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AP PHOTO



Philippines Truckloads of villagers yesterday fled Philippine communities close to the erupting Mayon volcano, traumatized by the sight of red-hot lava flowing down its crater and fearful of sporadic blasts of ash. Nearly 15,000 people have left the mostly poor farming communities within a 6-kilometer radius of Mayon's crater in northeastern Albay province in forced evacuations since volcanic activity spiked last week.

AP PHOTO



Japan The operator of the wrecked Fukushima nuclear plant began tests this week of newly constructed facilities for discharging treated radioactive wastewater into the sea, a plan strongly opposed by local fishing communities and neighboring countries. Plant workers examined pumps and emergency shutdown equipment at the newly constructed seaside facility, which will dilute the treated water with large amounts of seawater.

AP PHOTO



Japan Toyota plans to make an all solid-state battery as part of its ambitious plans for battery electric vehicles, the company said yesterday, amid mounting criticism Japan's top automaker needs to do more to fight climate change. Toyota Motor Corp. aims for a commercial solid-state battery as soon as 2027. Charging time, one of the main drawbacks of electric vehicles, will get shortened to 10 minutes or less.

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TOURISM

INTERNATIONAL TOURISTS DOUBLED SINCE RESUMING OF FLIGHTS: SENNA FERNANDES

ANTHONY LAM

INTERNATIONAL tourist arrivals nearly doubled in the first quarter from 3,000 to 5,000 daily while the overall average daily visitor arrivals reached 60,000, the director of the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) revealed yesterday.

Macao recorded overseas visitors surge since the gradual resumption of international flights as the local government pushes tourism campaigns in its source markets, Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes added.

The head of the local tourism board also said that she was confident that the quality of tourism service would improve in time for the summer holidays.

On the sidelines of the press conference of a tourism expo, Senna Fernandes was asked by the Times to comment on a recent scene reportedly seen at a local resort.

Complains on Facebook mention about experiencing long queues for check-in at a local resort. The hotel

guest arrived at the check-in area at the Cotai resort and was asked scan a QR code for pre-registration, before being forced to wait for 150 tickets.

The guest revealed that the QR code was scanned at 6 pm and the room was only assigned at 10 pm the same day.

In response, Senna Fernandes admitted that the authorities were "certain that there were teething problems" as resorts were seeking to hire new employees or train existing workers. She was confident that the resorts knew about their issues and were finding ways to resolve them.

Time is the key element, she believes, to solve the poor quality issues. "Give them a little more time and obviously things will get much better in the coming months," said Senna Fernandes.

Her outlook for the summer holidays is as optimistic as usual. She was also supportive of the local hotel industry, saying that she believes "hotels have their own strategies on how to alleviate the burden and to service their clients better."

Students looking for summer jobs may also form part of a feasible solution, she added.

The influencer marketing strategy of the expo is highly reliant on mainland Chinese personalities who may not be well known or attractive to foreign visitors, who are a main target according to the Chief Executive. Senna Fernandes stressed that the expo is not solely held for promoting Macau, but should also be a platform for foreign exhibitors to connect with China.

"We are organizing this to help exhibitors open up different markets," she said. "We are looking forward to building the expo into a platform so that international exhibitors can find business opportunities in China."

This explains why live streamers or influencers commissioned by the expo are mainly from mainland China, she concluded.

Despite her comment, she stressed that she is open to the participation of influencers from other regions in the future.



TOURISM

Travel expo to celebrate Creative City of Gastronomy concept

THE 11th Macao International Travel (Industry) Expo, which will be held from Jun. 30 to Jul. 2, will celebrate the UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy with a line-up of chefs from 23 such cities.

The news was announced yesterday by the organizing body of the expo at a press conference.

According to the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO), part of the organizing body, the Expo will bring together renowned chefs from Cities of Gastronomy around the world.

The chefs will present culinary arts at the City of Gastronomy Showcase, which the MGTO expects to "foster gastronomic culture exchange and present wondrous experiences in tourism and gastronomy."

In addition, Chinese online travel agency Trip.com



Group will officially unveil the winners of the Trip.com Group Gourmet 2023 Global Restaurant Awards on the first day of the expo and invite travel and gastronomic connoisseurs to visit the expo.

Meanwhile, during the expo period, the Trip.com app will debut the "MITE x Gourmet" themed page

which displays a variety of Macau tourism products including set meals, hotel accommodation and travel notes.

On a local scale, 18 local catering businesses will serve delicacies at the Gastronomy Pavilion this year, some of which are on the awardee list of a marketing award organized by a local

catering association.

As a new highlight this year, The Cellar will bring together wine and related products for sale by regional exhibitors.

In response to Macau's role between China and the Lusophone world, Portugal will celebrate its own pavilion at this year's expo, the organizers disclosed.

Meanwhile, Portuguese offshore island Madeira will have its own pavilion next to the Portugal pavilion.

The organizers remarked that this year will see nearly 200 stalls in the international pavilion, which will comprise exhibitors from Japan, Malaysia, Thailand, as well as Latin America. It was highlighted that the stalls of the first three countries are featured stalls, with larger scales and more eye-catching designs.

Enterprises from the four major industries including health and wellness, modern financial services, high technology, conferences and exhibitions, commerce and trade, and culture and sports will join as exhibitors at the new "1 + 4" pavilion. Advanced technology and smart tourism products will be showcased.

The Macao International

Health Management and Wellness Tourism Forum and the Combining Capital, Intelligence and Commerce to Build a Cultural Tourism and Financial Ecosystem — Macao Cultural Tourism and Finance Salon will be held to support the development of the four major industries in accordance with the development strategy of "1+4," which emphasizes adequate diversification.

Buy-one-get-one free air ticket promotions will be staged at the expo. The organizers revealed that the expo will join forces with Air Macau and EVA Air from Taiwan to make such offers in partnership with local travel agency exhibitors.

The expo will be open to the public and admission is free of charge. There will also be numerous lucky draw opportunities. **AL**

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LAND PLOTS

Nam Van developer accuses courts of picking gov't side, gov't claims impartiality

RENATO MARQUES

SOCIEDADE de Empreendimentos Nam Van, S.A. accused the local courts of lacking impartiality in their decision to accept the retrieval of several land plots in the Nam Van Lake area, the developer said in a press conference earlier this week.

At stake is still the court's decision to accept and validate the retrieval of several land plots in the Nam Van Lake area, previously awarded to Nam Van, due to the expiration of the development time set in 25 years.

Now, as the government has commenced development on those plots, the company has again protested a decision they consider unfair.

Adding to this is the fact that several businessmen linked to the company have also been implicated in the so-called "Public Works case." The case was in relation to the actions of several local businessmen, contractors and real estate developers as well as two former Public Works bureau heads (Jaime Carion and Li Canfeng).

These businessmen were found guilty of several criminal offenses including corruption of government officials and have



been convicted to jail terms. Their convictions have been appealed, however a ruling has yet to be delivered.

The government has issued a statement in response via the Government Information Bureau, which recaps the case of the expired land plots from the government's perspective and according to the decision of the several Macau courts cases. The government added that the whole process was

very transparent and conducted according to the law, and that the company had the opportunity to appeal from the previous rulings of the various courts before the Court of Final Appeal reached a final decision on the case.

Regarding the criminal case, the government reiterated that the "courts exercise judicial power independently and under the law, and no one can, in any way, exercise any pressure to interfere in

the process [and consequently in the final decision]."

In the press conference, representatives of the development company had hinted that there the two cases were linked, suggesting that the pending criminal case in relation to several businessmen connected with the company were brought as a "form of retaliation" against the company's reluctance to return the land plots.

IAM MAY EXPAND FOOD IMPORT BAN SHOULD JAPAN POUR NUCLEAR WATER INTO SEA

Acting President O Lam of the executive branch of the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) has recently told the press that should Japan decide to pour potentially nuclear-contaminated water from the Fukushima Power Plant into the sea, the bureau will immediately expand the import ban on Japanese food products to include produce from nine prefectures. Currently, imports of produce from Fukushima is barred. Imports from the nine surrounding prefectures must come with a nuclear safety certificate and undergo quarantine. O added that tests on imported food, especially those from Japan, will be increased.

DSAT ONLINE SERVICES TO BE UNSTABLE TOMORROW EVENING DUE TO MAINTENANCE

The online service platform of the Transport Bureau (DSAT) will undergo maintenance from 7 pm to 8 pm tomorrow, during which these services will become unstable, the DSAT announced yesterday in a statement. Services that will be affected include booking services, cross-boundary vehicle travel quota applications, payments, as well as services related to taxi and driving tests. The DSAT services provided through the government One Account platform, such as the display of driving licenses, applications for international driver's licenses, and cancellations of vehicle registration will also be affected.

MACAU MAN ARRESTED IN SHANGHAI FOR VIOLATING ZHUHAI COURT RESTRICTIONS

A Macau man whose spending and cross-boundary travels were restricted by a Zhuhai court due to a debt amounting to RMB230,000 was arrested in Shanghai as he attempted to take a flight back to Macau. The man had owned a restaurant in Zhuhai and sourced produce from a woman up to March 2021, when he closed the restaurant. At that time, he owed the woman the outstanding debt. As he was not permitted to leave mainland China pursuant to a court order, he tried to transit via Shanghai to return to Macau. Upon check-in, the airline discovered the court order so he was apprehended.

SCIENCE

Macau-led research develops new AI-based model for clinical diagnostics

A research team led by Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) has developed a new AI-based model as a clinical diagnostic aid that processes multimodal input in a unified manner.

The model IRENE, presumably the first such approach, was designed to help make medical decisions by jointly learning holistic representations of medical images, unstructured chief complaint and structured clinical information, according to the team, which also included researchers from the West China Hospital of Sichuan University and the Univer-



sity of Hong Kong.

The study has been published in the latest edition of Nature Biomedical Engineering, a monthly

peer-reviewed scientific journal, according to Xinhua.

In the face of limited medical resources in

certain regions, machine-learning techniques have become the de facto choice for automatic yet intelligent medical diagnosis in order to meet the increasing demand for precision medicine.

Among these techniques, the development of deep learning endows machine-learning models with the ability to detect diseases from medical images near or at the level of human experts.

Although AI-based medical image diagnosis has achieved tremendous progress in recent years, how to jointly interpret medical images and their

associated clinical context remains a challenge, according to the IRENE research team.

MUST professor Zhang Kang, the team leader, said IRENE has the ability to jointly interpret multimodal clinical information simultaneously, and its intra- and intermodal attentional operations are consistent with daily clinical practices.

The team applied IRENE to pulmonary disease identification and adverse clinical outcome prediction in patients infected with COVID-19, achieving desirable results, Zhang said. **MDT/AGENCIES**



SUMMER SPORTS CARNIVAL RETURNS IN JULY

THE Summer Sports Carnival, hosted by the Sports Bureau (ID), will return once again this year with a series of athletic activities to take place on Sunday, July 2, the ID announced yesterday in a press conference.

This year the event will invite sports bureaus and departments from different cities within the Greater Bay Area to form teams to compete in Macau, ID officials said.

The event has been said to be a way of encour-

aging younger people to participate in sports through competitions as a way to improve their physical fitness and cultivate team spirit.

The event will take place at the hockey field of Taipa Olympic Sports Center. Team registrations are now open. Team members must be aged between 15 and 50 years old.

The total number of participating teams is 70 and is expected to attract over 400 participants. **RM**

GALAXY ARENA FORMS STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP WITH TENCENT'S LIVE MUSIC BRANCH

GALAXY Arena has announced a three-year strategic partnership with the live music branch of China's Tencent Holdings Ltd., its owner Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG) revealed yesterday in a statement.

"The parties will draw upon their respective resources and experience to organize an array of entertainment events with the aim of promoting the development of Macau's culture and entertainment industry," GEG said in the statement.

Referred to as TME Live, the brand is a new venture of Tencent Music Entertainment, aimed at operating multi-faceted businesses that revolve around live performances on both offline and online platforms.

To highlight the collabo-



ration, Galaxy Arena and TME Live will hold the 4th Tencent Music Entertainment Awards (TMEA) ceremony, an annual music event that remains hugely popular with music fans from near and far since its creation in 2019.

Artists from the Sino-phonophone world, such as Cai Xukun, Jolin Tsai,


Paul Wong and Lala Hsu, will take the stage at the newest mega-arena in Macau and celebrate Chinese pop music. The event will span two evenings in July.

"We will continue to fully utilize this world-class venue to present more spectacular performances and an endless array of exciting entertain-

ment for both locals and tourists," GEG vice chairman Francis Lui pledged.

"Through this strategic partnership, we are confident that we will bring music lovers a spectacular sonic feast for the eyes and the ears," said Tsai-Chun Pan, Group Vice President of TME Content Cooperation Department. **AL**

AD



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New Lai Chin Vun cultural area ready to open phase 1, IC says

RENATO MARQUES

THE new Lai Chi Vun Shipyards cultural and tourist area, developed by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) and aiming to revive the once abandoned space is ready to open to the public in its first phase, the president of IC, Delang Leong said.

The new space located in the former shipyards space in Coloane could effectively open late this month or in early July, Leong said, explaining that only final arrangements remain to be done before the opening.

After around one year of work to demolish a significant part of the old shipyard as well as secure the remaining parts and rebuild one of the areas to resemble one of the former workshops while it was fully operational, the IC says that the new space will be ready for locals and tourists this summer.



The space will feature the history of the shipyards as well as old shipbuilding techniques and their evolution.

The space also has an outdoor plaza-like area in which IC plans to set up a market that will sell cultural and creative products as well as souvenirs. Leong also added that the IC has been receiving a good number of applicants for the operation of these booths. The arrangements for this area are still in progress, being one of the areas that the bureau is still working on before the opening.

Besides the market, the plaza will have recreational activities and exhibitions, Leong said. Further, this is just the first of the pavilions to be rebuilt and reopened to the public, with the IC expecting to expand the area into the other pavilions of the old shipyard to feature "larger exhibition areas and more commercial elements" such as food and beverage facilities and stores.

Leong hinted that such work might take some years to be completed but could not definitively state the timeframe.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



GAMING

Citi highlights Macau's GGR improvements last week

CITI Research noted in a report that, according to industry sources, Macau's gross gaming revenue (GGR) for the first 11 days of June may have reached approximately MOP5.5 billion. This implies that the average daily GGR for the past week is expected to be around MOP529 million, an increase of about 18% compared to the first four days of June.

The surge in revenue is believed to be "mainly due to the number of visitors driven by Jacky Cheung's concerts held from June 9 to 11," the note said.

The broker is maintaining its forecast for the city's GGR in June at MOP13.5 billion, representing a 57% increase compared to June 2019 le-

vels - which is seen as a positive outcome by the operators.

In a recent interview with the Times, Wilfred Wong, president of Sands China, warned that the "big test" for the industry's recovery would be the results of June and July, typically, a slow season for gaming.

In May, revenue from the casino sector skyrocketed by an impressive 366% year-on-year, totaling MOP15.6 billion. The monthly earnings were boosted by a five-day national holiday, which saw approximately 300 travel groups and nearly 500,000 visitors. The number of visitors increased by over 262% compared to the May Day holiday last year and recovered to about 62% of the level seen in 2019 before the Covid-19

pandemic.

Analysts had previously forecasted that casino floor revenues would reach a new post-pandemic high.

The ongoing robust recovery, according to the firm, indicates elevated baseline demand levels, similar to what was observed during the Lunar New Year in late January this year.

In just the first four months of this year, gross gaming revenue surpassed the total amount generated in the entirety of last year. It recorded MOP49.23 billion, which is 16.7% higher than the MOP42 billion recorded in 2022.

For the first five months of 2023, revenues aggregated MOP64.93 billion, representing a significant 172.9% year-on-year increase. **PC**

MEDIA

FOX SENDS TUCKER CARLSON 'CEASE-AND-DESIST' LETTER OVER TWITTER SERIES

Fox News sent Tucker Carlson a "cease-and-desist" letter over his new Twitter series, Axios reported yesterday [Macau time], amid reports of a contract battle between the conservative network and its former prime-time host.

Carlson was ousted from Fox in late April, less than a week after Fox agreed to pay Dominion Voting Systems nearly \$800 million to settle an explosive defamation case. The network provided no explanation for the firing, but a wave of reports on damning text messages and other statements Carlson made during his time at Fox have since piled up.

Since leaving Fox, Carlson kicked off a "Tucker on Twitter" series — arguing that Twitter was "the only" major remaining platform

that allows free speech as he denounced news media. The series, which has published two episodes so far, has appeared to escalate contract tensions between Carlson and Fox.

Fox has demanded Carlson to stop posting videos to Twitter, The New York Times also reported Monday — as the network's lawyers accuse Carlson of violating his contract, which runs until early 2025 and restricts his ability to appear on other media outlets. Meanwhile, Carlson's lawyers have said the network breached the contract first.

A spokesperson for Fox News Media and attorneys representing Carlson, Bryan Freedman and Harmeet Dhillon, did not immediately return The Associated Press' requests for comments. **MDT/AP**



AP PHOTO

CORPORATE BITS

Sands China educates team members on Basic Law at seminar



Sands China recently held a seminar to mark the 30th anniversary of Macau SAR's Basic Law, attended by around 100 of Sands China's management team.

The seminar took place on June 2 at The Venetian's Adelson Advanced Education Centre as part of the Sands China Distinguished Speaker Forum Series. Guest speaker Ho Teng lat, vice chairman of the

Committee for Liaison with Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan, and Overseas Chinese, shared their insights.

Wilfred Wong, President of SCL said, "Sands China is pleased to provide this seminar to enhance professionalism. We hope it deepens our team members' understanding of the Basic Law, its protection of Macau residents' rights, and its contribution to

the city's development. We thank Ms. Ho for her valuable insights."

During the seminar, Ho shared her experience of the creation of the Basic Law, highlighting its achievements. She emphasized its role in ensuring a smooth transition for Macau's return to China and the successful implementation of the One Country, Two Systems principle.

Sands China employees asked questions during the Q&A session.

The Sands China Distinguished Speaker Forum Series aims to promote professionalism and enhance employee knowledge for Macau's development as a global tourism center.

Sands China continually improves its professionalism through various initiatives, benefiting over 63,000 participants to date.

Michelle Yeoh starred at the grand opening of The Karl Lagerfeld Macau



As the world's only hotel tower exclusively designed by the legendary Karl Lagerfeld, this "remarkable property sets the stage for an unparalleled experience in creativity and rock-chic elegance," SJM Holdings said in a press release.

The hotel's 'Grand Celebration' took place on June 10, at the Grand Lisboa Palace Resort in Cotai, welcoming a "prestigious lineup of local and international celebrities

who pay tribute to the late fashion icon and explore the extraordinary offerings of this iconic hotel."

Daisy Ho, Chairman and Executive Director of SJM Holdings stressed Lagerfeld's vision of merging European and Chinese influences, reflecting Macau's rich history and SJM's commitment "to pushing the boundaries of modern hospitality."

Ho emphasized that the

hotel attracts trendsetters from around the world, providing them with authentic brand experiences.

Pier Paolo Righi, CEO of Karl Lagerfeld, expressed his admiration for seeing "Lagerfeld's vision come to life" in Cotai, Macau. Righi described how Lagerfeld seamlessly combined elements from both Eastern and Western cultures in his unique style and creative expression.

Throughout the evening, guests were immersed in Lagerfeld's imaginative world, showcasing their couture looks inspired by his versatile designs.

The Grand Celebration was graced by notable figures including government representatives and industry leaders. In attendance were esteemed guests such as Lou Doillon, Ji Chang-Wook, BamBam from GOT7, James Lee, Park Soo-joo, Li Yi-tong, Zhou Jie-qiong, and Oscar winner Michelle Yeoh.



CHINA DAILY

HEALTH

COVID WAVE ON DECLINE, SAY EXPERTS

WANG XIAOYU, CHINA DAILY

THE recent wave of COVID-19 is now trending downward, with experts saying China's medical system and the public have coped with the fresh outbreak in an orderly and calm manner.

Domestic infections occurred sporadically between February to early April, but began climbing in late April due to waning immunity among the population, ac-

ording to the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

In its latest weekly update on the COVID-19 situation released on Sunday, the China CDC said that rate of increase of daily infections had slowed since late May and the overall COVID-19 epidemic nationwide is declining.

"The numbers of fever clinic visits, severe cases and deaths in May were higher than those in

April, but much lower than those recorded during the previous wave of the epidemic that peaked in late 2022," said the China CDC.

Last month, the mainland reported a total of 2,777 serious COVID-19 cases and 164 related deaths, including three resulting directly from COVID-19 and the remainder linked to a combination of the virus and underlying diseases, it added.

The XBB strain, and its des-

cendants, is currently the dominant strain on the mainland, with its percentage among total infections rising from around 85 percent in early May to 92.4 percent in late May.

Tong Zhaohui, vice-president of Beijing Chaoyang Hospital Affiliated to Capital Medical University, said during a group interview on May 29 that his hospital did not experience a surge in patients recently and it is capable of

guaranteeing normal operation.

"Most reinfections have only exhibited mild symptoms and have recovered quickly, and few have suffered high fever," he said.

Zhang Wenhong, head of the infectious disease department at Fudan University's Huashan Hospital in Shanghai, said that the majority of infected patients during this wave of the outbreak suffered less severe symptoms than those infected during the previous wave. "Hospitals are able to handle them in a more effective manner, pushing down this wave's death rate to a very low level," he said during an interview with Paper.cn.

He said that with waning immunity and viral mutations, it is likely that more waves of the epidemic will occur in the future, but China's local governments, and medical and disease control systems have already stepped up their preparedness. "The virus is not expected to exert a major impact on social and economic activities and there is no need to overreact," he said.

Lyu Yi, a resident of Wuxi, Jiangsu province, said that her father started showing symptoms such as coughing and fever three weeks ago and went to hospital to receive intravenous injections and medication.

"The hospital seemed to be in a normal state and the drugs that my father needed were readily available," Lyu said.

"It was the first time that he got infected, so we felt a little bit anxious at first," she said. "But seeing that some of my colleagues and friends had all recovered from the infection recently, I soon calmed down," she said. **CHINA DAILY**

Beijing criticizes new US sanctions over pilot training, weapons development

AP PHOTO



CHINA yesterday criticized new sanctions imposed by the United States on companies believed to be involved in training Chinese military pilots and aiding weapons development.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin urged Washington to "stop abusing export control measures" to hobble Chinese companies.

"The United States has repeatedly overstretched the concept of national security, abused state power, unwarrantedly suppressed Chinese companies, and wantonly disrupted the international economic order and trade rules," Wang said at a daily briefing in Beijing. "It has reached a

level of unscrupulous hysteria."

China "demands that the U.S. immediately correct its wrong practice of politicizing, instrumentalizing, and weaponizing economic, trade, and sci-tech issues with a pretext of human rights or military-related issues," Wang said.

Yesterday, the U.S. government placed 43 "entities" on an export control list over national security and foreign policy concerns. The list includes both Chinese and foreign companies.

Among those listed were Frontier Services Group Ltd., a security and aviation company previously run by Blackwater founder Erik Prince, and Test Flying Academy of South Africa, a flight school under scrutiny by British authorities for hiring retired British military pilots to train Chinese fliers.

The companies are bar-

red from receiving U.S. exports for activities deemed contrary to U.S. national interest.

Other companies were sanctioned for aiding development of China's hypersonic weapons and the modernization of its army, the Commerce Department aid.

Two companies — Beijing Ryan Wende Science and Technology Co. Ltd. and Xinjiang Kehua Hechang Biological Science and Technology Co. Ltd.

While the two countries spar over national security and human rights issues, they are also working to keep lines of communication open to avoid an accidental conflict.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken is expected in Beijing later this week, in a visit previously postponed due to an alleged Chinese spy balloon that traveled across U.S. territory in February. **MDT/AP**

DIPLOMACY

Palestinian President Abbas begins visit as Beijing seeks larger role in Mideast

PALESTINIAN President Mahmoud Abbas began a visit to China yesterday that comes as Beijing is seeking a larger role in Middle East politics and competing for energy resources.

In announcing the visit, China's Foreign Ministry said China was willing to help broker relations between the Palestinian Authority and the Israeli government that have deteriorated to the lowest level in recent years.

The ministry did not say who Abbas would meet in Beijing or give other details of his four-day visit.

Increased fighting over the last year between Israel and the Palestinians in the West Bank has resulted in the deadliest period of violence between the sides in that territory.

The visit also comes after China hosted talks between Iran and Saudi Arabia that resulted in the two restoring diplomatic relations.

That development was seen

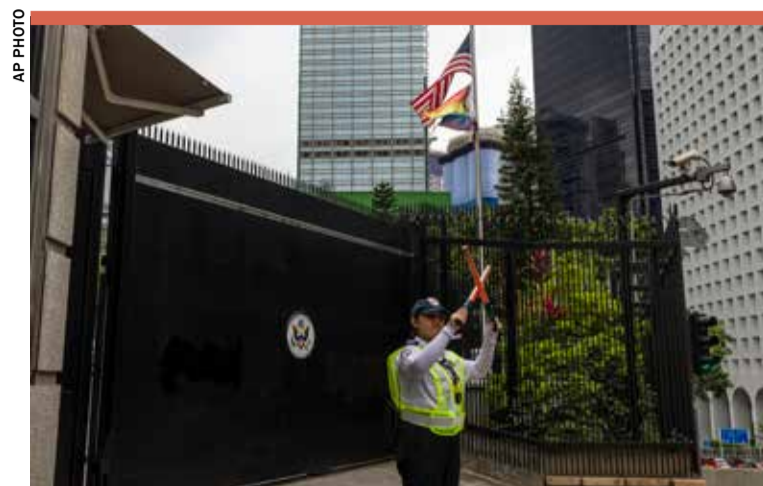


as representing a diplomatic victory for China as Gulf Arab states perceive the United States slowly withdrawing from the wider region.

But it remains to be seen how far the reconciliation efforts between Iran and Saudi Arabia will progress. The rivalry dates to the 1979 revolution that toppled

Iran's Western-backed monarchy.

State broadcaster CCTV quoted Foreign Minister Qin Gang as saying that "China supports the resumption of peace talks between Palestine and Israel as soon as possible on the basis of the 'two-state solution,' and is willing to play an active role in this regard." MDT/AP



A security guard stands outside the Consulate General of the United States after it was vandalized with graffiti in Hong Kong

HONG KONG

CHINESE MAN ARRESTED OVER ANTI-US GRAFFITI AT US CONSULATE: POLICE

HONG Kong police yesterday arrested a man who allegedly spray-painted graffiti on the wall and gate of the U.S. Consulate, according to media reports and the police.

Photos from local media including the South China Morning Post showed the English word "hegemony" and the Chinese words for "double standards" painted in white on the gate and a nearby wall.

The vandalism comes amid a deterioration in US-Chinese relations as the nations clash over trade issues and tensions over Taiwan, a self-governed island

that China claims is part of its territory.

Police said that they received a report at 5.22 a.m. from the consulate reporting the vandalism. They arrested a 47-year-old man surnamed Wen from mainland China on suspicion of criminal damage.

Offenders found guilty of destroying or damaging property could face a maximum penalty of 10 years in jail.

The consulate did not immediately comment when contacted by The Associated Press.

The graffiti was removed by late yesterday morning. MDT/AP

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AP PHOTO



Police forensics officers search a white van on the corner of Maples Street and Bentinck Road in Nottingham

UK Three people slain, three others struck by van in Nottingham

JILL LAWLESS &
BRIAN MELLEY, LONDON

THREE people were slain in the streets of the English city of Nottingham in early morning attacks yesterday that culminated with the suspect mowing down three pedestrians with a van, leaving one in critical condition, police said.

A 31-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of murder and police said they believe he acted alone. Nottinghamshire Police detectives were working with counterterrorism officers to try to establish a motive.

"This is an horrific and tragic incident which has claimed the lives of three people," Chief Constable Kate Meynell said.

Two of the three people killed were students at the University of Nottingham.

"We are shocked and devastated by the news," the school said in an announcement.

Students canceled the graduation ball that was scheduled yesterday evening.

Police did not disclose how the three people were killed but said the first attack

occurred around dawn when two people were found dead on an inner-city road. A third body was later found on a different street.

Witnesses described a horrifying scene in the city center about 90 minutes later when the van ran into pedestrians at a street corner and then fled.

Lynn Haggitt was on her way to work when a white van pulled up beside her at 5:30 a.m. She saw the driver look in his mirror and spot a police car approaching slowly from behind without its lights on. The driver then accelerated and struck a man and woman at a street corner, she said.

"He went straight into them, he didn't even bother to turn," Haggitt told reporters. "The woman went on the curb, the man went up in the air, there was such a bang, I wish I never saw it, it's really shaken me up."

The driver then sped through the city center with police on his tail, she added.

She said the wounded man appeared to have a head injury but was helped to his feet. The woman was sitting

on the curb and appeared to be OK.

The third pedestrian was struck on the same street, police said. All three were hospitalized, with one in critical condition.

"We believe these three incidents are all linked and we have a man in custody," Meynell said. "We are keeping an open mind as we investigate the circumstances surrounding these incidents and are working alongside Counter Terrorism Policing to establish the facts, as we would normally do in these types of circumstances."

Two of the three people killed were students at the University of Nottingham

The attacks occurred in at least three different places and the suspect was arrested in a fourth location.

Kane Brady, a student at the University of Nottingham, said he awoke to shouts of "armed police" and heard what sounded like a gunshot outside.

He said he saw officers holding stun guns and a man being dragged out of the van and pinned on the ground.

"I saw him getting arrested, him trying to resist," he told GB News. "When they opened the van, I saw a large knife being pulled out and then straight away that's when police closed off both roads."

Photos showed the hood of the van dented and cracks in the windshield.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak called it a shocking incident and asked that police be given time to investigate the crime.

"My thoughts are with those injured, and the family and loved ones of those who have lost their lives," Sunak said.

Images on social media showed police, some with rifles, standing near cordons at several locations in the city center.

The city's tram network said it had suspended all services.

Nottingham is a city of about 350,000 people some 110 miles north of London.
MDT/AP

this day in history

1940 GERMAN TROOPS ENTER PARIS



German troops marched into Paris in the early hours of this morning as French and allied forces retreated.

The enemy met no resistance as it entered the capital, which was declared an open town yesterday by the city's French military governor, General Hering.

French troops withdrew to avoid a violent battle and total destruction of Paris. They are believed to have taken a new line of defence south of the city.

The Germans advanced from the north-east and north-west and shortly afterwards tanks rumbled past the Arc de Triomphe down the Champs Elysees to the Place de la Concorde.

Government retreats

All shops and businesses in Paris have been closed and shuttered and there are unconfirmed reports the French government has now left Tours, in central France, and gone further south to Bordeaux.

The enemy has been advancing toward Paris since they took Dunkirk ten days ago, forcing a huge evacuation of the port, resulting in thousands of allied deaths and casualties.

As the Germans approached, the French premier Paul Reynaud broadcast an appeal for all free men to come to the aid of France.

British troops arrived south of Paris and began fighting, with their French counterparts, day and night to stem the advance of the Germans.

The RAF has spent the past few days bombing German convoys, supply columns, mechanised units and lines of communications.

All the bridges behind enemy lines from Rouen to Mantes have been destroyed by the RAF to stop the enemy bringing up material and reserves.

German aircraft responded with air raids east of Paris and at Evreux and Mantes, west of the capital.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Hitler's attack on western Europe began on 10 May when the Germans carried out air raids on Belgium and Holland.

They took northern France despite heavy allied resistance. By 4 June 340,000 allied troops had been rescued from Dunkirk. After the Germans had taken Paris British troops began to be evacuated from French ports which were still in allied hands. They retreated across the Channel.

On 17 June Reynaud was replaced by Henri-Philippe Petain as French premier. Mr Petain negotiated an armistice which was signed on 22 June. All hostilities ceased by 25 June.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Use your own ideas to further your interests. Plan your social events carefully. Take a look at your legal position. Unrealistic promises will only get you in trouble.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

Children may be less than honest with you. You will get bored quickly, so make sure that you have scheduled enough activity to hold your interest.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

Deception is evident around you. Anger might lead to carelessness and minor injuries. Clear up domestic chores that have remained undone for some time.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Look closely at motives and honesty in your personal encounters. Try to concentrate on research and acquiring information that will be of value in your chosen field.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

You have two choices; Get out on your own, or bend to your mate's whims. Don't lend or borrow money or belongings. Your loved ones could set you off.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

You may have been trying to do too much, leaving yourself exhausted and open to colds and infections. Your involvement in interest groups may bring you popularity.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

Ferret out information that will hold them responsible. Look into ways to make your home more comfortable. Your creative talent may well be recognized by others today.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

You should sign up for creative courses. Concentrate on your work. Relationships have not been the best for you lately and it's left you somewhat gun shy.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Work quietly behind the scenes. Complete those hobbies you started a long time ago. Physical work or exercise should be part of your schedule.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Difficulties will result if you have to deal with controversial groups today. You will be extremely receptive to new and progressive methods at work.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Direct your energy wisely. Relatives may not be telling you the whole truth about a family situation. Don't be too eager to give a piece of your mind or even your opinion today.

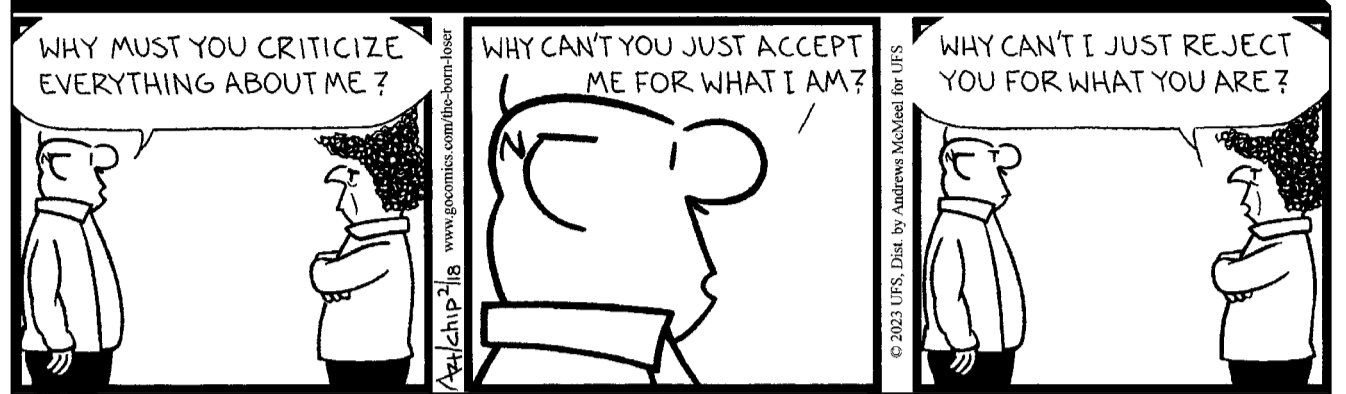


PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Keep your feet on the ground, if you can. Opportunities for romance are present. Short trips will prove to be more fruitful than you imagined.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

EASY

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

EASY+

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

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

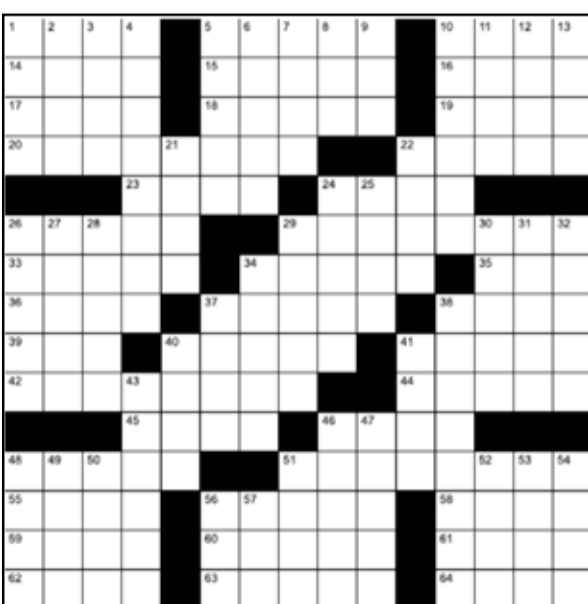
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	20	35	fine
Changchun	14	28	fine
Chengdu	21	31	overcast
Chongqing	23	30	cloudy
Fuzhou	24	28	rain
Guangzhou	25	29	rain
Guiyang	16	24	overcast
Haikou	26	31	thunderstorms
Hangzhou	22	32	cloudy
Harbin	18	30	fine
Hefei	20	32	fine
Nanjing	20	32	cloudy
Shanghai	21	31	rain
Taipei	23	28	overcast
Wuhan	22	33	fine
Hong Kong	27	30	thunderstorms
WORLD			
Moscow	12	24	fine
Frankfurt	13	24	overcast
Paris	16	29	overcast
London	13	28	fine
New York	17	24	thunderstorms

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Where to wallow; 5- At the bottom of the barrel; 10- Puts two and two together; 14- Land west of Nod; 15- Cheerful; 16- Lab fluids; 17- Hgt.; 18- Result; 19- First king of Israel; 20- Live feed of CNN, e.g.; 22- Pig out; 23- Like some excuses; 24- Life stories; 26- Group character; 29- Carthaginian general; 33- Blow; 34- Wand; 35- Afore; 36- Gimlet garnish; 37- Giver; 38- Extent of space; 39- LAX posting; 40- Knight wear; 41- Marriage announcement; 42- Chinese money; 44- Pay for; 45- Hullabaloo; 46- Attention; 48- Sex researcher Hite; 51- Make a wheel needlessly, e.g.; 55- Carson's predecessor; 56- Unable to see; 58- Winglike parts; 59- Canadian gas brand; 60- Prevention dose; 61- Guns; 62- That was close; 63- Dentist's directive; 64- Lock openers;

DOWN 1- Run into; 2- Out of work; 3- Spool; 4- Wrapper; 5- Night vision?; 6- Washer cycle; 7- 3:00; 8- Bearded grazer; 9- ___-Foy, Quebec; 10- Birthplace of St. Francis; 11- Faculty head; 12- Medicine; 13- Cut-price retail event; 21- Players; 22- Beethoven's birthplace; 24- Ulan ___; 25- Are you ___ out?; 26- Conger catcher; 27- Hackneyed; 28- Pertaining to people; 29- Capital on the Red River; 30- European capital; 31- Ring; 32- Minimum; 34- Explosive weapons; 37- Bond classic; 38- Large burrowing African mammal; 40- White House staffer; 41- Bingo call; 43- Tissue in the cavities of bones; 46- Therefore; 47- Duck with soft down; 48- Gush forth; 49- Corned beef concoction; 50- Effortlessness; 51- Peel; 52- Gen. Robert ___; 53- Fleet; 54- Dick Tracy's love; 56- Yield; 57- Him, to Henri;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



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2023年6月16日(星期五) 下午2時正
June 16th, 2023 (Friday) 2:00 PM

活動地點
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FOOTBALL

Recurring problems plague Germany one year before hosting Euro

CIARÁN FAHEY, BERLIN

ALL the old problems were there to see. Germany's uninspired showing in a 3-3 draw with Ukraine was just the latest example of the team's struggles, leaving it in a state of alarm one year before the country hosts the European Championship.

Only Kai Havertz prevented worse for the team yesterday, when he came on as a substitute and pulled a goal back, then forced the penalty from which Joshua Kimmich nabbed the equalizer in injury time.

It prevented Germany's second straight defeat after the 3-2 loss at home against Belgium in March, but it did little to address recurrent problems and doubts about coach Hansi Flick's ability to address them.

Flick sat stone-faced after Havertz and Kimmich's goals, unable to take pleasure in either after what he had seen before.



Germany's Joshua Kimmich

The German soccer federation stuck with Flick as coach after Germany's World Cup flop in Qatar, bringing in former national team striker and coach

Rudi Völler as sporting director to support him as Oliver Bierhoff's successor.

But so far there has been no sign that any of the team's pro-

blems in Qatar have been addressed.

Instead, it was a familiar tale of Germany dominating possession and creating chances while still prone to costly mistakes. Mistakes led to all three Ukrainian goals.

A wayward pass from Julian Brandt led to Viktor Tsyhankov's equalizer, another mistake from Nico Schlotterbeck preceded Ukraine's second goal, and Brandt's difficult ball for Matthias Ginter led to the third — again scored by Tsyhankov.

"That's what we need cut out — the mistakes at the back and at the front," Kimmich said after preventing what would have been Ukraine's first ever win over Germany.

The result did not hide the team's shortcomings. Germany made a good start but lacked precision and then failed to make headway against the visitors' hardworking defense once they had settled into the game.

"We have to keep working on

it," said Flick, who still hasn't found a settled defense. "We started with three at the back and then switched to a back four, so 4-3-3, but these are things, processes that we have to go through."

There were whistles from some Germany supporters as the home team labored to make a breakthrough.

"It's very annoying because the goals come from mistakes," Germany goalkeeper Kevin Trapp said after his first appearance in 15 months. "Individual mistakes can happen, it's part of the sport. Of course, we have a better grip on the situation. It's been an issue for a long time, it's fact. But we still have a year to the European Championship, and we have until then to sort them out — otherwise it will be harder."

Germany next plays Poland in Warsaw on Friday before hosting Colombia in Gelsenkirchen on Tuesday. The team has already qualified for Euro 2024 as host.

MDT/AP

AD

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OPINION

China Daily
 Editorial, China Daily

**CHINA-ARAB
 ENGAGEMENT NOT
 ZERO-SUM GAME**

With reportedly more than 3,500 government and business officials from China and Arab countries participating, and \$10 billion in investment agreements signed on its first day, the 10th Arab-China Business Conference was illustrative of the thriving relationship between the two sides.

Hosted by Saudi Arabia, co-organized by the Arab League and China, the event sought to enhance the strategic partnership based around the Belt and Road Initiative, according to Saudi media. Just as the agreements signed in Riyadh indicate, the partnership is reaching far beyond oil as a traditional energy source to such fields as technology, agriculture, renewable energy and tourism.

As an interesting particular of this change, the host country signed a \$5.6 billion deal with a Chinese company to manufacture electric vehicles locally.

This will certainly add to the concerns of some outside observers about the geopolitical implications of the rapidly widening and deepening engagement between China, Saudi Arabia and the broader Arab world. It will even spur some parties to make greater efforts to suppress the momentum in the cooperation out of their anxieties that China is exploiting the strategic vacuum the West has left behind in the Middle East.

But while they see the matter through the prism of “major power strategic competition” and “systemic rivalry”, the Saudi government has made it crystal clear that it has no interest in the West-led geopolitical game.

As Saudi Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman clarified, his country prioritizes business interests. He said the country totally ignores criticism from that perspective. Businesspeople “will go where opportunity comes their way”, he noted, and China is where there are opportunities to be seized.

“There is nothing political about it, there is nothing strategic about it,” he said, stressing Saudi Arabia doesn’t have to be engaged in a zero-sum game.

Unlike some in the West who are keen on making allies and partners take sides between them and China as an alleged strategic rival, the Saudi official does not believe such relationships should be mutually exclusive. Speaking of the thriving trade ties and expanding realms of cooperation with China, he stated, “This doesn’t mean we’re not going to collaborate with others”.

There is nothing unusual about the world’s largest crude oil exporting country cooperating with the largest importer. And the two countries are engaging more closely in broader areas because the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative aligns well with Saudi Arabia’s Vision 2030, which in itself is a transformative economic and social reform blueprint.

Most importantly, their cooperation is driven by the opportunities they see in each other.

AI HELPED CREATE ‘LAST BEATLES RECORD,’ PAUL MCCARTNEY SAYS

**THE
 BUZZ**

Artificial intelligence has been used to extract John Lennon’s voice from an old demo to create “the last Beatles record,” Paul McCartney said yesterday.

McCartney, 80, told the BBC that the technology was used to separate the Beatles’ voices from background sounds during the making of director Peter Jackson’s 2021 documentary series, “The Beatles: Get Back.” The new song is set to be released later this year, he said.

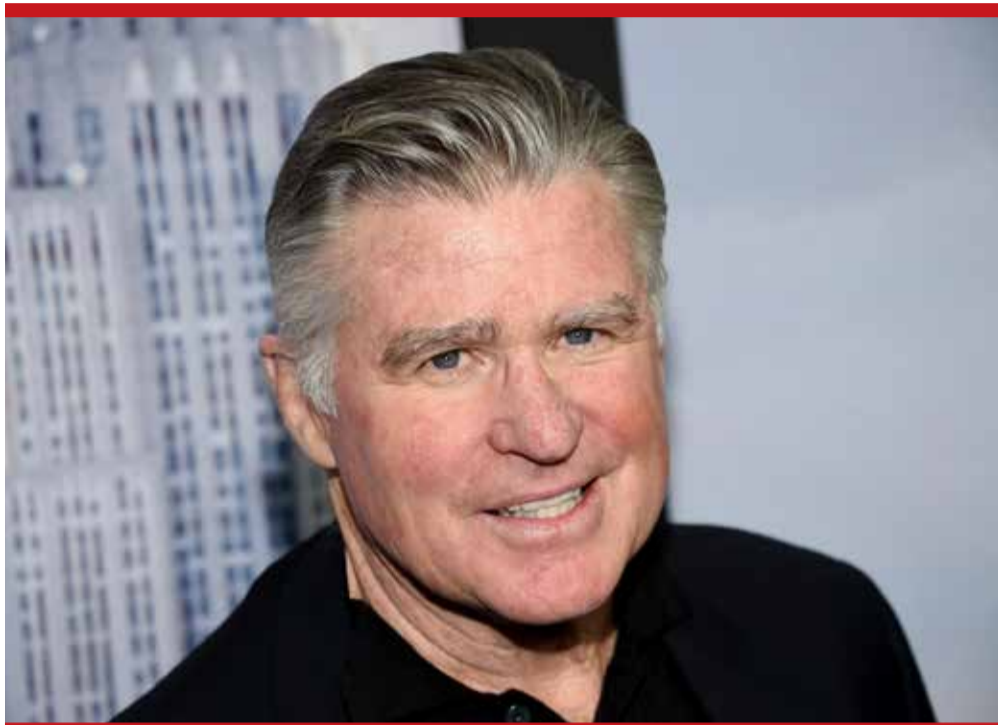
Jackson was “able to extricate John’s voice from a ropey little bit of cassette and a piano,” McCartney told BBC radio. “He could separa-

te them with AI, he’d tell the machine ‘That’s a voice, this is a guitar, lose the guitar.’”

“So when we came to make what will be the last Beatles record, it was a demo that John had that we worked on,” he added. “We were able to take John’s voice and get it pure through this AI so then we could mix the record as you would do. It gives you some sort of leeway.”

McCartney described AI technology as “kind of scary but exciting,” adding: “We will just have to see where that leads.”

AP PHOTO



**‘HAIR,’ ‘EVERWOOD’
 ACTOR TREAT WILLIAMS
 DIES AFTER VERMONT
 MOTORCYCLE CRASH**

ACTOR Treat Williams, whose nearly 50-year career included starring roles in the TV series “Everwood” and the movie “Hair,” died Monday after a motorcycle crash in Vermont, state police said. He was 71.

Shortly before 5 p.m., a Honda SUV was turning left into a parking lot when it collided with Williams’ motorcycle in the town of Dorset, according to a statement from Vermont State Police.

“Williams was unable to avoid a collision and was thrown from his motorcycle. He suffered critical injuries and was airlifted to Albany Medical Center in Albany, New York, where he was pronounced dead,” according to the statement.

Williams was wearing a helmet, police said.

The SUV’s driver received minor injuries and wasn’t hospitalized. He had signaled the turn and wasn’t immediately detained although the crash investigation continued, police said.

Williams, whose full name was Richard Treat Williams, lived in Manchester Center in southern Vermont, police said.

His agent, Barry McPherson,

also confirmed the actor’s death.

“I’m just devastated. He was the nicest guy. He was so talented,” McPherson told People magazine.

“He was an actor’s actor,” McPherson said. “Filmmakers loved him. He’s been the heart of the Hollywood since the late 1970s.”

The Connecticut-born Williams made his movie debut in 1975 as a police officer in the movie “Deadly Hero” and went on to appear in more than 120 TV and film roles, including the movies “The Eagle Has Landed,” “Prince of the City” and “Once Upon a Time in America.”

He was nominated for a Golden Globe Award for his role as hippie leader George Berger in the 1979 movie version of the hit musical “Hair.”

He appeared in dozens of television shows but was perhaps best known for his starring role from 2002 to 2006 in “Everwood” as Dr. Andrew Brown, a widowed brain surgeon from Manhattan who moves with his two children to the Colorado mountain town of that name.

Williams also had a recurring role as Lenny

Ross on the TV show “Blue Bloods.”

Williams’ stage appearances included Broadway shows, including “Grease” and “Pirates of Penzance.”

Colleagues and friends praised Williams as kind, generous and creative.

“Treat and I spent months in Rome filming “Once Upon a Time in America,” actor James Woods tweeted. “It can be pretty lonely on the road during a long shoot, but his resilient good cheer and sense of humor was a Godsend. I really loved him and am devastated that he’s gone.”

“Working with Treat Williams in Mamet’s “Speed the Plow” at Williamstown in ‘91 was the start of great friendship,” tweeted writer, director and producer Justine Williams. “Damn it, damn it. Treat, you were the best. Love you.”

“Treat Williams was a passionate, adventurous, creative man,” actor Wendell Pierce tweeted. “In a short period of time, he quickly befriended me & his adventurous spirit was infectious. We worked on just 1 film together but occasionally connected over the years. Kind and generous with advice and support. RIP.” **MDT/AP**

AP PHOTO



Pakistan’s army and civil authorities are planning to evacuate 80,000 people to safety along the country’s southern coast, and thousands in neighboring India sought shelter ahead of Cyclone Biparjoy, officials said yesterday. The cyclone is forecast to slam ashore in the densely populated region tomorrow. It is likely to be the most powerful to hit western India and Pakistan since 2021.

AP PHOTO



United Nations has secured an insurance coverage to start a ship-to-ship transfer of 1.1 million barrels of crude from a rusting tanker moored off the coast of war-torn Yemen — oil that could cause a major environmental disaster. The United Nations Development Program described the insurance is “a pivotal milestone” in a yearslong effort to evacuate the cargo of the FSO Safer, which is at risk of rupture or exploding.

AP PHOTO



Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko said yesterday that he wouldn’t hesitate to order the use of Russian tactical nuclear weapons that are set to be deployed to Belarus if his country faces an aggression. Earlier this year, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced the planned deployment of short-range nuclear weapons to Moscow’s neighbor and ally Belarus.

AP PHOTO



France The leaders of France, Germany and Poland met in Paris for talks focusing on military support for Ukraine’s counteroffensive and future security guarantees to be given to the country, ahead of a NATO summit in July. In a show of unity, the three leaders insisted they would continue to support Ukraine for as long as necessary.