines into the cave.

"We hope this would provide lights for work and fans for ventilation for the SEAL team," Chiang Rai Gov. Narongsak Oso-tanakorn said. "Also, it means we can use electric engines to pump water out from the cave as well."

Parents waited overnight in tents outside the cave entrance as rain poured. Medics sat in a tent nearby, and bicycles, backpacks and football cleats the boys left behind remained at the entrance.

At a prayer session Monday evening, some of the boys' relatives walked inside the cave entrance, where their cries echoed off the walls. "My son, come on out! I am waiting for you here!" one woman cried. Another knelt down near the bicycles and prayed, asking "Where is my child?"

Namhom Boonpiam, whose 13-year-old son Mongkol is

among the missing, said she had been waiting at the entrance since Saturday night.

"I haven't slept and I hope that all of them can come out, all safe and sound," she said. "My son is a strong boy. I still have hope."

Authorities have said footprints and handprints were found inside the cave complex, and that tourists trapped there by past floods have been rescued after the waters receded.

Officials are hopeful there are still safe spaces in the cave complex despite the flooding, Chiang Rai Deputy Gov. Passakorn Bunyalak told a Monday news conference.

"We're confident that the kids should still be in good condition," he said, noting that rescuers had seen nothing inside the cave to indicate otherwise.

Getting farther into the cave has required lots of oxygen and special diving skills, which would also complicate rescue efforts once the boys are found, Passakorn said. He said divers might have to first bring in food and the boys might need to wait out the flood or learn the basics of scuba to get out.

The cave, cut into a mountainside near the border with Myanmar, can flood severely during the rainy season, which runs from June to October, and there are warnings against exploring then. **AP**

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ANALYSIS

Solving the plastic crisis starts with Asia

Adam Minter, Bloomberg Opinion

SINCE Jan. 1, when China stopped accepting the rich world's recyclable plastic waste, it's gotten a ton of criticism for worsening the already deep crisis of ocean plastic pollution. But China isn't the only culprit here. This is a crisis made — and growing worse — throughout developing Asia.

Just eight countries in the region are responsible for about 63 percent of total plastic waste flowing into the oceans. Little of that junk has been exported by rich economies. Instead, it's almost solely generated by Asia's newly minted consumer classes, the vast majority of whom lack access to garbage collection, modern landfills and incineration. Any progress in reducing ocean plastic will have to start with them.

A boom in garbage is almost always the result of two related phenomena: urbanization and income growth. Rural dwellers moving to the city shift from buying unpackaged goods to buying stuff (especially food) wrapped in plastic. As their incomes rise, their purchases increase. That growth in consumption is almost never matched by expanded garbage collection and disposal. In typical low-income countries, less than half of all



garbage is collected formally, and what little is picked up tends to end up in unregulated open dumps. In 2015, scientists estimated that as much as 88 percent of the waste generated in Vietnam is either littered or tossed into uncontained dumps. In China, the rate is about 77 percent. By comparison, the U.S. rate is 2 percent.

Every big city in developing Asia faces this problem. Jakarta's waterways are choked with plastic trash. In Kuala Lumpur, instances of open dumping line the high-speed train route to the airport. On the outskirts of any Chinese city, loose plastic bags and instant-noodle cups litter

every road's shoulder. Much of this junk ends up in waterways — and, eventually, the ocean. One study found that eight of the 10 rivers conveying the most plastic waste into the oceans are in Asia. China's Yangtze alone delivers 1.5 million metric tons of plastic to the Yellow Sea each year.

Solutions to all this have proved chronically elusive. China has prohibited retailers from providing free plastic bags for a decade, to almost no effect. In Indonesia, longstanding efforts to tax plastic bottles and containers have run into the reality that few locals have access to piped or uncontaminated water. Although recycling is common in Asia,

plastic presents an often insurmountable challenge: Technical and environmental factors render much of it unrecyclable, especially in developing regions. In fact, only about 9 percent of plastics are recycled globally.

Yet there's another, far more promising option: Improve regular old trash collection. A recent study by the Ocean Conservancy and the McKinsey Center for Business and Environment found that boosting trash collection rates to 80 percent in just five Asian countries — China, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam — could reduce ocean plastic waste by a whopping 23 percent over a decade. No other

solution can promise such an immediate or lasting impact.

Pulling it off won't be easy. Garbage collection and disposal is often the most expensive line-item on city budgets in the developing world, and achieving the study's goal would require USD4 billion to \$5 billion per year. But that's not impossible: In the U.K., aid organizations are pushing the government to spend 3 percent of its annual foreign aid on waste collection and disposal in the developing world (currently, it spends 0.3 percent). If that goal were adopted by other rich countries, it could be a game-changer for ocean plastics.

The private sector could also help. An American advocacy group called Closed Loop Ocean is raising \$150 million from global corporations — including 3M Co., Coca-Cola Co., and Procter & Gamble Co. — to invest in scalable waste collection and disposal businesses in India and Indonesia. Petrochemical and plastics companies should be next to join.

All this is just a start, of course. Developing Asia will eventually need many more modern landfills, incinerators and self-funding recycling programs. But for now, one reform could have a bigger global impact than just about any other: Start picking up the trash.

Australia to ban covert foreign interference in politics

Rod McGuirk, Canberra

AUSTRALIA'S House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved national security legislation yesterday that would ban covert foreign interference in domestic politics and make industrial espionage for a foreign power a crime.

The two bills covering foreign interference, espionage and influence transparency have been criticized as criminalizing dissent. But the Senate is expected to make them law by Thursday with the support of the center-left Labor Party opposition.

Individuals lobbying for foreign governments would have to be listed on a public register in a step toward making foreign influence on Australian politics more transparent.

The conservative government says the legislation, first proposed in Decem-

ber, is the major cause of a rift in diplomatic relations with China, Australia's most important trading partner. But the government maintains that it is not aimed at any particular country.

Attorney General Christian Porter told Parliament yesterday the bills include the most significant counter-spying reforms in Australia since the 1970s.

"The practices of modern espionage are now being encountered in so many Western democracies around the globe," Porter said.

The bills include 38 new crimes plus existing crimes with broader definitions. The new crimes include stealing trade secrets on behalf of foreign government, which would become punishable by 15 years in prison.

"Until this point, astonishingly and dangerous-

ly, no criminal offense in Australia existed to criminalize economic espionage of the type defined in this bill," Porter said.

A person who engages in covert or deceptive activity to influence political or governmental process, such as organizing a rally, without revealing he or she was operating on behalf of a foreign government could be guilty of a range of foreign interference crimes with maximum penalties ranging from 10 to 20 years in prison.

Both bills have been substantially amended in recent weeks on the advice of a parliamentary committee that scrutinized them, narrowing their focus and reach and increasing the number of organizations that are exempt.

Charities that accept foreign funding but not foreign government direction are exempt, the

Catholic Church will not have to register as an agent of the Vatican, and the media have legal protections in reporting leaked national security information.

Speaking in support of the legislation, senior opposition lawyer Mark Dreyfus said there was no evidence that Australia had experienced the type of foreign interference evident in the latest presidential elections in the United States and France and in the United Kingdom's Brexit referendum.

"It's apparent that in other parts of the world, covert actors are seeking on an unprecedented scale to interfere with and manipulate the political processes of democratic countries, particularly by attacking free and fair elections," Dreyfus told Parliament. "Australia will not allow this conduct to arrive on our shores."

But independent lawmaker Andrew Wilkie, who quit his job as a defense intelligence analyst in 2003 in protest against the then-government's use of non-existent weapons of mass destruction to explain sending Australian troops to back the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, voted against the bills. Wilkie argued their definitions of national security and foreign interference were too broad.

Environmentalists protesting against the enormous Adani coal mine proposed for Australia's north could be prosecuted for a crime of sabotage under the legislation if that protest was defined as a threat to the nation's economic security, Wilkie said.

Adam Brandt, a minor Greens party lawmaker who described the legislation as criminalizing dissent, was the only lawmaker other than Wilkie to vote against the bills in the House.

London-based Amnesty International said in a statement the legislation

would make holding the Australian government to account on human rights obligations a crime.

Australian media have reported that the bills were the result of a classified government report commissioned by Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull in 2016 that found that the Chinese Communist Party had tried to influence Australian policy, compromise political parties and gain access to all levels of government for a decade. The government won't comment on the media reports.

China protested Turnbull's announcement of the foreign interference ban. The Chinese foreign ministry said in December that Turnbull's remarks were prejudiced against China and had poisoned the atmosphere of China-Australia relations.

A related bill announced in December to ban foreign political donations, of which China is the largest source, is still being drafted. Labor has voluntarily refused to accept foreign donations. **AP**



Detainees walk in a line at the HHS' unaccompanied alien children program facility at Tornillo, Texas



Letty Leal, with her daughter Alyssa, 2, of McAllen, Texas, joins a protest at a Border Patrol processing center

US Authorities abandon 'zero-tolerance' for immigrant families

Elliot Spagat, Morgan Lee

THE Trump administration has scaled back a key element of its zero-tolerance immigration policy amid a global uproar over the separation of more than 2,300 migrant families, halting the practice of turning over parents to prosecutors for charges of illegally entering the country.

Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Kevin McAleenan said Monday that President Donald Trump's order last week to stop splitting immigrant families at the border required a temporary halt to prosecuting parents and guardians, unless they had criminal history or the child's welfare was in question. He insisted the White House's zero tolerance policy toward illegal entry remained intact.

McAleenan's comments came shortly after Attorney General Jeff Sessions defended the administration's tactics in a speech in Nevada and asserted that many children were brought to the border by violent gang members.

Together, their remarks added to the nationwide confusion as mothers and fathers struggled to reunite families that were split up by the government and sometimes sent to different parts of the country.

Families are growing increasingly frustrated in trying to reunite with their children after weeks apart.

A mother from Guatemala wiped tears from her eyes Monday as she told reporters in El Paso, Texas, about her 4-year-old son being taken away after they crossed the border.

The boy ended up at a shelter in New York. When the mo-

ther contacted a social worker to speak with her son, she was told that the child was angry and didn't want to talk because he believed his mother had abandoned him.

The mother was one of five parents who described their ordeals to reporters in El Paso. Speaking Spanish and all wearing ankle bracelets, the parents said they have not been told when they will see their sons and daughters again.

Addressing reporters in Texas, McAleenan said he stopped sending cases of parents charged with illegally entering the country to prosecutors "within hours" after Trump signed an executive order last week to cease the separations.

The commissioner and Sessions insisted that the administration's policy remains in effect, even though immigrant parents are no longer being prosecuted under the new guidelines McAleenan said he is working on a plan to resume prosecutions.

"We can work on a plan where adults who bring kids across, who violate our laws, who risk their lives at the border could be prosecuted without an extended separation from their children," he said. "We're looking at how to implement that now."

White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders stressed that the administration's reversal was only temporary because the government is running out of resources.

"We're going to run out of space," she said. "We're going to run out of resources to keep people together."

Providing a glimpse of relief, McAleenan said border

apprehensions in June were trending "lower" from previous months but he declined to be more specific until numbers are released July 8.

Speaking at a school-safety conference in Reno, Sessions cast the children as victims of a broken immigration system and urged Congress to act.

While hundreds of protesters rallied outside a hotel-casino, the attorney general said more than 80 percent of children crossing the border arrive alone, without parents or guardians, and are "often sent with a paid smuggler. We can only guess how many never make it to our border during that dangerous journey."

He claimed the MS-13 gang "is recruiting children who were sent here as unaccompanied minors, and some are brought to help replenish the gang. And they are terrorizing immigrant schools and communities from Los Angeles to Louisville to Long Island to Boston. They are able to do so because we do not have a secure southwest border."

He said five children had been found at the border carrying a combined 35 pounds of fentanyl, the powerful synthetic opioid drug blamed for an epidemic of overdose deaths nationwide.

Just outside the building where Sessions spoke, more than 200 protesters opposed to the administration's immigration policies blocked a busy road. The coalition of civil rights, religious and union activists carried signs and drums and were joined by a mariachi band. Some sat in a busy roadway for while police diverted traffic around them.

No arrests were reported. McAleenan's remarks follow an

announcement last week by the federal public defender's office in El Paso that federal prosecutors would no longer bring criminal charges against parents entering the U.S. if they have their child with them.

Amid the confusion, some Democratic members of Congress reiterated their frustrations that the Trump administration had not released its plan for reuniting families.

Sen. Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut was among those who toured a shelter at the Tornillo border crossing in West Texas.

“These stories are gut-wrenching and heartbreaking of children 6 and 7 years old, separated from their parents.”

SEN. RICHARD BLUMENTHAL

"I think there is very, very powerful consensus on both sides of the aisle that reunification should be done immediately," Blumenthal said. "These stories are gut-wrenching and heartbreaking of children 6 and 7 years old, separated from their parents, not know where they are and the parents not knowing where their children are."

U.S. defense officials said the administration had chosen two

military bases in Texas to house detained migrants. An official says Fort Bliss will house families and Goodfellow Air Force Base will house detained unaccompanied children. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak on the record about a pending announcement.

As many as 2,300 children were separated from their migrant parents from the time the administration adopted the zero-tolerance policy until June 9, officials have said.

The temporary shelter at Tornillo was close to its 360-person capacity. Reporters were allowed Monday to briefly visit the shelter, where more than 320 children ages 13 to 17 are being held in air conditioned tents. A facility administrator told reporters that the main complaint he hears from children on site is that the tents get too cold sometimes.

About half were from Guatemala, and 23 of the children had been separated from adults who accompanied them across the border.

Reporters were not allowed to enter any tents holding children. Two girls who stopped briefly in front of reporters said that they were doing well.

The exact process to reunite families has been unclear because migrants are first stopped by Customs and Border Protection. Then children are transferred to the custody of the Department of Health and Human Services, while adults are detained through Immigration and Customs Enforcement, which is under the Department of Homeland Security.

Justice Department officials have asked a federal judge to amend a class-action settlement that governs how children are treated in immigration custody. Right now, children can only be detained with their families for 20 days. Trump administration officials are seeking to detain them together indefinitely as their cases progress. **AP**

EDUCATION

Do you really know what your kid's doing on that smartphone?

Martha Irvine, Chicago

AYRIAL Miller is clearly annoyed. Her mother is sitting with her on the couch in their Chicago apartment, scrolling through the teen's contacts on social media. "Who's this?" asks Jennea Bivens, aka Mom. It's a friend of a friend, Ayrial says. They haven't talked in a while. "Delete it," her mom says.

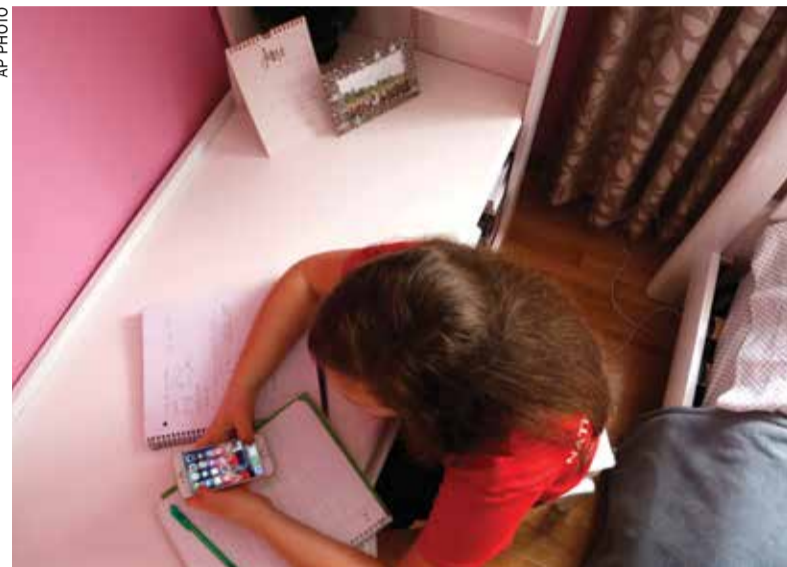
The 13-year-old's eyes narrow to a surly squint. "I hate this! I hate this! I hate this!" she shouts.

Yes, Bivens is one of "those moms," she says. She makes no apology. Nor should she, says a retired cybercrimes detective who spoke to her and other parents in early June at Nathan Hale Elementary School, a K-8 public school in Chicago.

"There is no such thing as privacy for children," Rich Wistocki told them. Other tech experts might disagree. But even they worry about the secret digital lives many teens are leading, and the dreadful array of consequences — including harassment and occasional suicides — that can result.

Today's kids are meeting strangers, some of them adults, on a variety of apps. Teens are storing risqué photos in disguised vault apps, and then trading those photos like baseball cards.

Some even have spare "burner" phones to avoid parental monitoring, or share passwords with friends who can post on their accounts when privileges are taken away.



David Coffey, a dad and tech expert from Cadillac, Michigan, said he was floored when his two teens told him about some of the sneaky things their peers are doing, even in their small rural town.

"I gotta hand it to their creativity, but it's only enabled through technology," says Coffey, chief digital officer at IDShield, a company that helps customers fend off identity theft.

It's difficult to say how many kids are pushing digital boundaries this way. But academics, experts like Wistocki and Coffey, and many teens themselves say it's surprisingly common for kids to live online lives that are all but invisible to most parents.

Exposed to tablets and smartphones at an increasingly early age, kids are correspondingly savvier about using them and easily share tips with friends. Parents, by contrast, are both

overwhelmed and often naive about what kids can do with sophisticated devices.

Wistocki often holds up a mobile phone and tells wide-eyed parents that giving a kid this "ominous device" is like handing over the keys to a new Mercedes and saying, "Sweetheart you can go to Vegas. You can drive to Texas, Florida, New York, wherever you want to go."

Such journeys can lead to ugly incidents, sometimes involving surprisingly young participants.

In January, two 12-year-olds were arrested in Panama City Beach, Florida, for cyberstalking that police said led to the suicide of a classmate named Gabriella Green, who'd been repeatedly bullied.

Last year in Naperville, a 16-year-old killed himself after police discovered that he'd recorded himself having sex with a classmate and then shared

the recording with his hockey teammates. While searching his phone, they also found photos of other partially nude girls in a secret photo vault app disguised as a calculator. And yet, Wistocki says, too often parents remain in denial with what he calls "NMK — not my kid."

Today's kids are meeting strangers, some of them adults, on a variety of apps

Bivens, Ayrial's mom uses an app called MMGuardian, one of several available, to manage and monitor her 13-year-old daughter's phone use. She turns off certain apps, sometimes as punishment, and monitors texts.

"It's a full-time job," Bivens concedes. "People laugh at me because I monitor her stuff. But I don't have the same problems as other people do."

A 2016 Pew Research Center survey found that only about half of parents said they had ever checked their children's phone calls and text messages or even friended their kids on social media.

Tech experts agree that monitoring makes sense for younger kids. But Pam Wisniewski, a computer-science professor at the University of Central Florida, suggests a gradual loosening of the strings as teens prove they

can be trusted.

"I'm almost to the point where I feel like the world would be better off without social media," says Wisniewski, who studies human computer interaction and adolescent online safety. "But I'm also a pragmatist."

Wistocki tells parents to offer their children the "Golden Ticket" — no punishment when they come to them about mistakes they've made online or help they need with a social media problem.

Ayrial's mom is all for that. Recently, Ayrial started a live videostream on Twitter and encountered a stranger who asked her to show her bare feet. It was a "creepy" request, the teen said, that caused her to end the connection quickly.

She had sidestepped a block on social media by using a tablet. But she did tell Mom what happened soon after.

Ayrial still isn't happy that her mom is going through her contacts with her. The soon-to-be eighth-grader appreciates that "she cares about me," but hopes Mom will eventually "back up" a bit.

"When I'm in high school, that might get embarrassing sometimes, you know?" she says. "You need to learn your own — how do I put this? — discipline. You need to learn from your own mistakes."

If Mom doesn't give her that space, she says, she's always coming up with new tricks to get online secretly, just as her friends do.

And no, she won't share how. **AP**

President says Iran in 'economic fight' with US

Amir Vahdat, Tehran

IRANIAN President Hassan Rouhani said yesterday his country is in a "fight" with the U.S., a day after protesters angered by Iran's tanking economy confronted police in front of parliament.

In a televised speech, Rouhani blamed the U.S. for Iran's woes and said the U.S. is trying to damage the country by creating "an economic war."

"The U.S. cannot defeat our nation, our enemies are not able to get us to their knees," he said.

Rouhani's comments came after protesters angered by Iran's tanking economy confronted poli-



ce in front of parliament Monday. It was the first such confrontation since similar demonstrations rocked the country at the start of the year.

The demonstration signaled widespread unease in the wake of President Donald Trump's decision

to withdraw the U.S. from Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers and restore sanctions on the country.

It wasn't immediately clear who led Monday's protests. Iran's semi-official news agencies, Fars, ISNA and Tasnim, des-

cribed the protests at the Grand Bazaar as erupting after the Iranian rial dropped to 90,000 to the dollar on the country's black market, despite government attempts to control the currency rate.

Videos posted to social media showed protesters at the bazaar heckling shopkeepers who refused to close. A short time later, about 2 kilometers from the Grand Bazaar, videos shared by Iranians on social media appeared to show a crowd confronting police at parliament. Iran's semi-official ISNA news agency reported yesterday that authorities detained many of the rioters.

Prosecutor Abbas Jafa-

ri Dolatabadi said the "main provocateurs" who planned the protest and threatened shopkeepers to close their stores were arrested. He did not elaborate on the number of people detained.

Still, semi-official ISNA news agency reported the country's parliament speaker, Ali Larijani, said yesterday that the Rouhani administration hasn't done enough to confront the economic problems.

At the end of last year, similar economic protests roiled Iran and spread to some 75 cities and towns, becoming the largest demonstrations in the country since its 2009 disputed presidential election. The

protests in late December and early January saw at least 25 people killed and nearly 5,000 arrested.

Iran has announced a list of 15 demands for improving relations with the United States, including a U.S. return to the 2015 nuclear accord, in response to a similar list of demands made by Washington last month.

In May, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo called for a wholesale change in Iran's military and regional policies, threatening the "strongest sanctions in history" if it refused. The U.S. withdrew from the landmark nuclear agreement with world powers earlier that month. **AP**

what's ON



MARC CHAGALL, LIGHT AND COLOUR IN SOUTHERN FRANCE

TIME: 10am-7pm (last admission 6:30pm; closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: August 26, 2018

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

TREASURE FROM THE DEEP SEA - EXHIBITION OF UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGICAL RELICS OF THE NANHAI NO. 1

TIME: 10am-6pm, last admission at 5:30pm

(Closed on Mondays, open on public holidays, free admission on Tuesdays and the 15th of every month)

UNTIL: July 31, 2018

VENUE: 3/F, Macau Museum, No. 112, Praceta do Museu de Macau

ADMISSION: MOP15 (free for Macau residents, children of 12 years old or below and seniors of 65 years old or over)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911 & 8394 1208

DISCOVER MACAU: MUSEUM OF TAIPA AND COLOANE HISTORY

TIME: 10am-6pm daily (last admission at 5:30pm; closed on Mondays)

ADDRESS: Rua Correia da Silva, Taipa

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

Offbeat

KANGAROO STOPS PLAY DURING AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S SOCCER MATCH



The Australian soccer team competing at the World Cup is called the Socceroos. But a different kind of soccer-roo has dominated a pitch for half an hour in Canberra during a women's match.

The misguided marsupial made its first appearance on the stadium soccer field during the half time break on Sunday afternoon in a match between Canberra's two top teams — Canberra Football Club and Belconnen United, Canberra FC official Amber Harvey said on Monday.

The male eastern gray kangaroo bounded back during the second half, indifferent to efforts to drive him away and delaying play for 32 minutes, Harvey said.

"It was just a real menace," Harvey said.

"A few people came close to it to see if they could maybe get it to move on. It stood up pretty tall. I think it was just over 6 feet (183 centimeters), so they backed off pretty quickly. But I don't think anyone was alarmed too much by it," she added.

Players and officials tried to drive the unexpected pitch invader away by kicking balls at him with little impact. Video showed it apparently using his long hind legs and powerful tail to deflect balls from the goal area.

"It didn't react. It just kind of lay down," Harvey said.

A coach in a pickup truck eventually chased the roo from the stadium through a break in the fence into a car park from where it disappeared.

Although the match was played in the exclusive inner suburb of Deakin, kangaroos can be found almost anywhere in Canberra, the national capital.

The suburbs are set in large tracts of woods and grassland. Kangaroos usually doze among the trees by day and wander the streets at night to graze on watered lawns.

TV canal macau



| | |
|-------|--|
| 13:00 | TDM News (Repeated) |
| 13:30 | News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast |
| 15:00 | Miscellaneous |
| 16:05 | C.O.P.A - History of all World Cups |
| 17:55 | Maternity |
| 18:45 | What's Up Sr.2 |
| 19:10 | FIFA World Cup Diary |
| 19:35 | Portuguese Serie |
| 20:30 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report |
| 21:15 | Non-daily Portuguese News |
| 21:25 | Tech Tree |
| 21:30 | You, Me and the Apocalypse |
| 22:20 | Brazilian Soap Opera |
| 23:00 | TDM News |
| 23:45 | Miscellaneous |
| 00:20 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated) |
| 01:05 | RTPi Live |

cinema



CINETEATRO

21 - 27 JUN



HOTEL ARTEMIS

ROOM 1

2:30, 9:30pm

ROOM 3

4:30pm

Director: Drew Pearce

Starring: Jodie Foster, Dave Bautista

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 94min



JURASSIC WORLD: FALLEN KINGDOM

ROOM 1

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

Director: J.A. Bayona

Starring: Chris Pratt, Bryce Dallas Howard, BD Wong

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 135min



OCEAN'S EIGHT

ROOM 2

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

Director: Gary Ross

Starring: Sandra Bullock, Cate Blanchett, Anne Hathaway

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 110min

THE LEAKERS

ROOM 1

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

Director: Herman Yau

Starring: Francis Ng, Julian Cheung, Charmaine Sheh

Language: Cantonese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 100min

this day in history



1991 YUGOSLAV TROOPS MOVE AGAINST SLOVENIA

Yugoslav tanks, troops and aircraft have swept into the small republic of Slovenia, 48 hours after it declared independence.

Federal forces moved to seize control of border crossing points with Italy, Austria and Hungary and launched an assault on the airport near the province's capital, Ljubljana.

More government tanks rolled into a town in neighbouring Croatia, which is also seeking independence. At least seven people have died and 100 have been reported injured in the clashes so far.

The Slovene administration has rejected a call by the Yugoslav prime minister for a three-month truce to allow negotiations to take place, demanding troops be withdrawn first.

Road access to the capital has been blocked by police and paramilitary forces from the self-declared state. The government in Ljubljana said they had seized or destroyed 15 tanks and shot down six helicopters.

"There is war in Slovenia - there are conflicts in at least 20 places," said Defence Minister Janez Jansa.

The British Government condemned the use of force in the country and called for dialogue between the two sides.

But a spokesman for the Yugoslav defence ministry warned the federal army would "carry out its obligations to the end, regardless of the type of resistance".

A message from the military commander of the district, General Konrad Kolsek, to Ljubljana stated clearly his mission was to re-establish federal control over the province.

"The order will be executed unconditionally - we shall proceed according to the rules of combat... All resistance will be broken," it said.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Communist Yugoslavia was formed by Marshall Tito in 1945.

He dealt with nationalist aspirations by creating a federation of six republics: Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Macedonia.

But ethnic tensions were never far from the surface. Although the federation held together for 10 years after Tito's death in 1980, it fell apart rapidly after Slovenia's declaration of independence.

Croatia and Bosnia followed soon after, but at the cost of a renewed battle with the Serbs - who wanted to build a greater Serbia.

A bitter conflict developed, characterised by huge numbers of refugees, ethnic hatred and atrocities committed by all sides.

An uneasy peace was only achieved in December 1995 with the Dayton Accord.

The state union of Serbia and Montenegro was all that remained of the federation of six republics that made up former Yugoslavia - but in a referendum on 21 May 2006, Montenegro narrowly voted for independence from Serbia.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Better keep a box of tissues handy, because you're about to become unusually sentimental. Nostalgic, even. And maybe in the mood to reminisce. No, that's not at all like you, but that won't matter.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21

If anyone can mingle, it's you. You can chat with anyone about anything, mostly because you know just enough about almost anything to carry on a convincing conversation.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Enough is enough. It's time to break your routine in a very big way. You're thinking that even if you have to look elsewhere, it might be worth it - and 'elsewhere' might mean another city, state, coast...

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22

Throughout your life, pleasing the one you love has always been at the very top of your priority list, but you need to find some time for yourself now. There's a personal matter that you really need to tend to.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21

You've always been drawn to strong, fiery people - the kind who make exciting company because you're never quite sure what they might say or do next. Just that type - your type - could be along shortly.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18

So when what you're thinking emerges immediately from your mouth, you won't be all that upset about it. If you're not careful, however, your audience may need some consolation. But you'll be careful - right?

Taurus April 20-May 20

If you're single, you're due for quite the bumpy ride, as Bette Davis once said. The last person on earth you'd ever have expected to reveal secret feelings to you will be the first one who'll do it.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22

You're ordinarily far more concerned with home and family matters than with anything that involves your 'outer life,' but right about now, you really will be thinking about only one thing...

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Life is working out just fine at the moment, and you're ready to celebrate. Now, when things go along this well, it's usually because two particular categories are as close to perfect as possible.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

It's time to stand up for yourself, but this has never been something you've shied away from. Right about now, though, you'll be more determined than ever to ensure that no one takes advantage of you.

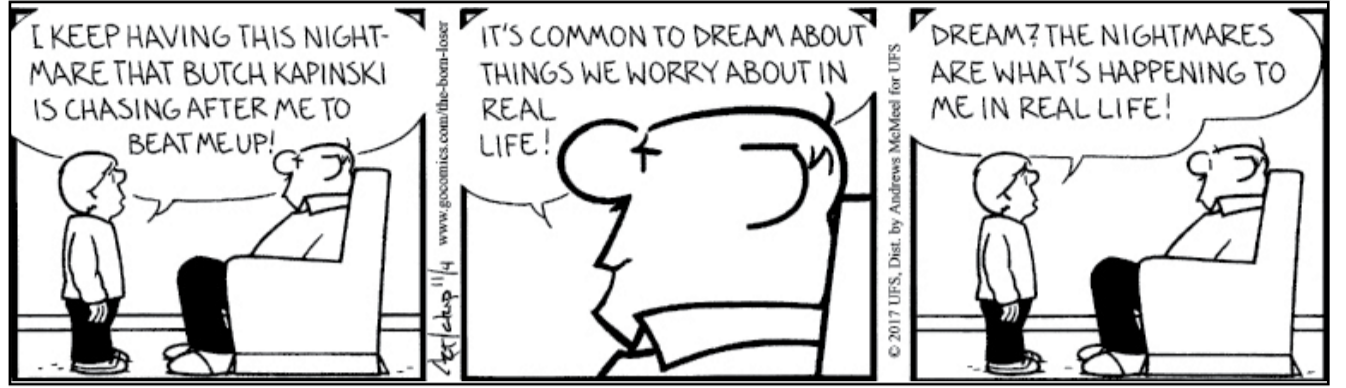
Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Seeing your family members in this type of mood is a rare occurrence. They're fiery, assertive and willing to say anything that crosses their minds - except for the subject of exactly what they're up to.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20

Every now and then, we all need to spend some time alone and think about what's really important to us. You'll want to take that time now, and you really shouldn't let anyone convince you otherwise.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION

CHINA

Table listing weather conditions for various Chinese cities like Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, etc.

WORLD

Table listing weather conditions for world cities like Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Fresh-water fish; 5- Quotes; 10- Sunscreen ingredient; 14- Shower; 15- Gay; 16- Assist; 17- Smell; 18- A Judd; 19- Outback hoppers; 20- Conductor Solti; 22- Attention; 24- Seltzer; 27- Numbered rds.; 28- Nib; 32- Locations; 36- Devoured; 37- Doled (out); 39- Silly; 40- RR stops; 42- Female fox; 44- Exultation; 45- Loathes; 47- Slender boat; 49- Mischievous fairy; 50- Gray; 51- Indirect; 53- Dulls; 56- Nothing more than; 57- Actual elapsed period; 61- Horse opera; 65- Dedicated to the Love; 66- Challenges; 69- Use a surgical beam; 70- Ripped; 71- Roomy dress cut; 72- Trampled; 73- Thick-soled shoe; 74- Vehicles with runners; 75- Pianist Myra;

DOWN: 1- Bummer; 2- River in central Switzerland; 3- Later; 4- Snare; 5- 100 yrs.; 6- One million; 7- Horn sound; 8- Bugs bugs him; 9- Person of exceptional holiness; 10- Phraseology; 11- Long time; 12- Voting group; 13- Basilica area; 21- Grab, slangily; 23- Lucie's dad; 25- Capital of the Ukraine; 26- Caper; 28- Turkish title; 29- Kett and James; 30- Opposite of o'er; 31- State not to "mess with"; 33- Actress Shire; 34- Foe; 35- Oozes; 38- Strong blue cotton fabric; 41- Young plant; 43- Lymph; 46- Bad mood; 48- Eiel Saarenin's son; 52- Affluence; 54- King with a golden touch; 55- Little; 57- Univ. recruiting group; 58- Hydroxyl compound; 59- Dynamic beginning; 60- Buffalo's lake; 62- Shipping deduction; 63- Those, to Juan; 64- Some wines; 67- Call off; 68- French possessive;



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
IACM 28 387 333
Tourism 28 333 000
Airport 59 888 88



Real estate advertisement for JML Property, featuring 'FOR SALE' and 'FOR RENT' sections with details for various properties in Macau and Taipa.



ANALYSIS | WORLD CUP 2018

Video refereeing a boon and a bust

John Leicester
AP Sports Columnist

As must have been the case with the first glimmers of electric lights in the 19th century, video assistant referees benefited from an initial “Wow! The technology works!” buzz when they first plugged themselves in at this World Cup. Many observers were quickly won over, like wide-eyed kids switching on new gizmos.

But the VAR system’s pernicious impact is apparent, too. Instead of the referees’ uniform the screen-watchers theatrically wear as they scrutinize the action and replays in FIFA’s self-important “VAR Room” (sounds like “War Room,” get it?), they should wear aprons. Because their introduction is dirtying fundamental charms of the game that long managed perfectly well without them.

The clear and simple spectacle of football — 22 players regulated by a small team of on-pitch officials whose decisions, right or wrong, had the merit of being easy to see — is losing that sharpness in a VAR fog.

Why are referees using video assistance in some instances and not in others? It isn’t crystal clear. What exactly are the video officials, from their room in Moscow, saying into the earpieces of referees at the stadiums? Also unclear, because tournament organizer FIFA isn’t airing the exchanges. And why, oh why, with referees and assistants on the field, four pairs of VAR eyes, banks of screens and super-slow replays at their disposal, are officials still making mistakes? Perhaps fewer of them, but mistakes

nonetheless. That last question is simple: Because they are human.

Their fallibility was easier to accept before VAR. Until now, football imposed the idea of human imperfection on players and fans. The sport’s unwritten pact was that it is a fast-moving game inherently riddled with opportunities for refereeing mistakes. That also made it a useful channel for broader lessons about life and its imperfections. Can’t swallow that? Try curling or some other genteel and insipid pastime.

Until now, football imposed the idea of human imperfection on players and fans.

That is why, in football, referees’ decisions are final: So they still have absolute authority even when they get things wrong, as they always will. The addition of the VAR system, however, undermines that philosophy, because it peddles the idea that technology might move refereeing closer to perfection.

Now, when errors still slip through and beat the system, more people are made to look bad and the mistakes are harder to forgive than when they were committed without technology by a smaller group of officials. Previously, you might

have bad-mouthed referees’ blunders but, if you were reasonable, you also were more likely, in your heart of hearts, to have understood how they could happen. But with VAR, well, what’s the excuse?

VAR has prevented some injustices at the World Cup. Arguably the best example is the penalty that Dutch referee Bjorn Kuipers awarded to Neymar against Costa Rica but then took away after seeing on video that Brazil’s star flopped and wasn’t fouled. Sparingly employed, VAR hasn’t rendered matches as choppy as the replay delays in American football. But short pauses while referees consult pitch-side monitors do feel intrusive in what used to be a more seamless game.

On the occasions when VAR failed, inexplicably missing fouls, intervening in borderline calls or being used unevenly, the sense of injustice is aggravated because the technology has further lowered tolerance for mistakes among players, coaches and fans. With VAR has come the quickly tiresome sight of players and coaches now regularly haranguing officials by drawing a TV-shaped square in the air with their fingers, pushing for VAR’s intervention. It’s not pretty.

Better communication on VAR’s use and non-use would help. Serbian football association Vice President Savo Milošević fumed “What are [those] guys doing up there?” after German referee Felix Brych didn’t use video to review a WWE-style takedown of Serbia striker Aleksandar Mitrović by Switzerland defenders Stephan Lichtsteiner and Fabian Schär.

Carlos Queiroz, the experienced Portuguese coach of Iran, also had a point with his furious complaints about opaque VAR decision-making after contentious calls in a 1-1 draw with Portugal, including a debatable penalty for Cristiano Ronaldo and, inexplicably, no red card for the Portuguese star when he put an elbow to the face of Iranian defender Morteza Pournajafi.

“Who is making the decisions? We have a right to know. The people need to know,” Queiroz said. “There is no room for human mistakes. Human mistakes was before, we accept that, that was part of the game. Players make mistakes and referees make mistakes. But now you have one system that costs a fortune — a fortune. High technology, five, six people inside, whatever, nobody takes responsibilities. The referees on the pitch, they are [...] washing their hands. They cover themselves with decisions because the guys are upstairs. The guys upstairs they don’t know exactly what they

should do. Stop it.”

Retired English Premier League, Champions League and international referee Graham Barber says that if he was still officiating, he’d rather not have VAR. Watching the World Cup from his home in Spain, his impression has been that tournament referees now seem more liable to second-guess themselves and that VAR is “just transferring somebody’s opinion from the field of play to someone who is watching on a TV screen.”

“The referees have almost abdicated making a decision,” he said in a phone interview.

Barber also says VAR is overkill, “a little bit sledgehammer and nut,” because before its introduction top referees were getting the vast majority of big decisions right.

“Football is not matter of fact,” he said. “Show me somebody that goes to work and sometimes doesn’t have an off day.”

With time, VAR wrinkles will continue to be ironed out. If VAR modifies players’ behavior, dissuading divers and penalty-box wrestlers, that will be welcome.

But the game and people are messy. Hopefully, we’ll always be accepting and understanding of that.

LATEST RESULTS

| | | | |
|----------------|---|---|-------------|
| Nigeria | 2 | 0 | Iceland |
| Brazil | 2 | 0 | Costa Rica |
| Serbia | 1 | 2 | Switzerland |
| Germany | 2 | 1 | Sweden |
| Korea Republic | 1 | 2 | Mexico |
| Belgium | 5 | 2 | Tunisia |
| England | 6 | 1 | Panama |
| Poland | 0 | 3 | Colombia |
| Japan | 2 | 2 | Senegal |
| Uruguay | 3 | 0 | Russia |
| Saudi Arabia | 2 | 1 | Egypt |
| Iran | 1 | 1 | Portugal |
| Spain | 2 | 2 | Morocco |
| Denmark | 0 | 0 | France |
| Australia | 0 | 2 | Peru |



WORLD CUP 2018

Australia out, Peru leaves on high note

ALREADY-eliminated Peru ended Australia's hopes of advancing to the knockout round at the World Cup with a 2-0 victory yesterday.

The Australians had to beat Peru and hope Denmark lost to France in the other Group C match, but neither result happened. France and Denmark drew 0-0 in Moscow.

Andre Carrillo's 18th-minute goal — a half-volley from inside the area — was Peru's first in a World Cup since 1982, the last time the South Americans played in the tournament. Peru hadn't won a World Cup match since defeating Iran in 1978.

Peru captain Paolo Guerrero, who almost missed the tournament because of a doping suspension, scored the other goal in the 50th with a left-footed strike after getting to a loose ball inside the area.

vily outnumbered the Aussies, took advantage of their chances and gave their team an honorable finish after two opening losses.

The whole squad saluted the boisterous Peruvian fans after the match, spending several moments near their sections in the stands.

Australia's best chance to score came in the 27th minute when Tom Rogic made a run through the Peru defense and had his shot saved by goalkeeper Pedro Gallese.

Peru almost added its third goal when Edison Flores' shot hit the post following a fast breakaway. **AP**

France and Denmark drew 0-0 in Moscow

Australia striker Tim Cahill, a 38-year-old veteran who entered the match in the second half, had a chance to become only the fifth player to score in four World Cups, joining Pele, Uwe Seeler, Miroslav Klose and Cristiano Ronaldo. But he had few chances after entering the match in the 53rd minute.

Australia needed the victory to reach the round of 16 for the first time since 2006 but it had a slow start at Fisht Stadium, unable to get near the opposing area. The Peruvians, boosted by a loud crowd that hea-

PREVIEW

Bitter loss to Germany made Sweden 'stronger,' coach says

A last-minute loss to Germany was difficult enough for Sweden to accept. A questionable celebration by German players near the Swedish bench added to the disappointment. And a wave of racist abuse aimed at midfielder Jimmy Durmaz followed on social media.

The Swedish team has gone through some turbulent times at the World Cup, but coach Janne Andersson and captain Andreas Granqvist said the players have moved from bitter feelings they had and are ready for their final Group F game against Mexico in Yekaterinburg today [10 p.m. Macau time].

"We showed on Saturday we were able to match the reigning champions all the way to the end with the exception of the final 10 seconds," Andersson said through a translator in his team's pre-match news conference on Tuesday. "That match made us stronger, more confident.

"We're coming into tomorrow's game expecting that we can do a performance at the top level we've already showed on several occasions. We will do everything to win tomorrow. From that perspective, mentally, we're very, very strong. We believe in what we do."

In its first World Cup since 2006, Sweden beat South Korea 1-0 before the 2-1 loss to Germany.

"We were incredibly disa-



appointed after the match," Granqvist said. "But we're very well prepared for the match tomorrow against Mexico. We're going to do everything in our power to get a result that we need." Sweden still has a chance to advance to the knockout rounds.

Mexico leads the group with six points but isn't safe yet. If Germany defeats South Korea in Kazan and Sweden simultaneously tops Mexico, three teams would finish with six points, sending it to tiebreakers that start with the best goal differential.

Andersson said he was "saddened" by comments on social media, including by some senior members of the football association, that were abusive toward Durmaz. The player, who was born in Sweden to ethnic Assyrian parents who emigrated from

Turkey, came on as a substitute on Saturday before giving away the free kick that led to Germany's winner in the injury time.

The team and Durmaz issued a joint statement condemning the abuse.

"It's important that we're able to move on after that," Andersson said. "We don't need to discuss it any further. I believe it's important to help each other, to support each other in football."

Said Granqvist said the team reacted well to the incident. "We're a very tight squad. We stick together, we fight together. We do everything for each other on and off the pitch."

Granqvist said the German team apologized for the players' celebration. Andersson called it "unsportsmanlike behavior" that has no place on the pitch. **AP**

| Group A | PL | W | DRAW | L | GF-GA | PNT |
|--------------|----|---|------|---|-------|-----|
| Uruguay | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 5-0 | 9 Q |
| Russia | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 8-4 | 6 Q |
| Saudi Arabia | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2-7 | 3 |
| Egypt | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2-6 | 0 |

| Group E | PL | W | DRAW | L | GF-GA | PNT |
|-------------|----|---|------|---|-------|-----|
| Brazil | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3-1 | 4 |
| Switzerland | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3-2 | 4 |
| Serbia | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2-2 | 3 |
| Costa Rica | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0-3 | 0 |

| Group B | PL | W | DRAW | L | GF-GA | PNT |
|----------|----|---|------|---|-------|-----|
| Spain | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 6-5 | 5 Q |
| Portugal | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 5-4 | 5 Q |
| Iran | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2-2 | 4 |
| Morocco | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2-4 | 1 |

| Group F | PL | W | DRAW | L | GF-GA | PNT |
|----------------|----|---|------|---|-------|-----|
| Mexico | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3-1 | 6 |
| Germany | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2-2 | 3 |
| Sweden | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2-2 | 3 |
| Korea Republic | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1-3 | 0 |

| Group C | PL | W | DRAW | L | GF-GA | PNT |
|-----------|----|---|------|---|-------|-----|
| France | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 3-1 | 7 Q |
| Denmark | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2-1 | 5 Q |
| Peru | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2-2 | 3 |
| Australia | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2-5 | 1 |

| Group G | PL | W | DRAW | L | GF-GA | PNT |
|---------|----|---|------|---|-------|-----|
| England | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 8-2 | 6 Q |
| Belgium | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 8-2 | 6 Q |
| Tunisia | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3-7 | 0 |
| Panama | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1-9 | 0 |

| Group D | PL | W | DRAW | L | GF-GA | PNT |
|-----------|----|---|------|---|-------|-----|
| Croatia | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5-0 | 6 Q |
| Nigeria | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2-2 | 3 |
| Iceland | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1-3 | 1 |
| Argentina | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1-4 | 1 |

| Group H | PL | W | DRAW | L | GF-GA | PNT |
|----------|----|---|------|---|-------|-----|
| Japan | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4-3 | 4 |
| Senegal | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4-3 | 4 |
| Colombia | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4-2 | 3 |
| Poland | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1-5 | 0 |

opinion

Animal Farm
 Albano Martins



INFLATION, WHERE ARE YOU, WHERE SHOULD YOU BE AND WHERE ARE YOU GOING!

When we talk about inflation in Macau, we enter the virtual world of estimating an indicator supposed to measure the increase in the cost of living.

Such an indicator is calculated on a basket of goods as measured during the year immediately preceding the application of the new basket which is constructed to reflect the structure of household expenditure over the next five years. This is currently being done!

In Macau, the last two family budget surveys - now once every five years - came into force in October 2009 and October 2014.

The next basket of goods will be the basis for price indexes from October 2019, and the respective surveys will be conducted between 2018 and 2019.

These surveys are very important because if the information is distorted, the weight of each component in the basket will also be distorted, influencing the final calculation of inflation.

This composition currently comprises 11 components and in the last survey "food and non-alcoholic beverages" was weighted at 29.62 percent of the basket and "housing and fuel" at 27.76 percent. These are the two largest components of the family budget!

All others have a single-digit weight; "transportation" being the next at 9.75 percent!

Curiously, and despite the steady increases in the value of real estate and rentals actually felt by the community, in our basket, rental expenses have been steadily declining for years.

Well, there may be a lag, but there should be no exaggeration!

Since rents are nothing more than the interest applied to a value which is the market value of the property, and since the interest rates that apply must be much higher than the passive rates of term deposits, then, as the value of capital increases, interest, or the price of the rents, should rise, as indeed has been the case.

But not in our statistics! And as its weight is significant, inflation is currently heavily underestimated!

I never understood exactly what "house" our statisticians are referring to in their estimation of housing rental values! Nothing is done without investment and without personnel!

Now, for the first time in many years, in May housing rentals began to register an average change over the last twelve months towards the positive. An enormity, in the vicinity of 0.02 percent!

Residential property owners are now starting not to lose money, though not even the local banks pay so poorly!

Let's do some calculations. Knowing that inflation for May sat at 1.96 percent, my bet for June will be between 2.11 and 2.13 percentage points. By the 21st of next month, DSEC should report the outcome of its survey. But while we are still less than half way through this challenge, I dare forecast that by the end of the year Macau's inflation could worsen to the range of 2.72 to 3.27 percent! And, if I should err, believe me, it will be at the upper limit, as the rents seem to be waking up the statistics in Macau!

Do not be surprised, inflation here is well-behaved; it will not exceed three percent nor shall it be a candidate for the crime of qualified disobedience! It shall not wander from the sidewalk!

Curiously, the EIU revised its forecast, made public in Macau in March, from 2.2 to 2.7 percent by the end of this year, stating that Macau's inflation will be more than double that of the year past.

Great news!
 But where was it that I saw this written?

THE TRUMP DENIES HE'S TO BLAME FOR HARLEY-DAVIDSON DECISION

President Donald Trump is denying that his trade policy is responsible for Harley-Davidson's decision to shift some motorcycle production overseas.

The company says it's doing so because of tariffs it's facing in a trade dispute between the U.S. and the European Union. But Trump says that's an excuse.

Trump says in tweets yesterday that the company had already announced it was closing a

Kansas City plant. Union officials have said those jobs are going to Thailand. Harley-Davidson has denied that.

Says Trump: "That was long before Tariffs were announced. Hence, they were just using Tariffs/Trade War as an excuse. Shows how unbalanced & unfair trade is, but we will fix it." Trump says he's getting other countries to reduce and eliminate tariffs and trade barriers, and open up markets.

These are the world's most expensive cities for expats

HONG Kong is the world's most expensive city for expatriates, according to an annual cost of living report produced by consultancy Mercer.

The finance hub tops an Asia-dominated list with Tokyo in second place, Singapore fourth, Seoul fifth, Shanghai seventh and Beijing in ninth place. Outside of Asia, European and African cities were among the priciest cities for employees. Zurich ranked third and Luanda came in sixth.

Currency fluctuations are the dominant reason for Asia topping the list - Hong Kong took pole position from Luanda, reflecting the fall in Angola's currency. China's economic growth and efforts to make the yuan an international currency have pushed Chinese cities up the rankings.

"Stronger Chinese monetary regulation, a flourishing economy and a push to have the Chinese Yuan as an international currency pushed Chinese cities up in the ranking," noted a press release from the firm. "However, significant surges in other locations worldwide caused Japanese cities, Osaka and Nagoya in particular, to fall in this year's ranking."

"Asia's cities, especially Chinese cities, have shown



strong performance in terms of cost of living rankings, mainly due to currency fluctuations. Companies are moving top talent around the globe in response to skills shortages," Mario Ferraro, Mercer's Global Mobility Practice Leader for Asia, Middle East, Africa and Turkey, said in a release.

Meanwhile, Australian cities fell in this year's ranking, with Brisbane (84), Perth (61) and Melbourne (58) falling 13, 11 and 12 spots respectively, while Sydney, Australia's most expensive ranked city for expatriates, experienced a relatively moderate drop of five places to 29th.

Overall, Western European cities have risen in

the rankings, a result of strong local currencies against the US dollar and the cost of goods and services. In particular, cities in Germany experienced some of this year's biggest surges in the ranking, while those in the UK also climbed several places, led by London which jumped 10 spots to rank 19.

Mercer uses New York as the base city for all comparisons and measures currency moves against the dollar. The 2018 survey ranked 209 cities across five continents, measuring the comparative cost of more than 200 items in each location including housing, transportation, food and clothing, according to Mercer. **MDT/Bloomberg**

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



Bamboo birthday. Giant panda Jianjian enjoys lunch in Macau, celebrating his second birthday yesterday, along with twin brother Kangkang.

| Station | Air quality |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Roadside | 20-40 Good |
| High Density Residential Area | 20-40 Good |
| Ambient | 20-40 Good |

WORLD BRIEFS



SYRIA Jordan's foreign minister says his country's border with Syria will remain closed, as thousands of people in southern Syria flee a government offensive.

TURKEY's state-run news agency says authorities have issued initial detention warrants for 138 people, including military personnel, for suspected links to a network led by a U.S.-based cleric who Turkey accuses of orchestrating a 2016 failed coup attempt.



ITALY-MALTA A German aid ship carrying more than 200 migrants headed toward Malta after Italy agreed yesterday to take in some of the passengers, ending Europe's second impasse this month over the people rescued off Libya's coast by private humanitarian groups.

SPAIN Catalonia's new separatist chief plans to deliver one message to Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez in their highly-anticipated meeting next month: an authorized ballot over Catalan secession is the only solution to the country's worst political crisis in decades.



ARGENTINA A strike led by Argentina's largest union confederation has shut down much of the country's capital. There has been widespread discontent over continuing high inflation, sharp rises in utility bills, layoffs of public workers and a cap on pay raises.

VENEZUELA A collapsing water system is prompting families in wealthy enclaves of Venezuela's capital to drill illegal wells so they can flush and wash without thinking twice.