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Interview with Northern Ireland's golfer Darren Clarke, who will play in the 2016 edition of the Venetian Macao Golf Open

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS

AP PHOTO



CHINA Beijing's awful air quality improved significantly in the first half of the year, with actions taken to curb the city's heavy pollution having a positive effect, officials said. [More on p11](#)

AP PHOTO



PHILIPPINES The Supreme Court dismissed a plunder case against former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and ordered her freed immediately after nearly five years of hospital detention — a decision the grateful ex-leader indicated can help her deal with those who "through self-serving interpretation and implementation of the law" made her suffer.

INDIA Authorities lifted a three-day publication ban in India's portion of Kashmir but newspapers delayed new print runs due to uncertainties about the media restrictions imposed during massive anti-India protests that left dozens of people dead and hundreds injured. [More on p13](#)

AUSTRALIA Vice President Joe Biden met with Australia's prime minister and other leaders, as he reasserted America's push to boost its presence in the Asia-Pacific region and maintain its status as a "Pacific power."

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HOUSE OF PORTUGAL PRESIDENT

Slow ID processing causes 'instability, fear'

P3 MDT REPORT

BLOOMBERG



Asia embraces bullet trains as Singapore, Malaysia sign deal

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Nomura: July GGR disappointing

Japanese financial services company, Nomura Group, has estimated that the average daily Macau gross gaming revenue (GGR) for the last week amounted to MOP550 million; an improvement over the MOP525 million average daily GGR for the first 10 days of July. However, Nomura said that the amount is disappointing, as the summer travel season has already begun. The broker has predicted that the GGR for the whole month will be in the range of MOP16.1 billion to MOP17.5 billion, down by 6 – 13.5 percent year-on-year. The company adds that it is skeptical of expectations the Wynn Palace will open on August 22.

Sa Sa notes 5.7pct turnover decline

Sa Sa International Holdings, a cosmetics and personal care company based out of Hong Kong, said that the group's retail and wholesale turnover dropped 5.7 percent year-on-year to HKD1.717 billion for the first quarter, dating from April 1 to June 30. In Macau and Hong Kong markets, the company's turnover declined 5.4 percent to HKD1.384 billion, while same store sales decreased by 4.8 percent. Though still in decline, retail sales in Macau and Hong Kong noted an improvement over the loss observed in the last quarter of the last financial year. The number of transactions increased by 0.6 percent, while the average sales per transaction decreased by 5.7 percent to about HKD315. The group's retail and wholesale turnover in other markets, including online sales, recorded a fall of around seven percent during the first quarter of this year.

Residents gambling habits surveyed

The Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) has invited the Institute for the Study of Commercial Gaming from the University of Macau to conduct a survey targeting Macau residents, to understand the participation of local residents in gaming activities, according to a report by Macao Daily News. The survey starts today and will continue until August 19. All interviews will be conducted via telephone, targeting Macau residents aged 18 or above. Questions will address the interviewees' participation in gaming activities, as well as their opinions toward different gaming activities. All data collected will be used as a reference to develop gaming disorder prevention services.

Q&A DARREN CLARKE
GOLFER, VENETIAN MACAO OPEN CONTESTANT



'Scott Hend is the man to beat'



Darren Clarke

Renato Marques

NORTHERN Ireland's golfer Darren Clarke will play in the 2016 edition of the Venetian Macao Golf Open, raising the bar of this year's lineup.

The 48-year-old will be one of the highlights that will add interest for golf fans in the territory due to his extensive career and great achievements in the sport.

This will be the second time that Clarke joins the local event in which he made his debut back in 1999, on the second edition of the tournament when he finished tied at 39th position.

Clarke is the 2011 Open Championship winner and captain of the

European team for the 2016 Ryder Cup, a role that led him to withdraw from this year's edition of US Open at Oakmont. He will be playing at the Macau Golf & Country Club for the second time at the Asian Tour,

The Asian Tour has been doing a wonderful job and this is the best tournament in Asia.

DARREN CLARKE

a tournament which is offering a total of USD1.1 million (approximately MOP8.8 million) in prize-money.

To learn more about Clarke's expectations and views on its return to Macau after 17 years of absence, the Times spoke to the golfer in a telephone interview.

Macau Daily Times (MDT) – What is the biggest challenge of the 2016 Venetian Macao Open to you?

Darren Clarke (DC) – I think we have Scott Hend that has won two out of the last three years (if I'm not wrong). He is hitting the ball well and when you have a man that has the record that he has in that course he would be the man to beat because he is such a good player and he is having a wonderful season. But after the Ryder Cup, I'll be back working on my game and gearing myself into action again and I'm looking forward to it. I have really good memories from the golf course and may be playing a little better on the golf course [this time].

MDT – How do you expect to find Macau after 17 years of absence?

DC – Well I have heard reports from people that have been there. It has grown enormously since we were there the last time and apparently it is very busy so hopefully we can get some massive crowds out to watch the golf tournament. I'm really excited to get back there as I remember we had a great social time when we were in Macau last and I hope it will be the same.

MDT – How do you feel about the development of this tournament over the years? Do you think the fact that the event is growing will attract more professional players?

DC – I sure hope so. The Asian Tour has been doing a wonderful job and this is the best tournament in Asia so I'm very excited about it. It's growing, growing and growing and getting more global coverage and that can only benefit Macau.

MDT – Golf has been developing a lot in Asia, especially due to the Asian Tour (as you mentioned). How do you perceive the Asian potential in this sport?

DC – I think it is great! If you take a look at women for instance. Asians are starting to play much better globally and both in America and in Europe. The game is really booming in Asia. The quality is getting better. Certainly compared to my career's beginning, the quality of Asian players is now completely different. They have become better and they are continuing to do so.

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HUMAN RESOURCES

Delays on processing residence requests are creating 'instability, fear'

Renato Marques

IN the first half of 2016 there were less requests for residency in the territory from Portuguese citizens, according to data released by the Public Security Police Force (PSP).

The number of requests decreased by 17.3 percent (amounting to 13 fewer requests) with an even bigger decrease in the number of approvals of these requests, falling from 77.3 percent (58 requests) of total requests in 2015 to only 45.2 percent (28 requests) in 2016.

Taking into account the fact that the authorities claimed not to have rejected any of the requests during the period, this means that 54.8 percent of requests (34) are pending.

The analysis shows what Maria Amélia António, the president of "Casa de Portugal" (House of Portugal - CPM) deems a "trend in the last couple of years." The processing of the requests to completion can take several months.

"They [the PSP] didn't refuse any request but they only approved 28. I can't believe that all these requests [have] just [come in] within the time-frame [of the last] one or two months. People didn't come running to do all the requests at the same time for sure," the CPM president said.

"If a company needs a worker, [they] cannot be waiting for months, moreover they are not going to request that people come to Macau to stay here waiting. The same happens in the cases whe-



Maria Amélia António

re people come to Macau on their own initiative. Also, it is not reasonable for them to be waiting after having found an employer; they are forced to give up," Amélia António said. "In the event that these people do not have support from either family or friends, who sponsor them to stay and wait, it is impossible to survive," she added.

The House of Portugal head

knows several cases of identification request delays that lead to the withdrawal of those requests affecting small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) as well as in specialized fields such as Information Technologies (IT) amongst many others, including people who intended to work for the Portuguese association.

"This [the system] creates many troubles especially for

SMEs and I often get confused by the information [from the government] that aims to protect these kinds of companies," Amélia António stated. "We also suffer from the same problem as there are fields of interest in which I intend to hire people to teach but I can't have them here for such a long time waiting. That lead us to finding solutions that are cumbersome -

to bring people for very short periods of time to teach in workshop-based classes that consequently can't be included in the programs of continuing education from the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) and so on... it creates a 'snowball effect' that is bad for everyone," the president of CPM told the Times.

"This situation, as well as the uncertain governmental requirements at the time of renewal of the IDs creates instability. People aren't able focus on working and contributing to society because they are always afraid that something might happen to them and this creates a lack of security for people which doesn't come from a lack of jobs but rather is due to the system," she added.

The association head also commented on the number of Portuguese nationals who are now working in the territory and hold work permits as non-resident workers (or holders of what is commonly known as a "blue card"): "It's another push [from the government]. As they say it is supposedly faster to process... they tell this to people. There are two other important aspects: first the company needs to request or have a quota for this kind of worker; second, even when this happens, these workers become totally dependent on the company and this is a bit horrifying for me to know that a person that can have [by law] a better situation will be forced in to the 'blue card' system that blocks them from other options and from developing and contributing more."

CE to visit Beijing to discuss region's five-year plan

THE Chief Executive (CE), Chui Sai On, will lead an official delegation to Beijing from today until Friday for the advancement of the Beijing-Macau partnership and for discussions on the region's first Five-Year Development Plan.

According to the Government Information Bureau, the three-day visit to China's capital city will include Chui's

meeting with the Secretary of the Communist Party of China Beijing Municipal Committee, Guo Jinlong.

The CE will also have a meeting with officials from the National Development and Reform Commission, to discuss the region's Five-Year Development Plan, which outlines proposals for the territory's social and economic development

for the period 2016 to 2020.

Earlier this week, Chui attended the reception of the "Visit of High-Level Officials for Judicial and Law Enforcement Cooperation from Neighboring Countries" in Macau.

The visit was co-organized by the local government and the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Af-

fairs of the PRC in the MSAR. According to the CE, the visit was an "excellent opportunity for us to share practices and experiences of our judicial system."

Chui claimed that the region is benefiting from protection under the Basic Law, as well as the advantages of the implementation of the "One Country, two systems" policy.

RENATO MARQUES



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" THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

Daniel Beittler

WORLD CONGRESS OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Scholar: Xi underestimating the influence of Russia in the region

A visiting professor at the Macao Polytechnic Institute (MPI) has been invited to chair a panel session at the 24th World Congress of Political Science, titled "China at the crossroads of nationalism and regionalism," in which he will discuss, with other participants, the influence of China, Russia and India in Central Asia and the "One Belt, One Road" (OBOR) policy.

Arnaldo Gonçalves, who will chair the panel on China, nationalism and regionalism, is a member of the International Political Science Association (ISPA), the chairman of the Lisbon-based Luso-Asian Forum and also a visiting professor at MPI. The panel will be made up of scholars from China, India and Russia.

The conference has been organized by ISPA and is being held in Poznań, Poland between July 23 and 28. Organized every few years, the 2016 conference is themed "Politics in a World of Inequality," and has around 3,000 participants enrolled to attend its many sessions.

Gonçalves will discuss how China, Russia and India are competing for influence in the



Russia's President Putin (left) and China's President Xi Jinping shake hands



“The wealthy in Russia – the oil magnates and so on – are afraid that China is trying to take their place in the region.”

ARNALDO GONÇALVES

'MACAU NOT MUCH USE IN OBOR'

ASKED ABOUT the usefulness of the two Special Administrative Regions of China to the country's connectivity strategy, Gonçalves said, "Hong Kong is experienced [as an international hub of connections] and can be useful to China as part of its OBOR initiative. Macau will not be much use as it is still very backwards and still very dependent on just one industry – we don't really have alternatives. I am very pessimistic about this." On the other hand, Gonçalves notes, "OBOR can be useful to Macau in the sense that one of the termini of the [Maritime] Silk Road is Guangzhou, close to Macau, which might help exports to Europe and other parts of the world."

Central Asia region, and how China's OBOR initiative is being seen as an infringement by Russia on an area that has traditionally been part of the Russian sphere of influence, or directly controlled by the former Soviet Union.

In order to examine this, he explained to the Times, it is necessary to understand what OBOR really means. "It is basically the Silk Road reincarnated, connecting Asia with Europe," he said. "China is looking to reinstall that connection in order to increase the speed of communication and trade between their [China's] ports and Europe and the Middle East."

This is important to China, rationalized Gonçalves, because it will reduce the dependency on the South China Sea, through which most of

the trade traffic in the region traverses.

"The worsening of the conflict there is providing a reason for China to build an alternative terrestrial [land-based] pathway," he told the Times, alluding to the recent Philippine's arbitration case that found China's historical claims to almost the entire South China Sea invalid. Gonçalves said he prefers not to comment specifically on this issue, as the dust is yet to settle.

"In order to establish a land route, [President] Xi Jinping needs to build infrastructure [in Central Asia]," said Gonçalves.

However, the scholar highlighted that such financing overtures would necessarily be taken as an infringement on a traditionally pro-Russia region, and Russia would be

sure to understand such encroachment as a threat.

"Xi seems confident that he can convince the Central Asian Republics" to join the initiative even if traditionally they have been part of the Russian sphere of influence.

"[But] Xi is underestimating the influence of Russia in the region and of Putin. Putin will be watching this [policy] closely. In Russia, they have a historical relationship [with the countries of Central Asia]. The wealthy in Russia – the oil magnates and so on – are afraid that China is trying to take their place in the region."

Meanwhile, India is eyeing these developments and, being "generally suspicious of China," is trying to balance Chinese influence in its northern neighbors.

In terms of foreign relations, India has been known to have a relatively small diplomatic service for a country of its geographic and economic clout. Nevertheless, as of this year, India now has more foreign embassies and high commissions than all but nine other countries, indicating a change in the country's approach to influencing its neighbors and those further afield.

Gonçalves says that India is "looking to position itself in the Central Asian relationships because [India] controls the Indian Ocean, and worries about Chinese investment in ports in Pakistan and Myanmar."

The OBOR initiative is a development strategy proposed by Xi that seeks to improve connectivity and cooperation between areas that were historically part of the Silk Road. The strategy emphasizes China's shift towards taking a larger role in global affairs, as well as securing access to markets with sufficient demand to satisfy the country's production output.

ISPA was founded as an international scholarly association in 1949 under the auspices of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Every few years the organization holds conferences to discuss important global issues.

Young people in SARs can play role in US-China diplomacy

A video recently uploaded of a conversation with the U.S. Consul General in Hong Kong and Macau questioned the role today's youth may play in the future of U.S.-China relations in the two SARs.

Vivian Lau, president of JA Asia Pacific, a non-profit organization inspiring young people and preparing them for careers, and Consul General Clifford Hart

discussed the issue in a video uploaded on the Facebook page of the U.S. Consulate General in Hong Kong and Macau.

"Hong Kong and Macau already have mature relationships with the United States," said Hart. "We have had thousands of students go to the U.S. over the years from both places; we have tens of thousands of business people [from the territories in the U.S.]; and lots of fa-

mily relationships... so it's not as though we're exploring new territory."

He said that young people in the two SARs can continue to play an important role in people-to-people diplomacy.

"For young people looking to promote this relationship, I'd encourage them to think very broadly about what diplomacy means [...] The most important dimension of dialogue – diplomacy writ large – is people-to-people," he said.

Hart, who assumed office in July 2013, will step down from the post shortly to be succeeded next month by Kurt Tong, the current principal deputy assistant secretary of the Department of State.



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Multiple construction works result in Taipa traffic gridlock

A traffic diversion near Rotunda do Estádio, a road closure at the conjunction of Estr. Alm. Marques Esparteiro with Avenida Kwong Tung, and ongoing road projects at Rotunda Ouvidor Arriaga, Av. dos Jogos da Ásia Oriental and the Estrada de Pac On have been creating traffic chaos in Taipa. Chaos has ensued at several main roads resulting in serious gridlock, according to a report by Macao Daily News.

These projects are located at principal junctions of key roads in Taipa, some connecting Taipa to the Macau Peninsula. People living in Taipa, regardless of where they intend to go, are finding it challenging to avoid all construction sites. During rush hour, the traffic at the aforementioned spots becomes congested.

Since June 24, Rotunda do Estadio has had a large-scale traffic diversion, which has been projected to last 100 days, as a Light Train rail viaduct is being installed. Traffic at Taipa's old town, at Av. Olimpica and at the Sports Center towards Sai Van Bridge has also been affected.

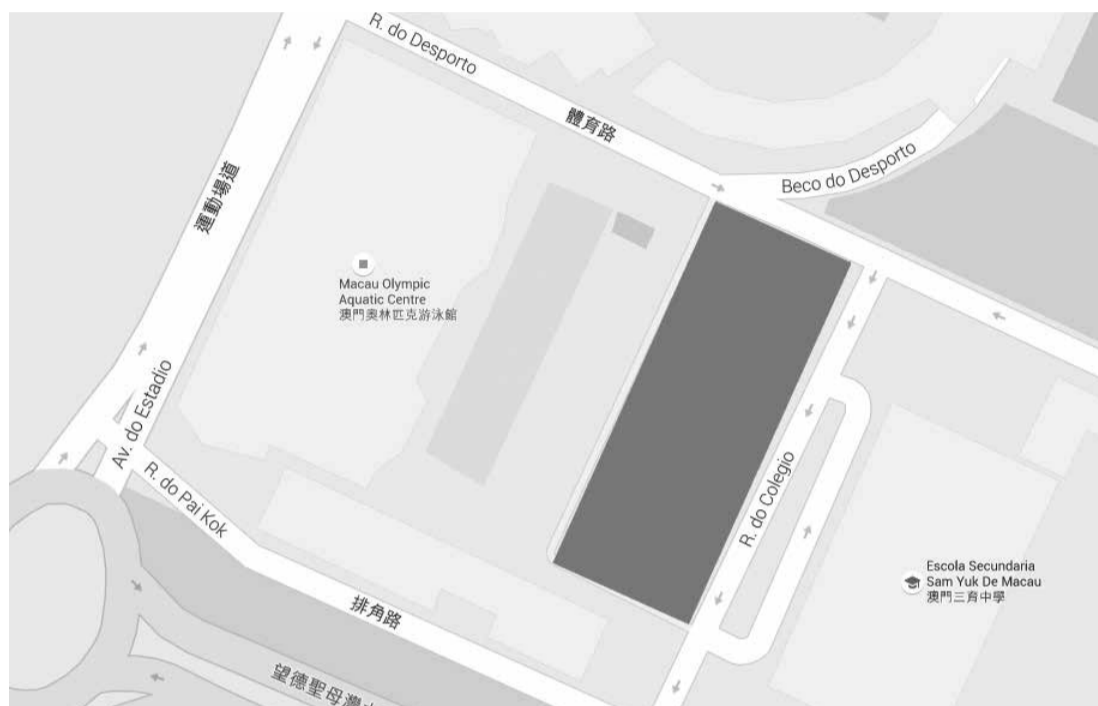
In turn, sewer construction works at Avenida Kwong Tung requires drivers to double-back towards Av. Dr. Sun Yat Sen.

When interviewed by Macao Daily News, some residents in Taipa said that they rarely see construction workers working at the sites, and that they are concerned about the projects' deadlines. Some residents complain many drivers, after being diverted, have driven up wrong roads and had to reverse, obstructing other drivers. Other residents noted that the ongoing construction works have dangerously narrowed the space between pedestrians and vehicles.

Opposition to public housing project around Taipa Olympic Centre

THE government's plan to build a public housing estate next to Taipa's Olympic Aquatic Centre was met with significant opposition from different groups in the city, including the Macau Tri-Decade Union and the Advisory Council of Community Services of the Islands, as well as from individuals such as Manuel Silvério, the former director of the Sports Bureau.

Last month, Silvério informed local media of a letter he sent to the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário, expressing his opinion of the project. In his letter, the former government official voiced his disagreement with the plan. Silvério believes that the parking lot has a special meaning to Macau, and further that it represents a collective memory of Macau's history. Silvério questioned whether Sports Bureau officials have asked how the public feels about the importance of the parking lot building, since it is a part of the sports complex. The parking lot is considered by Silvério to be a supporting body of many sports facilities within the complex. He also noted that there is still the possibility that the building could be put to better use rather than being reconstructed into public housing. For example, it could be utilized by the office of the Sports association or instead, have more parking spaces added to it.



Opposing views have also been voiced by the Advisory Council of Community Services of the Islands. Four of its members suggested that since the location is close to schools, sports facilities, and also to several public housing units, it is unlikely to be suitable for a tall building, as is planned for the project. Moreover, those same members pointed out that the number of local sports facilities has been decreasing during the past years, and that there is little hope that this is a trend which will reverse, according to a report by Macao Daily News.

Last week, the Macau Tri-Decade Union, the Advisory Council of Community Services of the Islands, the

General Union of Neighbourhood Association (Kai Fong) and the Macao New Chinese Youth Association (ANJCM) declared themselves to be against the project during a talk on a local radio show.

"According to the government's plan, is the government going to give back sports facilities to the neighbourhood which are equal or better than the ones people can enjoy now?" questioned Yeong Man Yuen, vice-convenor of the ANJCM.

Representatives of the other two associations also urged the government to announce whether it will preserve the sports facilities around the area.

In addition to the aforementioned opposing parties,

the government's project to use a land plot in Taipa as a site for the building of public housing was also faced with opposition from several members of the Urban Planning Committee. Among them was committee member Wu Chou Kit. "The people need public housing, I acknowledge that. But there are other facilities which people also need," he said.

Rosário was questioned by the media about several of these unfavourable opinions regarding the public housing project in Taipa. "We will always take note of the opinions of the committee members in these meetings. The services will analyze all of them," he confirmed. **Staff reporter**

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London home presales slump 34pct as Brexit woes intensify tax pain



Jack Sidders, Sharon Smyth

SALES of London homes under construction slumped 34 percent in the second quarter as the prospect of a vote to leave the European Union damped demand already hurt by higher taxes.

The number of residences sold before completion fell to about 4,600 from 6,974 a year earlier, according to data compiled by researcher Molior London seen by Bloomberg News. A spokesman for Molior declined to comment.

"The approaching referendum added more layers of uncertainty," said Tom Bill, head of London residential research at broker Knight Frank LLP. "That's adding to the two-year slow down from the December 2014 tax increase, which is still the biggest damping factor."

Demand fell about 23 percent from the first quarter after the government cut tax breaks for the wealthiest landlords. Home values face a "major shock" as landlords offload properties after the measures which, along with new lending rules, reduce returns to near zero, analysts at Deutsche Bank AG said last month.

There was a 3 percentage-point increase in the stamp-duty sales tax for landlords and second home owners in April which followed an increase in charges for all luxury-home purchasers in 2014. That hike means that a 12 percent tax rate is paid on portions above 1.5 million pounds (USD2 million).

A record 5,655 homes were completed during the second quarter, the highest since the data was first collected in 2009, the Molior report shows. **Bloomberg**

Cathay drops after CEO says performance 'below expectations'

Crystal Tse, Kyunghee Park

CATHAY Pacific Airways Ltd. slumped the most in three weeks after Asia's biggest international carrier said first-half performance was "below expectations" and yields were under "intense pressure."

Shares snapped six days of gains after the Hong Kong-based airline said in a statement to the stock exchange on Monday that combined passenger load factor for Cathay Pacific and unit Dragonair fell by 1.7 percentage points to 85.5 percent in the period. While the capacity increased 4.2 percent, the growth in passenger traffic was 2.7 percent, it said.

"Passenger revenue has been adversely affected by the reduced load factor and intense pressure on yield," Chief Executive Officer Ivan Chu said in the statement issued after trading hours. "Cargo tonnage has stabilized but yield continues to decline."

Cathay is joining Singapore Airlines Ltd. in raising concerns about yields as the expansion of Middle Eastern airlines to Asia, the emergence of mainland Chinese airlines and regional budget carriers squeeze the luxury operators, prompting them to offer discounts to fill more seats. After reporting the lowest yield from passengers in six years in the 12 months through March, Singapore Air's CEO Goh Choon Phong said in May that yields are under pressure across the industry.

Cathay's stock slid 2.9 percent to HKD12.20 in Hong Kong, the biggest decline since June 27. It has dropped 7.2 percent this year, compared with a 1.1 percent loss in the Hang Seng Index.



"Cathay has become less attractive as Chinese carriers offer more direct flights," said Shukor Yusof, founder of consulting firm Endau Analytics in Malaysia. "The attractiveness of Hong Kong as a travel destination may not be as before. Like Singapore Airlines, Cathay is also affected by the budget carriers."

Net income at Cathay Pacific is due to decline 14 percent to HKD5.13 billion (USD661 million) this year, according to the mean estimate in a Bloomberg survey of 17 analyst estimates. The airline is due to report first-half numbers in August.

Cathay has become less attractive as Chinese carriers offer more direct flights.

SHUKOR YUSOF

Singapore Air's net income is forecast to rise 10 percent to SGD888 million (\$658 million) in the fiscal year ending in March, according to the mean estimate in a Bloomberg survey of 18 analysts. Chu also said "foreign currency movements have been adverse," while he didn't elaborate on yields.

"The major risk, which is not shown in the figures, is the yield," said Kelvin Lau, an analyst at Daiwa Capital Markets Hong Kong Ltd. "So far, the comments from the last few months have been consistently talking about pressure on yield, both front- and back-end," he said, adding the passenger load of 85.5 percent "isn't too bad."

In May, Singapore Air said its yields, or the revenue earned from a passenger flying a kilometer, was 10.6 Singapore cents in the year through March, dropping from 11.2 cents a year earlier. That damped full-year net income, which fell short of estimates.

"We see some weakness going forward," CEO Goh said at the time. "Oil price is volatile and competition continues." **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

SANDS CHINA, MDA HOLD 'SILENT AFTERNOON TEAS'



Around 100 Sands China Care Ambassadors spent time last week at The Venetian learning about what life is like for the hard of hearing, at an event jointly organized by Sands China Ltd and the Macau Deaf Association (MDA).

Sands China said in a statement that the Care Ambassadors enhanced their understanding of the barriers caused by hearing loss, increased their knowledge of deafness, and learned about communication with the deaf.

During the two silent afternoon teas, the participants put on soundproof headphones and teamed up to help each other order food without speaking in a mock-up restaurant scenario. The event also featured experience sharing of the Ambassadors and MDA members.

Last July, a group of Care Ambassadors also participated in a sign language workshop with the MDA at The Venetian Macao's Adelson Advanced Education Centre and at MDA's Service Centre for the Deaf.

JOHNSON & JOHNSON TOPS Q2 FORECASTS DESPITE PROFIT DROP

Johnson & Johnson's second-quarter profit fell 11.5 percent, mainly due to a sizeable gain a year ago, but it easily beat Wall Street's expectations. Sales of the health care giant's newest prescription drugs buoyed revenue and the effects of unfavorable exchange rates, which have been hurting U.S. companies, eased a bit.

The world's biggest maker of health care products reported net income of USD4 billion, or \$1.43 per share. That was down from \$4.62 billion, or \$1.63 per share, in 2015's second quarter, when the company had a gain of \$931 million, mainly from the sale of pain drug Nucynta.

The company said the strong dollar, which reduces the value of products bought overseas in local currencies, reduced sales by 2.7 percent.

'POKEMON GO' DOUBLES NINTENDO'S STOCK PRICE AND MARKET CAP

For Nintendo, "Pokemon Go" just keeps on giving. Shares in the Japanese game maker closed up 14 percent at 31,700 yen (USD300) in heavy trading yesterday on the Tokyo Stock exchange, more than twice where they stood when the wildly popular augmented-reality game was launched on July 6.

Nintendo accounted for nearly one in four shares that changed hands on

the TSE's main board. The sharp rise has doubled the Kyoto-based company's market capitalization to 4.5 trillion yen (\$42.4 billion).

"Pokemon Go," a smartphone app that uses Google Maps to overlay reality with Pokemon creatures, was developed by Niantic, a Google spinoff that Nintendo Co. invested in last year. The game has yet to be released in Japan and the rest of Asia.



John Boudreau, Diep Ngoc Pham and David Tweed

VIETNAM criticized as “untruthful” Chinese state media reports that Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc respected his Communist neighbor’s position on last week’s landmark South China Sea ruling and was interested in advancing two-way talks on the disputed waterway.

Phuc told Chinese Premier Li Keqiang in Mongolia last week that he didn’t endorse China’s stance on the international tribunal’s ruling, the Vietnamese government said in a statement late Monday. Phuc reiterated Vietnam’s welcoming of the court’s decision, which found no legal basis for China’s claim to “historic rights” to resources in the area.

Vietnam “declares it refutes untruthful coverage by Chinese media regarding the East Sea issue from the meeting” between Phuc and Li, the government said, using Vietnam’s preferred term for the South China Sea.

The Vietnam rebuke comes as China touts what it says are dozens of international backers for its stance on the South China Sea, as it seeks to show at home it has widespread support after the ruling went against it. It highlights the difficulty for China in walking a line between President Xi Jinping’s “neighborhood diplomacy” and in continuing its assertions to sovereignty - and its military buildup - in the waterway. The risk now is China receives further public rebuttals.

China’s official Xinhua News Agency last week cited Phuc as saying “Vietnam respects China’s stance on the arbitration” and that “Vietnam stands ready to push forward the mechanism of bilateral maritime negotiations and properly manage differences with China, so as to contribute to regional peace and stability.”

While the ruling resulted from a Philippines challenge, Vietnam has been a critic of China’s overlapping claims to more than four-fifths of the South China Sea. The Vietnamese

AP PHOTO



A Chinese Coast Guard boat sprays a water cannon at Filipino fishermen near Scarborough Shoal in the South China Sea

Vietnam rebukes China for ‘untruthful’ reports on sea ruling

statement follows remarks by other governments criticizing official Chinese sources for misrepresenting their remarks over the South China Sea case.

China’s Foreign Ministry said July 9 that Sri Lanka “understands and applauds” China’s stance on the waterway, citing a meeting between the countries’ foreign ministers in Colombo. But Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said in an interview in Singapore on Sunday that use of “applaud” was not correct. “We understood, I think they just corrected to say we understood.”

Fiji issued a statement in April rejecting another Chinese ministry release asserting support from the tiny South Pacific nation. Cambodia, Poland and Slovenia have also denied Chinese claims of backing, according to the Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative, a unit of the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies.

India, whose support China also claimed, published a statement on the day of the ruling “urging all parties to show utmost respect” for the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

The diplomatic dust-ups over language are among several repercussions as the region digests the ruling, which China has rejected as unfair and motivated by U.S. efforts to rally allies against the rising power. China has welcomed Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte’s offer for two-way talks on their sea disputes.

Still, Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Perfecto Yasay rejected Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi’s position that any bilateral negotiations must disregard the tribunal’s ruling. That was “not consistent with our constitution and our national interest,” Yasay told the ABS-CBN News Channel.

Zhao Qizheng, former chairman of the foreign affairs com-

mittee of China’s top political advisory body, said some countries “might be in a pickle and under huge pressure after China’s Foreign Ministry identified their support by name.”

“It’s understandable,” Zhao said at a briefing yesterday in Singapore. “But I hope countries can to be sincere with each other.”

Indonesia, which is not a claimant in the South China Sea but whose navy is coming into closer proximity with China’s fishing boats and coast guard in the Natuna Island area, plans to blow up 71 fishing boats to mark its independence day on August 17, including three from China, the Jakarta Post reported. Indonesia has accused China of treating its fishing waters as its own.

For now China has said it has no plans to tone down its actions. Its air force recently conducted a combat air patrol in the South China Sea, an exercise that will become a “regular”

practice in the future, Xinhua reported Monday. China will also conduct military drills off its island of Hainan.

Chheang Vannarith, Phnom Penh-based chairman of the Cambodian Institute for Strategic Studies and a former government adviser, said Cambodia would probably remain sympathetic to China’s position on the sea disputes, but must also take into account the views of the other nine members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Cambodia in the past has been accused by other nations of responding to lobbying by China to veto the prospect of unified Asean statements being issued on the matter. Asean operates on a consensus basis.

“China must acknowledge this is a disputed area,” he said. “We need all to accept this is a disputed area. It’s not China, but all of the other claimants have their own unilateral map.”

Bloomberg

Oil company moves South Sudan staff as army warns rebels

Okech Francis, Aibing Guo

A Chinese state oil company moved some staff from South Sudan, where fighting flared almost two weeks ago, as the African nation’s military said it’s trying to disperse an armed group that’s threatening to march on the capital.

China National Petroleum Corp. has evacuated 191 employees, leaving 77 people to help keep South Sudan’s oil fields running, the company said yesterday in a statement on its website. The country, which has sub-Saharan Africa’s third-biggest crude reserves, is producing as li-

tle as 120,000 barrels a day because of a civil war that erupted in December 2013 and claimed tens of thousands of lives.

The evacuations follow clashes in South Sudan’s capital, Juba, between forces loyal to President Salva Kiir and his deputy, Riek Machar, that erupted July 7 and continued

sporadically for about five days, leaving at least 272 people dead. Two Chinese peacekeepers serving with the United Nations were among those killed.

An uneasy calm has held in Juba since the two leaders announced a cease-fire on July 12 after Machar’s fighters were

forced from the capital. The UN and East African nations have discussed deploying more troops.

Army spokesman Lul Ruai Koang said yesterday that the military is communicating with an armed group of about 3,000 people who have mobilized in central Jonglei state and threatened to attack Juba.

“We are communicating with them to stop this and disperse,” Koang said by phone from the capital. “If they insist to fight, we will attack them with our air force. This

is the warning we are giving them.”

South Sudanese Petroleum Minister Dak Duop Bischock’s phone was switched off when Bloomberg called seeking comment. The country’s crude, which is also pumped by Malaysia’s Petrolim Nasional Bhd and India’s Oil & Natural Gas Corp., is exported via a pipeline through its northern neighbor, Sudan. Upper Nile is the only South Sudanese state still producing oil after Unity state halted output shortly after the civil war began. **Bloomberg**

Bus with Chinese tourists catches fire in Taiwan, killing 26

A tour bus carrying visitors from China burst into flames on a highway near Taiwan's capital yesterday, killing all 26 people on board, officials said, in the deadliest incident involving Chinese tourism to the island.

The accident took place on the No. 2 national highway in Taoyuan county, south of Taipei, where Taiwan's international airport is located, the county's fire and rescue service said in a statement.

It said 24 of those on board were visitors from northeast China's Liaoning province who had been scheduled to fly home yesterday afternoon. The others killed were the driver and a tour guide, both Taiwanese.

Taoyuan fire chief Lai Chichong said all of the victims died inside the bus. "There was not enough time for them to escape," he told reporters.

Video from the scene showed both of the bus's doors pressed up against the highway's guard rail, making them impossible to open. Photos showed flames and thick black smoke pouring from the front of the bus.

Many of the bodies were badly charred, some of them piled in front of the unopened emergency exit, Taiwan's official Central News Agency and other media reported.

There was no official word on the cause of the fire, although CNA and others said that the



The accident was the deadliest involving Chinese visitors to Taiwan since the island opened up to Chinese tourism in 2008

bus apparently burst into flames after spinning out of control and smashing into the guard rail.

CNA cited eyewitnesses as saying the bus had been giving off smoke and swerving from lane to lane prior to crashing and bursting into flames.

The drivers of other vehicles pulled over and attempted to put out the flames with fire extinguishers, but the fire had grown too large for them to put out, the news agency said.

Thirteen firefighting vehicles and 30 firefighters were sent

to the scene, but the fire apparently spread too rapidly. By the time the flames were extinguished, the vehicle had been heavily blackened from one end to the other.

Three of the victims were children — two 13-year-olds and a 12-year-old, according to a passenger manifest distributed to media by the Taiwanese travel agency that organized the trip.

The accident was the deadliest involving Chinese visitors to Taiwan since the island opened up to Chinese tourism

in 2008, according to Taiwanese government records and reports of previous incidents.

Since then, 83 Chinese have died while on trips to Taiwan, including yesterday's victims. Several of those deaths involved bus crashes, including a 2010 crash that killed 19, and the latest accident is likely to revive safety concerns surrounding the treatment of Chinese tourists, most of whom come on cheap group tours.

China's Taiwan Affairs Office said it would send representatives to help deal with legal

issues surrounding the crash. China claims Taiwan as its own territory and the sides have no formal ties, although contacts have been growing in recent years to handle trade, travel and other practical, nonpolitical matters.

However, relations have deteriorated since the January election of independence-leaning Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen, and Chinese tourist numbers have declined steadily in recent months, dealing a major blow to the island's travel industry. AP

Beijing says air quality improved in first half of 2016

BEIJING'S notoriously awful air quality improved significantly in the first half of the year, with actions taken to curb the city's heavy pollution having a positive effect, officials in the Chinese capital said.

Concentrations of microscopic PM2.5 — small, inhalable particles that can penetrate deep into the lungs and are considered a reliable gauge of air quality — dropped by 17.9 percent in the first six months against the same period last year, the Municipal Environmental Protection Bureau said on its website late Monday.

The number of days in which air quality was rated good grew by 19, to 107, while the number



A Chinese couple wearing masks to protect against air pollution walk past a Chinese government propaganda slogan for the "Chinese Dream" in Beijing

of days with heavy pollution fell by two, to 14, the bureau said.

The ongoing closure of 174 heavily polluting Beijing factories was among the reasons given for the improvement, along

with the switching of 463 communities from coal to alternative energy sources, the retirement of tens of thousands of exhaust-spewing cars, trucks and buses, and the addition of 6,803 vehi-

Researchers at Germany's Max Planck institute have estimated that smog has led to 1.4 million premature deaths per year in China

cles running purely on electricity.

"Since the start of the year, the entire city has assiduously implemented the key tasks of the clean air action plan," the bureau said. "The improvement in air quality citywide has been obvious."

With more than 21 million people, Beijing has struggled with the ills of most modern ci-

ties, including snarled traffic and a shortage of affordable housing. Air pollution, however, has perhaps had the biggest impact on quality of life, with schools closed and outdoor activities curtailed on particularly bad days. Air pollution was also cited as a concern by evaluators ahead of Beijing being awarded the 2022 Winter Olympics.

Actions taken by the central government, especially since 2014, have borne fruit, however, with overall pollution levels in Beijing down in each of the past two years.

Coal consumption is the biggest source of air pollution in China. The country is now the world's largest emitter of greenhouse gases, although the United States far exceeds it on a per capita basis.

Researchers at Germany's Max Planck institute have estimated that smog has led to 1.4 million premature deaths per year in China, while the nonprofit group Berkeley Earth in California has had a higher figure, 1.6 million. AP

TRANSPORTATION

Asia embraces bullet trains as Singapore, Malaysia sign deal

Nikita Mathur

ASIA is embracing bullet trains like never before. Singapore and Malaysia signed an agreement yesterday that will bring a high-speed rail link to Kuala Lumpur by 2026. The long-envisioned plan, six years behind an earlier target completion date, follows a USD5.5 billion project already underway in Indonesia. India last year chose Japan to build a \$15 billion network, its first.

Asian nations are modernizing their transport infrastructure while China has set up the world's biggest high-speed rail network. Japan has been running bullet trains for more than five decades now. As countries embrace the latest technology, it's also pitting Chinese and Japanese manufacturers of super-fast trains against rivals such as Siemens AG and Bombardier Inc.

"It's a good sign because generally investors are looking to see more inter-connectivity across Southeast Asia," said Alan Richardson, a Hong Kong-based fund manager at Samsung Asset Management. That "will help to provide greater resilience to, or less reliance on other developed economies and also, should provide a more stable geopolitical environment with increasing inter-connectivity," he said.

The memorandum of understanding on the rail line was signed in the presence of Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and his counterpart Najib Razak in the Malaysian administrative capital of Putrajaya. The agreement will pave the way for final negotiations on the development and execution of the 300-kilome-



ter line connecting Singapore and Kuala Lumpur. A tender for the project will be issued next year, Najib told reporters yesterday.

Last year, Singapore and Malaysia said they would reassess the 2020 target for the completion of the project because of the scale and complexity of the venture. Leaders of the two countries had announced in 2013 the rail link may be completed by the end of this decade, with Najib calling it a "huge game changer" that will transform the way the neighbors do business.

"The high-speed rail is a key bilateral project for both countries," Lee's office said in a statement Monday. "The two governments' commitment to this project is a reflection of our strong bilateral ties and our continued efforts to deepen relations. When completed, the HSR will boost connectivity, strengthen economic ties and forge closer

people-to-people linkages."

A joint project team will call for an international tender next month for a development partner to provide technical support to both the countries, according to a statement yesterday from Malaysia's Land Public Transport Commission and Singapore's Land Transport Authority. It is too early to discuss the cost of the project, Najib said.

The high-speed rail line will trim the land journey between the two Southeast Asian cities to 90 minutes, from about five hours now. It will also challenge budget carriers such as AirAsia Bhd. and Singapore Airlines Ltd.'s Tiger Airways, which fly passengers from Singapore to Kuala Lumpur in about an hour. Trains will run at a top speed of more than 300 kilometers an hour, the two governments said yesterday.

"The Singapore-Malaysia sector has among the largest airline capacity within the

Asian nations are modernizing their transport infrastructure while China has set up the world's biggest high-speed rail network

region," said John Mathai, Bloomberg Intelligence's Singapore-based transport analyst. "A high-speed rail could service some of the traffic within that segment, reducing congestion at airports."

Asia's appetite for high-speed rail has also pitted Chinese rail giants such as CRRC Corp., and Japanese manufac-

turers Hitachi Ltd. and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd. against European rivals.

Japan, which built the world's first high-speed train more than half a century ago, is stepping up efforts to export its bullet-train technology to meet a pledge by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to triple infrastructure exports to 30 trillion yen (\$284 billion) by 2020. China, home to the world's biggest high-speed rail network, has identified the sector as one of 10 focus industries in a blueprint for economic development.

Japan aims to sell bullet trains to the project and the government supports bids by its companies, Transport Minister Keiichi Ishii said in December. The country beat China to secure a \$15 billion rail project in India.

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang is leading his nation's overseas push by train equipment makers as part of the government's broader strategy to turn the country into an advanced industrial nation. He has targeted emerging markets in Africa, Latin America and Southeast Asia for rail-related orders, while also bidding for high-profile contracts in the developed world.

In October, a subsidiary of China Railway Group Ltd. partnered with local companies to win the rights to build a \$5.5-billion high-speed railway line in Indonesia, the country's first.

Malaysia and Singapore received close to 250 submissions after calling for a Request for Information for the project, and 98 were shortlisted, the New Straits Times reported in December.

Fourteen foreign entities among the 98 were asked to present their views, including France's Alstom, Germany's Siemens AG, Spain's CAF and Talgo SA, Canada's Bombardier, a group led by China Railway, as well as consortium from Japan and South Korea, the paper reported, without saying where it obtained the names. **Bloomberg**

TERRORISM

Indonesia says its most wanted militant killed in gunbattle

INDONESIA'S most wanted Islamic militant was killed in a gunbattle with security forces, a top minister said yesterday, in a victory for the government's counterterrorism campaign that further tightens the vise on a dwindling band of extremists in the jungles of Sulawesi island.

Abu Wardah Santoso was one of two militan-

ts killed in the shootout Monday, Coordinating Minister for Security, Political and Legal Affairs Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan told reporters. The other was an extremist known as Mochtar, not Santoso's deputy Basri, as police had initially thought.

Santoso, who headed the East Indonesia Mujahideen militant group

that in 2014 claimed allegiance to the Islamic State group, had eluded capture for more than five years.

About 2,500 security personnel, including elite army troops, intensified operations this year in Poso, a mountainous district of Central Sulawesi province considered an extremist hotbed, to capture Santoso and his

followers.

"We will increase our forces to pressure the rest of the members," said Pandjaitan.

He said the group still has some 19 members. More than 20 were captured or killed in the past year. The government's focus on hunting down Santoso was questioned by experts as activity by Islamic State sympathi-

zers increased in Java and other parts of Indonesia. In January, four IS supporters carried out a suicide bombing and shooting in the capital Jakarta in which eight people died, including the attackers.

Santoso was wanted for running a radical training camp in Poso, where a Muslim-Christian conflict killed at least 1,000 peo-

ple from 1998 to 2002. He has been linked to a number of deadly attacks against police officers and Christians.

Like many other Indonesian extremists, his top enemy became the police following the break-up of a jihadist training camp in a remote part of Aceh in 2010 by the police anti-terrorism squad Detachment 88. **MDT/AP**

Aijaz Hussain, Srinagar

India lifts ban on printing Kashmir newspapers amid unrest

AUTHORITIES in the Indian-controlled portion of Kashmir lifted a three-day ban on the publication of newspapers imposed during massive anti-India protests that left dozens of people dead and hundreds injured, and editors said they will decide together whether to resume publication.

"Government conveyed to us that it was a mistake. But we will require their reassurances about safety of our workers, reporters and printing presses," Masood Hussain, a senior journalist and editor of English weekly Kashmir Life, said. Editors had denounced the ban as "gagging and enforcing emergency on media."

The largest street protests in recent years in the disputed region erupted more than a week ago after Indian troops killed a popular young rebel leader.

State government spokesman and Education Minister Nayeem Akhtar said when the ban was imposed Friday that it was aimed at "saving lives and strengthening peace efforts."

Police raided newspaper offices, detained printing press workers and seized tens of thousands of local newspapers. In addition to the printing ban,



A Kashmiri protester throws a stone at Indian policemen during a protest in Srinagar

cellular and internet services were absent and landline phone access limited, except in Kashmir's main city of Srinagar city. The information void was fueling a cycle of rumors in the restive region.

The protests, marked by clashes between rock-throwing Kashmiris and troops firing live ammunition, pellet guns and tear gas, persisted despite a strict curfew in place for the eleventh straight day yesterday.

Streets were mostly deserted otherwise, and with shops still closed, people were trying to cope with shortages of food, medicine and other necessities.

The latest fatality was reported yesterday after a woman injured in Indian army firing overnight died in a hospital in Srinagar, a police officer said.

Two people, including a woman, were killed in the clash late Monday after soldiers fired at rock-throwing protesters in

southern Qazigund area, said the officer speaking on a customary condition of anonymity.

The clashes have killed at least 46 people, mostly teens and young men, and a policeman since July 9. Nearly 2,000 civilians and about 1,600 government troops have been injured.

Separatist leaders have extended their strike call until Thursday afternoon followed by a shutdown and protests on Friday. The key leaders, Syed Ali Geelani, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and Yasin Malik, in a statement late Monday said Indian leaders were "blinded by their own propaganda [...] to the extent that [they're] unable to understand and accept the genuineness of people's anger and self-drive for freedom and justice."

Meanwhile, the state government's political adviser, Amitabh Mattoo, said the decision to temporarily ban newspaper publication was imposed without the knowledge of the state's top elected official,

Mehbooba Mufti.

"Sometimes decisions taken at a local level is not something the highest authority approves of. There was some miscommunication," he said.

"We need to know who took the decision on the ban. We will take action once the crisis is over," he told New Delhi-based NDTV news channel late Monday.

Kashmir, a predominantly Muslim region, is divided evenly between India and Pakistan, but both claim it in its entirety. Most people in Indian-held part resent the presence of hundreds of thousands of Indian troops and want independence or a merger with Pakistan.

Since 1989, more than 68,000 people have been killed in the uprising against Indian rule and the subsequent Indian military crackdown. India and Pakistan have fought two wars over control of Kashmir since British colonialists left the Indian subcontinent in 1947. AP

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People gather at the makeshift memorial after a minute of silence on the famed Promenade des Anglais in Nice



Law enforcement officers pray after the graveside service for Dallas police Sgt. Michael J. Smith

Bloodshed fills headlines, confronting public with anxiety

Adam Geller

ORLANDO. Istanbul. Dallas. Nice. And now, again, Baton Rouge. Ever since a gunman opened fire on Florida nightclub goers five weeks ago, killing 49, we've been buffeted by images of bloodshed.

The scenes of the violence are often far away and disconnected from one another. But all too often, the victims — whether they're patrolling the streets or out for an evening of fireworks — remind us of ourselves, our families, our neighbors. To many people, the barrage has started to feel inescapable. As non-stop news coverage and social media confront people with video of conflict and death, the images have begun to exact a collective toll of exhaustion and anxiety.

"The world is crazy right now. It is complete chaos," Lauren Rose, sister-in-law of Montrell Jackson, one of the three police officers slain in Louisiana, said Monday. "And it all needs to stop, everything. We all need peace."

Such feelings reach far beyond Baton Rouge, which has been rocked since the July 5 killing of Alton Sterling, the first of two recent, highly publicized shootings of black men by police officers. It doesn't matter if there is no connection between those shootings and last week's fatal truck rampage in France.

Together, they contribute to a sense of turmoil that seems beyond easy resolution.

"It's scary but yet I don't know how, like in Nice and stuff, how that can be prevented," Terri Smith, a legal secretary from Richfield, Minnesota, said Monday. "You get tired of it after a while, I mean, and you're kind of helpless."

Cheri Lovre, a Portland, Oregon crisis counselor who specializes in working with children, teachers and communities after school shootings, said conversations in recent days increasingly convince her that even people far removed from violence are experiencing a vague, but unsettling sense of angst.

"The effect is trickling down

The only way this is going to get solved is if people with cooler heads, with credibility, get together and talk through these issues.

JARROD BERGUAN
POLICE CHIEF IN SAN BERNARDINO

to all of us," said Lovre, who has counseled people after shootings at Colorado's Columbine High School, in Newtown, Connecticut, and in other communities. "When you have the TV on and it [the violence] is in your living room, Nice is suddenly right here."

In some ways, we've been here before.

Look back to recent history — the upheaval that came around the Civil Rights movement, the threats of the Cold War — and there are plenty of reminders of times when fear and uncertainty lingered over day-to-day life in the U.S.

Tom Rosenstiel, executive director of the American Press Institute, compared the current moment to 1968, when the already troubling story line of the Vietnam War was interrupted by the assassinations of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert Kennedy, only to be followed by riots around the country and protests at the national political conventions. Such groupings of events can cause people to question their own safety and how others think, he said.

"When those seven stories on the front page or the 15 stories in the newscast or so much of your Twitter feed is filled with things that are as inexplicable as the terrorist truck attack in Nice or a veteran doing a deranged ambush of police in Baton Rouge, it's hard to get your mind around these things," he said.

But there were no social media networks in 1968, no 24-hour news channels. Today, those feed into an unending cycle of anxiety.

"This isn't just about television. It's about the constant ability to get alerts about things that are wrong in the world because we, again, don't have breaking news about what's going right," said Shana Gadian, a political scientist at Syracuse University.

The heightened anxiety can serve a positive purpose, forcing people to identify problems and their sources and seek out solutions, Gadian said.

"The only way this is going to get solved is if people with cooler heads, with credibility, get together and talk through these issues," said Jarrod Berguan, police chief in San Bernardino, California, where 14 people were killed in a terror shooting last year. "It is never going to happen because people are making short little soundbites on the news, or because people are going to the Internet to absorb whatever information they want to absorb from people who share their viewpoints."

But news of violence can overwhelm our ability to sort through the situation and reflect on the paths of action.

"People have lost the ability to step back even for a second and consider the possibility that as horrible as it is, that it might not be some sort of some grand world coming apart,"

said Steve Gorelick, a criminologist and lecturer in the department of film and media studies at Hunter College City University of New York. "How are we supposed to solve or even think about all these things at once? You can't."

If there's any consolation, though, it's that we are not alone in our anxieties.

In Minneapolis, airline pilot Keith Schmidt paused during a layover Monday to ponder the state of things. The way the world is going, he said, he might have to start carrying his concealed handgun more often. "It's really kind of scary when the country is killing the police officers," said Schmidt, who lives in Arlington, Texas. "I would say chaos and or anarchy could be around the corner."

In New York, secretary Rita Donovan voiced similar uncertainty.

"There's no sense to this," said Donovan, 63, of Nutley, New Jersey, while on a lunch break. "This time has reminded me of the bad time of the 1960s."

And in Grandview, Missouri, Sean Hanan, a 48-year-old equipment operator, said the past few weeks' events worry him that people are being split into opposing camps. Hanan lives on the same block south of Kansas City that Gavin Eugene Long, who killed three law enforcement officers in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, did when Long was in high school.

"Things are going a little bit crazy," said Hanan, who's between jobs. "Most people are just trying to feed their families and not get shot by someone with an ideological agenda."

He added, "It's all just starting to blur together." AP

49,000 kids dying of malnutrition linked to Boko Haram



A doctor attends to a malnourished child at a refugee camp in Yola, Nigeria

THE U.N. children's agency warns that some 49,000 children will die of malnutrition in areas once cut off by northeastern Nigeria's Islamic extremist uprising if they don't get treatment.

UNICEF is calling for charities and donors to respond quickly to avert a tragedy in Borno state, where nearly a quarter of a million children are severely malnourished.

Most of the children are in areas that had been inaccessible before a multinational force liberated them from Boko Haram extremists earlier this year.

The seven-year Boko Haram insurgency has killed more than 20,000 people in the region.

The UNICEF statement yesterday says the agency has received less than half of the USD55.5 million it appealed for earlier this year, and now the needs are even greater. AP

REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION

Melania Trump speech lines mirror Michelle Obama speech

MELANIA Trump's speech at the Republican National Convention yesterday [Macau time] drew attention after the discovery that two passages of her remarks matched nearly word-for-word the speech that first lady Michelle Obama delivered in 2008 at the Democratic National Convention.

The passages in question focused on lessons that Trump's wife says she learned from her parents and the relevance of their lessons in her experience as a mother.

Trump's campaign had no immediate reaction when asked about the similarities in the two speeches. White House officials did not immediately respond to requests for comment late Monday evening.

On the whole, Mrs. Trump presented a softer and gentler candidate. She said: "He is tough when he has to



Melania Trump, wife of Republican Presidential Candidate Donald Trump

be, but he is also kind and fair and caring. This kindness is not always noted, but it is there for all to see. That is one reason I fell in love with him to begin with."

The Slovenian-born former model, 24 years her husband's junior, also reintroduced herself, showing poise as well as devotion to her adopted country and

to her husband's cause. Mrs. Trump, appearing in a striking white dress with elbow-length sleeves ending in big, puffy cuffs, spoke after an uncharacteristically brief introduction from her husband, who kissed her and called her "my wife, an amazing mother, an incredible woman."

Prior to yesterday, Mrs.

Two passages of Melania's remarks matched nearly word-for-word the speech that first lady Michelle Obama delivered in 2008

Trump had spoken on her husband's behalf only a few times, and briefly, and her remarks Monday lasted roughly 10 minutes as she spoke slowly in heavily accented English. MDT/AP

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SATURDAY JUST GOT EPIC

SATURDAY SUPER STACK

Every Saturday, until July 16, PokerStars LIVE Macau will be hosting the HK\$1,000 Saturday Warm-up (20k GTD) at 2pm and the HK\$3,000 Saturday Superstack (100k GTD) at 6pm

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what's ON



AUGUSTE BORGET: A PAINTER-TRAVELLER ON THE SOUTH CHINA COAST
TIME: 10am-7pm
 (no admission after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: December 31, 2016
VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,
 Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE
ADMISSION: MOP5
 (Free on Sundays and public holidays)
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

REMINISCENT - PORTUGAL. MACAU
TIME: 10am-6:30pm (Tuesdays to Sundays)
UNTIL: July 22, 2016
ADMISSION: Free
VENUE: Dare to Dream Gallery, Calçada Da Barra,
 No. 16 R/C LJ A, Edif. San Chak
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2896 2820

MACAU ANNUAL VISUAL ARTS EXHIBITION 2016 - WESTERN MEDIA CATEGORY
TIME: 10am-8pm (Closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: August 7, 2016
VENUE: Old Court Building
ADMISSION: Free
ORGANIZER: Macau Cultural Affairs Bureau
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8399 6699

ABSTRACT PAINTINGS FROM THE MAM COLLECTION
TIME: 10am-7pm
 (no admittance after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: December 31, 2016
VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,
 Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE
ADMISSION: MOP5
 (Free on Sundays and public holidays)
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

"MEMORIES OF MOMENTS - MACAO AND LUSOPHONE AFRICAN AND ASIAN REGIONS IN PHOTOGRAPH POSTCARDS" EXHIBITION
TIME: 10am-6pm
 (no admission after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: December 4, 2016
VENUE: Archives of Macao, No. 91-93, Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida, Macau
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6866

Offbeat

MYSTERY NUMBERS IN N. KOREA BROADCASTS CARRY COLD WAR ECHOES



North Korea's state radio has recently broadcast strings of indecipherable numbers in a possible resumption of a Cold War-era method of sending coded messages to spies operating in South Korea.

Seoul's Unification Ministry said yesterday that a female announcer at the radio station read numbers for 2 minutes on June 24 and 14 minutes on Friday. It says the broadcast included phrases such as "No. 35 on Page 459" and "No. 55 on Page 913."

During the Cold War, Pyongyang sent such numbers via shortwave radio to give missions to agents dispatched to South Korea. It later reportedly stopped such broadcasts once it could communicate with its spies overseas via the internet.

Some experts view the latest broadcasts as a North Korean attempt to wage psychological warfare against Seoul.

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:45	RTPi Live
18:00	Once Upon A Time S1 (Repeated)
18:50	Helena's Shadow (Repeated)
19:40	Non-daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
19:50	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Fairyland of Earth Building
21:30	Criminal Minds S9
22:10	Helena's Shadow
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:15	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:50	RTPi Live

cinema

CINETEATRO

14 Jul - 20 Jul

FINDING DORY

ROOM 1
 (2D) 2.15, 4.05, 7.45 pm
 (3D) 9.30 pm

Director: Andrew Stanton
Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/ English)
Duration: 97min

THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS

ROOM 2

6.00 pm
Director: Chris Renaud, Yarrow Cheney
Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/ English)
Duration: 90min



COLD WAR 2

ROOM 2

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm
Director: Longman Leung, Sunny Luk
Starring: Aaron Kwok, Tony Leung Ka Fai, Chow Yun Fat
Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/ English)
Duration: 110min



THREE

ROOM 2

4.30, 6.00, 7.45, 9.30 pm
Director: Johnnie To
Starring: Zhao Wei, Louis Koo, Wallace Chung
Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/ English)
Duration: 97min

THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS

ROOM 2

(2D) 4.15 pm
Director: Chris Renaud, Yarrow Cheney
Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/ English)
Duration: 90min

MACAU TOWER

08 Jul - 20 Jul

COLD WAR 2

ROOM 2

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm
Director: Longman Leung, Sunny Luk
Starring: Aaron Kwok, Tony Leung Ka Fai, Chow Yun Fat
Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/ English)
Duration: 90min

this day in history



1974 TURKEY INVADES CYPRUS

Thousands of Turkish troops have invaded northern Cyprus after last-minute talks in the Greek capital, Athens, failed to reach a solution.

Tension has been running high in the Mediterranean island since a military coup five days ago in which President Archbishop Makarios, a Greek Cypriot, was deposed.

The coup led to fears among the Turkish Cypriot community that the Greek-backed military rulers would ignore their rights and press for unification for Cyprus with Greece or enosis.

Archbishop Makarios became the republic's first elected president in 1959 only after agreeing to give up plans for a union with Greece.

A Turkish armada of 33 ships, including troop transporters and at least 30 tanks and small landing craft, has landed on the northern coast.

The bulk of the Greek fleet put to sea last night from the island of Salamis. There are reports of clashes between Greek and Turkish warships near Paphos, a port in south-western Cyprus.

Greek Cypriot forces on the island have been defending the northern coast, around Kyrenia. The capital, Nicosia, has seen most of the fighting. Turkish paratroops and tanks have been battling for control of the airport - but they have met fierce resistance from the Greek forces.

Shops and offices in the Greek sector of the capital have been deserted since midday yesterday as rumor of the impending invasion spread.

In some parts of the city there were traffic jams as residents tried to flee to the safety of the countryside.

More than 4,500 Britons and other foreign nationals have been moved to the safety of army bases and others have been airlifted to safety in specially-chartered planes.

So far there has been no indication of the casualty figure, but it is thought the Greeks have suffered most from air strikes.

Although Greek military reports from Nicosia claim significant progress has been made against the Turkish forces. Several Turkish planes are reported to have been shot down and "enemy forces" kept out of Turkish Cypriot villages in the north of the island.

The Turks have made it clear they will not settle for anything less than the removal of the newly-imposed Greek Cypriot leader Nikos Sampson.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

US Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger, took the credit for persuading both sides to agree to a ceasefire on 22 July - on condition negotiations began immediately on the island's future.

The foreign ministers of Greece, Turkey and Britain - as former colonial ruler - began talks on a new constitution on 25 July in Geneva, the European headquarters of the United Nations.

The talks broke down. Fighting broke out again as both sides fought to strengthen their position.

A second conference in August broke down when Turkish forces advanced to take control of nearly 40% of the island.

About 160,000 Greek Cypriots fled south or were expelled - about 50,000 Turkish Cypriots moved north a year later.

Talks to settle the crisis diplomatically failed. In February 1975, the Turks announced the establishment of the Turkish Federated State of Cyprus, with Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş becoming president. Eight years later they declared themselves an independent state which is recognized only by Turkey.

Talks have continued since to try to reconcile the two sides. In 2004 a referendum was held on a UN plan to reunite the island - it gained support from the Turkish side, but was overwhelmingly rejected by the Greeks.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Take advantage of this new opportunity before anyone else sees it...

Taurus April 20-May 20 You are feeling emotionally stable in a way that feels really good - and different from how you've felt for the past few weeks...

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Other people are making life a little harder now - so see if you can get them to chill out. If not, you've just got to accept that today is a slow slog through difficult terrain...

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Some big issue is on your radar, and there's just no way you're going to be able to let go of it. You may as well give it your best, because if you can take care of it all at once, you can get back to important stuff.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Your sweeter, more romantic side is making someone's life a little better today, so indulge it as much as you can. Flowers, chocolate, candlelit dinners - go all out to make the night special.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Romance is in the air today, and you couldn't be happier about your situation. Even if it's in flux you can tell that the road ahead is brighter than anywhere you've been before. Take a risk!

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Depression may or may not be a part of your core identity, but today's mood seems to pull you down a little. Don't give up! It's just temporary and sometimes the depths yield great insights.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Ambition is the word of the day. You may find that you know what you want much more clearly, and that means you are better able to go for it. Things are sure to work out for you in the long run if you move now.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Your direct manner is both shocking and approachable - people know just what they're getting from you. Don't hold back, and try not to let anyone off the hook if they say or do anything dumb.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Your energy feels fantastic right now, and you should be able to see this phase through to a very happy ending. In fact, it may open a door that leads to a brand new chapter of your life.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You need an iron will to make it through the cavalcade of distractions coming your way today. If you need to get anything done, you may need to put blinders on or work from home in a quiet room.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 A coworker lends a hand today - even if it's their day off or you are actually on the hunt for a new gig. Something they say or do leads the way to something that is much better for both of you.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzles categorized by difficulty: Easy, Easy+, Medium, and Hard. Each puzzle is a 9x9 grid with some numbers pre-filled.

WEATHER

Weather forecast table with columns for MIN, MAX, and CONDITION. Includes sections for CHINA (listing cities like Beijing, Harbin, etc.) and WORLD (listing cities like Moscow, Frankfurt, etc.).

CROSSWORDS

CROSSWORD clues: ACROSS: 1- Glitch; 5- Components; 10- Dog-powered snow vehicle; 14- Kansas city; 15- Alamogordo's county; 16- Usher's offering; 17- Carbonized fuel; 18- Less loony; 19- Sun. speeches; 20- Blue dye source; 21- Concerns; 23- Choose; 25- 1950 film noir classic; 26- Jump over; 31- Penned; 35- ABA member; 36- Managed; 38- Din; 40- Friendly; 42- Hawaiian state birds; 44- Rocket launcher; 45- Stalks; 47- Rica; 49- Gun, as an engine; 50- Big rigs; 52- Air craft; 54- Precious stone; 56- A really big shoe?; 57- Epsom crystals, e.g.; 62- Swedish import; 66- Prefix for small; 67- "Delta of Venus" author Nin; 68- Structure for storing grain; 69- Shoppe sign word; 70- Paris subway; 71- Shangri-la; 72- Goida of Israel; 73- Early anesthetic; 74- Tabula... DOWN: 1- Director Vittorio De...; 2- Lunch time, often; 3- Jai...; 4- Ride at full speed; 5- Elementary particle; 6- impasse; 7- Hire; 8- Cornered; 9- Grief; 10- Flat sound; 11- Internet writing system that popularized "pwn3d" and "n00b"; 12- "â€¦countrymen, lend me your..."; 13- Skid row woe; 22- Make money; 24- Mil. rank; 26- Rules; 27- Les...-Unis; 28- Grows in Brooklyn; 29- Crude cartel; 30- Columbus's birthplace; 32- Suffix with ball; 33- Jewelled crown worn by women; 34- Ruhr Valley city; 37- Arnaz of "I Love Lucy"; 39- Gutter locale; 41- Delicious!; 43- Stimulus that causes strain; 46- [Oh, well]; 48- King Kong, e.g.; 51- Opening word; 53- Children of a... God; 55- "Olympia" painter; 57- Liver fluid; 58- The King...; 59- A wedding cake may have three of these; 60- Plaster backing; 61- Grow weary; 63- Opera set in Egypt; 64- Stout relatives; 65- fide; 66- Popular tattoo

Yesterday's solution crossword grid with filled-in words.

Large crossword puzzle grid with some numbers and letters pre-filled.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



FOR SALE and FOR RENT advertisement with contact information for Juliet@EastCityProperty.com.

Real estate listings for various properties in Macau, including Nova Taipa, Family apartment, Va Nam Unit B, St. Paul Ruins, Coloane Village, Modern Apartment, Tou On, and Wan Yu Villa.



CYCLING

'It will be a big war': Mollema challenging Froome at Tour

Andrew Dampf, Peter Dejong, Bern

BAUKE Mollema has been in this position before: Second in the Tour de France on the second and final rest day.

The difference from three years ago, when Mollema faded over the final week due to illness, is experience.

"Now I know a little bit what to expect with all this kind of things," Mollema told a packed news conference yesterday. "It's not only cycling. Also, my level is better than it was three years ago."

While he's still largely unknown outside his native Netherlands and cycling circles, Mollema is shaping up as the top challenger to defending champion and race leader Chris Froome.

Two-time Tour runner-up Nairo Quintana was supposed to be Froome's top rival but the Colombian sits fourth, behind by 2 minutes, 59 seconds.

Mollema was 1:47 behind in second, with Adam Yates of Britain third, 2:45 back.

Flying under the radar was fine with Mollema, a father of two from Zuidhorn in the northern part of the Netherlands, where much of the land is below sea level.

There is a Dutch saying, "Doe maar gewoon, dat is gek genoeg," which translates as "Act normal. That's crazy enough." It applies especially to people from the north, who are usually considered more down to earth



Netherlands' Bauke Mollema of the Trek Segafredo cycling team, who ranks second overall, answers questions during a press conference in the U.S. embassy in Bern yesterday

than their southern counterparts. The saying fits perfectly with Mollema, who came late to cycling and didn't enter his first race until he was 18.

"I always did a lot of sports — football, tennis, running. We were always a sports family but my family was not into cycling," Mollema explained. "I rode my bike to school, 12 kilometers every day up and down, and that's when I started to like riding my bike."

"My first years as a pro it was a disadvantage, especially technically, but now it's more than 10 years later so maybe I'm more fresh compared to other riders."

Mollema has been able to stay

with Froome in the mountains, and moved up to second with an exceptional time trial in Stage 13.

The race resumes today with four grueling stages in the Alps before the mostly ceremonial finish in Paris on Sunday.

"I still have something to prove," Mollema said. "I'm happy where I am right now but in the end I will only be happy with a good result in Paris."

Mollema's top support riders on the Trek-Segafredo team are Haimar Zubeldia of Spain and Frank Schleck of Luxembourg. Froome, meanwhile, has been able to rely on four or five lieutenants up the climbs with Team Sky.

"Froome is, of course, the big favorite. He has all the pressure," Mollema said. "For them, it would be disappointing with a team like that and the budget they have if they don't win the Tour."

Stage 17 today should particularly suit Mollema, with the beyond-category uphill finish to Finhaut-Emosson.

"If there's opportunities I will go for it. That's for sure. If I see any weaknesses with Froome for sure I will attack," said Mollema, who prefers uphill to downhill finishes. "In the last years, he always had a bad day in the Alps or the Pyrenees, where he lost some time, so it can also happen this year."

"It will be a big war until the end."

Mollema might have been leading at this point if Froome hadn't been allowed to keep the yellow jersey after the chaotic climb up Mont Ventoux in Stage 12.

"We were in disagreement with how the rules were applied but we need to turn the page and focus on what's next," Trek general manager Luca Guercilena said.

Guercilena extended Mollema's contract before the Tour to keep him through 2018.

"We gave him total confidence," Guercilena said.

While cycling is a passion across the Netherlands, only two Dutchmen have won the Tour: Jan Janssen in 1968 and Joop Zoetemelk in 1980.

Yet, Mollema is part of a generation of outstanding Dutch cyclists.

Countryman Tom Dumoulin won two stages in this Tour, and is also considered a future overall contender, as is Steven Kruijswijk, who finished fourth in this year's Giro d'Italia after losing the lead two stages from the end. Robert Gesink has finished in the top 10 of several major races, and Wilco Kelderman is another rising star.

"This is the results of a school, a methodology that is in Holland for some years," said Guercilena, who is Italian. "They let them ride more easy and relaxed when they are young. [...] In some other countries, Italy included, very often there's so much pressure and so much attention on the junior and the under-23 levels that it makes them explode when they turn pro."

Mollema has finished in the top 10 on the Tour in each of the past three years.

Now he wants to see if he can take the next step. **AP**

TENNIS | CITI OPEN

Querrey trying to build momentum after beating Djokovic

Stephen Whyno, Washington

THE player who beat Novak Djokovic at Wimbledon is ready to get back on the court.

Sam Querrey has been on the ATP Tour for a decade, but he arrived at the Citi Open with an entirely different level of celebrity after knocking off the No. 1-ranked player in the world. Many more people know who he is now after that upset and a subsequent trip to the Wimbledon quarterfinals.

"I got to do 'Good morning America,' I got to

throw the first pitch out at the Dodger game, I got to do a GQ photo shoot," Querrey said on Monday. "That's usually not my normal week."

Querrey took some time off and now hopes to build off the Djokovic victory this week in Washington and at other events this summer. The 28-year-old picked up some confidence along the way but doesn't feel like a different player.

"It was an incredible 10 days for me and something I'll always remember," said Querrey, who's now ranked 29th in the

world. "I still view myself as a good player. I thought I was good before the match. I think I'm still a good player now."

Querrey beat Djokovic in a five-set thriller, then dispatched Nicolas Mahut in straight sets before losing to Milos Raonic in the quarterfinals. The only players left on his wish list are Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer, but his giant-killing reputation preceded him when he was asked if there's any other player he'd like to beat.

"I mean I'd love to beat

every player," Querrey said. "If I get to play Roger or Rafa, those are kind of the two big-name guys that I've never beat, that'd be incredible. But we'll see if that happens."

Querrey won't see those players this week at the Citi Open, which features American John Isner and Frenchman Gael Monfils as the top two seeds. The eighth-seeded American will face either Bjorn Fratangelo or qualifier Alex Kuznetsov in his first match, and his summer goal is to get back into the top 20. **AP**



Sam Querrey of the U.S. (left) shakes hands with Novak Djokovic of Serbia after beating him in their men's singles match on day six of the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London on July 2



Canadian law professor Richard McLaren (left) and investigator Martin Dubbey are shown at a news conference to present McLaren's findings into allegations of a state-backed doping conspiracy

Stephen Wilson

SUMMER Olympic sports federations said yesterday they are ready to deal with "individual cases" of Russian doping, rather than endorse a total ban on the Russian team for the Rio de Janeiro Olympics.

The Association of Summer Olympic International Federations, which represents the 28 sports in the games, said it recognized the "gravity and extent of the doping activities in Russia" as detailed in Monday's report by World Anti-Doping Agency investigator Richard McLaren.

The report, which accused Russia's sports ministry of overseeing doping of the country's Olympic athletes on a vast scale, listed 20 summer sports as being part of the cheating conspiracy.

WADA and other anti-doping officials urged the International Olympic Committee to consider the unprecedented step of excluding the entire Russian contingent from the Rio Games. The IOC executive board was meeting by teleconference yesterday to weight its options.

Any IOC decisions may not be definitive, as the Court of Arbitration for Sport is scheduled to rule tomorrow on Russia's appeal against the IAAF ban on

Summer sports seek 'individual' not blanket ban on Russians

its track and field athletes from competing in Rio.

The summer sports association made clear they do not support a blanket ban.

The association asked WADA "to immediately provide all the detailed information to the 20 international federations concerned so that they may begin processing the individual cases under their own separate rules and regulations as soon as possible, and in line with the WADA Code and the Olympic Charter.

"It is important to focus on the need for individual justice in all these cases."

The association said it endorses all federation decisions, "including those that take into account collective responsibility of organizations under the IFs' governance."

That means, rather than applying a total ban, federations could suspend individual Russian sports. That's already the case with the IAAF, which barred Russia's track athletes from the games following pre-

vious WADA-commissioned reports into Russian doping.

"ASOIF fully supports a policy of zero tolerance in bringing all individuals linked to anti-doping violations to justice," the statement said.

The summer association's position falls in line with recent comments by IOC President Thomas Bach, who has cited the need to strike a balance between "individual justice and collective punishment." He said last week that, if summer sports were implicated in the McLaren report, the international federations would have to decide on the eligibility of Russian athletes "on an individual basis."

McLaren's report uncovered a state-run doping scheme that ensnared 28 sports, both summer and winter, and ran from 2011 to 2015.

The investigation told of 312 positive tests that Russia's deputy minister of sport directed lab workers not to report to WADA. Russia's intelligence serve, the FSB, was also in-

involved, the report said. It also provided further details of the swapping of doping samples to protect Russian dopers, including medalists, at the 2014 Winter Games in Sochi.

"I'm shocked and devastated by what's been going on," said Paul Melia, the head of Canada's anti-doping organization, after the findings were delivered on Monday in Toronto. "And I can only imagine how betrayed the clean athletes of the world are feeling today in the face of this evidence."

WADA President Craig Reedie, who is also an IOC vice president, said: "WADA insists upon imposition of the most serious consequences to protect clean athletes from the scourge of doping in sport."

But a blanket ban is not a sure thing.

The decision to deliver one is rife with political ramifications that involve a country that sent the third-most athletes (more than 430) to the previous Summer Olympics, four years ago in London. It puts

the IOC in the position of ruling against one of its biggest supporters, a nation that spent more than USD50 billion hosting the Winter Games in Sochi just two years ago.

"The right to participate at the games cannot be stolen from an athlete, who has duly qualified and has not been found guilty of doping," said Bruno Grandi, president of gymnastics' international federation. "Blanket bans have never been and will never be just."

Gymnastics was not among the sports listed in the report. Wrestling, meanwhile, accounted for 28 of the 312 unreported positives. The head of that international federation, Nenad Lalovic of Serbia, told The Associated Press "we will absolutely follow the decisions of the IOC."

Whenever the decision is issued, it could be appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport. CAS was hearing Russia's appeal yesterday against the ban on its athletics team. **AP**

IT has been five decades since Pak Du Ik scored the winning goal in North Korea's shocking upset of Italy to reach the quarterfinals at the 1966 World Cup, a match that remains the country's most memorable in football folklore.

"Now, 50 years later, if I think of that time, I was really young [...] and although Italy was a very strong team, we beat them, the strong team," Pak said in a recent interview with Associated

THE ULTIMATE UNDERDOGS

Pak marks 50 years since North Korea's World Cup shock

Press Television News to commemorate the anniversary.

"I still haven't lost the feeling of happiness from that. Also, I can still remember really clearly the way the British crowds supported

our team."

North Korea ended Italy's run at the tournament with the 1-0 win at Middlesbrough, England, on July 19, 1966, then lost to Portugal in the quarterfinals.

A group of players re-

turned to the stadium in Middlesbrough in 2002 to celebrate again the win over Italy, wearing red jerseys and scarves and receiving rapturous cheers from the crowd.

Pak attended that ceremony, but had a quieter

reflection closer to home for the golden jubilee.

North Korea has reached the men's World Cup finals only once since then — losing all three group games in 2010. The '66 performance remained the best run

by an Asian team at the marquee tournament until South Korea's surge to the semifinals in 2002.

While teenage players recall that North Korea beat Italy in '66, some are vague on the details. Jang Kyong Il, coach of the national under-14 women's team, is among those who want to ensure the highlights live on. "Still, up until now, for us Korean sportspeople here, Pak Du Ik is a real sports hero," he said. **AP**

opinion

Legal Wise
Francisco Leitão



BLAST FROM THE PAST

The Commission Against Corruption's (CCAC) report on the lec Long Firecracker Factory land swap is now the talk of the town. Even if, as an opinion maker eloquently puts it, it has been something of a "public secret" in Macau for years.

At the heart of the matter is the already infamous "Term of Commitment" executed in 2001, in which the parties involved, with more or less authority to do so - if any authority at all - put pen to paper on their agreement to swap the land of the firecracker factory for a plot at the Nossa Senhora da Esperança Bay.

Reaction to the report's shattering conclusions was immediate, from public outcry for what appears to be yet another Macau-style swindle, to demands for swift criminal prosecution.

However, the public should realize that the admissible legal consequences of the case will likely fall short of their expectations. In fact, even if any criminal liability could exist in relation to the facts leading to the 2001 "Terms of Commitment," the maximum prison sentences carried by the incriminations plausibly at stake - such as abuse of power, criminal maladministration, usurpation of duties, economic participation in a transaction or even corruption - lead to relatively short statute of limitation periods (10 years at the most), causing criminal liability to be extinguished and thus preventing the CCAC and the Office of the Public Prosecutor from triggering a criminal investigation focused on the subject facts.



Aspect of the lec Long factory and surrounding area

This is not to stay that a long, winding road of disputes does not lie ahead. In fact, in addition to the nullities already pointed out by the CCAC on the civil side of the matter, the committal of a crime will, in itself, determine the nullity of the related administrative acts, a nullity that, pursuant to the Macau Administrative Procedure Code, can be argued at any time by any party, and declared at any time by any administrative body or court. And while no criminal convictions are to be expected in this case, government counsels, lawyers, prosecutors and judges may still look forward to some exciting times, as they discuss whether nullities can be declared in the absence of such convictions, whether the facts in point would indeed constitute crimes, and whether "de facto" and "bona fide" effects should be preserved nevertheless.

All in all, it seems that, more than 30 years after it ceased producing firecrackers, there is still enough explosive material in the lec Long Factory to go around and cause a significant blast.

THE BUZZ PILOTS HELD FOR SUSPECTED DRINKING BEFORE UK-CANADA FLIGHT

Authorities say two commercial airline pilots have been arrested at Glasgow Airport on suspicion of being under the influence of alcohol, shortly before they were due to take off on a trans-Atlantic flight.

Canadian airline Air Transat says the two crew members were arrested before a Glasgow to Toronto flight on Monday.

Police Scotland says the men, aged 37 and 39,

are due to appear in court Tuesday, charged with being "impaired through alcohol."

The airline says passengers have been put up in hotels and will be flown to Toronto. Air Transat runs charter and scheduled flights between Canada and several European and Caribbean destinations. The airline says it will "await the results of the investigation and judicial proceedings" before commenting further.

MACAU | TOURISM

Discounts abound as hotels fail to fill rooms



Sofitel Macau at Ponte 16

HOTELS in Macau are offering discounts of up to 35 percent over the summer months, with some including a complimentary room when customers buy just a buffet dinner, according to a report in Hong Kong's The Standard.

However, the same hotels are still not achieving full occupancy rates, even for the first weekend in August, just over two weeks away. According to The Standard, only four out of 23 hotels operated by the six gaming concessionaires have achieved full occupancy, despite the fact that the resorts have cut their rates by 10 - 20 percent on average. Hotel Lisboa, belonging to SJM Holdings, has cut its room by as much

as 35 percent.

The deputy chairman of Success Universe Group, which operates Sofitel Macau at Ponte 16, says that he expects the occupancy rate of the overall accommodation industry in Macau to reach 80 to 90 percent during the summer vacation. Hoffman Ma bases this expectation of the fact that the number of visitors to Macau and to the city's casinos has rebounded compared with the start of the year.

He added the rebound might be partly due to aggressive promotions from the hotels that have hoped to fill sometimes more than half of the rooms in the properties in off-peak seasons.

While some analysts be-

lieve that new resorts set to open this year will further crowd a market that is already struggling to satisfy its supply, others argue that new resorts with new offerings might due their part to attract more visitors.

Wynn Macau alone will see the number of its rooms in the MSAR surge from about 1,000 to 1,700 with the opening of the Wynn Palace, scheduled for next month, and The Parisian will add hundreds more to Sands China.

The danger is that these new resorts will attract visitors away from other, existing resorts within the city, having a minimal positive effect on revenues but bringing the average occupancy rates further down. **DB**

Dismissal of lawsuit against Wynn upheld

THE 9th Circuit Court of Appeals has upheld the dismissal of a lawsuit filed against Wynn Resorts' board members, submitted by a shareholder over concerns about the management of the company's Macau operations, according to the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

The lawsuit, which alleges that the company's board breached its fiduciary duties, was filed in the Las Vegas District Court in 2012 by the Louisiana Municipal Police Employees' Retirement System, a shareholder of Wynn Resorts.

The move was prompted by the news in 2011 that Wynn Resorts had decided to donate USD135 million to the University of Macau (UM) Development Foundation. The shareholder considers the

donation not to be in the best interests of investors, and asked for a halt to any further donations to the university.

The lawsuit alleged that Wynn Macau's pledge to donate the money to UM was unprecedented.

However, Wynn Resorts have denied all allegations of impropriety, maintaining that the donation was reviewed by lawyers to ensure that it complied with anti-bribery laws in the U.S.

The case was dismissed originally by U.S. District Judge James Mahan, and later upheld by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, which found that there was a lack of evidence to show that the board members' independence had been compromised.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	10-30 Good
High Density Residential Area	20-40 Good
Ambient	20-40 Good

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS



AP PHOTO

TURKEY State-run Anadolu news agency reports that Turkey's Board of Higher Education has requested the resignations of 1,577 university deans, effectively dismissing them. Yesterday's announcement comes right on the heels of an announcement by the Ministry of National Education that it has dismissed 15,200 personnel over their alleged involvement with a group the government claims is responsible for Friday's failed coup.

GERMANY A top security official says a note found in the Afghan train attacker's room indicates he may have been self-radicalized. Bavarian Interior Minister Joachim Herrmann told reporters Tuesday that the 17-year-old Afghan asylum seeker, who shouted "Allahu akbar" as he attacked people on a train Monday night in southern Germany had written notes in Pashtun that indicated he may have self-radicalized. Four members of a HK family were hurt in the attack.



AP PHOTO

USA The Trump campaign dismissed criticism that Melania Trump directly lifted two passages nearly word-for-word from the speech that first lady Michelle Obama delivered in 2008 at the Democratic National Convention, calling the complaints "just absurd." **More on p15**

EU launched dispute proceedings against China in the World Trade Organization over import duties and other alleged measures involving raw materials. After similar action against China by the U.S. last week, the EU announced the move Tuesday alleging China's measures violate WTO rules, distort the market and unfairly favor Chinese companies.