



NEW AIR ROUTES

New and more frequent air routes linking the local airport with destinations in countries such as Japan and Russia bodes well for tourism

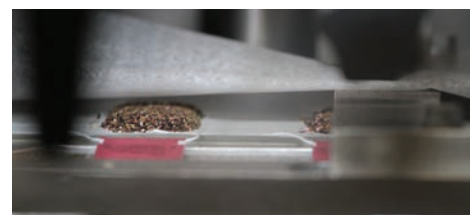
P3



MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE UNDER PREPARATION

The Fifth Ministerial Conference of the Forum Macau will be attended by China's Prime Minister Li Keqiang

P7



BRITISH TEA IS BOOMING IN CHINA

P10

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“THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’”

WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA In response to the success of pro-democracy activists in Hong Kong's legislative elections, China has warned that anyone advocating for the territory's independence could be punished. China reiterated that it stands entirely opposed to any independence activities in Hong Kong's Legislative Council or outside it. [More on p3](#)



THAILAND A bomb exploded outside a school in southern Thailand yesterday, killing three people. The incident was the latest in a series of attacks that coincide with efforts to hold peace talks between Thailand's government and Muslim separatist insurgents who have wreaked havoc in the country since 2004. [More on p13](#)

AUSTRALIA The government told a court yesterday that it was seeking at least 120 million Australian dollars (MOP736 million) from the owners of a Chinese coal ship that damaged part of the Great Barrier Reef.

JAPAN's Prince Hisahito turns 10 amid national attention over the future of the Japanese monarchy after Emperor Akihito, his grandfather, indicated a wish to abdicate.

[More on backpage](#)

ASEAN | PHILIPPINE PRESIDENT INSULTS OBAMA

Summit overshadowed by Duterte outburst

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CTM expects future concession contracts to be 'tougher'

P2

Renato Marques

CTM is expecting that, the government will demand more from telecom operators for future concession contracts, the company's chief executive officer Vandy Poon stated when questioned by the Times on the sidelines of the company's press conference held yesterday. "Life is getting tougher every day and for everybody but whatever we agree is for us to perform a role professionally and [satisfactorily] to society," said Poon. Although the company has not clearly stated a position on the renewal of the current concession contract, Poon expects CTM's role in Macau to be continued. "That's our endeavor," he remarked, adding that the company together with the government and regulators have been working to achieve the necessary adjustments to the concession agreement.

"We have been working together with the government and with the involvement of the Secretary Raimundo do Rosario and we [CTM] and our shareholder CITIC have clearly agreed that we stand by to execute all necessary to fulfill and support the obligations and responsibilities that arrive from the telecom role that we play, including the contract," the CTM CEO said.

The main purpose of the press conference was to introduce new Internet access packages that aim to deliver to consumers "greater speed and a better price". The company also stated that its ambition is to make data transmission through optic fiber available "to all", thus reducing current irritants that according to Poon are mostly due to physical issues and weather related problems that affect the ADSL lines.

The company was also questioned by the press if the new



CTM expects future concession contracts to be 'tougher'

tariffs and speed packages presented yesterday were due to the criticism leveled by the Legislative Assembly (AL) plenary sessions. Many lawmakers criticized the company and the government's lack of action toward CTM's commercial decisions, which they claim to be related to the "monopoly" of the company in the field.

In response, Poon refuted the idea saying: "We also collectively try to reduce the price to make it more reasonable and increase business opportunities. We are not taking a passive step." He added that CTM has been working on this commercial step since the beginning of this year.

"This is not the first time that CTM reduces tariffs on Internet and broadband. We have



Life is getting tougher every day and for everybody.

VANDY POON

being doing this regularly with the government and since the beginning of the year, independently of the opinions of the

Legislative Assembly," Poon noted, additionally remarking that the company "is hearing carefully the voices" of the society.

The chief executive officer of CTM also refuted the idea that has been raised a number of times referring to the company "blocking" market entry for other competitors and as such preventing the "market liberalization" ordered by the government.

"We have never stopped any new entrant coming into Macau. As a matter of fact CTM has done nothing to stop market liberalization and new license issuing done by the government. We have collaborated, embraced and created conditions for the new entrants to enter the market without any resistance,"

Poon said.

According to the information provided by the CTM during the press conference, the new tariffs will lower the prices of the Internet by 24 percent on average and increase the speed by four times.

The new tariffs are applicable for both upgrades and for new clients and will be in force from next October 1. In order to promote the optic fiber the company will also waive the installation fee.

According to the CEO the measure involves a potential loss for the company that could account for as much as 20 percent of its turnover for the last quarter of 2016, a situation that Poon hopes not to be too significant due to a potential increase in client numbers.

IPM students visit Australia's Monash University

MACAU Polytechnic Institute (IPM) organized an Overseas Study Program from 30 July to 21 August 2016, taking its students on a three week cultural exchange in Australia at Monash University.

The students attended

classes related to the global business environment. They were enrolled alongside a number of peers from other universities around the world. In addition to the courses, the students also paid a visit to such sights as the Parliament of Victoria

and the Immigration Museum.

Students who participated in this program commented that it was a valuable experience for them to learn about management in Australia. The participants said that they found the program

very beneficial as it afforded them the chance to make friends with other international students, and stated that this trip had broadened their horizons. Many students said that they would like to pursue further education abroad in the future.



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Mainland rebukes 'Hong Kong independence' activities

MAINLAND China authorities have underscored their "resolute opposition" to any form of "Hong Kong independence" activities inside or outside of the special administrative region's (SAR) Legislative Council (LegCo), according to an official statement issued on Monday.

The statement, issued by the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office of the State Council, noted that certain organizations and candidates were publicly advocating for "Hong Kong independence," capitalizing on the exposure afforded to them because of the election for the sixth-term LegCo of the Hong Kong SAR.

The statement reiterated that "Hong Kong independence" was against the Constitution of China, the Basic Law, and relevant laws of the nei-

ghboring region, and that it was a threat to China's sovereignty and security which damages the prosperity and stability of HKSAR.

"We firmly support the Hong Kong SAR government to mete out penalties according to law," the statement said.

The election for the sixth-term LegCo of the Hong Kong SAR was held on Sunday.

The elected members are expected to fulfill their duties according to the Basic Law and relevant laws of Hong Kong, and to implement the "one country, two systems" principle, in an effort to protect the prosperity and stability of Hong Kong, according to the statement.

The term of office of the newly-elected sixth-term LegCo members will begin on Oct. 1, 2016. **MDT/Xinhua**

TOURISM | MIA

More frequent air routes bode well for tourist numbers

New and more frequent air routes linking the Macau International Airport (MIA) with destinations in countries such as Japan and Russia bode well for tourism numbers in the city, according to members of the tourism industry, promoting deeper connections between the MSAR and markets which have significant growth potential.

The increased connectivity comes in spite of numerous service suspensions from both Thai Smile Airways and TransAsia Airways. Despite these setbacks, MIA has been successful in attracting four new carriers in the first half of this year – VietJet, Lion Air, Royal Flight and Nok Air.

Existing routes have also seen a rise in the frequency of weekly flights. Air Macau's Macau-Fukuoka service, launched in March, became the third air link between the city and Japan in addition to routes serving Tokyo and Osaka. Furthermore, Air Macau aims to increase its weekly flight frequency from four to five starting from October 30.



Tourism and Hospitality media website, TTG Asia, cited a Macau Government Tourist Office (MGTO) representative as saying that the new services "will help [Macau] further tap [into] the Japanese market, one of Macau's top international visitor source markets."

Links between Russia and the city have also seen increased interest after Royal Flight airline announced a twice-weekly charter service to Moscow in May. According to the airport's website, the Russian charter upped the frequency to thrice-weekly in July.

Other transportation infrastructure projects may further yet boost Macau's appeal to international and regional visitors, as well as making it easier for them to visit the city.

The Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge, providing that it permits non-cargo traffic, will create a direct link between the extensively connected Hong Kong International Airport and the MSAR, while the Light Rail Transit initiative in Macau will make it easier for tourists to journey between the historic center of the city and the Cotai strip. **DB**

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The Zhejiang Circuit is far from completed

MOTORSPORTS

TCR Asia relocates China's Zhejiang round to Malaysia

Renato Marques

THE TCR Asia Series has cancelled its fourth and penultimate event of the season, which was planned to take place at the circuit of Zhejiang, China from October 21 to 23, TCR Asia Series informed in a statement.

According to the statement, rounds seven and eight of the 2016 season will be held at the Malaysian circuit of Sepang, during the Malaysian Formula One Grand Prix weekend of October 1 and 2, instead. TCR Asia explained that the change in venue is due to the delay in completion of the brand-new Zhejiang Circuit, which is currently being built in the city of Shaoxing. It was initially planned that the TCR Asia Series event would

mark the debut of the new circuit. "Unfortunately, the Zhejiang Circuit, despite all assurances throughout the year, has suffered a setback with their completion date and will not be ready for action until later in the season," said TCR Asia's CEO David Sonenscher. He added that "the perfect venue for the series to find a replacement date was Sepang, as it gave us an opportunity to combine both the Asian and International Series once more," he said, remarking that Sepang is an important circuit and a landmark for TCR since it works as basecamp for many of the teams racing in this championship and was also the host of the first ever event for TCR Asia last year. As mentioned by the Series' CEO, the change will allow the Asia Series to race once more together with the

International Series - resembling last year's events in Thailand and Macau.

Taking a closer look at this year's Series, currently Hong Kong's Andy Yan is leading with a very comfortable advantage over the competition. Macau's Kevin Tse and Henry Ho occupy the second and third place positions, respectively.

The championship will come to a close with rounds nine and 10 to be held during the 63rd Macau Grand Prix in November.

The Zhejiang Circuit, which is expected to feature a 3.2-kilometer FIA-certified Grade 2 circuit accompanied by a luxury hotel and leisure, entertainment and commercial facilities, has been in development for the past four years and seems to be far from its completion date.

Beijing Imperial Palace Hotel accused of fraud

THE Beijing Imperial Palace Hotel is accused of hiring over 700,000 rooms for the two years between 2015 and 2017 for over 250 million Hong Kong Dollars in payments that were made in advance.

Earlier, the hotel had been ordered by the Tourism Activities Centre of the Government Tourism Office (MGTO) to close for six months due to "serious administrative irregularities which constitute threats to public safety."

On Monday, more than 30 people who claim to be victims of the hotel's closure, formed an alliance and told the media that they were cheated by the management in charge of the hotel, which was previously named as New Century Hotel.

According to a report by Jornal Cheng Pou, the hotel has only 599 rooms in total, despite the fact that it was selling more rooms than it could physically provide. The victims who are main-

ly from travel agencies and tourism related industries in Macau, Hong Kong and the Mainland, said that they all had settled reservation payments to the hotel in advance. Last year however, the individuals were told by the hotel's management that it would decline further reservations, with the hotel refusing to provide the rooms that had been reserved and paid for previously. Moreover, the hotel had resold the rooms to other agencies after the aforementioned information had been disclosed to its customers.

These people forwarded the case to the Public Prosecutions Office, calling for the department to investigate whether the hotel had committed fraud or not. Some of the individual buyers also sought assistance from the Macau Consumer Council.

The group also expects to engage in discussion with the person responsible for the hotel.

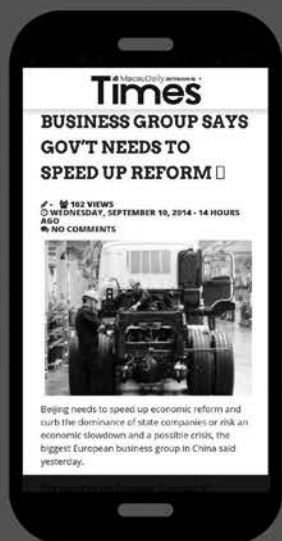
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GAMING

Vietnam reverses decision to lift ban on local gambling

VIENTNAM'S Ministry of Finance has banned locals from entering Vietnam's casinos, even though the country's decision-making Politburo approved lifting the ban several years ago for individuals who meet certain outlined criteria.

According to the Ministry of Finance, only foreigners and Vietnamese individuals with foreign passports may be permitted to gamble in the casinos.

The decision will do little to attract international casino developers, who have long eyed the lucrative Southeast Asian market and have plenty of choice over the destination country for their investment.

Analysts say that reversing the decision to lift the ban will reassure those investors who have pulled out of casino projects recently, that they have made the right decision.



"We are continuing to study and gauge the social impacts of letting Vietnamese punters into casinos," a senior official at the Finance Ministry was quoted by Thanh Nien newspaper as saying on Monday. "We want to report to the higher-ups about the ramifications [that] this could have, such as organized crime, gambling addictions, money laundering and other illicit activities."

Currently, Vietnamese punters head across borders to Macau, Hong Kong, or Cambodia to gamble, which some observers say results in capital outflow.

Augustine Ha Ton Vinh, an academic who focuses on the country's gaming sector, claims that Vietnam loses as much as USD800 million (almost MOP6.4 billion) each year in tax revenue from Viet-

namese gamblers who cross into Cambodia alone.

However, with the estimated USD300 million (MOP2.4 billion) in annual gaming revenue that Vietnam's eight licensed casinos currently generate, opening the floor to local players bears the risk of fueling illegal activity such as organized crime and money laundering.

Supporters of the ban say that they want to avoid this type of illegal activity which neighboring Cambodia has grappled with for decades.

They also claim that developers' promises of employment and infrastructure improvements usually fall short of expectations, and that these sizeable projects draw funding away from other, more essential areas, such as development of roads, and electricity, water and sewerage systems. **DB**

'Mr Bean' in town

The actor and comedian Rowan Atkinson, famous for his appearance in the British sitcom *Blackadder* and especially his character "Mr Bean", is in Macau. According to information to which the Times had access, the actor is in the region for the filming of a movie, which started yesterday in a Cotai hotel. Although more information on the movie has not yet been disclosed, the actor was spotted in the territory flaunting his well-known "Mr Bean" attire and in the company of his best friend Teddy - a little, knitted brown bear with button eyes and sausage-shaped limbs - which shares many of the adventures of Mr Bean.

Jiangmen boat sinks near Macau

A boat sailing from Jiangmen sank in the estuary of Macau's sea region on Sunday night. Four workers who were on board at that time were rescued. Zhuhai, along with Macau, sent five customs vessels to help the rescue efforts. The sand-carrying boat was 56 meters long and 12.5 meters wide. The boat was spotted 2.7 nautical miles east of one of Macau's artificial islands. According to the boat's crew, the surges of wind during the night caused water to enter the cabin which eventually led to the accident, according to a report by Southern Metropolis Daily.

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THE Fifth Ministerial Conference of the Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries (Forum Macau), a multilateral conference to discuss trade and business promotion which is held in Macau, will this year set out the strategic plan for the 2017 to 2019 period.

Held in the city on October 11 and 12, the event will welcome delegations from mainland China and seven Portuguese-speaking countries, namely Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal and East Timor.

According to a statement from the Government Information Bureau (GCS), this year's theme will be "Working toward stronger Sino-Portuguese-speaking countries' trade and economic relations – combining efforts, jointly building a platform, sharing fruits of development".

The two-day conference will commence with a welcoming banquet and opening ceremony followed by ministerial meetings and additional discussion sessions between en-

CHINA-LUSOPHONE COOPERATION

Ministerial Conference to establish 2017-2019 strategy



Li Keqiang



António Costa

trepreneurs from China and Portuguese-speaking countries.

These sessions will be held with a view to examining the opportunities arising from

China's "One Belt, One Road" initiative, according to the GCS statement.

Forum Macau, located in the MSAR, is partly intended to diversify Macau's economy by thrusting it to the forefront of China-Lusophone economic cooperation, leveraging the city's heritage as an internationally competitive advantage.

In 2015, mainland authorities established a Tariff Implementation Plan to abolish various import taxes from countries such as Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau, while others, like Angola and East

Timor, saw around 95 percent of their exports to China exempt from taxation.

Critics of the plan noted that Portugal and Brazil, the largest of the Lusophonic exporters to China, did not have the same tax reductions applied to their goods and services.

At the previous edition of Forum Macau held in 2013, Gao Hucheng, China's Minister for Commerce, outlined a vision for trade between China and Portuguese-speaking countries to expand to USD160 billion (about MOP1.28 trillion) by 2016.

Gao said that the target would be "quite easy to achieve" since trade relations between China and the Lusophone world amounted to USD120 billion (about MOP959 billion) in 2012.

However, in the first half of this year, the trade level was less than USD41.7 billion (MOP333 billion), down by more than 13 percent year-on-year. If trade levels remain steady during the second half of 2016, the annual total will reach just USD83.4 billion.

Forum Macau was founded in the MSAR in October 2003 as the initiative of the Central Government in collaboration with Macau authorities. Previous editions of the conference were held in 2003, 2006, 2010 and 2013. **DB**

Cooperation with Portuguese-speaking countries promoted in Fujian

THE Macau Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) will organize a visit by a delegation of entrepreneurs from Macau to Fujian province for the 19th China International Fair for Investment & Trade (CIFIT), IPIM said.

The visit by the Macau delegation, according to IPIM, aims to generate new opportunities for cooperation and business exchange between mainland China, Macau and Portuguese-speaking countries.

Macau debuts as the "Invited Region of Honor" at CIFIT, taking place in the city of Xiamen, Fujian province, from 8 to 11 September, taking advantage of the trip to hold the "Dynamic Week of Macau – Xiamen, Fujian."

CIFIT 2016, whose theme is "Focus on the

'One Belt, One Road' initiative – Promotion of Bilateral Investment", will publicize and promote investment opportunities in countries and regions covered by 'One Belt, One Road'.

Macau, which will have a pavilion at the event, will take advantage of the fact that the city is this year's "Invited Region of Honor" at CIFIT to promote the role of the territory as a service platform for trade cooperation between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries.

The President of IPIM, Jackson Chang, said CIFIT provides an excellent opportunity to promote Macau, while adding to the new impetus on business cooperation between Fujian, Macau and the Portuguese-speaking countries. **MDT/Macauhub**

LI KEQIANG, ANTÓNIO COSTA TO ATTEND EVENT

CHINA'S Prime Minister Li Keqiang, will take part in the Ministerial Conference, reported Radio Macau. The Portuguese-language broadcaster also reported that the Prime Minister of Portugal, António Costa, will also be present at the conference

AD



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ITALY

Museums turn toward the private sector for funding



Frances D'Emilio, Florence

ITALIAN taxi drivers and concierges are being enlisted to encourage tourists to visit some museums. In Florence, supermarket customers raised 250,000 euros (USD275,000) by opting to help the city's art instead of receiving store loyalty rewards. And in Venice, the Peggy Guggenheim Collection is partnering with big-name businesses including ones that make watches, grappa and cologne.

Whatever the formula, museums are increasingly looking to private-sector donations, collaborations or sponsorships to survive and develop. In Italy, where government coffers have long been too meager to adequately safeguard and maintain its vast array of artworks, historic palazzi and ancient ruins, state-run museums and monuments are scrambling to follow the example of private institutions after decades of general distrust between culture and business.

Museum officials and other high-profile patrons of the arts, ranging from an espresso coffee mogul to a contemporary arts space funded by a tire-maker, flocked to Floren-

ce, where centuries ago the Medicis and other princely patrons nurtured Renaissance masters, for an all-day brain-storming session this week.

Lending lofty inspiration to the lively debate held in the Uffizi Galleries was a fresco of Botticelli, who was just one of the many artists who enjoyed the Medicis' favor.

Participants had tasked themselves with eventually drafting practical proposals for Italy's culture minister, including the potential for public-private relationships.

Also participating were potentially deep-pocketed benefactors, like an investment group from the United Arab Emirates.

"The prejudice between money, business and culture is still very deep in Italy," said Michela Bondardo, a culture policy expert who serves on the Contemporary Arts Council of New York's MoMA. She urged Italy's state museums to change mentalities and forge long-term alliances with corporate partners.

Under the leadership of Premier Matteo Renzi, who used to be mayor of this Tuscan city steeped in art, Italy's state diffidence toward associating public-sector culture with the

private sphere is easing.

"Private resources, crowdfunding, private donations, donations by companies, sponsorship, patronages, will integrate public funding," Culture Minister Dario Franceschini told the brainstorming session.

The Uffizi Galleries' new director is Eike Schmidt, a German who is part of Franceschini's new breed of museum directors, following decades of Italians-only at the helm of state museums.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Schmidt noted that the national culture budget cuts of the past 15 years have finally been reversed, with this year's budget up some 27 percent over last year's, although still skimpy at some 2 billion euros (\$2.2 billion).

And a 2014 law allowing 65-percent tax breaks for donations to help Italy's public museums, monuments and arts venues has triggered a total of nearly 120 million (\$135 million) in donations, Franceschini said.

"The state is investing itself in culture again," said Schmidt, who directs Italy's biggest drawing art museum.

"But this is not enough for such countries as Italy and Greece," so rich in art and archaeology. "So private donors' patronage, especially for restoration, continues to be needed," Schmidt said.

Italy has been relying heavily on businesses including fashion companies, a mattress manufacturer and a textile tycoon to pay for restoration of prestigious monuments. Shoe-and-luxury-goods-maker Tod's is footing the bill to clean the Colosseum; Fendi sponsored restoration of Rome's Trevi Fountain, then held a summer fashion show on transparent walkways crossing over the water. **AP**

Singapore won't ease real estate curbs 'anytime soon,' MAS Says



Pooja Thakur, Chanyaporn Chanjaroen

SINGAPORE doesn't intend to ease property curbs that have dragged home prices down by almost one-tenth anytime soon, the head of the central bank said.

The relaxing of mortgage refinancing rules announced last week by the Monetary Authority of Singapore are aimed at easing homeowners' debt burdens rather than create demand for new housing loans, the central bank's Managing Director Ravi Menon said yesterday.

"This doesn't represent an easing at all," Menon said. "If you look for a prop up to the market, this is not going to help as it doesn't apply to new loans. This is to improve financial prudence without creating new demand for housing loans. We won't ease anytime soon."

Households who are refinancing their existing mortgages will be exempted from a 60 percent cap on their total debt-servicing ratio, even if they had observed it when making the purchase, the MAS said last week. The exemption, which took effect immediately, only applies to owner-occupiers, the MAS said. The so-called Total Debt Servicing Ratio framework was introduced in 2013.

Singapore's home prices and sales have eased since the government began introducing housing curbs in 2009, with some of the strictest measures implemented in 2013, including the TDSR framework and higher stamp duties on residential purchases. The government has repeatedly signaled it's not ready to ease the curbs yet, even as economic growth slows and unemployment rises. Home values have dropped 9.4 percent from the peak in 2013. **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

SING! CHINA TV SHOW TO AIR SPECIAL EDITION IN MACAU



Hit reality TV show "Sing! China" is coming to The Venetian Macao's Cotai Arena on September 21, where a special National Day episode of

the series will be filmed.

For the special Macau-based episode, four popular Chinese singers — Jay Chou, Na Ying, Wang Feng and Harlem Yu —

will act as celebrity mentors to the 16 contestants who will perform their signature songs from the first season of the show.

Produced by Star TV and aired via Zhejiang Satellite TV, the show is a popular singing competition and reality show. It is the most-viewed program in its prime slot since it first aired on July 15, according to a statement from Sands China.

Similar to other shows of its kind, the mentors side with particular contestants following a blind audition, before competitor finalists battle it for public votes to be declared the winner.

Tickets are now on sale for the event at Cotai Ticketing outlets.

BA PASSENGERS DELAYED WORLDWIDE DUE TO COMPUTER GLITCH



British Airways travelers are suffering delays globally due to a computer glitch in the check-in systems, the latest in a string of technical failures to hit major international airlines.

According to tracking service Flightaware, 157 BA flights were delayed, or 17 percent of its total flights, and five were cancelled as of midday in London.

Travelers took to social media to complain of long lines and the airline said "a number" of airports were affected.

"We've been in line for three hours," Erik Blangsted, told KGO-TV as he waited for his flight at San Francisco International Airport. "We've talked to the people who've offered us some cold water and some chips — and sympathy."

The airline apologized and said passengers are now being checked in at Heathrow and Gatwick Airports but that the process may be "a bit slower than usual."

The company, which is part of the International Consolidated Airlines Group SA, says it would "encourage customers to check in online before they reach the airport."

Angola has new finance minister



The chairman of the Angolan Capital Market Commission, Augusto Archer de Sousa Mangureira, is the new Minister of Finance of Angola, replacing Armando Manuel, who was dismissed as part of a ministerial reshuffle, the House of the Presidency said.

The President also dismissed Afonso Pedro Canga from the post of Minister of Agriculture, Manuel da Cruz Neto from the post of general secretary of the President of the Republic and Edeltrudes Maurício Fernandes Gaspar da Costa from his role as Minister of State and Chief of Staff.

The statement said the new Minister of State and Chief of Staff was Manuel da Cruz Neto and Edeltrudes Fernandes Gaspar da Costa was appointed to the post of general secretary of the President of the Republic.

Marcos Alexandre Nhunga was appointed to the post of Minister of Agriculture, under the same government reshuffle. **MDT/Macauhub**

CCCC may buy construction company in Brazil

CAMARGO Corrêa, one of the largest construction companies in Brazil, has been put up for sale and may be acquired by the China Communications Construction Company (CCCC), the Brazilian press reported.

A report in financial newspaper Valor Economico said that in addition to CCCC, other companies potentially interested in Camargo Corrêa were also asked about the deal, including French and Spanish companies. The Brazilian group plans to sell 100 percent of its engineering and construction unit.

The Camargo Corrêa group, which was convicted of corruption, money laundering and criminal organization in the construction of the Abreu e Lima refinery, owned by Petrobras, saw some of its board



members arrested and is struggling to close the sale of its construction business

due to uncertainties about future investigations. Because of the penalties

that have been applied in several lawsuits and high levels of debt, the Camargo Corrêa group has been disposing of assets in order to obtain liquidity.

It recently sold a stake of 23.6 percent it held in CPFL Energia to China State Grid group for 6 billion reais and in November 2015 sold control of Alpargatas, a company that manufactures flip-flops, to Brazilian group J & F Investments for 2.67 billion reais.

The Camargo Corrêa Group is a conglomerate run by SGPS Camargo Corrêa, which is privately held and family controlled, with headquarters in São Paulo, acting in key sectors of the economy: engineering and construction, cement, energy concessions and urban transport and mobility, shipbuilding and real estate. **MDT/Macauhub**

AD



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Trudeau sounds human-rights note as trip ends in Hong Kong



Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

CANADIAN Prime Minister Justin Trudeau wrapped up his week-long visit to China by assuring a Hong Kong audience that his efforts to improve relations with the Asian country won't prevent him from raising human-rights concerns.

Trudeau, speaking in an interview with Bloomberg's Angie Lau during a Canadian Chamber of Commerce luncheon, said there's no trade-off between pursuing economic interests and raising issues such as the rule of law.

"I don't think you have to choose," Trudeau said on the last day of a trip that began Aug. 30 in Beijing and included stops in Shanghai and Hangzhou. "Having challenging conversations in an open responsible way is what a good relationship, a good solid dialog needs to have."

Trudeau said discussions he had with Chinese leaders included conversations on consular cases, governance and corruption. He added that even Canada is not immune to such issues and has been criticized over its treatment of indigenous groups. "I recognize that Canadians want us to always demand better of ourselves," he said.

The prime minister billed his week-long visit, which also coincided with a Group of 20 leaders summit, as an effort to reboot relations with the Asian country after what he described as an era of "hot and cold" ties under his predecessor, Stephen Harper.

The change in tone also included a shift in focus away from natural resources toward consumer markets. The most ballyhooed commercial event was a stop at Alibaba Group Holding Ltd., China's dominant online shopping company, where Trudeau presided over the commercial launch of a dedicated portal for Canadian producers.

He brought up the Alibaba initiative again yesterday in Hong Kong. "We know that the Chinese economy is transforming right now, moving away from just being a manufacturing export economy to recognizing the economic potential of 300 million members of the global middle class," Trudeau said.

Other highlights of the trip included Trudeau's reluctance to commit to any easing of foreign investment restrictions against Chinese companies - even though he was asked about it on three separate occasions - and constant warnings about growing anti-trade sentiment from Canadian officials. **Bloomberg**

GLOBALIZATION

British tea is booming in China, the drink's birthplace

Leonora Beck, Harrogate

Ji Mengyu sinks into a soft chair with her cup of tea to the sound of tinkling teaspoons and light chatter. The opulently decorated Victorian tea salon is quintessentially British, something straight out of Downton Abbey. Except it's in Beijing.

The 25-year-old HR professional is one of a growing number of Chinese who are looking past their country's ancient tea traditions in favor of imported British blends. For Ji, the tea has an aura of luxury and quality, and gives her a sense of partaking in the posh British culture popularized globally by TV shows and fashion brands.

"I think British people's traditional customs and culture have a kind of classical style," says Ji, who says she's inspired by TV shows like Downton Abbey, but also Sherlock Holmes and Game of Thrones.

For three centuries, countries in Asia and Africa have been quenching Britons' thirst for tea, supplying dried leaves worth millions of pounds every year. Now, that trend is showing some signs of reversing. China and Hong Kong in particular are seeing a surge in appetite for British tea blends - some of which are made with leaves from China itself, an example of the twists in trade that the globalization of tastes can create.

Upscale tea blends from storied British companies like Twinings, Taylors of Harrogate and Hudson & Middleton occupy increasingly more space on shelves in Chinese supermarkets, restaurant menus and online shops.

Tea houses serving British afternoon tea have sprouted up in the bigger cities in China. Five years ago, Annvita English Tea Company managed ten tea houses around China, serving imported blends and pastries in British-style tea rooms. The number has since grown ten-fold, with more planned.

"It fits the taste of people who want to pursue a higher quality of life," says Li Qunlou, general manager at AnnVita English Tea House



Matthew Davies, Head of International Sales at Taylors of Harrogate, picks up a package of tea in the tea company's tasting room in Harrogate

in Sanlitun in Beijing.

As a result, British tea companies selling premium blends have seen their exports to China and Hong Kong skyrocket.

In the first five months of 2016, British tea exports to Hong Kong nearly tripled in value compared with two years earlier. They doubled to the rest of mainland China, data from the U.K. HM Revenue & Customs show.

Shipments to China and Hong Kong only make up 7 percent of total British tea exports, but the share is growing quickly.

Some of these deliveries come from Harrogate, a small town in northern England that is the home to Taylors of Harrogate. The fourth generation family-owned company has been selling tea to China for more than 10 years. In the past three years, sales have more than doubled every year, albeit from a low starting point.

"China produces nearly one half of the world's tea, so on the surface you would think that there is a limited opportunity for Taylors of Harrogate," says Matthew Davies, Head of International Sales at Taylors of Harrogate.

Tea originates from China and has been a central part of the culture for thousands of years. In Britain, tea was not introduced until the

17th century, though it has since become a staple and adapted to local tastes.

Every day thousands of tea samples arrive in Harrogate for the tasters to evaluate. The business essentially relies on their taste buds to find the right mix of leaves to maintain the signature flavors that the company bases its reputation on. Chinese customers mainly buy

■ **China and Hong Kong are seeing a surge in appetite for British tea blends, some of which are made with leaves from China itself, an example of the twists in trade that the globalization of tastes can create**

Taylor of Harrogate's Earl Grey and English Breakfast tea.

"Our approach was to invest time and resources to understand consumer behavior and we found that there are a number of Chinese consumers with a high level of discretionary income and demand for Taylors of Harrogate brands," says Davies.

The demand is growing mainly among China's wealthy middle class and is fueled by portrayals of British high society featured in TV shows, news stories of the British royal family and classical novels like Jane Austen's, analysts say.

"Previously, Chinese consumers were more exposed to American culture, McDonalds and Hollywood-style things. These few years, because of the popular British TV dramas, Chinese consumers are more exposed to British brands and the lifestyle," says Hope Lee, senior drinks analyst at Euromonitor International.

Another reason for the thriving popularity of British imported tea is the seemingly endless string of food scandals that plagues China and Hong Kong.

Greenpeace and government investigations found high levels of pesticides or poisonous earths in tea, also in some of the best known brands. Imported premium British tea brands are perceived as being safer and of higher quality.

Paradoxically, some of the British tea sold in China and Hong Kong is originally grown in China. However, it represents only a small amount of British exports there - about 3 percent, according to Frost & Sullivan, a market research company.

British tea makers mainly import leaves from Africa and India, regions where the taste for British tea blends has not grown in the same way, for economic and cultural reasons.

Despite the recent slowdown in the Chinese economy, Taylors of Harrogate and many other companies and industry experts are optimistic about the country's consumers.

"We are continuing to strengthen our lengths in China," says Davies. **AP**

Vijay Joshi, Jim Gomez, Vientiane

SOUTH CHINA SEA ON THE AGENDA

Southeast Asian summit opens, overshadowed by Duterte flap

A summit of Southeast Asian leaders to discuss issues ranging from terrorism to South China Sea tensions opened yesterday, overshadowed by the Philippine president's intemperate comments in his debut appearance at the annual meeting. The insult was made more egregious because of who the target was — President Barack Obama.

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte occupied center stage on the eve of the summit Monday when he made comments about Obama that included a “son of a bitch” remark.

He was again in the spotlight yesterday when he trooped into a conference hall in the Laotian capital of Vientiane wearing a traditional Filipino shirt with sleeves rolled up, and hands in pant pockets. The other male Southeast Asian leaders were dressed in dark business suits. Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi wore a mauve traditional dress.

Filipinos wear the “barong” shirt on formal occasions too, but with sleeves buttoned down at the wrists. Rolled-up sleeves are considered too casual for any formal setting, let alone a summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN. Duterte rolled his sleeves down and buttoned them when Laotian President Bounnhang Vorachith gave a speech to open the summit.

“Multifaceted security challenges have occurred in many parts of the world, such as terrorism and extremism, natural disasters, climate change, migration crisis, trafficking in people, territorial disputes and armed conflicts,” Bounnhang said. “At the same time, although the global economy has gradually recovered, growth remains slow and fragile.”

“There is a need for us to closely follow these developments

AP PHOTO



and continue to enhance ASEAN cooperation and collaboration with the international community,” he said.

The 10-nation ASEAN comprises Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. The summit will be followed by a series of other meetings today and a summit tomorrow between leaders from ASEAN and other countries, including the United States, China, Russia, India, South Korea, Japan, Australia and New Zealand.

Obama arrived in Vientiane Monday night and will attend tomorrow's summit. Duterte also arrived Monday night.

But hours before his arrival, Duterte dropped a diplomatic bombshell by saying he doesn't want Obama to ask him questions about extrajudicial killings that have occurred amid an

ongoing crackdown on drug dealers in the Philippines. More than 2,000 people have been killed in the crackdown since he took office on June 30.

In his typical loose-tongued style, Duterte said: “I do not have any master except the Filipino people, nobody but nobody. You must be respectful. Do not just throw questions. Putang ina, I will swear at you in that forum,” he said, using the Tagalog phrase for “son of a bitch.”

Obama later canceled a bilateral meeting he was scheduled to have with Duterte in Vientiane. On Tuesday, Duterte expressed regret over the remarks, but the damage was already done.

Duterte is also planning to ask China's premier at the Vientiane meetings whether China is trying to develop a disputed reef, Scarborough Shoal, off the Philippines' northwestern coast, Philippine Defense Secretary

■ The summit will be followed by a series of other meetings today and a summit tomorrow between leaders from ASEAN and other countries, including the United States, China, Russia, India, South Korea, Japan, Australia and New Zealand

Delfin Lorenzana said.

The shoal is part of the larger dispute in the South China Sea between China and some ASEAN countries. An international arbitration panel recently ruled that China's expansive claims in the sea are illegal. Beijing has rejected the ruling as a sham.

Although ASEAN has the power of the ruling behind it, its summit is unlikely to mention it in its final declaration, a reflection of Beijing's diplomatic clout.

But according to a draft of the final statement ASEAN is scheduled to release on Thursday, the region's leaders will express strong concern about Beijing's construction of man-made islands in the South China Sea, which Southeast Asian countries fear could destabilize the region.

Duterte said last week that the Philippine coast guard has sighted Chinese barges at Scarborough, which he said could pre-empt the transformation of the Chinese-held reef into another man-made island. One of the Chinese vessels had what appeared to be a crane, according to a Philippine official who did not want to be identified because he was not authorized to discuss classified intelligence.

China sparked widespread alarm when it converted seven reefs in the Spratly Islands into islands that the United States says could be transformed into military bases to reinforce Beijing's territorial claims and intimidate rival claimant countries.

Duterte has taken a more conciliatory stance toward China than his predecessor. But a confirmation of Chinese reclamation activities at Scarborough Shoal, a rich fishing ground where Filipino fishermen have been forced away by Beijing's coast guard, could impede relations.

U.S. officials have also expressed deep concern over the possibility of China developing Scarborough into an island or starting to erect concrete structures there, which could reinforce Beijing's control over a swath of the South China Sea. **AP**

Obama vows to work to tighten sanctions on North Korea, push Beijing

IN the wake of another missile launch, President Barack Obama vowed to work with the United Nations to tighten sanctions against North Korea, but added that the U.S. was still open to dialogue if the government changes course.

Obama signaled the U.S. would redouble its effort to choke off North Korea's access to international currency and technology by tightening loopholes in the current sanctions regime. Obama called the series of

ballistic missile launches “provocations” that flouted international law and would only lead to further isolation.

“We are going to work diligently together with the most recent U.N. sanctions,” Obama told reporters after meeting with South Korean President Park Geun-hye. “We're going to work together to make sure we're closing loopholes and make them even more effective.”

North Korea fired three

ballistic missiles off its east coast earlier this week, a launch that was widely viewed as a show of force timed to get the attention of world leaders visiting the region for a series of summits. Obama and other heads of state gathered in China over the weekend for the Group of 20 economic summit.

The U.N. Security Council in late August strongly condemned four North Korean ballistic missile launches in July and August. It called

them “grave violations” of a ban on all ballistic missile activity. Despite the heavy sanctions, North Korea says the programs are justified because of the threat posed by the U.S. and South Korea.

The White House noted the U.S. remains committed to moving ahead with the planned deployment of a major anti-missile system in South Korea. China has urged South Korea and the U.S. to scrap the U.S. Terminal High Altitude Area

■ Obama suggested they would continue to push China, North Korea's chief ally in the region

Defense, or THAAD, saying it is merely meant to spy on the China.

Park told reporters yesterday that North Korea missile program is “fundamentally threatening the security” of the Korean Peninsula and both leaders defended its position as defensive.

Obama suggested they would continue to push China, North Korea's chief ally in the region, to use its influence to intervene and to crackdown on North Korea's use of front companies and other entities to work around the sanctions. Obama raised the issue in his meeting Saturday, deputy national security adviser Ben Rhodes said. **AP**

Tim Sullivan, Shaar-I-Shalli

INDIA

In death, a Kashmir rebel becomes what New Delhi has long feared

GO to the villages of south Kashmir and they'll tell you stories about Burhan Wani, the militant commander shot by security forces as he tried to escape through the back door of an isolated hideout.

They say Wani would slip out of the forests sometimes just to visit, a 22-year-old with an AK-47 and an easy way of talking that made him so different from earlier generations of Kashmir's insurgents. They say he'd play cricket with village boys, and visit orphanages. They say he'd pay for the weddings of poor young women.

In the weeks since Wani was killed on July 8, the stories have grown into such a mythology — the polite teenager who left home to become a Himalayan Robin Hood, the powerful insurgent commander who remained a man of peace — that it's no longer clear how many are true.

But in death, Wani has become something that India has long feared: a homegrown militant openly lionized across the embattled region, a powerful symbol against Indian rule who has united Kashmir's many factions. Today, rock-throwing high school students paint his name on shuttered storefronts — “BURHAN OUR HERO” — while everyone from fearsome insurgents to moderate politicians mourn him.

Wani had already rejuvenated Hizbul Mujahideen, the largest of Kashmir's militant groups, attracting dozens of new recruits with postings on Facebook and other social media sites. Young, handsome and charismatic, he looked more like a college student than a gunman. He sometimes posted photos of himself in the forests, a smile on his face and an assault rifle in his hands. If he was more a saavy recruiter than a menacing fighter, that only made him more popular.

But his killing, and the public fury it set off, now threaten to give new life to a Kashmiri militant movement that had withered in recent years, reduced to just a couple hundred fighters in scattered rebel outfits.

Wani's death sent tens of thousands of protesters into Kashmir's cities and villages, beginning a cycle of protest-and-crackdown that has left more than 70 civilians dead — most killed by government forces — and thousands injured. Strikes, curfews and intermittent communications blackouts have effectively shuttered the region for more than seven weeks.

It has also helped make the militancy, which had once been at the extreme end of the Kashmiri independence movement, into something mainstream.

Villagers, who had learned long ago to hide any sympathy

AP PHOTO



An Indian paramilitary soldier walks past graffiti on a wall in Srinagar, Indian-controlled Kashmir

they felt for fighters, now speak of them openly with reverence and warmth.

Wani has become the face of the militants' cause.

“He was a good man, a gentle man,” said Abdul Majeed, a farmer and elder in the village of Shaar-i-Shalli. “That's why people cared about him.”

Late one night in mid-August, Indian soldiers had forced their way into dozens of homes in Shaar-i-Shalli, driving dozens of men into the town square. Over the next five hours, they beat the men so brutally that one villager died and a general was forced to apologize. The soldiers, military officials later said, were offended that village elders had not wanted to meet with them.

On a recent morning, Majeed and more than a dozen other men from the village crowded into the home of the dead man — Shabir Ahmed Mangoo had been a literature teacher at a nearby college, and his wife had just had their first baby — to talk about what had happened.

A scowling young man also named Shabir Ahmed (many men in the village share the same name) suddenly interrupted Majeed. He had jet black hair and a long beard, and could barely control his fury.

“People used to be afraid to say that they support the militants. But with the death of Burhan we have overcome that

fear,” he said.

Kashmir has been at the center of the conflict between India and Pakistan since they became independent in 1947. The Himalayan region is divided between the two countries, though both claim it in its entirety.

Militants have been fighting since the late 1980s for independence for Kashmir, the only Muslim-majority state in India, or its merger with overwhelmingly Muslim Pakistan. At its height, in the 1990s and early 2000s, a seemingly never-ending series of bloody insurgent attacks and brutal crackdowns by Indian security forces had given Kashmir the feel of an occupied state, a place of informers, torture centers and soldiers on nearly every corner.

The attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, and subsequent U.S. pressure on Pakistan to rein in militants based there, were a major setback for the insurgent movement. Indian security forces largely crushed the militancy after that, though popular demands for “azadi” — freedom — remained deeply ingrained in Kashmiri culture.

In the last decade the calls for freedom have shifted to unarmed uprisings, with tens of thousands of civilians repeatedly taking to the streets to protest Indian rule, often leading to street battles between rock-throwing residents and Indian troops. Immense protests,

some lasting for months, shook Kashmir in 2008 and 2010.

Today's Kashmir is an often-contradictory place where bloody clashes mingle with skyrocketing real estate prices and increasing wealth (fed, in part, by Kashmiris working elsewhere in India or abroad). It's a place where you can buy high-end electronics or go shopping at Babelicious Fashions, but where you rarely go more than a few minutes without passing a heavily armed soldier or an armored military vehicle.

Increasingly, many Kashmiris

■ **Rock-throwing high school students paint his name on shuttered storefronts — ‘BURHAN OUR HERO’ — while everyone from fearsome insurgents to moderate politicians mourn him**

see the recent uprisings as unsuccessful.

“In 2008 there were nonviolent protests, and no change. Then after the 2010 protests what happened? Nothing at all,” said a young protest leader who identified himself only as Mohammed, and who hinted at ties to Hizbul Mujahideen, saying he could find a Hizbul fighter “in a few minutes” if he wanted.

“This generation grew up with the idea of nonviolence, no guns. But we got nothing” from that, he continued. “What can we do but take up the gun?”

While Wani's killing sparked the current wave of unrest, it has also been fed by widespread unemployment, especially among young people, and political frustration. Most Muslim Kashmiris have been deeply distrustful of state politics since 2014, when a local political party vaulted itself to power by forming an alliance with the Hindu-nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party, which has long advocated a hard-line response to any call for increased Kashmiri autonomy.

The latest protests, and the open support for insurgents, deeply worry India's security establishment, which can no longer say the militant movement is a Pakistani creation. The uprising has also gone on far longer than security officials expected. While most hope it will begin to fade after the upcoming Muslim festival of Eid al-Adha, some worry it could last until the winter cold hits the region in November or December.

A high-ranking Indian security official, speaking on condition of anonymity in order to talk openly, worries that the brutality of India's clampdowns, and its ineptness with such basic concerns as traffic enforcement and criminal investigations, have left Kashmiris with no trust at all in the government.

Instead, the public ends up glorifying men like Wani, and the stone-throwing teenagers. They are young men with nicknames like “Bunker,” for his courage in attacking armored cars, which are often called bunkers, or “Discovery,” who acts as a scout for stone-throwers.

“This generation, it's like gunpowder ready to explode,” the official said. “When you make boys like this into heroes, then you have a big problem.” AP



U.S. President Barack Obama

On historic trip to Laos, Obama aims to heal war wounds

Josh Lederman
& Kathleen Hennessey, Vientiane

ACKNOWLEDGING the scars of a secret war, President Barack Obama yesterday said the United States has a “moral obligation” to help this isolated Southeast Asian nation heal and vowed to reinvigorate relations with a country with rising strategic importance to the U.S.

Making the first visit for a sitting U.S. president, Obama said too few Americans know of the United States’ covert bombing of Laos during the Vietnam

War. He offered no apologies, calling the campaign and its aftermath reminders that “whatever the cause, whatever our intentions, war inflicts a terrible toll.”

“Given our history here, I believe that the United States has a moral obligation to help Laos heal,” Obama said, as he addressed an audience of more than 1,000 students, business people and officials.

For nine years, the U.S. conducted a punishing, covert bombing campaign on landlocked Laos in an effort to cut off communist forces in nei-

ghoring Vietnam. The bombardment dropped more than 2 million tons of ordnance on the small nation, more than “we dropped on Germany and Japan, combined, in all of World War II,” Obama said.

The bombing left behind deep scars, millions of unexploded cluster bombs across the countryside and decades-worth of cleanup.

Obama is one of several world leaders arriving for a meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. Taking its turn as the chair of the regional forum, the Laos’ communist government is seizing a rare mo-

ment in the spotlight.

For Obama, the visit serves as a capstone to his yearslong effort to bolster relations with Southeast Asian countries long overlooked by the United States. The outreach is a core element of Obama’s attempt to shift U.S. diplomatic and military resources away from the Middle East and into Asia in order to counter China’s dominance in the region and ensure a foothold in growing markets.

Obama’s project — dubbed his Asia pivot — has yielded uneven results, as conflict in the Middle East has continued to demand

attention and China has bristled at what it views as meddling in its backyard.

Obama said America’s interest in the Asia-Pacific isn’t new and is not a passing fad.

“The United States is more deeply engaged across the Asia-Pacific than we have been in decades,” Obama said. “Our position is stronger and we’ve sent a clear message that as a Pacific nation, we are here to stay.”

With just four months left in office and eying his legacy, Obama used the moment to reassert his aims. He touted new military aid and U.S. support for regional cooperation in addressing maritime disputes. He made a plug for the massive Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade agreement, the policy’s central economic component that is now stuck in Congress. He sought to address worries that United States’ new focus on Asia will leave smaller nations as pawns in a chess match between the U.S. and China.

“We believe that bigger nations should not dictate to smaller nations and that all nations should play by the same rules,” he said.

As a first sign of a new relationship with Laos, Obama said his administration would address the legacy of war. Obama announced he would double spending for unexploded ordnance, committing USD90 million over the three years. The U.S. has contributed \$100 million to the effort in the last 20 years, as annual deaths have fallen from more than 300 to fewer than 50, the White House said.

The Lao government said it would increase efforts to recover remains and account for Americans missing since the Vietnam War.

As he opened a day of ceremony and diplomacy, Obama was greeted by a military band, traditional dancers and a warm, tropical rain. He met with Lao President Bounnhang Vorachit, was feted at a welcome banquet, where he toasted to a relationship he said would “mean greater progress and opportunity for the people of Laos.” **AP**

THAILAND

Bombing kills three in Southern city, including 4-year-old girl

A bomb exploded outside a school in southern Thailand yesterday, killing three people, including a man and his 4-year-old daughter, whom he was dropping off for kindergarten.

The incident was the latest in a series of attacks that coincide with efforts to hold peace talks between Thailand’s

government and Muslim separatist insurgents who have wreaked havoc across the country’s southernmost provinces since 2004, at a cost of more than 6,000 lives.

Other recent attacks have included bombings across seven provinces popular with tourists that killed four people, and an explosive deto-

nated on a rail line that derailed a train car and killed a railway worker.

Preliminary investigations into the incident show that a suspect drove a motorcycle and parked it in front of a small store across from the school in Tak Bai district of Narathiwat province, police Lt. Col. Noppadon Kingthong said. He said the

bomb was placed in the front basket of the motorcycle and was detonated remotely.

The targets were traffic policemen and people dropping off their children at the Baan Ta Baa School, Noppadon said.

In addition to the father and daughter who died of their injuries while being taken to a

hospital, a 23-year-old man who was one of eight people hospitalized died of his injuries. Three of those hurt were police personnel and one was from the military, Noppadon said.

Thailand is overwhelmingly Buddhist, but its three southernmost provinces have Muslim majorities who have long

complained they face discrimination.

A statement from UNICEF, the United Nations’ children’s advocacy organization, said it was “shocked and saddened” by the incident.

The group Save the Children urged greater protection for children and educational institutions. **AP**



Ahmad Taher pushes over a shot glass in a successful attempt at the world's longest domino drop shot

UAE

The biggest what? Dubai seeks glory in obscure world records

Jon Gambrell, Dubai

THE 6,148 whiskey shots perched atop glasses of energy drink waited for the push that might send them tumbling into the record books — just another night in Dubai, and another chance to make a certain kind of history.

Superlatives like “the world’s biggest” and “the world’s first” are almost as ubiquitous as the skyscrapers and mega-projects that have come to define this city-state on the Arabian Peninsula, home to the tallest building and the busiest international airport on Earth.

With time, this largest-in-life approach has filtered down to more humble and odder pursuits — such as Monday night’s attempt at the world’s longest domino drop shot.

You probably weren’t aware that there was a record to beat in the domino drop shot, or even that there was something called a domino drop shot. Just imagine someone dropping a shot glass into a beer, but before you can guzzle it down, another thousand shots drop into another thousand pints behind it, like dominoes.

The current record holder for

the longest drop is the Bahama-based location of the alcohol-soaked chain Señor Frog, which got 4,107 of its 4,109 shot glasses to fall correctly in February 2013.

On Monday, The Huddle Sports Bar & Grill in Bur Dubai sought to break the record. Staffers carefully set up over 6,000 glasses of Camros whiskey and Bazooka energy drink. It was an effort five months in the making, with tests twice a month that took 12 hours to set up.

“When you say Guinness World Record in Dubai, it’s something everyone will talk about,” said Ahmad Taher, the food and beverage manager at Cytymax Hotels, which went for the record.

Such an event would be inconceivable in other Mideast countries like neighboring Saudi Arabia, where alcohol is illegal and officials are preparing for the annual hajj pilgrimage, required of all able-bodied Muslims once in their life.

But in Dubai, which has a large expatriate population and relatively lax rules on alcohol, the event is unlikely to draw much attention — unless, of course, they make it into the Guinness Book of World Records.

Before Monday, the United Arab Emirates held 165 such records, including 129 set in Dubai, according to Guinness.

Among them are the architectural marvels of Dubai, like the Burj Khalifa, the world’s tallest building at 828 meters (2,716 feet), and the continent-shaped islands of The World, the largest man-made archipelago. The world’s longest driverless metro line passes by the twin towers of the J.W. Marriott Marquis, the world’s tallest hotel at 355 meters (1,165 feet).

Then there are the stranger feats, like when Indian national Maharoo Decibels won the

Some records are more infamous. The largest tanker ship ever hijacked? The UAE-based Sirius Star, later released by Somali pirates

Operation board game with surgical precision in a world-record 21.87 seconds in 2008. Or when Mohamed Ahmed al-Mulla, an Emirati, typed the fastest blindfolded Arabic text message in 2009. The two-sentences included the phrase: “the razor-toothed piranhas of the genera Serrasalmus and Pygocentrus.”

Some records are more infamous. The largest tanker ship ever hijacked? The UAE-based Sirius Star, later released by Somali pirates for a USD3 million ransom. The highest shortage of women, according to Guinness? The UAE, with its vast workforce of male, low-paid migrant laborers.

One place the UAE isn’t ahead, however, is in the number of overall world records. The United States leads the pack with 6,874. But the UAE and Dubai dominate the Middle East, Guinness spokeswoman Leila Issa said.

“The UAE’s initiative to be the first in all industries and their drive for success and to be the best is what drives them to attempt Guinness World Records titles,” she said.

The Emirati push for world records corresponds with aca-

demical research on social comparison. Studies show that the higher ranked a person becomes in a field, “the more thirsty you are to get to that No. 1 position,” said Stephen Garcia, an associate professor of psychology at the University of Michigan.

“Even with adults, if you say, ‘First one to the tree is the coolest person in the world,’ you’re going to get the adults running to the tree,” Garcia said. “That’s such a childhood game, but people are ready to run with it. Whenever you create a competition, people tend to buy in, even around these trivial dimensions, like this Guinness World Record.”

Garcia’s lack of enthusiasm was nowhere to be seen at the Huddle on Monday, where the vibration of the speakers in the bar caused a premature drop of some of the shot glasses at around 8:45 p.m., to the horror of onlookers.

The same thing happened again at 10:09 p.m., but was stopped by a nimble-fingered bartender. Five minutes later, another fourth of the shots fell into their glasses before time, sending some workers scrambling to reset the glasses as others asked patrons in the noisy bar to be quiet.

But at 11:55 p.m., Taher pushed over the first glass, the smell of whiskey and energy drink filling the air as the glasses crashed into each other for 55 seconds. Two hours of counting later, Dubai had its 130th Guinness World Record with The Huddle’s 4,578 correctly fallen shot glasses. **AP**

SAUDI ARABIA

Top cleric says Iran's leaders 'not Muslims'

Abdullah Al-Shihri & Aya Batrawy, Riyadh

SAUDI Arabia's top cleric is revving up the kingdom's rhetoric against Iran, saying in comments published yesterday that Tehran's leaders are "not Muslims," in response to rancorous remarks from Iran's supreme leader.

The remarks by Grand Mufti Abdulaziz Al Sheikh came a day after Iran's Ayatollah Ali Khamenei accused Saudi authorities of killing Muslims injured during last year's crush of crowds at the hajj pilgrimage.

Their confrontational comments mark a sharp escalation in the countries' faceoff as their spat plays out across the region.

Khamenei, in remarks published on his website Monday, said the "heartless and murderous Saudis locked up the injured with the dead in containers — instead of providing medical

treatment and helping them or at least quenching their thirst. They murdered them."

Mostly Sunni Saudi Arabia and majority Shiite Iran back opposite sides of the wars in Syria and Yemen, and support opposing political groups in Iraq, Bahrain and Lebanon.

In comments to the Makkah newspaper, the top Saudi cleric was quoted as saying that Khamenei's remarks are "not surprising" because Iranians are descendants of "Majjuws"— a term that refers to Zoroastrians and those who worship fire. Zoroastrianism is a monotheistic religion predating Christianity and Islam and was the dominant religion in Persia before the Arab conquest.

"We must understand they are not Muslims, for they are the descendants of Majjuws, and their enmity toward Muslims, especially the Sunnis, is very old," the Saudi cleric said.

The September 2015 stampede and crush of pilgrims killed at least 2,426 people, according to an Associated Press count. Iran had the highest of death toll of any country, with 464 Iranian pilgrims killed.

Saudi authorities have not released any findings of their investigation into the hajj disaster. Preliminary statements suggested the crush was caused when at least two large crowds intersected.

Khamenei also blamed Saudi Arabia for an earlier crane collapse in Mecca that killed 111 people, and urged Muslims around the world to reconsider Saudi Arabia's custodianship and management of Islam's holiest sites in Mecca and Medina where the hajj is performed. He also said Saudi rulers promote sectarian strife and arm "wicked takfiri groups" — a reference to extremist Sunni militants who denounce other Muslims as heretics and non-believers.



Sheikh Abdul Aziz al-Sheikh

The two countries severed diplomatic relations in January after Saudi Arabia executed a prominent Saudi Shiite cleric and angry Iranian crowds overran Saudi diplomatic missions. Negotiations between the two

countries over hajj security measures also collapsed earlier this year, prompting Iran to declare it would not be sending any of its citizens to this year's pilgrimage, which begins this weekend. AP

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what's ON



HERE AND NOW

TIME: 2pm-7pm

UNTIL: September 30, 2016

ADMISSION: Free

VENUE: Creative Macau - Center for Creative Industries, G/F Macao Cultural Centre Building, Xian Xing Hai Avenue

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2875 3282

SELECTED COLLECTION OF PRINTS

TIME: 9am-6pm (Reservation required, closed on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays)

UNTIL: September 30, 2016

VENUE: Macpro Gallery, Avenida da Praia Grande, no.429, Centro Comercial Praia Grande, 2° andar, Macau (nearby the Old Court)

ADMISSION: free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2833 7828

MYSTERIOUS 'DEER' ENDEMIC TO CHINA:

MUNTIACUS CRINIFRONS

TIME: 10am-5pm (closed on Mondays, closed on the following day instead if a public holiday falls on Monday)

UNTIL: September 11, 2016

ADMISSION: Free

VENUE: Macao Giant Panda Information Centre, Seac Pai Van Park, Coloane

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2833 7676

ABSTRACT PAINTINGS FROM THE MAM COLLECTION

TIME: 10am-7pm (no admittance after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: December 31, 2016

VENUE: Macao 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

ART COURSES STUDENT'S EXHIBITION OF THE MACAO MUSEUM OF ART

TIME: 10am-7pm (no admission after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: November 27, 2106

VENUE: Macao Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: MOP5 (free admission on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

Offbeat

FUNNY MONEY: INMATES CALLED TO PICK UP FAKE USD100s BY ROAD

Some Mississippi inmates were picking peas in a garden when they got a call to clean up money scattered along a roadside. It seemed too good to be true — and it was.

The Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal reports (bit.ly/2coNkRW) the fake currency, found this weekend, made for use in movies. One of USD100 bills was emblazoned with words "For Motion Picture Use Only."

Pontotoc County Sheriff Leo Mask says it appears someone was hauling theater equipment because a movie reel was also tossed by the road. Deputies were counting the funny money, and an investigation continues.

TV canal macau

04:45	RTPi Live
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:45	RTPi Live
16:10	2018 FIFA World Cup Qualifiers: Switzerland - Portugal (Repeated)
17:40	Once Upon A Time S1 (Repeated)
18:30	The Hunter (Repeated)
19:20	TDM Interview (Repeated)
19:50	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Tough Justice Texas Style
21:30	Criminal Minds S10
22:10	The Hunter
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:15	2018 FIFA World Cup Qualifiers Highlights
00:45	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:15	RTPi Live

cinema



CINETEATRO

01 SEP - 07 SEP

TRAIN TO BUSAN

ROOM 1

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

(4 Sep) 2.15, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Yeon Sang-ho

Starring: Gong Yoo, Jung Tu-mi, ma Domng-Seok

Language: Korean (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 97min



NERVE

ROOM 2

2.30, 6.00, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Henry Joost, Ariel Schulman

Starring: Emma Roberts, Dave Franco, Emily Meade, Miles Heizer

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 96min

CHIBI MARUKO CHAN- A BOY FROM ITALY

ROOM 2

4.15 pm

Director: Jun Takagi

Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/ English)

Duration: 120min

THE LETTERS

ROOM 3

7.15 pm

Director: William Riead

Starring: Juliet Stevenson, Max Von Sydow, Rutger Hauer

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 97min

SHIN GODZILLA

ROOM 3

2.30, 4.45, 9.30 pm

Director: Hideaki Anno

Language: Japanese (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 97min

MACAU TOWER

01 SEP - 14 SEP

WAR DOGS

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Todd Phillips

Starring: Jonah Hill, Miles Teller, Steve Lantz

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 106min

this day in history



1952 EGYPTIAN ARMY OUSTS PRIME MINISTER

The Egyptian Army has forced Prime Minister Aly Maher out of office, following a bloodless coup six weeks ago.

Mr Maher has been slow to carry out social and land reforms demanded by the army and has given way to General Muhammad Neguib.

This evening the general formed a new civilian government with himself as prime minister and commander-in-chief.

The army then arrested several leading politicians in order to snuff out any resistance to land and social reforms.

On 23 July General Neguib, Colonel Abdel Nasser and Colonel Anwar Sadat led a coup of the so-called Free Officers that brought to an end to the rule of the former King Farouk and his son Fu'ad II.

The Army replaced Prime Minister Hilaly Pasha with Aly Maher. Although Mr Maher was a member of the old regime, he was interested in land redistribution and improved rights for workers.

But it seems he failed to implement the reforms quickly enough to satisfy the leaders of the "Egyptian revolution" or to root out those involved in corruption.

The army is now carrying out its own purge of political parties, especially the influential nationalist Wafd party.

In a statement broadcast on Cairo Radio's English and foreign services, the army set out reasons for this latest move.

"The Army revolt was not merely a movement against the ex-King, but it has also been, still is, and always will be a force directed against corruption in all its forms."

The army said it asked for a purge of those suspected of "injustices".

"Such parties and organisations were reluctant to carry out our requests and resorted to evasion of the issues. Consequently we had to arrest ... certain individuals ... so that every individual could give his evidence in an atmosphere free of fear and in tranquillity."

Meanwhile the king and his son, along with several leading politicians, are being held at the Military Academy in Cairo.

While officers continue to arrest leading figures in Cairo, troops are making their presence felt on the main streets of Alexandria though the atmosphere is described as calm.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The nationalist Wafd party was formed in 1924, two years after Egypt gained its independence from Britain. It dominated Egyptian politics until the 1952 coup when it was dissolved but re-emerged in opposition in 1984.

General Neguib ended the monarchical system in Egypt and became president of the newly formed republic.

In 1954 he was deposed and succeeded by Gamal Abdel Nasser, a driving force behind Neguib's coup, who infuriated Britain, France and Israel by nationalising the Suez canal in 1956.

After his death in 1970, he was succeeded by fellow coup leader Anwar Sadat as president.

Sadat was murdered in 1981.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You need to find an emotional outlet. It could be a therapist, a trainer or an old friend, but you've got to clear out some old baggage that just doesn't seem to move on its own. You can do this!

Taurus April 20-May 20 Your intuitive side is making the day's activities a little stranger - but a lot easier! You can read people better and find clues you would have missed last week. Make the most of this energy!

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You feel unusually possessive - this isn't a trait you usually like in others, and it's weird to see it in yourself. Go with it for now, as you need to work through this instead of denying its existence.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Your emotional side is hard at work making life more interesting for you - and easier too! Your family should see a better side of you, and your colleagues are more likely to see things your way.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Your deep warmth is showing someone close that it's okay to open up - and you may find yourself enmeshed in a deep conversation soon! It's a good time to bring your family closer together.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Reach out to friends today - they've got more going on than usual, and you may be able to lend a hand and score some points. Your energy is more stable than theirs, even if that's usually reversed.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Your people are clamoring for help today - but you couldn't possibly get to them all! It's a good idea to hear out at least a few before making any decisions about who needs you the most.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Expect good news today - it's a great time to get what you want. You may find that your positive energy helps you to get ahead, though it all fits together as part of a much larger picture.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Your moods can be epic - and today brings both dark clouds and rainbows. Make sure to stay true to yourself and keep up with whatever your emotions are tossing your way. It can be fun!

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You've got to deal with a few extra-tricky issues today - so block out some time and blow off anything that isn't absolutely vital. Your energy is much better spent on small-scale problems.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You need to focus on something that's a pretty big deal - so close yourself off and hunker down, if you must. Things could get a lot more interesting once you unlock this big mystery.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Show someone how you feel today. It doesn't have to be romantic, though that energy is definitely highlighted today. See if you can get your crush to at least look your way - it's not hard!

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION

CHINA

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

WORLD

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Some nest eggs; 5- Got together; 8- Cause of ruin; 12- Pianist Hess; 13- Male and female; 15- Keats creations; 16- Banister; 17- Muse of poetry; 18- French friends; 19- Expansion; 22- Land in la mer; 23- Grog ingredient; 24- Pressing need; 26- Fashions; 29- Attractive route; 31- AFL partner; 32- Foe; 34- "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" author; 36- Elvis's middle name; 38- It's human; 40- Salt tree; 41- Divulge; 43- Run-of-the-mill; 45- Ich bin ___ Berliner; 46- "Fiddler on the Roof" setting; 48- Capital of South Dakota; 50- Andean country; 51- Born; 52- Tax pro; 54- Token of peace; 61- ___ majesty; 63- Hubert's successor; 64- "Star Wars" princess; 65- Dog star; 66- Good ___; 67- ___ Blanc; 68- Person of action; 69- Some MIT grads; 70- Dagger;

DOWN: 1- Nagy of Hungary; 2- Tatum's dad; 3- Seed covering; 4- Payment for regular work; 5- Trifling; 6- Checkup; 7- Head of France; 8- Anaconda; 9- Direct; 10- Singer Sedaka; 11- ___ quam videri" (North Carolina's motto); 13- Section; 14- ___ boom; 20- Dominion; 21- Difficult journey; 25- Draft status; 26- Fathers; 27- Dentifrice; 28- Capital of South Korea; 29- Thick sweet liquid; 30- Whoopi's role in "The Color Purple"; 31- "Silent" prez; 33- Parisian possessive; 35- Monetary unit of Japan; 37- Short letter; 39- Multicolored; 42- Emperor of Rome 54-68; 44- Suggestive look; 47- Oklahoma city; 49- Kingdoms; 52- Dressed; 53- Cancun coin; 55- ___ dixit; 56- Grape plant; 57- "___ Tu" ('70s hit); 58- Inert gas; 59- Movie theater; 60- Abhor; 62- Musical gift;

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

Large crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-70.

Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

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
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Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
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The Buckingham, Mid Floor Unit D, Taipa
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HKD 18,000 / 1,147 sq ft
Ref: 16020558

Residencia Macau
1,209 sq ft / HKD 9M
HKD 7,444sq ft
Convenient Location
Ref: 16055485
Super Flower City Unit A Taipa
3 Bedroom Apartment
Stunning Stadium Views
HKD 21,000 / 2,200 sq ft
Ref: 16060591

Coloane Village (Investment) Coloane
746 sq ft / HKD 5.67M
HKD 7,602sq ft
Open Views
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2 Bedroom Apartment
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Ref: 16070598



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Q30# BORNTOCHALLENGE



FIFA President Gianni Infantino

Graham Dunbar, Geneva

Infantino open to 40-team World Cup, co-hosts

FIFA President Gianni Infantino is open to a 40-team World Cup in 2026, with several countries serving as co-hosts.

With key World Cup talks due next month, Infantino's comments yesterday show that FIFA will consider co-hosting by the United States, Canada and Mexico.

The North American neighbors have long been expected bidders for 2026, even competing against each other, because the CONCACAF region is favored to host for the first time since 1994. Then, 24 teams played in the U.S.

In his presidential election campaign, Infantino supported expanding the tournament and hosting across a region.

"These two topics will certainly be on the table for discussion," Infantino said, looking ahead to a meeting of the FIFA Council he will chair on Oct. 13-14 in Zurich.

Asked about a potential U.S.-

Canada-Mexico project for 2026, the former UEFA general secretary noted that his previous organization chose to hold the 2020 European Championship in 13 different host nations.

"So, there is, I would say, no limit to whatever is good for football," Infantino said on the sidelines of a meeting of European clubs. "We will see, but it's true that CONCACAF did not have the World Cup for a long time."

FIFA rules currently bar back-to-back hosting by continents, ruling out Asian bidders for 2026 after Qatar hosts in 2022, and has previously weighed requiring confederations to sit out two bidding contests.

Infantino declined to suggest if UEFA could encourage its members to skip the 2026 process with Russia hosting the 2018 World Cup.

The 2026 World Cup hosting vote is set for 2020, with FIFA member federations choosing from a shortlist drafted by the ruling council.

"For the moment I think everything is open. My opinion on the 40 teams has not changed," Infantino said after meeting the European Club Association, many of whose members oppose releasing more of their players to an expanded World Cup.

While at UEFA, Infantino also helped oversee an expanded Euro 2016 with 24 teams

for the first time instead of the 16-team format

"We have seen it again at the Euro in France with eight more teams, what kind of enthusiasm this generated in many, many countries," he said. "We need to realize that these kinds of events are more than just a competition, they are real social events in the whole world."

In Zurich next month, Infantino will lead the first meeting of a FIFA Council being expanded to include 36 members elected by the six confederations.

Two European members have been scrutinized in recent weeks by the FIFA ethics committee.

Wolfgang Niersbach of Germany cannot attend in Zurich while he serves a one-year ban, imposed for failing to report suspected wrongdoing by 2006 World Cup organizers. Russian Sports Minister Vitaly Mutko was implicated by a World Anti-Doping Agency inquiry report in covering up soccer players' doping cases. FIFA ethics investigators said it would get the report and "examine it thoroughly."

"I have no concerns at all with the council," Infantino said. "It is our job not to let ourselves be distracted from what we have to do, which is implement the reforms and show we are a new FIFA." AP

China hold Iran to 0-0 for first 2018 qualifying point

CHINA picked up its first point in the third round of Asian qualifying for the 2018 World Cup, holding Iran to 0-0 in Shenyang yesterday.

China lost to South Korea 3-2 in Seoul in the opening Group A game five days previously. Another loss, and its dreams of adding to a solitary appearance at the World Cup, back in 2002, would be hanging by a thread.

Here are other results of the qualifying round:

SOUTH KOREA 0, SYRIA 0

This was played in Malaysia due to the ongoing security situation in Syria.

South Korea dominated possession but was frustrated by a hard-working Syrian backline.

"This is not a satisfactory result for us," said South Korea coach Uli Stielike, who also complained about Syrian time-wasting.

THAILAND 0 JAPAN 2

Japan successfully bounced back from its opening loss at home to the United Arab Emirates.

Genki Haraguchi headed the dominant vi-

sitors into a first-half lead, and striker Takuma Asano sealed the win in the second half.

SAUDI ARABIA 2 IRAQ 1

Nawaf Al Abid scored twice from the penalty spot in the last nine minutes to put Saudi Arabia in first place in Group B with two wins from two matches.

Mohamad Abdulraheem scored early for Iraq, which also lost in Australia, and was still searching for a first point after two matches.

The game was also in Malaysia because of security issues in Iraq. AP



Syria's Jihad Al Baour (right), fights for the ball with South Korea's Lee Chung-Yong (center), during the World Cup Group qualifying soccer match in Seremban, Malaysia

opinion

Legal Wise

Gonçalo Mendes da Maia
 Partner, MdME



THE END OF THE (UBER) AFFAIR

The Uber affair is soon to reach a conclusion, and one that only taxi drivers and taxi owners are happy about.

Macau taxis are renowned across Asia and for the worst reasons: they are scarce, dirty, uncomfortable and smelly to a point where a ride usually ends with the realization of how bad the service is. Its drivers either do not or refuse to speak English, often rude and arguably the worst drivers in the streets, with constant abrupt breaking and rapid accelerations. This is not to mention refusing to take passengers, forcing customers to pay increased fares during typhoons or rush hour and constantly talking on the phone. A ride in a Macau taxi is one of the worst experiences this city has to offer and everybody knows that. This includes our Government officials, who want to promote Macau as a tourism capital in Asia but are apparently doing nothing about it - including putting no pressure on taxi owners to improve the conditions of the vehicles or raising the level of customer service by its drivers.

On the other hand, Uber is everything you would want in urban transportation: it comes to your door, it smells good, drivers are often kind, speak English and can actually drive. You don't even have to pay them directly, and the whole experience is very professional, clean and smooth. Cynics would say that service is better because the drivers need a good rating, but I would argue that this is exactly what taxi service is lacking: inspections and evaluations by local regulators.

So it seems Uber is cheaper, more comfortable and provides better service to locals and tourists. The Government knows this but chooses to do nothing - arguing that there is no local legislative regulation (true) and that Uber operates illegally without specific regulation (not necessarily true). These claims triggered a man-hunt by the police for Uber drivers (shameful). Tourism agencies - and there are hundreds in Macau - are allowed to take customers from point A to point B at a certain price, whether it is or is not included a travel package.

Casinos take their customers in unregulated shuttle services all around Macau. These transportation services are not regulated directly as such, but only through their travel agency and gaming licenses, which are evidently not able to appropriately regulate the activity of transportation - drivers or vehicles are not licensed as such, but only "registered" without any criteria.

And now, at the same time as the pro-Uber demonstrations and the app-giant announcing that it cannot continue to be punished for trying to offer its (legitimate and excellent) service to the community, a new app is being portrayed as the Holy-Grail of taxi service in Macau.

Considering the timing of the announcement, the way it was praised immediately by DSAT and the fact that it is "non-profit", I wonder who is behind it. However, I would not be surprised if the ultimate shareholders are taxi owners or the usual Macau entrepreneurial suspects... Taxi-Go is seemingly everything Uber is, but only to those who do not care to see it, since the low-grade taxis and drivers are the same and you need to pay more and in cash for the same unpleasant experience as before. Nothing will change, expect now you must try to get one of the few taxi drivers who will be actually using Taxi-Go, as no one realistically believes that the taxi drivers we know will be efficiently answering app calls to pick you up, let alone magically become clean, comfortable and customer friendly.

All things considered, there is nothing that justifiably explains why the Government is not allowing Uber to operate freely, as it does almost everywhere in the world. For all the sensible reasons: because of free competition, improved transportation services, enhanced support to local tourism and simply because they are countless times better than Macau taxis.

THE BUZZ AIRBUS SIGNS DEALS WORTH USD6.5 BILLION WITH VIETNAM COMPANIES

European plane maker Airbus says that three Vietnamese companies have agreed to buy 40 jets in deals worth up to USD6.5 billion.

The deals were signed during French president Francois Hollande's visit to the Southeast Asian country.

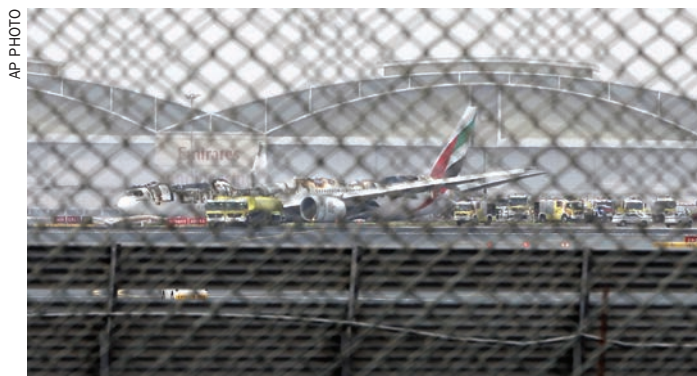
Vietnam Airlines agreed to buy 10 additional A350 planes and Jetstar Pacific will purchase 10 A320 planes. The list price for the deals is \$3.1

billion and \$980 million respectively, though purchasers usually negotiate discounts. Airbus also signed deals with Vietjet, which has placed a firm order for 20 A321s at a list price of \$2.4 billion

Vietnam Airlines is already operating four A350 planes. Airbus said in a statement yesterday that the company is planning to use the additional 10 aircraft on non-stop flights to the U.S. west coast.

REPORT

Emirates jet crashed after abortive landing in veering winds



A damaged Boeing 777 is seen at the Dubai airport after it crash-landed

Deena Kamel Yousef

An Emirates jet crashed last month after trying to land too far down the runway in a strong tailwind and failing in a bid to take off again when the gusts changed direction, according to a preliminary study into the accident, released yesterday.

The Aug. 3 crash, which injured 24 of the 300 people on board and led to the death of a firefighter on the ground, happened after Dubai International Airport issued a windshear warning while clearing the Boeing Co. 777 to land, the report from the United Arab Emirates General Civil Aviation Authority says.

Flight EK521 from India approached the airport in a

following wind of 16 knots, with the right-hand wheels hitting the ground three seconds before the left side in an attempted touchdown that was more than a kilometer beyond the runway perimeter, triggering a "long landing" warning in the cockpit, the study says.

The jet attempted a go-around maneuver and subsequently encountered a headwind, climbing to a height of only 85 feet before sinking back onto the runway at a descent rate of 900 feet a minute.

The 777-300 came down on its tail and engines, with the wheels having been retracted after the aborted landing, the report says. One turbine broke off as the plane slid along the runway, causing "an inten-

se fuel-fed fire," with the flight's captain issuing a Mayday call and ordering an evacuation.

The firefighter was killed when a fuel tank exploded, sending a 15-meter wing section into the air, about nine minutes after the plane had come to rest and the blaze had appeared to be under control. A flight attendant was hospitalized for five days with smoke inhalation, with all other injuries classified as minor. The aircraft itself was destroyed.

The crash was the worst in the 30-year history of Dubai-based Emirates, the world's biggest airline by international traffic. The preliminary report didn't say whether the plane should have been allowed to land, or if its pilots behaved correctly during the approach and subsequent go-around attempt.

Further findings will be released in due course, with the aircraft's performance, technical and engineering aspects, the airline's procedures, air navigation provision, firefighting measures and weather forecasting all under scrutiny, the regulator said. **Bloomberg**

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Daniel Knopp /News-Report-NRW/dpa via AP



Car cash. An 80-year-old woman took an unintended short cut as she tried to drive her car (right) out of a multistory car park in Germany, breaking through the building's wall and landing on a parked convertible 3 meters below. Neither the driver nor her husband, 85, who was standing next to the car at the time, were hurt in the accident in Bottrop, Germany yesterday [Macau time]. The accident caused USD27,900 in damage.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	30-50 Good
High Density Residential Area	25-45 Good
Ambient	20-40 Good

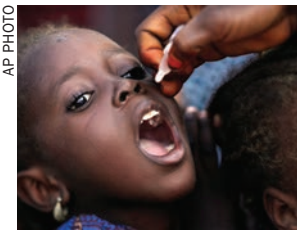
SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

US-NORTH KOREA In the wake of another missile launch, U.S. President Barack Obama vows to work with the United Nations to tighten sanctions against North Korea, but adds that the U.S. is still open to dialogue if the government changes its course. *More on p11*



AFGHANISTAN Militants stormed a building housing an international aid organization in Kabul, provoking an overnight firefight with security forces in which three gunmen were killed and six civilians were wounded, Afghan officials said yesterday. The attack took place a day after twin bombings near the Afghan Defense Ministry killed at least 35 people and wounded more than 100 others.



NIGERIA The World Health Organization has confirmed a third case of polio in an area of Nigeria newly liberated from Boko Haram Islamic extremists, the Rotary Club said on Monday, amid fears the disease could resurge in neighboring countries. It is an indicator that Nigeria's war on the crippling disease cannot be won until it overcomes the insurgency by extremists who are violently opposed to Western medicine.

GREECE Police in the country have arrested two local men for allegedly trying to smuggle a group of Syrian refugees trapped in Greece over the rugged border with Albania. Authorities said the suspects were part of a network that had promised to clandestinely bring the refugees to northern Europe.