



SLIGHT INCREASE IN CRIME

A total of 7,116 criminal cases were registered in the first half of 2018, slightly more than in the previous year

P2



GRAND PRIX FUN RUN TO HOST 2,000 PARTICIPANTS

P7



HONG KONG DEFENDS CURRENCY PEG AGAIN

With its currency declining versus the USD, HK intervened to defend its currency peg for the fourth day this month

P8

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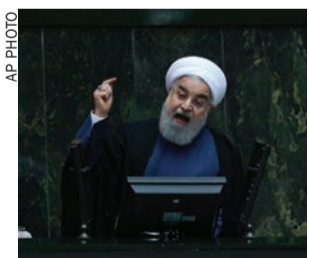
Vietnam's government stated its concerns to Ukraine over plastic globes being sold in the country that showed the Vietnamese province of Quang Ninh as Chinese territory.



JAPAN needs to bolster its missile defenses and its alliance with the United States, its government stressed yesterday in an annual defense review that judged North Korea to still be a serious threat. More on p12

MALAYSIA Lawyers for two Chilean tourists who could face death sentences if convicted of killing a man in Malaysia say the duo acted in self-defense and should be acquitted.

INDONESIA Police in the Indonesian part of Borneo island have arrested more than a dozen people suspected of starting forest fires that have killed four people in the past month. More on p12



IRAN President Hassan Rouhani failed to convince parliament yesterday that his plans will pull the country out of an economic nosedive worsened by America's withdrawal from the nuclear deal, further isolating his relatively moderate administration amid nationwide anger.

More on backpage

CAPITAL AIRLINES

Macau flight makes emergency landing

P3

BLOOMBERG



UN warns: China's African swine fever outbreak could cross borders

P11



Association launches Greater Bay Area projects

The Greater Bay Area Development council of the Macau Chinese Enterprises Association has launched 10 projects involving cross-region financing, transportation facilities and environmental protection. The list of projects includes: the Guangdong Macau development fund, which has already been launched; the comprehensive treatment basement for junk vehicles in Guangdong province (the project has been completed by Nam Yue Group); the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge's shuttle bus project; the co-operation development fund; e-pocket; the Zhuhai Macau trade co-operation platform; the Greater Bay Area's construction industrial basement; Greater Bay Area credit card (one from BOC, another from ICBC); the Hong Wan logistics garden; and the China mobile Greater Bay Area card.

Shen Beili appointed as new Chinese Commissioner

Shen Beili has been appointed the commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China in Macau. The State Council issued a statement yesterday announcing the appointment. Shen Beili is the former Deputy Minister of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC). She has been serving within the International Department of the Central Committee of CPC since 1985. She was also the former Deputy ambassador of China to UK. She graduated from the University of Sussex.

CityU promotes multilateral cooperation in Guangdong

The City University of Macau (CityU) is promoting communication between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries, with such promotion taking place in Guangdong province. The Rector of CityU, Zhang Shuguang, said that the University is working with Zhongshan, Zhuhai, Dongguan and other cities in Guangdong to promote communication. The promotion is being done through the establishment of trade and cultural exchange platforms involving the abovementioned countries. In addition, CityU is cooperating with these cities in transferring knowledge and innovation. Currently, around 10 CityU students are enrolled in internships in the Greater Bay Area.

Slight increase in crime during first half of 2018

RENATO MARQUES



Julie Zhu

THE Macau police force fielded a total of 7,116 criminal cases in the first half of 2018, 191 more compared to the same period of 2017 (a 2.8 percent increase), the Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak reported at a press conference yesterday.

Some 298 violent crime cases were registered, a drop of 24.7 percent (396 cases) from last year.

Some 429 illegal immigrants

were listed in 2017, down 29.9 percent year-on-year. Of those, 336 were from mainland China and 84 were from Vietnam.

Six hundred and fifty people overstayed their Individual Visit permits in Macau, while 309 people overstayed on other mainland travel visas.

The crime of usury registered a significant growth (261 cases representing a 41.1 percent expansion).

Of the total, 144 cases were related to illegal imprison-

ment, representing a decrease of 37.7 percent.

According to the authorities, murder, kidnap and aggravated assault continue to see low numbers.

In the first quarter of this year, 3,112 people were arrested and forwarded to prosecution, a decrease of 488 people, or 13.3 percent, compared to the same period last year.

There were 514 cases of deception in the first half of this year, 83 more cases than the same period of 2017.

There were 1,357 cases of illegal appropriation, 532 cases more than the same period in 2017 (825 cases).

Of those, in 717 cases, residents or tourists lost their belongings inside taxis, which represents a remarkable 113.4 percent increase.

Regarding juvenile delinquency, 28 cases were reported, seven fewer than last year; 50 individuals involved were minors, 28 more than last year.

In the first half of 2018, the police force recorded 2,209 taxi infractions. This is 982 cases more than last year, representing a 42.2 percent growth.

The infractions include 2,058 cases (62.2 percent) of overcharging and 757 cases (22.9 percent) of taxi drivers refusing to accept passengers.

There were 494 infractions relating to other matters.

Compared to the same period in 2017, the police force recorded 86 more cases involving unauthorized taxis.

In the first half of 2018, 86 cases involving fake marriage were registered.

The police authority also recorded 17 cases of fraud concerning employment quota; there were 55 suspects involved in this category of crime.

In addition, the Judiciary Police filed 840 cases involving the gaming industry, representing a 3.3 percent decrease compared to the same period in 2017 (869 cases).

Logistics industry concerned about HKZMB logistics arrangement

THE Macau logistics industry is skeptical about the benefits the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HKZMB) will bring to their sector.

Earlier, the Customs Service announced that the local government would build big-scale logistics facilities on the artificial island of the HKZMB linking to Macau. The project is still yet to go to public tender for its design and construction.

Kou Kun Pang, the chairman of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport, told TDM that the new facility should include a

frozen foods warehouse for food exports and imports.

"Trucks aren't allowed to enter directly into Macau via the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge. So the products have to be driven further before reaching their final destination. Nobody wants their products to be stuck in the center for too long and they want them to be transferred once they arrive to Macau. How do we ensure that?" he asked. Kou also argued that it is of crucial importance to set up a onestop service that speeds up customs clearance, food safety inspections and cross



border delivery.

Victor Lei, managing director of International Logistics and Forwarding Association of Macau, said he does not have any expectations about the bridge's logistics arrangement, nor does he know anything about it.

"The handling of products and passengers is mixed on the bridge.

How do we separate this? Aren't we going to get sidestepped? We don't get any updates because they never release any information after holding the so called closed-door meetings."

In the past, the government said that the cross-border industrial zone would be an "unusual port", and also claimed that the Hengqin port

would be available 24 hours daily for the logistics industry.

In Lei's opinion, both the cross-border industrial zone and the Hengqin Port have disappointed the logistics industry.

Regarding the HKZMB, it has been joked by the logistics industry to either be a Hong Kong-Zhuhai bridge or a Hong Kong-Macau bridge, since there is not a specific Zhuhai-Macau logistics channel.

Lei also believes that the bridge will not help to integrate Macau's logistics industry into the Greater Bay Area's development.

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Capital Airlines flight to Macau diverted to Shenzhen

FLIGHT JD5759, operated by Capital Airlines, which was en route from Beijing to Macau, was forced to divert to and land in Shenzhen airport yesterday, where it landed at 11:58 a.m.

According to Xinhua news agency, five passengers were injured when the Chinese flight was forced to divert to the alternate airport due to landing gear problems, authorities said yesterday.

The Shenzhen airport closed down a runway for three hours and warned that there could be flight delays. Two wheels were missing from the jet after it landed.

The aircraft was carrying 166 people; 157 passengers and nine cabin crew.

“On August 28th, Capital Airlines JD5759 Beijing-Macau flight took off from Beijing Capital Airport at 8:17 a.m. When it was trying to land at the Macau airport, it was suspected that the aircraft encountered a wind shear. The crew then assessed possible damages in the landing gear, which immediately led the crew to start emergency procedures and land in the Shenzhen airport

instead,” Capital Airlines said in a statement on its official Weibo account.

“The Civil Aviation Authority (AACM) was informed by Airport Operations Department this morning that at about 11:16 on 28 August in the Macau International Airport (MIA), an aircraft of Beijing Capital Airlines JD5759 from Beijing to Macau carrying 157 passengers encountered technical issues at its final approach to land at Macau International Airport resulting go-around,” Civil Aviation Authority said in a statement.

“Macau International Airport immediately declared an emergency and activated the airport emergency operations center, the Fire Services arrived on spot to standby. The flight was finally diverted and landed in Shenzhen International Airport. Macau International Airport has deactivated the emergency. The cause of the incident is still under investigation. The Civil Aviation Authority (AACM) is investigating the incident case with the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC),” AACM said.



WEIBO

Capital Airlines is one of the subsidiaries of China's HNA group.

In July of 2017, Beijing Capital Airlines held an inauguration ceremony at MIA to launch its new routes, Beijing-Macau-Lisbon and Lisbon-Beijing-Macau. However, after a period of operations which lasted a little over one year, Capital Airlines announced it would suspend the route.

Earlier this month, Capital Airlines confirmed that the suspension of the aforementioned routes will occur between October 15 and March of 2019, according to the Lusa Agency.

Hac Sa Beach experiences periodic loss of sand

A component of the Hac Sa Beach swimming zone has been experiencing a periodic loss of sand, according to the information released by the Marine and Water Bureau. Due to the continuous loss of sand, some rocks have surfaced. The marine authority is calling on residents and tourists to pay close attention when near the beach. The marine authority also reported that the water quality monitoring at both Hac Sa and Cheoc Van beaches have indicated that the water quality is normal.

Rickshaw drivers complain about hidden subsidies

The Macao Pedicab Drivers Union has been accused of hiding subsidies given to pedicab drivers, which were granted by the SAR government. Yesterday, some of the city's pedicab drivers put out banners in front of the Lisboa casino, calling on the union to reveal the whereabouts of the subsidies. According to the drivers, most of whom are aged between 60 and 70 years old, starting from 2011, the city's Government Tourism Office (MGTO) has been giving the Union between MOP60,000 and MOP70,000 on a monthly basis, which was expected to be passed on to drivers as a subsidy. The money consists of subsidies for pedicab drivers under a Pedicab promotion activity between the union itself and the MGTO.

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PJ to be enforcement agency for cases of national security

THE National Security Law has been scheduled to go to the Legislative Assembly by the end of this year, according to the Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak.

“Currently, PJ is preparing for the establishment of the anti-terrorism division. Regarding the law enforcement agency for national security matters, [the security authority] is currently listening to the opinions of the Legal Affairs Bureau and the Public Administrative and Civil Service Bureau [SAFP],” said Wong. “I hope to push forward the legislation as soon as possible.”

“Members of [the] law enforcement agency for national security will be selected among those experienced and well-performing police officers,” said Wong. The security force is also establishing a cyber security alert center. According to the Secretary, the PJ will increase the number of police officers in preparation of the establishment of the center.

Earlier this week, the Chief Executive Council announced that the Chief Executive and a contingent of leaders from the security



Wong Sio Chak (center)

sector will form the region's future National Security Defense Commission.

Yesterday, Wong also made comments regarding CDSE: “The commission is not the law enforcement agency, it is the decision-making

department. PJ is the law enforcement agency.” Wong also said that the PJ's restructure involving the national security department “must be regulated through legal methods, and must be discussed by the Legislative Assembly.” **JZ**

IC Tang Mei Lin to undergo disciplinary investigation

THE Cultural Affairs Bureau has announced it will initiate disciplinary actions against Tang Mei Lin, head of the Public Library Management Department.

Earlier in May, the Commission of Audit (CA) slammed the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) for its management of the acquisition of books and publications for public libraries.

During inspections between March and December of 2017, it was determined that there were around 100,000 items registered that were not filed or made available to library users. According to the CA, this had been the case for most of the items for over five years, with some items being left in boxes for 17 years.

In terms of the process for buying new books, the CA noted that it took eight and a half years for the IC to establish and approve a policy for the development of the book collection. However, until the conclusion of the CA probe, the

IC was unable to share the “formally approved” guidelines.

According to IC president Mok Ian Ian, the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, has already approved the initiation of the disciplinary procedure, and is now appointing an examiner to carry out the disciplinary investigation.

Once the appointment is made, the investigation will start and will be concluded within 45 days.

Mok claimed that the IC highly regards the CA's report, and that her bureau had already conducted a simple follow-up on the report.

However, the IC president admitted that there is indeed lack of management in local libraries.

Mok further claimed that the IC has been following up on reports in an orderly manner, and that the department has not delayed any such procedures.

Mok believes that the relevant work can be completed this year.

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HK prepares two new immigration checkpoints

HONG Kong's Security Bureau is set to present preparatory work in conjunction with its law-enforcement departments for two new immigration checkpoints created for a cross-border high-speed railway and a bridge linking Macau and the mainland city of Zhuhai.

Secretary for Security John Lee Ka-chiu is in Beijing with 120 law-enforcement officials for a meeting with their mainland Chinese counterparts, the South China Morning Post reported.

The delegation met Zhang Xiaoming, director of the State Council's Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office, on Sunday and the vice-premier Han Zheng at the Great Hall of the People yesterday.

Meanwhile, according to him, officials have already conducted tests and drills inside the West Kowloon station for the rail line, which is set to commence operations on September 23.

Lee said that plans for daily operations and emergency management had been mapped out, with the mainland

officers to be stationed at the terminal.

"We tested each department's system and operations with drills of different scales. We also tested their collective operations in drills engaging multiple disciplined services," he said. "The results were satisfying."

Lee also made comments regarding the rule change at its airport, which now allows the screening of passenger bags without their owners present.

Previously, a debate was held on the possibility of the government facing a legal challenge over the decision to alter the baggage rule.

According to him, the security practice was in line with international standards set by the International Civil Aviation Organization.

He added that he is confident in Hong Kong's aviation security. "Our existing aviation security procedures are similar to those exercised at international airports in various countries, and the implementation of our security program has been smooth," he said.

HERITAGE

From visitors to insiders, interns dive deep into the Forbidden City

HOLDING a small brush, Lam Hoi Ting, an architecture student from Hong Kong, carefully sweeps away dust to restore an ancient colored painting in a pavilion at the Forbidden City (Palace Museum).

Working within the architectural heritage department at the almost 600 year old palace, this is Lam's first internship since college. She focused on surveying, mapping and virtual restoration of ancient architecture.

This summer, the Forbidden City invited Lam and 47 other youngsters from Hong Kong and Macau to intern at various departments for six weeks. Taught by museum experts, students participate in antique restoration, exhibition planning, collection management, educational activities and publicity events. Home to the royal court between 1420 and 1912, the Forbidden City houses more than 1.8 million items in its collections of cultural relics.

As a lover of the Forbidden City, Li Cho Wing, an accounting graduate from Hong Kong, was among the 48 interns. Gathering materials, searching data and editing information, Li is happy that she has turned from



The Forbidden City in Beijing

The Forbidden City invited Lam and 47 other youngsters from Hong Kong and Macau to intern at various departments for six weeks

frequent visitor to becoming an insider at the ancient palace.

"Every time I look at these beautiful cultural relics or pass by the wonderful architecture, I am touched in every way and very proud," said Li, who works within the publicity and education department.

With the knowledge gained from the internship, students, especially those who come from Hong Kong, hope to help with the Hong Kong Palace Museum that is being built, which will display collections from the Palace Museum from Beijing. MDT/Xinhua

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Infrastructure growth can drive gaming revenue, says consultant



INFRASTRUCTURE growth in the SAR plays a pivotal role in the city's gaming industry even if its revenue from the VIP segment continues to be volatile, a leading corporate finance consultant in the field of gaming and hospitality has said.

David Bonnet, managing partner of Delta State Holdings, has told American television channel CNBC that he remains optimistic about the growth opportunities for the region's gaming industry.

"Infrastructure growth in China and Macau is really going to be a game-changer [in] the revenue growth in Macau, particularly with the bridge opening," said the analyst.

"Not to mention also the ramp-up of the expanded Taipa Ferry Terminal, so all these things are just good types of infrastructure and [show a] good economic outlook for Ma-

cau," he added.

Although China's president Xi Jinping initiated the anti-corruption initiatives in 2014, which scared off many high-rollers from gambling in Macau, Bonnet believes that the campaign was designed to eliminate inappropriate types of gaming from government officials.

"That by and large has kind of been [weeded] out and now you see a much [more] healthy, robust market with a mass gaming [market] representing much more of a significant portion of its overall revenue component," said Bonnet.

Although the VIP market is slightly more volatile, the analyst said that it will continue to be a part of the gaming industry's revenue segment.

"It has its ups and downs, but generally speaking, it's been around for a while now; its robust," he said.



See Lei speaking yesterday to the press

Grand Prix fun run to host 2,000 participants

THE 65th Macau Grand Prix is set to be held from November 15 to 18, featuring a series of activities for residents prior to the official race. At a press conference held yesterday, the Macau Grand Prix Organizing Committee informed that the "Guia Circuit Fun Run" will be opened to 2,000 people on November 11.

According to the organizing committee, the 6.2km run must be finished within an hour and 15 minutes.

"We will not fully block the circuit, we will not use so many driving lanes [...] we have done our research regarding how much time we need until to open the road to the public," said See Lei, head of the Macao Grand Prix and Major Sporting Events Department.

Lei told the press that the budget for this year's event remains at

MOP200 million.

Lei also said that the applications for this year's event are still open, with the finalized details to be announced in another press conference in October.

"We will then tell you which team and riders will participate in this year's race. Currently, we don't have a list of the applicants," she said.

When asked whether there is an allotted budget to ensure safety, recalling the tragic accident that occurred last year, Lei replied, "Currently, I can't give you a ratio regarding the safety budget. Safety is an important part; it is a priority when we organize the race."

"This year, we don't have any race[s] canceled," Lei added.

Other activities include a creative "65" racing-themed photo and "Grand Prix;" a themed short video collection campaign; as well as a "Grand Prix Family Carnival"

at Tap Seac Square on November 3 to 4.

Members of the public may enter the short video competition from September 3, with entries to be submitted to the organizers in the requested format by October 3. The organizers will upload the entries that best illustrate the themes of the event to the Macau Grand Prix and Macao Sports Events websites. Across social platforms, the ten entries which garner the most "likes" or votes during the month of October will win paddock access passes and tickets to this year's Grand Prix, as well as other souvenirs.

The "65th Macau Grand Prix Opening Ceremony and Auto Show", held from November 10 to 11, will showcase the participating Macau GT Cup - FIA GT World Cup and Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix racing vehicles at the Tap Seac Square. **LV**

HK Bar Association lecturers, chairman refused by Peking University

THE Council of the Hong Kong Bar Association has suspended a common law course it was running at the prestigious Peking University in the Chinese capital, after two lawyers from the course and the Bar Association's chairman were advised by the institution not to travel to the mainland.

Citing a letter from the Bar Association, Hong Kong public broadcaster Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) reported that Chairman Philip Dykes and two barristers were not given any reasons for the

rejection.

As a result of the communication breakdown between the Bar Association and Peking University, the former institution has decided to indefinitely suspend the common law course, which had been taught on a volunteer basis for years.

Dykes said that Peking University had objected to the attendance of two barristers who planned to travel to Beijing to deliver lectures at the institution.

The Bar Association chairman had planned to come to Beijing himself to attend a closing

ceremony for the course and decided to use the opportunity to confront Peking University on the matter.

However, after requesting a letter of invitation from the university in early May, he told RTHK that "a phone call from the university gave me the message that I must not come" – again without an explanation.

"We've had over six or seven years [...] and] we've had many people go up there doing courses on various topics," he said. "[This] has been a very popular course."

"But this year, we were told that the people who've been teaching the course previously for several years are no longer acceptable."

Professor Jiang Shigong of Peking University, who coordinates the course on the mainland, contests Dykes's account. Jiang says that there was no closing ceremony this year and that although Dykes was welcome to visit the institution, there was no need for him to come at this time. The university professor also said that the decision was unrelated to Dykes's political stance.



Philip Dykes

BLOOMBERG

Conventional wisdom wrong on China economic slowdown, Lardy says



THE idea that China's economic growth is slowing, leaving Beijing little option but to cave in on the trade war with the U.S. is widespread - but it might well be wrong, according to a U.S. think tank.

"The reality is that, as has been the case for the last few years, the case for China's imminent economic difficulties is overblown," Nicholas Lardy, a China expert at the Peterson Institute for International Economics in Washington

The case for China's imminent economic difficulties is overblown.

NICHOLAS LARDY

wrote in a recent note.

China's economic growth slowed to 6.7 percent, the slowest pace since 2016, in the second quarter as Beijing's campaign to cut debt began to bite. In July, major gauges showed that the world's second-largest economy was losing momentum as the trade spat with the U.S. lingered. The earliest indicators signal that the pace of expansion continued to slow in August.

But Lardy argued that the slowdown narrative might be a mis-

take, because "the conventional wisdom that fixed asset investment in China is slowing dramatically is based on faulty data, and there is no sound empirical evidence that consumption in China is weakening."

The National Bureau of Statistics is currently revising its method used to calculate fixed asset investment, which had involved "considerable double counting," and the authorities are acting to reduce it. The slowing growth of this me-

tric may overstate the case, and doesn't provide any meaningful guidance, according to Lardy.

On the consumption side, retail sales, the most widely used gauge, are becoming less useful, as it fails to fully capture Chinese spending online, and on education, health care, travel and other services, he argued. Chinese consumption is still solid, judging from a quarterly reading, which is the best data to track, according to Lardy. **Bloomberg**

Hong Kong intervenes again to defend currency peg

HONG Kong intervened to defend its currency peg for the fourth day this month, as the local dollar fell to the weak end of its trading band with the greenback.

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority bought HKD2.79 billion (USD355 million) of local dollars during New York trading hours on Monday, adding to an earlier purchase of HKD3.93 billion, according to the de facto central bank's page on Bloomberg. That took its purchases to HKD25.3 billion in August, the first month it has intervened since May. The aggregate balance of the city's banking system will drop to HKD84.2 billion today.

"The weakness is likely



driven by carry trade activities, as liquidity in Hong Kong remains ample after the previous interventions this month," said Carrie Li, Hong Kong-based economist at OCBC Wing Hang Bank Ltd. "Given Hong Kong's strong fundamentals, the market expects flush liquidity to sustain for some time. Moving to September, expectations for a wider interest-rate gap may further encourage car-

ry trade as the Fed is set to raise rates."

The city's currency was at 7.8499 per U.S. dollar as of 7:57 a.m. local time. The trading band is HKD7.75 to HKD7.85 versus the greenback. The Bloomberg Dollar Spot index was little changed. One-week Hong Kong dollar interbank borrowing costs declined to below 1 percent for the first time since Aug. 15 on Monday. **Bloomberg**

Ryanair seals historic first labor deal with Italian pilots

RYANAIR Holdings Plc signed its first-ever union contract, granting Italian pilots perks such as severance pay in a deal the airline hopes to repeat across its network to contain a protracted labor dispute.

The deal commits Ryanair to making contributions to national health care and social-security funds as well as paternity rights, the Italian pilots union ANPAC said in a statement. A "wide majority" backed the agreement after eight months of negotiations, it said.

Winning over Italian pilots should bolster Ryanair's hopes ahead of similar negotiations



with unions elsewhere in Europe, and limits the extent of any future industrial action that has already led to more than a thousand cancellations this summer. A similar so-called Collective Labor Agreement will be put to flight-deck crew in Ireland for approval after a breakthrough in negotiations last week.

"We welcome this first CLA with our Italian pilots and hope that it will be shortly followed by a similar agreement covering our Irish pilots," Ryanair Chief People Officer Eddie Wilson said in a separate statement. "We have invited our U.K., German and Spanish unions to meet with us in the coming days." **Bloomberg**

AN Angolan delegation, led by the Secretary of State for Geology and Mines, Jânio Correia Victor will be present from 29 August at the “Africa Down Under” conference, which will take place in Perth, Australia and will use the occasion to announce Angola’s new diamond policy internationally.

Accompanying Correia Victor, among other diamond sector officials, is the director for Strategic Planning and Mining Operations of Angolan national state diamond company Endiama.

Angola will also provide information on projects open to foreign investment in the diamond sector and offer up information about the new Angola Mining Code. The Angolan head of state, João Lourenço, announced last July the new Diamond Marke-

ANGOLA

New diamond policy announced

ting Policy, which ended a scheme that had preferential customers buying Angolan precious stones.

Diamond companies present in Angola will now be able to freely sell up to 60 percent of their total production.

The new Diamond Marketing Policy provides for the “restructuring of the former system of preferential customers” – which had the most advantageous conditions in the acquisition of Angolan rough diamonds – for “one more suited to the sales policy.”

The new legislation also stipu-

lates the sale by producers to customers with long-term contracts authorized by the Government and the cutters in Angola as well as the auction model for “special stones.”

During the trip to Australia Endiama will meet with representatives of Australian company Luca Diamond Mining, which already operates in Angola in the Lulo Project in the northeastern province of Lunda Norte.

A statement from Endiama said that the meeting will address the possibility of establishing new partnerships in the sector. **MDT/Macauhub**



BRAZIL

Companies from China to operate in the energy sector of Rio Grande do Sul

BRAZILIAN company Electrosul and Chinese companies Shanghai Electric and Zhejiang Energy on Monday in Porto Alegre set up a company that will build and operate the power transmission lines in the Brazilian State of Rio Grande do Sul.

Shanghai Electric owns 44 percent of the capital of the new company called SZE Transmissora de Energia Elétrica S.A. while Zhejiang Energy will hold 28.5 percent and Eletrosul 27.5 percent according to the Folha

de São Paulo newspaper.

The transmission facilities to be built in the State of Rio Grande do Sul include lines and substations intended to channel the production of future wind farms in the region. SZE Transmissora de Energia Elétrica SA is expected to build around 2,000 kilometres of power transmission lines in the Brazilian state.

The work, which must be completed by 2020, will increase the power distribution capacity of the State of Rio Grande



do Sul by 4,800 megawatts.

The lines will pass through 59 municipalities and will benefit regions such as Campanha, Centro-Oeste, Zona Sul and the Me-

tropolitan Region and are expected to create 11,000 jobs.

This is an investment estimated at 4 billion reais and will supply wind power to 1.2 million people. **MDT/Macauhub**

MOZAMBIQUE

Maputo airport certified to receive flights from any country

THE Mozambican Aviation Institute granted an operational certificate to Maputo International Airport on Monday that guarantees it upholds the international standards required for it to receive flights from any country or region.

The Minister of Transport and Communications, Carlos Mesquita said at the ceremony to award the certificate, it is important to boost the aviation sector, making it more competitive, taking into account “Mozambique’s tourism potential and diversity.”

The certificate is a document that provides a guarantee to all coun-

tries in the world that the company is within the safety standards required to receive flights coming from any part of the globe.

A team from the Civil Aviation Institute of Mozambique has been working at Maputo International Airport for three years, during which it audited accounts and renovated runways and parking bays for domestic and international flights. The Civil Aviation Institute of Mozambique now plans to certify the airports of Beira and Nampula. Until last year Mozambique was included in the European aviation blacklist.

MDT/Macauhub

corporate bits

MORPHEUS NAMED ONE OF THE ‘WORLD’S GREATEST PLACES 2018’ BY TIME MAGAZINE



Just two months after its grand opening, Morpheus Hotel has been hailed as one of the ‘World’s Greatest Places 2018’ by Time magazine, making it the only Macau entry on the list. This sought-after accolade is part of a new annual list put together from nominations by Time editors and experts around the world to recognize 100 new and emerging destinations

and locations that are breaking new ground.

To create the list, Time solicits nominations across a variety of categories, including museums, parks, bars, restaurants, theme parks, cruises and hotels, from TIME editors and correspondents around the world, as well as dozens of industry experts. The magazine evaluates each one based

on several key factors, including quality, originality, innovation, sustainability and influence. The result is a list as diverse as the world it reflects, with entries spanning six continents and 48 countries.

‘We are thrilled to receive such a prestigious accolade from TIME magazine so soon after opening,’ said Lawrence Ho, chairman and CEO at Melco Resorts & Entertainment. ‘At Melco, we continually strive to provide our guests with one-of-a-kind experiences that raise the bar in terms of luxury and design and Morpheus is the perfect expression of that vision. With Morpheus, we have solidified our position as a pioneer and innovator in premium travel, leisure and entertainment, and we are proud to help drive Macau’s reputation as the World Center of Tourism and Leisure.’

CESL ASIA HOSTS ‘KIDS MOVIE DAY’



CESL Asia hosted its “Kids Movie Day” for the eighth consecutive year. It invited four associations to join the event.

The company and its Social Investment (CSI) Team have involved over 15 local institutions in the event over the years, the com-

pany said in a statement.

These associations include the Fuhong Society of Macau, the Association of Mentally Disabled Families, the Mong Ha Children and Youth Home, and Joy Integrated Family Service Centre of Caritas Macau, together with children from the firm’s CSI Team, to make up a total of 120 participants.

The performance and interactive game show of Ronald McDonald were highlights of the event.

The CSI Team then led participants to the Planetarium at the Macao Science Center for an introduction of local company services which benefit the community, where it was explained how those services are connected with the children’s daily lives.

BLOOMBERG



Trump focus on Mexico trade dashes hope for quick China progress

Enda Curran

The Trump administration is putting trade negotiations with China on the back burner while focusing first on resolving issues in the North American hemisphere, reaching a breakthrough agreement between the U.S. and Mexico.

The White House believes it's important to resolve trade disputes in "our own neighborhood" quickly and favorably, U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross told Fox Business News yesterday. Ross said President Donald Trump's position is that it's currently not the best time for negotiations with China, denting expectations of a fast resolution.

Speaking to reporters during his announcement of the new Mexico accord, Trump said he is rejecting overtures from China to negotiate as he tries to achieve a less "one-sided" trade policy. "They want to talk," Trump said. But "it's just not the right time to talk right now, to be honest."

Trump's remarks are his latest in recent weeks to suggest he doesn't see a quick end to trade tensions with China, stoking concerns in Beijing that his actions are part of a wider plan to contain the nation's rise. Fears are growing that the spat between the world's biggest economies may spill over into geopoliti-

cal flash points, from North Korea to Taiwan.

Negotiations between the U.S. and China have been stalled since May, when Trump put a stop to a deal for China to buy more energy and agricultural goods to narrow the trade deficit. After mid-level trade talks in Washington last week ended with no agreement, a person familiar with the discussions said that Chinese officials had raised the prospect of suspending talks until after U.S. congressional elections in November.

The U.S. and Mexico agreed to replace the North American Free Trade Agreement and Trump called on Canada to join the deal soon or risk being left out. While share prices for South Korean and Japanese automakers gained amid expectations of reduced tariff risk, Mexico's peso weakened 0.4 percent against the dollar in Asian trading yesterday, paring about half its

“It's just not the right time to talk right now [with Beijing], to be honest.”

TRUMP

Monday climb.

"It could be because a dose of reality is sinking in after the initial euphoria," said Mitul Kotecha, senior emerging-markets strategist in Singapore at TD Securities. "There is still some way to go before the deal is concluded, including political hurdles in both the U.S. and Mexico and the question of how Canada will be added to a broader deal."

The Mexico breakthrough will embolden Trump's trade hawks to double down on demands for concessions from China, according to Rob Carnell and Prakash Sakpal, economists at ING Bank NV in Singapore.

"So as far as China and Asia are concerned, this new Mexico deal solves nothing," they wrote in a note. "It strengthens the U.S. position to play hard-ball with China. This doesn't look good for the region."

Because the nature of the dispute between China and the U.S. is more complex, officials in Beijing are likely of the view that it be much tougher to resolve, Amy Celico, Principal of Albright Stonebridge Group and previously Senior Director for China Affairs at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, told Bloomberg Television.

"For U.S.-China trade, it is going to be much more difficult to come to a short-term resolu-

tion, particularly if we sit back for a minute and look at some of the rhetoric coming out of this administration," Celico said. "The hawks are certainly in the ascendancy on China trade policy."

Meetings between Chinese and U.S. officials in Washington last week made little headway, setting the stage for the U.S. to push ahead with the next round of tariffs on up to USD200 billion worth of Chinese goods. Beijing has said it would retaliate.

The two days of talks led by U.S. Treasury Undersecretary for International Affairs David Malpass and Vice Commerce Minister Wang Shouwen marked the first major interaction between the two sides since June.

Trump wants to shrink a \$375 billion goods deficit with China and Beijing to unwind industrial subsidies and scale back its "Made in China 2025" plan to lead the world in industries such as artificial intelligence and robotics. So far, there's been little indication of compromise.

Still, Trump did hold the door open for an eventual resolution with China.

"It's been too one-sided for too many years, for too many decades and so it's not the right time to talk," he says, "But eventually I'm sure that we'll be able to work out a deal with China." **Bloomberg**

ROHINGYA
REFUGEES

Beijing says sanctions, criticism won't help settle issue

CHINA said yesterday it isn't blocking action by the United Nations on the issue of Muslim Rohingya refugees, but that it doesn't believe sanctions or criticism of Myanmar's government will help resolve the crisis.

Foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying's comments came a day after investigators working for the U.N.'s top human rights body said Myanmar military leaders should be prosecuted for genocide against the Rohingya.

China is a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council with veto power over whether the issue will be brought before the International Criminal Court. It has been reticent about condemning Myanmar's government during the crisis.

Hua said China believes the Rohingya issue has a complex historical, religious and ethnic background and China wishes to play a "constructive role" in finding a proper solution.

"You said China blocked the relevant U.N. discussions or actions; I cannot agree with you," Hua said in response to a question at a daily ministry briefing. "We don't think unilateral sanctions or criticisms would help with settling the issue."

More than 700,000 Rohingya have fled into neighboring Bangladesh over the past year to escape a Myanmar government crackdown that followed rebel attacks on security and police posts. **AP**

opinion

CAN PRC AFFORD TO BE THE NEXT SUPERPOWER?

Marc Champion,
Bloomberg

Donald Trump has launched a trade war with China, worried that previous administrations have unwittingly been helping Beijing to overtake the U.S. But can China

afford to be the world's next superpower?

The average Chinese, after all, is still poorer than the average Mexican. China's greatest natural resource — its 1.4 billion-strong population — has largely finished urbanizing, is already aging

and, as soon as 2023, will start to shrink. No superpower has developed in those circumstances before.

Nor has any big country escaped the so-called middle income trap — the theory that emerging economies tend to get marooned between

USD10,000 and \$15,000 per capita GDP — without liberalizing and developing a reliable rule of law. China, under President Xi Jinping, is doing the opposite.

Xi's supporters say their country is different and Western economic models just

don't apply. China will be a great power, they argue, but one entirely unlike the U.S. There's evidence to suggest China can afford to be whatever it wants: Beijing increased defense spending more than tenfold since 1990, while actually reducing the

military's share of the government's overall budget.

Not even China knows yet what kind of superpower it will be. The answer, though, is likely to determine issues of war, peace and global economic growth for decades to come.



Russia to stage biggest military exercises since Cold War, with Beijing

Henry Meyer & Ilya Arkhipov

RUSSIA is to hold its biggest military maneuvers since the height of the Cold War next month, mobilizing about 300,000 troops and including the participation of thousands of soldiers from China, Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said.

The Vostok-2018 exercises in Russia's eastern and central military districts - spanning from the Ural Mountains to the Pacific coast - from Sept. 11-15 will involve almost a third of the country's soldiers, making them the largest since 1981, Shoigu said, according to a ministry

press release. Some 1,000 aircraft and both the Northern and Pacific fleets will be deployed.

■ **Beijing, which has tightened ties with Moscow in recent years, will contribute 3,200 troops and 30 aircraft**

"Imagine 36,000 tanks and armored personnel carriers all moving at the same time," the

defense minister said. "This will all be tested under conditions as close as possible to war."

Russia stoked alarm a year ago when it staged major war games on its western flank neighboring Poland and the Baltic States that NATO said involved 100,000 troops - far above the 13,000 soldiers that Russian officials said took part. Next month's military exercises will be the most ambitious since the "Zapad-81" drills in 1981 staged by the Soviet Union and its Warsaw Pact allies. Chinese and Mongolian forces will also participate.

"In some ways, these maneuvers repeat Zapad-81, but in others they're probably even

bigger," Shoigu said.

CHINA ROLE

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the drills were needed to ensure Russia's military capabilities "in the current international situation, which is often quite aggressive and unfriendly to our country."

Vasily Kashin, a senior fellow at the Institute of Far Eastern Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, said that Kremlin is "preparing for possible conflict" amid the chilliest relations with the U.S. for decades. Such large maneuvers are aimed "partly at showing our preparedness and partly to increase our actual rea-

diness for war. The situation is bad."

China, which has steadily tightened ties with Moscow in recent years, will contribute 3,200 troops and 30 aircraft.

"This is a new step. It's the first time Chinese forces have been allowed in internal maneuvers, not joint ones," said Kashin. "For the moment, there's no sign that Russia and China are preparing a full military alliance, but on the military level, that's what's happening."

Peskov, the Kremlin spokesman, said the Chinese participation is evidence of "the expansion of cooperation in all areas between two allies." **Bloomberg**

UN WARNS

China's African swine fever outbreak could cross borders

AN outbreak of African swine fever in China could jump the border to neighboring countries in Southeast Asia or the Korean Peninsula, the U.N.'s Food and Agriculture Organization warned yesterday.

Outbreaks of the highly contagious, viral disease that affects pigs and wild boar have been reported in four different Chinese provinces over the past month. The FAO said the distances between each outbreak - up to 1,000 kilometers - highlighted the danger of the virus spreading to other Asian countries at any time.

The "diverse geographical spread of the outbreaks in China have raised fears that the disease will move across borders to neighboring countries of Southeast Asia or the Korean Peninsula where trade and consumption of pork products is also high," the Rome-based FAO said in a news release.

■ **Distances between each outbreak - up to 1,000 km - highlighted the danger of the virus spreading to other Asian countries at any time**

African swine fever poses no direct threat to humans but threatens to devastate China's crucial pork industry. There is no effective vaccine to protect pigs from the virus.

China is the world's biggest pork producer, accounting for about half the world's population of swine at around 500 million

head. The meat accounts for more than 60 percent of animal protein consumed in the country.

China has culled more than 24,000 pigs and imposed strict quarantine and disinfection efforts in hopes of stamping out the virus.

African swine fever outbreaks have also been reported in the Americas and in the European Union, chiefly in the Baltics, Poland and Romania.

The FAO said the strain detected in China was similar to one found in Russia last year. While investigators have yet to determine the source of the



latest outbreak, the virus' spread through China was likely due to the movement of pig products rather than live animals, it said, quoting chief veterinarian Juan Lubroth.

The FAO said it was working closely with authorities in China and neighboring countries to control the outbreak, but war-

ned that a complete shutdown of the movement of pigs and pork products could undermine those efforts by encouraging illegal transportation methods.

China's agriculture ministry did not immediately reply to faxed questions about the most recent developments involving the outbreak. **AP**

KOREAN CRISIS

Japan says North threat remains despite summit pledge

Mari Yamaguchi, Tokyo

JAPAN needs to bolster its missile defenses and its alliance with the United States, its government stressed in an annual defense review that judged North Korea to still be a serious threat that has not taken concrete steps to denuclearize.

The defense paper, approved yesterday by the Cabinet, said Japan must add to its missile defense capabilities to be fully prepared while watching if North Korea keeps its promise.

President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un signed a vague joint statement at their summit in June that included agreements to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula. Last week, Trump directed Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to postpone a planned trip to the North, citing insufficient progress.

North Korea tested intercontinental ballistic missiles last year, including launching some over Japan, and it deploys several hundred shorter-range Rodong missiles capable of hitting Japan. The defense paper also says Pyongyang likely has made miniaturized nuclear warheads it can place atop ballistic missiles, an advancement of its nuclear capability that North Korea has claimed to have achieved.

North Korea has increased the range, accuracy and versatility of its missiles and di-



The PAC-3 surface to air interceptors at the U.S. Yokota Air Base in Fussa, on the outskirts of Tokyo

versified its launch sites and methods over the past few years. In addition to the three nuclear tests the North has conducted since 2016, it also has carried out more than 40 missile tests in that time, according to the paper.

"Its military actions have become an unprecedentedly serious and imminent threat to Japan's national security,"

the paper said. "There is no change in our basic recognition about the threat of North Korea's nuclear weapons and missiles."

It was "significant" that Kim promised to pursue denuclearization of the peninsula but it is necessary to watch what North Korea does to scrap its nuclear weapons and missiles, the report said.

While the United States is primarily concerned about the ICBMs that can reach its mainland, Japan is within range of North Korea's smaller missiles. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has pushed to raise Japan's military participation and its missile defenses. Joint exercises with the U.S. and other defense partners including Britain and Australia

have significantly increased, and Japan is buying costly U.S. equipment as Trump tries to sell more weapons and reduce the U.S. trade deficit.

Japan is currently updating its national defense guidelines and the medium-term defense program to reflect North Korea's threat, and to have "necessary and sufficient defense capabilities qualitatively and quantitatively," the paper said.

It has also stepped up surveillance and patrolling in regional seas to crack down on offshore ship-to-ship oil transfers to North Korean vessels in violation to U.N. sanctions.

Yesterday's report comes days before Japan's Defense Ministry is set to approve its fiscal 2019 budget plan that would include an initial acquisition cost for a land-to-air missile defense system, Aegis Ashore. Opposition to that purchase has risen since Pyongyang suspended missile tests this year as it made diplomatic overtures to its ally China as well as the U.S. and South Korea.

The defense paper also raised strong concerns about China's military budget increases, its modernization and buildup of forces and weaponry, and its continuing assertive moves in the region's airspace and seas.

Japan and China have long disagreed over their history and over a cluster of East China Sea islands they both claim, but their relations have seemed to improve as China tries to be a leader in Asia, a better neighbor and a contrast to Trump's U.S.-first policy. The defense paper welcomed China's cooperation in starting a mechanism for sea and air defense communications, an initiative meant to avoid unanticipated events in disputed areas. **AP**

INDONESIA

Four killed in forest fires; police arrest suspects

POLICE in the Indonesian part of Borneo island have arrested more than a dozen people suspected of starting forest fires that have killed four people in the past month.

West Kalimantan police chief Didi Haryono said yesterday that two of the 27 people wanted by police died in blazes they started to clear land for planting. He said 14 people have been arrested so far.

They could be prosecuted under an environmental protection law that allows a maximum 10-year prison sentence for setting fires to clear land.

The national disaster agency says four people have died in West Kalimantan's forest fires in the past month, including two suspects.

Millions of hectares burned in Indonesia during annual dry season fires in 2015 that spread a health-damaging haze across the region for weeks.

The disaster, estimated by the World Bank to have caused losses of USD16 billion, was exacerbated by the practice of draining swampy peatland forests for industrial plantations, making them highly combustible. Indonesia's government

imposed a moratorium on peatland development in 2016 but has made little progress with plans to restore such wetlands to their original condition.

Officials said the recent haze in West Kalimantan has diminished due to fire-fighting efforts.

Sahat Irawan Manik, an official with a local fire unit, said Monday that conditions had especially improved in the provincial capital, Pontianak, and around the airport.

"There are still some fires in five districts but there are water bombing teams by the Disaster Mitigation Agency,

which has deployed 10 helicopters to help extinguish the fires," Manik said. About 1,000 hectares of fires have been extinguished across the province, he said.

Raffles Brotestes Panjaitan, director of investigation and forest protection at the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, said the number of "hotspots" in West Kalimantan had dropped to 21 on Monday from 60 on Sunday.

Panjaitan said that so far this year, 71,959 hectares of land have burned in forest fires compared with 165,464 hectares from January to July last year. **AP**



Japanese man on way home after release from North Korean custody

Mari Yamaguchi, Tokyo

A Japanese man released by North Korea after being accused of a crime was on his way home after arriving in Beijing from Pyongyang yesterday, officials and reports said.

Tomoyuki Sugimoto had been in North Korean custody for an investigation into the unspecified crime, but the North's official Korean Central News Agency said Sunday that the country decided to be lenient and expel him for humanitarian reasons.

Without mentioning Sugimoto by name, Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono confirmed that a Japanese man held by North Korea had been in Beijing and that officials planned to interview him about the incident. Kono declined to give details.

Kyodo News said Sugimoto confirmed his identity to its reporters who were on the same Air Koryo flight out of Pyongyang yesterday. NHK television quoted a Japanese diplomat as confirming the man's identity

AP PHOTO



Japanese tourist Tomoyuki Sugimoto gestures as he arrives at Beijing airport from Pyongyang yesterday

and describing his health as "not bad."

Reports said Sugimoto left Beijing later on a flight to Tokyo.

Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said he could not comment "because of the nature of the matter."

Sugimoto, believed to be a videographer, was arrested in the North's western port city of Nampo, where North Korea may have suspected him of filming

a military facility, according to earlier reports. Kyodo, quoting an unidentified Japanese government source, said Sugimoto was on a North Korea tour arranged by a China-based travel agent.

The Japanese government reportedly had sought his release through the North Korean Embassy in Beijing. Japan does not have diplomatic relations with North Korea.

Sugimoto was escorted by North Korean authorities and showed up for his departing flight, carrying a single bag, just before the gate closed, Kyodo reported. He was seated in economy-class and an official of the state-run Air Koryo sat in the row behind him and watched over him, Kyodo said.

He was silent during the trip except for asking a Kyodo reporter's identity before boarding the

flight, the news agency said.

In his remarks yesterday, Japan's foreign minister repeated a government request for Japanese citizens to avoid traveling to North Korea.

In December 1999, a Japanese correspondent for the Nikkei newspaper was detained in North Korea for more than two years on spying charges in Pyongyang. Separately, Japan and North Korea have also disputed over abductions of Japanese citizens decades ago.

North Korea has also arrested other foreign nationals. Three Korean-Americans accused of anti-state activities and detained for more than a year were released and returned home in May. American college student Otto Warmbier, accused of stealing a propaganda poster and sentenced to 15 years in prison in the North, died in June 2017 days after he was repatriated to the U.S. with severe brain damage.

Their arrests had compounded the dire state of relations over North Korea's nuclear weapons program. AP

AD



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Jamey Keaten, Geneva

THREE experts working for the U.N.'s top human rights body say the governments of Yemen, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia may have been responsible for war crimes including rape, torture, disappearances and "deprivation of the right to life" during 3½ years of escalated fighting against rebels in Yemen.

In their first report for the Human Rights Council, the experts also point to possible crimes by rebel Shiite militia in Yemen, who have been fighting the Saudi-led coalition and Yemen's government in a civil war since March 2015.

The experts have also chronicled the damages from coalition airstrikes, the single most lethal force in the fighting, over the last year.

They urged the international community to "refrain from providing arms that could be used in the conflict"—an apparent reference to countries including the United States and Britain that help arm the Saudi-led coalition, as well as Iran, which the coalition has accused of arming the Houthis.

The experts visited some but not all parts of Yemen as they compiled the report. "[We have] reasonable grounds to believe that the governments of Yemen, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia are responsible for human rights violations," the report said. It cited violations including unlawful "deprivation of the right to life," arbitrary detention, rape, torture, enforced disappearances and child recruitment.

Saudi, Emirati and Yemen officials did not immediately respond to requests for comment Tuesday. On Twitter, Emirati Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Anwar Gargash wrote that the UAE "must review it, answer its merits and re-

Experts: UAE, Saudis may have committed war crimes in Yemen

view what it says about the horrors of the Houthis."

Saudi state media later said its coalition had received the U.N. report and forwarded it onto its own lawyers to review before it "will take the appropriate position."

The Associated Press reported last year that the UAE and its allied militias were running a network of secret detention facilities, beyond the control of Yemeni government. In June, the AP revealed that hundreds of detainees had been subjected to sexual abuse and torture.

The report says three-fourths of the country's population need humanitarian assistance

The U.N. report accused the "de facto authorities" — an allusion to rebel leaders that control some of the country's most populated western and northern areas — of crimes including arbitrary detentions, torture and child recruitment. Human rights advocates have faulted the Houthis for laying land mines and targeting religious minorities and imprisoned opponents.

Kamel Jendoubi, a Tunisian human rights advocate who chaired the group of experts, said they



Kamel Jendoubi, Chairperson of the Group of Eminent Experts on Yemen

compiled a "confidential list" of people suspected of committing international crimes, which was being handed over to the office of the U.N. human rights chief on Tuesday. His team refused to indicate how many or which people or groups were on the list — whether on the government or rebel sides.

"Despite the gravity of the situation, we still note a total disdain for the suffering of the Yemeni people," Jendoubi told reporters in a briefing on the report yesterday. "This crisis reached its peak with light appearing at the end of the tunnel. This conflict has in effect fallen into the void."

Since March last year, the U.N.'s humanitarian aid agency has said Yemen — already the Arab world's poorest country — is facing the world's worst humanitarian crisis. The report says three-fourths of its population of over 29 million need

humanitarian assistance. The war has devastated the country's health system and provided the breeding grounds for the world's largest cholera outbreak last year.

The experts cited some 6,475 deaths from the conflict between March 2015 and June this year, but said the "real figure is likely to be significantly higher." Other groups have estimated that more than 10,000 people have been killed.

They also sharply criticized work by the coalition's Joint Incidents Assessment Team, which was set up as a bulwark against possible rights violations. They questioned the JIAT's explanations for the airstrikes that have killed civilians, and challenged its "independence and its ability to carry out impartial investigations."

The experts also said nearly a dozen deadly airstrikes they investigated over the last year "rai-

se serious questions about the targeting process applied by the coalition." They chastised some in-the-field coalition combatants for "routinely" failing to seek information about targets on official "no-strike" lists that should have been avoided.

Even getting the experts up and running was an accomplishment for the U.N.-backed Human Rights Council, which passed a resolution creating the team last September. Largely due to the objections of Saudi Arabia and its allies, the council failed several times to authorize a more intrusive investigation into possible war crimes in Yemen. The 47-member body only last fall reached a compromise to bring in the experts.

Also on Monday, the U.N. refugee agency said more than 450 civilians were killed in Yemen in the first nine days of August, making it one of the deadliest periods since the start of the war.

William Spindler, UNHCR spokesman, also called for the protection of thousands of families displaced by the fighting in the vital port city of Hodeida, the main entry point for food in a country teetering on the brink of famine.

Since June, the Saudi-led coalition has waged an offensive to clear the port city of Houthis and restore government control.

Spindler said the offensive has resulted in the displacement of over 50,800 families, according to the U.N. office for the coordination of humanitarian affairs (OCHA). AP

USA

Judge in 9/11 case at Guantanamo retires from military

Ben Fox, Miami

THE slow-moving Sept. 11 war-crimes case at Guantanamo has outlasted the judge. Army Col. James Pohl announced his retirement from the military on Monday, ending a career that culminated with his presiding over the military commission trial of five prisoners at the U.S. base in Cuba accused of planning and aiding the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Pohl has presided over the case since the May 2012 arraignment and the ensuing years of pre-trial hearings. No trial date has been set in the death-penalty case.

He was also the judge in an earlier version of the commission under President George W. Bush that

was halted before trial as well as other major military cases, including the courts-martial resulting from the Abu Ghraib prisoner abuse scandal in Iraq.

The Guantanamo military commission is considered one of the most complex criminal proceedings in U.S. history, set in a courtroom encased in sound-proof glass that is designed to prevent inadvertent disclosures of classified evidence with a 40-second delay of sound.

It has bogged down in pre-trial hearings largely due to battles over what evidence can be used against men held in clandestine CIA detention facilities and subjected to intense interrogations and other treatment now widely considered to amount

to torture.

"He has always been a very patient judge," said James Connell, the court-appointed attorney for one of the defendants, Ammar al-Baluchi. "He always listened to both sides and he often gave rulings that both sides were unhappy with."

The other defendants include Khalid Shaikh Mohammad, who has portrayed himself as the architect of the Sept. 11 attack and other plots, and they could get the death penalty if convicted, another factor that has caused the proceedings to be drawn out for years. The charges include terrorism and nearly 3,000 counts of murder in violation of the laws of war for helping to plan and providing the logistical support to the plot.

A Pentagon spokeswoman, Navy Cmdr. Sarah Higgins, said Pohl made a "personal decision" not to seek an extension of his service and it was not expected to cause a delay in proceedings. The next round of pre-trial hearings in the case are scheduled to take place over five days at the base in September.

Pohl made one of his more notable decisions earlier this month, ruling that prosecutors could not use statements the defendants made to FBI interrogators after they were transferred from CIA custody because of limits placed on the defense's ability to investigate the treatment at the facilities often referred to as "black sites." The prosecution has appealed that decision.

The judge did not say



A Pentagon-approved sketch shows James Pohl as he halts the Sept. 11 pretrial hearing at the Guantanamo Bay

why he chose to leave in a memo to the military commissions in which he officially appointed his successor, Marine Corps Col. Keith Parrella, a former prosecutor. Pohl noted the decision was "not impacted by any outside influence."

Walter Ruiz, a lawyer for defendant Mustafa al-Hawsawi who had several courtroom clashes with Pohl and was a sharp cri-

tic of what he felt was an unfair military commission system, said it was noteworthy that the judge decided to end his service so soon after a significant ruling and made the reference to outside influence. "Maybe he was just tired," Ruiz said. "Another possibility is that maybe he sees this system for the sham that it is and doesn't want to be part of it anymore." AP

COMMUNICATIONS were snarled and police, fire and medical responders were overwhelmed by 911 calls, false reports and the number of victims during the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history, according to a report released Monday by U.S. and local authorities.

The report by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Clark County Fire Department and Las Vegas police provided an overview of first responders' actions on Oct. 1 and ways authorities can improve.

"It's almost impossible to jump hundreds of responders into an ongoing immediate event and have it go smoothly, communications wise," Fire Chief Greg Cassell said in an interview.

Among more than 1,500 calls that police and fire dispatchers answered within the first two hours of the shooting were 16 false calls. They include reports of an unattended backpack at an emergency medical site, a hotel fire, and active shooters at casinos and the nearby airport. One report said 20 hostages were being held at the New York-New York resort.

"Congested radio traffic made coordination difficult for response agencies," the report said. "The calls caused a heightened sense of alert, and in some cases the fear of a multi-pronged, coordinated attack near the initial shooting."

USA

Vegas shooting report: Radios, responders were overwhelmed

It said fire dispatchers and firefighters were not even aware of the country music festival that 22,000 people were attending as Stephen Paddock opened fire from the windows on the 32nd-floor of the Mandalay Bay casino-resort into the outdoor concert below. He killed 58 people and injured more than 850 others before killing himself.

Police and an ambulance company were at the Route 91 Harvest Festival, but because the fire department was not part of the on-scene event command post, "command and control were fractured," the report said.

Medical supplies and an aid tent were "insufficient for a mass casualty incident of this scale," and there were "multiple altercations" with panicked and intoxicated concertgoers who wanted to help. The report said that for special events of the festival's size, a "unified command post should be established among all agencies."

Cassell told reporters after the report was made public that a



multi-agency program created after the terrorist attacks in Mumbai in 2008 allowed police, fire and emergency medical services to have a coordinated response to the mass shooting on the Las Vegas Strip. He said the department has moved to release the report faster than agencies in other communities that have seen mass shootings in an effort to share the lessons learned.

Cassell said the department has begun switching some of its

phones to a system that is exclusively for first responders. The report highlighted that the overwhelming use of cell towers in the area led to sporadic, and at times, non-existent service to the department's mobile command computers.

The report also said reflective vests that off-duty Las Vegas officers are required to wear while working at large events can make them a target for a shooter.

FEMA recommended officers

be told to immediately remove the vests during an attack and that police should reconsider whether officers should wear them if they're not doing traffic control.

Cassell called the nearly 10-month review a first-of-its-kind effort uniting FEMA and local agencies after a large attack.

Earlier this month, Las Vegas police issued a final investigative report on the shooting, with no motive found. An FBI final report is expected by the end of the year.

The report released Monday found that incident commanders received constant updates about the number of officers ready to deploy from staging areas, and that police effectively diverted resources from other law enforcement agencies to hospitals and hotels after reports of other active shooters.

"We learned that a lot of things we've done since 2011 in operational readiness and plans has paid off," Cassell said. "Hopefully there is no next time." AP

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what's ON



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ANNUAL ARTS EXHIBITION BETWEEN CHINA AND PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING COUNTRIES - ALTER EGO

TIME: 10am-7pm (closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: September 9, 2018

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art, Old Court Building, Tap Seac Gallery, Taipa Houses Museum

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6866

EXHIBITION OF NEW WORKS IN MAM COLLECTION

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

UNTIL: October 26, 2018

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

Offbeat

STEVIE WONDER PRAISES PHILLY GOSPEL GROUP ON 90TH BIRTHDAY



Stevie Wonder

Stevie Wonder has helped celebrate the 90th anniversary of a legendary Philadelphia gospel group.

Philly.com reports the African American Museum in Philadelphia hosted a celebration for the Dixie Hummingbirds this wee. The group was formed in Greenville, South Carolina, and eventually moved to Philadelphia in 1942.

Wonder couldn't attend the celebration but he called in to praise the Dixie Hummingbirds for its contributions to modern music.

Current member Ira Tucker Jr. says he's carrying on the legacy of his father, Ira Tucker Sr., who died in 2008. Tucker says his father and his groupmates were innovators in the '40s and '50s who helped usher in contemporary rhythm and blues music.

The Dixie Hummingbirds have three concerts scheduled this month. Members plan on rereleasing their 2011 album "Gospel Praise Songs — Powered By Quartets" this fall.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Portuguese Soap Opera
15:50	Cartoons
16:15	Portuguese Comedy
18:40	Micellaneous
19:35	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:15	News from Portugal
22:10	Around the World
22:20	Portuguese Serie - Liberty 21
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Miscellaneous
00:45	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:30	RTPi Live
03:00	Champions League: PAOK x Benfica (Live)
05:00	RTPi Live

cinema



CINETEATRO

23 Aug - 29 Aug



HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 3: A MONSTER VACATION

ROOM 1

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

Director: Genndy Tartakovsky

Starring: Adam Sandler, Andy Samberg, Selena Gomez

Language: Cantonese (Chinese)

Duration: 97min

ALONG WITH THE GODS:

THE LAST 49 DAYS

ROOM 1

9:30pm

Director: Kim Yong-hwa

Starring: HA Jung-woo, JU Ji-hoon, KIM Hyang-gi

Language: Korean (Chinese & English)

THOMAS & FRIENDS

BIG WORLD! BIG ADVENTURES! THE MOVIE

ROOM 1

9:15pm

Director: David Stoten

Starring: Dona Adwera, Peter Andre, Richie Campbell

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 85min

DORAEMON THE MOVIE:

NOBITA'S TREASURE ISLAND

ROOM 2

2:30pm

Director: Kazuaki Imai

Starring: Wasabi Mizuta, Megumi Ohara, Yumi Kakazu

Language: Cantonese (Chinese)

Duration: 109min

THE SPY WHO DUMPED ME

ROOM 2

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

Director: Susanna Fogel

Starring: Mila Kunis, Kate McKinnon, Justin Theroux

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 117min

L STORM

ROOM 3

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

Director: David Lam

Starring: Louis Koo, Julian Cheung, Kevin Cheng

Language: Cantonese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 90min

THE DARKEST MINDS

ROOM 3

7:30pm

Director: Jennifer Yuh Nelson

Starring: Amanda Stenberg, Mandy Moore, Harris Dickinson

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 104min

this day in history



Gordon Cooper

1965 GEMINI V RETURNS TO EARTH

Two American astronauts have splashed down safely in the Atlantic after setting a space endurance record.

Charles Conrad, 35, and Gordon Cooper, 38, spent just short of eight days orbiting the earth in their space ship Gemini V - three days longer than any previous missions to space.

The capsule dropped into the Atlantic south-west of Bermuda at 1256 GMT, 80 miles (130 km) away from their recovery vessel, aircraft carrier Lake Champlain.

Gemini V returned to Earth slightly earlier than expected because the Nasa control centre at Houston feared a storm was developing in the landing area.

The two men - who travelled 3,312,993 miles (5,331,745 km) and orbited the Earth 120 times - are reported to be in "excellent condition".

Colonel Cooper radioed Lake Champlain shortly after their capsule hit the sea with the message: "We are on the water and in good shape".

The two men were taken by helicopter to the carrier where doctors gave them a preliminary examination. A medical report said they were "perfectly happy with no need to sit down and rest."

It added: "There is absolutely nothing wrong with them - it is as though they had taken a short airplane flight."

Chief Doctor Charles Berry said the astronauts' heart rates had gone up to 180 beats a minute during the stressful re-entry stage, but that they had dropped back to normal levels by the time they splashed down.

Colonel Cooper and Commander Conrad now face another 11 days of tests before they are allowed home.

The voyage of Gemini V has not gone completely to plan.

Soon after launch the astronauts reported a serious fall in oxygen pressure in their fuel cells and Nasa controllers considered ending the mission early.

The reduced power meant the pair had to suffer low temperatures and their capsule tumbling and rolling in its orbit when steering rockets failed.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Nasa's Gemini project was announced in December 1961.

The 10 missions in the programme were flown over 20 months in 1965 and 1966.

Their main objective was to train astronauts in manoeuvring spacecraft in orbit before the Apollo project attempted to land a man on the Moon.

The three men involved in the first lunar landing - Michael Collins, Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin - all took part in Gemini missions.

Charles Conrad aged 69 died from injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident in July 1999. Gordon Cooper died in October 2004, aged 77.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Today, when you are working in a group dynamic, experiment with holding back. Let other people work it out - they can handle things, and you could use a break from the rat race.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Your work ethic is admirable, but keep in mind that prioritizing all your responsibilities over having any fun is going to put your personality (and your contentedness) way out of balance.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Gently shove the slow ones and hint to the dim-witted ones that they need to understand just what the heck needs to happen. You are the ringleader of the day's amusing circus.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 If your tempers (or the tempers of the people around you) are rising today, just ride it out. A lot of tumultuous energy is in the air today, likely caused by some transitions or adaptations you made a long time ago.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Today it's time to stop working so hard to move yourself forward - you need to realize that sometimes you can get a lot farther if you simply coast and let the events of the day carry you along.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Right now, it's time to stick close to home base and focus on just one or two people or projects that need you the most. Your ambition can be satisfied by perfecting your technique with everyday tasks ...

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Being willing to do what other people want is nice, but not always effective. Today, take control of a situation that no one seems to want to take responsibility for.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Romantically, things are taking a new direction and there is some momentum building - your charm has established a strong foothold in someone's mind. You have made quite an impression.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Social invitations, shameless flirts and amazing travel opportunities are all wonderful things to encounter in your life - but today, you need to try to avoid them!

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 So today, take a passive look at the things you do in your life, and ask yourself whether they are necessary or productive. If they are neither, then it's time to get rid of them!

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 They always say to 'live in the moment,' but today that advice might not be the best to follow. If you have a busy day, you'll never have enough energy to fulfill that directive.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 In the long run, you are always going to remember the people who had your back, the people who share your private jokes and the people who tell you the truth because it's good for you.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Court org.; 5- Clip wool; 10- Type of ranch; 14- Backside; 15- Steve of country music; 16- French summers; 17- Resolute; 19- Annoyance; 20- Join; 21- Heartburn; 23- Flamenco cry; 25- Fencing blades; 26- Peek-; 29- Currency unit of France and Germany, among others; 31- Alaskan city; 35- Heston's org.; 36- Writer Bombeck; 37- Minor official; 38- Ballerina Makarova; 40- Account books; 41- Wide street; 42- Trig function; 43- Chinese "way"; 44- "WarGames" org.; 45- Congers; 46- City on the Rhine; 47- Animal; 49- Pub pint; 51- Books of maps; 54- Feminist Abzug; 58- Lopsided victory; 59- Next largest scoop after tea; 63- Singer Braxton; 64- Parachute material; 65- ¿cómo _ usted?; 66- Util. bill; 67- Sanctuaries; 68- Take a break;

DOWN: 1- Pakistani language; 2- Perceived; 3- French actor Jacques; 4- "Am not!" rejoinder; 5- Religious sch.; 6- 'Bali --'; 7- East ender?; 8- Syrian city; 9- Color anew; 10- Removing from office; 11- Salt Lake City hoopsters; 12- Lucie's dad; 13- Ballpark figs.; 18- Seminary subj.; 22- Live; 24- Uncanny; 25- Period; 26- Kofi of the U.N.; 27- "Hooray!"; 28- Horse opera; 30- Actress Thurman; 32- Link with; 33- Sacred text of Islam; 34- Williams of "Happy Days"; 36- Dodges; 37- The brainy bunch; 39- Upward air current; 40- Abner; 42- Complete collection; 45- Compositions; 46- Pager; 48- State Farm rival; 50- Barbell abbr.; 51- Commedia dell'; 52- Kit item; 53- Crescent-shaped figure; 55- Fail to win; 56- Plenty; 57- Med school subj.; 60- Journalist Nellie; 61- Chat room chuckle; 62- Bambi's aunt;

Yesterday's solution grid with words filled in: USTA, SHEAR, DUDE, REAR, EARLE, EYES, DETERMINED, PEST, UNITE, PYROSIS, OLE, EPEES, ABOO, EURO, SITKA, NRA, ERMA, MINION, NATALIA, LEDGERS, AVENUE, BINE, TAO, NORAD, EELS, BONN, BEAST, ALE, ATLASES, BELLA, ROUNT, TABLESPOON, TONI, NYLON, ESTA, ELEC, ASYLA, REST

WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION. Rows for CHINA (Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, Urumqi, Xi'an, Lhasa, Chengdu, Chongqing, Kunming, Nanjing, Shanghai, Wuhan, Hangzhou, Taipei, Guangzhou, Hong Kong) and WORLD (Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York).

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Jonatan Christie



Tai Tzu-ying of Taiwan won the women's tournament

John Pye, Jakarta

Christie wins host Indonesia's signature gold at Asian Games

EVERY host has a signature event that defines the success of the games, at least in the context of sport. Jonatan Christie won that event for the 2018 Asian Games hosts with a 21-18, 20-22, 21-15 win over Taiwan's Chou Tien-chen to secure the badminton men's singles gold medal for Indonesia.

The 21-year-old Christie, nicknamed Jojo, grabbed the national attention with his shirt-shedding celebration following his semifinal win, and intensified it with his pressure-packed win in the final.

Just like national hero Tan Joe Hok did in 1962 when Indonesia last hosted the games.

Christie peeled off his shirt again to celebrate the gold, and twirled his pointer finger around for emphasis. He saluted when the Indonesian flag was raised above the podium.

"This win is historic for Indonesian badminton," he said.

Badminton is the national sport in Indonesia, although it hasn't won the men's singles title at the Asian Games since Taufik Hidayat won back-to-back golds in 2002 and '06. China's Lin Dan won both in between.

The hosts picked up another badminton gold in the men's doubles — it was an all-Indonesian final — after top-ranked Tai Tzu-ying of Taiwan beat India's Olympic and world championship silver medalist and millionaire Puserla Venkata Sindhu 21-13, 21-16 in 36 minutes for the women's singles final.

Top-ranked Marcus Fernaldi Gideon and Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo had to save a match point before beating Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Rian Ardianto

13-21, 21-18, 24-22 in the men's doubles.

The Jiang twins from China created history by winning the duet in artistic swimming, returning to the Asian Games after extended breaks to have children.

Both had baby daughters and spent two years away from the sport before deciding in 2016 to make a comeback.

"This is a very significant medal because it means so much to us and our families," Jiang Wenwen said. "I think our performance demonstrated that mothers can do anything in sport and this will be a very good example for our children."

The 31-year-old siblings, gold medalists in 2006 and 2010 and the oldest artistic swimmers to

compete at the Asian Games, topped the technical and free routines to win with 186.5101 points, more than four clear of Yukiko Inui and Megumu Yoshida who took silver for Japan. Another set of twins, Yekaterina and Alexandra Nemich, collected bronze for Kazakhstan.

South Korea's Na Ah-reum picked up her third gold medal of the games when she joined Kim You-ri, Kim Hyun-ji and Lee Ju-mi to win the women's team pursuit at the track cycling velodrome in 4 minutes, 31.222 seconds.

Na was the first cyclist to win both the road race and the time trial at the same Asian Games when she took both titles last week.

China won the men's pursuit and Sarah Lee Wai-sze defended her title in the women's keirin for Hong Kong.

South Korea won three of the four gold medals on offer in archery, and Malaysia ended Thailand's domination in the sepak-takraw with gold in the men's regu.

One of the most dominating runs of the games continued at the field hockey, where defending champion India finished off the group stage with a 20-0 win over Sri Lanka, improving its for-and-against record to 76-3 from four games.

Akashdeep Singh scored six goals and three other players had hat-tricks in the last warmup for a semifinal against Malaysia. **AP**

EPL

Worrying signs for Man United as Mourinho loses cool

WITH his team trailing by three goals and Old Trafford rapidly emptying around him, Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho stood in his technical area and stared blankly onto the field.

There was an air of helplessness around one of soccer's most decorated coaches who was facing the biggest home loss of his career and the prospect of losing two of the season's first three league

games for the first time at any of his clubs.

Mourinho would go on to praise his team after the 3-0 loss to Tottenham — "from a strategic view, we didn't lose," he said, "from a tactical view, we didn't lose" — and defend his own record as a manager in a stormy news conference in which he demanded "respect, respect, respect."

Yet, Mourinho surely knows United is in a

hole. He even predicted this would happen in one of his gloomy preseason statements, when he said "it will be a difficult season for us" if he didn't get

■ **The team's defense has let in seven goals in the first three games**

any defensive reinforcements (which he didn't).

There were some eye-opening comments after the loss to Tottenham, highlighting the identity crisis that might be enveloping United. And there's also Mourinho's despair about a defense that already has let in seven goals in the first three games — the most United has conceded in 49 years.

Also of concern must be the inconsistent dis-



Jose Mourinho

plays of his two marquee players, Paul Pogba and Alexis Sanchez. Then there's the manager himself: Is he missing long-

time assistant Rui Faria? Is he sending out the right signals with his off-field surliness and pessimism? **AP**

opinion

Our desk
Daniel Beitler



BREAKING THE MONOPOLY

Monopolies, or sole providers of specific goods or services, are generally regarded as undesirable because they reduce the incentive for innovation and price competition.

Few would dispute that competition under a free-market system tends to produce the best result for consumers. The theory goes that the more competition a business has, the more incentive or pressure there is for it to develop better products, lower prices and be accountable to its customers.

Though the six casino operators and their many affiliate properties exhibit a degree of internal competition within Macau, the special administrative region as a whole could be considered a monopoly within the context of the greater China region.

The tiny enclave of just 30 square kilometers is the only place in the greater China region in which casinos are legal and has hitherto been the most accessible jurisdiction for the serious punters among China's 1.38 billion people, representing 18 percent of the planet.

Gaming analysts in Macau are justifiably concerned about the rise of casino gaming in Japan and possibly even in tropical Hainan, sometimes described as China's Hawaii. Though both jurisdictions are years away from opening a casino, they may eventually threaten Macau's tourism and gambling lifeblood.

Part of the People's Republic of China, Hainan does not have the same visitor visa requirements as Macau. And while chance-based games are still not technically allowed on Hainan, this year the island was allowed to operate so-called "entertainment bars" where winnings can be redeemed in local shops, restaurants or hotels. Many analysts believe it is just a matter of time before traditional casino-resorts start to make an appearance.

When that day comes, the analysts say, Macau had better be more than just baccarat.

Enter the government's economic diversification plan and with it a heap of pressure on casino operators to develop non-gaming attractions under threat of not receiving a new casino license after 2020 or 2022.

Contrary to the prevailing opinion, rival casino centers in Hainan and Japan might not spell the end of Macau's gambling dominance, but could be the answer to its relative decline.

As the theory of competition goes, the more choice for consumers, the harder producers must work to be better. Companies that fail to innovate eventually disappear. It is survival of the fittest; adapt or die.

Enjoying a de facto monopoly, Macau's casino operators have previously had no incentive to innovate or substantially differentiate their services and products – aside from picking between easing off or doubling down on the VIP segment.

And yet, local operators are best-positioned to draw on their more than a decade-long experience on what works for the Chinese customer and what doesn't. They may have the edge in the near-term, until their Japanese and Hainanese rivals catch up.

Innovation in the private sector works best when participants can respond to free-market conditions. Ahead of the casino license negotiations, now might be a good time to signal a deregulation of the casino market and provide an incentive for the "producers" to react to changing times.

The government could start by stripping away the arbitrary table cap policy.

Introduced in 2013 to stymie the annual growth in the number of new casino tables, the policy was supposed to encourage operators to invest in non-gaming attractions. But that isn't working, and the number of new-to-market tables awarded in the latest round of Cotai expansion successively diminished with each property opening, seemingly irrespective of the owners' contribution to diversification.

Another possibility – already floated by influential people in Macau who would love to get their hands on their own casino license – would be to open up the concessionaire process to allow for a greater number of smaller operators.

The theory of competition suggests that innovation, if it is to come at all, will follow.

THE FORMER VIETNAMESE JAILER SAYS HE RESPECTED LATE SEN. McCAIN

Sen. John McCain's Vietnamese jailer said he respected his former inmate and felt sad about his death, as others in Vietnam paid their respects to the former U.S. Navy pilot who became a prisoner of war and later was instrumental in bringing the wartime foes together.

McCain's Skyhawk dive bomber was shot down over Hanoi in 1967 and he was taken prisoner and held in the infamous "Hanoi Hilton" prison for more than five years.

Former Col. Tran Trong Duyet, who ran the prison at the time, said he met with McCain many times while he was confined there.

"At that time I liked him personally for his toughness and strong stance," he told the newspaper Vietnam News, published by the official Vietnam News Agency.

"Later on when he became a U.S. senator, he and Sen. John Kerry greatly contributed to promote Vietnam-U.S. relations so I was very fond of him," Duyet said.

Berlin offers police help after violent far-right protest



Frank Jordans, Berlin

GERMANY'S top security official offered to send federal assistance to the eastern state of Saxony yesterday following violence during a far-right protest in the city of Chemnitz that left at least 18 people injured.

The protest late Monday, sparked by the killing of a 35-year-old German man in an altercation with migrants over the weekend, erupted into clashes between neo-Nazis and left-wing counter-protesters. Opposition parties criticized police for failing to prevent the violence.

"The police in Saxony are in a difficult situation," Interior Minister Horst Seehofer said. "Should it be requested, the federal government will provide police support."

He was backed by Chancellor Angela Merkel, who condemned the violence.

"Should Saxony need help to maintain law and order, and to uphold the law, the federal government stands ready," she said.

Saxony's police chief Juerge Georgie acknowledged authorities had underestimated the size of the protest. Initial estimates had forecast about 1,000 far-right protesters and half that number of counter-protesters would descend on Chemnitz, he said.

In the end, some 600 officers struggled to prevent 6,000 supporters of the far-right from breaking through police lines. Footage showed demonstrators performing Nazi salutes and chanting "the national resistance is marching here!"

Georgie said the police presence in Chemnitz would be stepped up in the coming days, with more protests planned.

Green lawmaker Konstantin von Notz urged Seehofer to consider resigning, accusing him of fanning anti-migrant sentiment over the past year. Von Notz told the news portal t-online.de that the violence in Chemnitz recalled events elsewhere in eastern Germany during the early 1990s, when authorities failed to stop far-right mobs from attacking migrants.

The state of Saxony has long been a hotbed of anti-migrant sentiment, with some accusing police of turning a blind eye to sympathizers in their own ranks. The far-right Alternative for Germany party received almost a quarter of the vote in Chemnitz last year.

Some 600 officers struggled to prevent 6,000 supporters of the far-right from breaking through police lines

Chemnitz police said they have arrested a 22-year-old Syrian and a 21-year-old Iraqi on suspicion of manslaughter in the stabbing death of the German man after a street festival early Sunday.

Prosecutors said the killing was preceded by a verbal confrontation that escalated.

Saxony's governor slammed far-right extremists for using the man's death as a political tool and for spreading false information online about it. While the influx of migrants to Germany in recent years has resulted in a rise in violent crime, experts have noted that this is largely due to demographic factors: young men, who make up a large share of the migrant population, are generally more likely to commit crimes, whether they're German or foreign-born.

Governor Michael Kretschmer said authorities would swiftly and thoroughly investigate the killing but will also come down hard on those who had stoked violence in its wake, including attacks on migrants on the sidelines of the protest.

"We will show that we have a strong state," he told reporters in Dresden, noting that past far-right attacks in the state had demonstrated the need for grassroots efforts to prevent extremism.

Foreign Minister Heiko Maas expressed concern that Germany's reputation could suffer as a result of violent far-right protests.

"We have to keep in mind that these are pictures that will be seen abroad," Maas told reporters in Berlin. "But I don't think that what was seen there even comes close to reflecting the reality in Germany. I firmly believe that the majority of people living in this country want an open and tolerant country." AP

Station	Air quality
Roadside	40-60 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	40-60 Moderate
Ambient	40-60 Moderate

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

YEMEN Three experts working for the U.N.'s top human rights body say the governments of Yemen, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia may have been responsible for war crimes including rape, torture, disappearances and "deprivation of the right to life". More on p14

EGYPT A court has sentenced six people to death for their roles in a 2016 militant attack on a security checkpoint north of Cairo that killed a policeman.



LITHUANIA's president says that the European Union can't turn its back on Turkey, adding that "it's necessary to search for solutions to assist Turkey" to help curb terror threats and migration to Europe.

POLAND's government unveiled yesterday details of a voluntary pension program intended to encourage many Poles to start saving and to protect low-earners from post-retirement poverty.



FRANCE's high-profile environment minister unexpectedly announced his resignation live on national radio yesterday, lamenting the government's lack of decisive action on green issues.

GREAT BRITAIN Protesters demanded Northern Ireland's feuding political parties get back to governing, as the region matched a world record yesterday for the longest peacetime period without a government.

COLOMBIA will leave a South American bloc promoted by the late Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez to counter U.S. influence in the region. Colombia's President Ivan Duque said in a televised address that UNASUR is now "the greatest accomplice of the Venezuelan dictatorship."