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DISCOVER Good Life Starts Here

THE MICHELIN GUIDE ADDED THREE NEW MACAU ESTABLISHMENTS IN THIS YEAR'S BID GOURMAND AWARDS, GROWING ITS LIST TO A TOTAL OF 10

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CHINA'S EXPORTS AND IMPORTS BEAT ESTIMATES FOR FIRST TWO MONTHS, SIGNALING IMPROVING DEMAND

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AP PHOTO



Hamas said yesterday that its delegation has left Cairo and that talks on a Gaza cease-fire and hostage release will resume next week, making it extremely unlikely that mediators will broker a deal before the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. Mediators had looked to Ramadan as an informal deadline because the month of dawn-to-dusk fasting often sees Israeli-Palestinian violence linked to access to a major Jerusalem holy site. The war already has the wider region on edge, with Iran-backed groups trading fire with Israel and the United States.

AP PHOTO



EU's largest political party yesterday endorsed Ursula von der Leyen's bid for a second five-year term at the helm of the bloc's powerful Commission. Von der Leyen's nomination at a gathering of her center-right European People's Party in Romania's capital, Bucharest, comes ahead of June 6-9 elections for the European Parliament, the EU's only democratically elected institution. The endorsement places her firmly as a frontrunner for the top job in the 27-nation bloc.

AP PHOTO



EU regulators said they want to question Apple over accusations that it blocked video game company Epic Games from setting up its own app store, in a possible violation of digital rules that took effect in the 27-nation bloc yesterday. It's a fresh escalation of the high-stakes battle between the two companies. Epic, maker of the popular game Fortnite, has spent years fighting Apple's exclusive control over the distribution of iPhone apps.

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XINHUA



The elderly population exceeded the youth population for the first time as ageing ratio climbs 106%; birth rate falls 5.5%

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CRIME

THREE ARRESTED FOR ALLEGEDLY ALTERING CASINO RECORDS FOR HKD280,000 PERKS

ANTHONY LAM

THREE people have been arrested for allegedly manipulating the computer system of a local casino and subsequently obtaining membership rewards that added up to HKD279,000 in value, the Judiciary Police (PJ) announced yesterday at a press briefing.

The three suspects are Cheong, 51, male, unemployed; Chang, 58, female, unemployed; and Chan, 59, male, retired. The latter two are married.

Police received a report from a casino in Cotai on Nov. 30, 2023 following the incident.

From the surveillance system, it was suspected that a pit supervisor, Cheong, manipulated the computer system used by the casino to record bets and assign points to registered members.

It was believed that Cheong entered the membership numbers of his accomplices – temporarily Chang and Chan – and altered the average bets and play times, so as to gift additional membership points to these accounts.

Using points achieved through manipulation, the accomplices redeemed gifts from the casino, such as ferry tickets, food vouchers, junket chips and cash rebates.



Apart from these, the accomplices also enjoyed premium services due to their higher membership tiers. It was disclosed that they had, fraudulently, received free hotel accommodation.

During their investigation, police discovered that Cheong had manipulated the computer system at least 26 times when his accomplices were gambling at the casino.

There were another 104 times when Cheong manipulated the computer system without his accomplices gambling at the casino.

On March 6, PJ inspectors intercepted the three outside their residences in Taipa's Northern District.

The inspectors found Cheong carrying HKD10,000 in cash, believed to be the result of the crime. At the residence of Chang and Chan, the inspectors found 16 bottles of liquor, seven tumblers, four boxes of cosmetic products, a hair dryer and three suitcases.

Employees from the casino later confirmed that these items make up the redeemable gifts

available to members who cash in their points. The gifts were said to be worth HKD30,350.

The police did not rule out the possibility of there being more individuals involved in this crime. They are still in search of various redeemed gifts. Although charges have been pressed against the three criminals in question, the police's investigation is ongoing.

In another case, the Public Security Police Force (PSP) has charged a man who jaywalked and broke a mid-road barrier in front of the Riviera residential es-

tate, police have confirmed in a statement.

The news first broke when dashcam footage went viral on Facebook. It depicted a man trying to cross the road from in front of the aforementioned residential estate. There was no legal crossing facility at the location and, due to current road work, the middle of the road remains blocked by traffic cones and plastic barriers.

While reaching the mid-road barriers, the man swung his right arm and cracked through one of the barriers to make a way to pass.

Seeing the video, police initiated an investigation and intercepted the man near Rua da Praia do Manduco. On him, the police found a paper cutter. The man told the police that he had consumed alcoholic beverages the previous night and could not remember causing the damage.

It was later confirmed that the man had pushed a blue plastic barrier on the sidewalk near the Riviera, jeopardizing the safety of other road users.

The man has been passed to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) on allegations of damaging property and the possession of prohibited weapons. He was also fined for jaywalking.

PSP fines over 1,750 jaywalkers in January



RENATO MARQUES

JANUARY saw 1,751 people fined for committing offences while crossing Macau's streets, recent data released from the Public Security Police Force (PSP) has shown.

According to the PSP, the figure from January alone represents 33.2% of the total number of fines issued for the whole twelve months of last year, amounting to 5,273.

January figures account for an average of 56.5 fines issued for jaywalking per day.

Although there is no

official final figure for February yet, analysis of the weekly disclosures by the PSP, completed by the Times, indicates that February results will be significantly lower than January. There should only be around 660 fines for the whole month; that is, 22.8 fines per day.

If true, this means that, in only the first two months of this year, the PSP has already reached about half of its total 2023 number, suggesting this would most probably be a record year for this type of fine by the force.

The PSP has appealed to

road users to follow Article 70 of the Road Traffic Law strictly.

Article 70 states that pedestrians should cross the roads at indicated locations, such as zebra crossings. Moreover, if these locations are equipped with traffic lights, then pedestrians should obey traffic light signals.

The same Road Traffic Law also provides that if there is no properly signed crossing spot within 50 meters, pedestrians may still cross the road if they ensure that their crossing moment does not pose a risk or affect vehicle traffic.

At the moment, a bill to amend the Road Traffic Law has been submitted by the government to the Legislative Assembly and is being analyzed and discussed. Among the amendments proposed are several related to pedestrian traffic and road crossing, with the government aiming to enforce even stricter laws.

The new draft bill proposes, among other things, to ban pedestrians' use of mobile phones, as well as other electronic equipment, like photo and video cameras, while crossing Macau's streets.

The PSP also disclosed that 478 traffic accidents involving pedestrians were recorded last year, four of which were fatal.

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ECONOMY

IMF projects this year's growth at 14%

RENATO MARQUES

THE International Monetary Fund (IMF) Mission has surveyed Macau's macroeconomic and financial assessments, concluding that the local economy is "robust". The preliminary conclusion from the IMF forecasts economic growth of 13.9% this year, as well as a return to pre-pandemic levels in 2025.

The forecasts for Macau were conducted between Feb. 21 and March 6.

At the end of the survey, IMF analysts highlighted that the local economy achieved a "robust recovery as travel to the rest of the world fully resumed."

The institution recalled that the gaming sector had a "stellar performance," bolstered by the mass tourism segment, while non-gaming services export also expanded strongly.

"However, the growth mo-

mentum slowed in the last quarter of 2023 and the recovery was uneven, with less impressive growth in other non-gaming sectors," it added.

"Headline inflation hovered around 1% in 2023, due to declining rental prices. With economic recovery, fiscal policy consolidated in 2023, driven by withdrawal of pandemic relief measures, higher gaming revenues, and under-execution of current spending," the IMF also recalled.

Concurrently, the institution also noted that sufficient capital and liquidity buffers could support the resilience of Macau's financial system against future and external shocks.

Addressing new rules and regulations recently approved, the IMF said that the "reformulated Financial System Act enhanced the flexibility of Macau's legal framework for financial regulation and supervision, laying the legal basis for promoting finan-

cial innovation."

The mission also noted that "digitalization has notably increased in Macau's economy" and suggested the government increase investments in infrastructure, education, and occupational and on-the-job training, as well as healthcare.

Such investments "would improve Macau's productivity and support diverse economic policies."

According to the institution, Macau has experienced a significant increase in digitalization over the past decade, "although it still lags regional peers."

Therefore, it has suggested improving the design and targeting of Macau's R&D tax incentives, scaling up public spending on basic research, and SME's access to finance and digital technologies would help further support digitalization and innovation.

Another of the topics analyzed



RENATO MARQUES

by the IMF team was integration into the Greater Bay Area, with the mission leaving recommendations for Macau to "leverage opportunities arising from its integration into the Greater Bay Area through comprehensive economic structural reforms."

"Economy-wide structural reforms that improve efficiency

and resource allocation would enable Macau SAR to capitalize on the knowledge base available in the GBA," the report stated.

"The authorities should be cognizant of possible negative spillovers, trade distortions, and governance risks related to their industrial policies (IP)," the IMF warned.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Macau's migrant population grows, ageing ratio climbs 106%

LYNZY VALLES

MACAU'S demographics slightly increased last year as its number of non-residents grew, following the city's reopening after the pandemic. This fact has renewed a push to fix staff shortages.

Data from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) shows that the total population of Macau (683,700) at the end of 2023 increased by 1.6% (10,900) year-on-year, as there are 7,500 non-residents workers living in Macau.

Government data shows that Macau recorded 176,661 non-resident workers by the end of December 2023, which was 90% of the December 2019 figure, before the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Because Macau's post-pandemic economic recovery experienced a labor shortage during the



LYNZY VALLES

first half of last year, particularly in the hospitality sector, the hotel and restaurant industries (employing 49,387 workers), as well as the construction sector (employing 30,209 workers) attracted the most migrant workers to the city.

Meanwhile, the elderly population exceeded the youth population for the first time; that is, the ageing ratio climbed to 106.1%.

The proportion of youths, or those aged 0-14, dropped by 0.9 percentage points to 13.2%, whereas the proportion of those aged 65 and above, grew 0.7 percentage points to 14.0%.

Local population – that being the total population less non-resident workers and non-local students living in Macau – totaled 571,200 at end-2023, up slightly by 0.1% year-on-year.

The elderly dependency ratio for the local population rose by 1.7 percentage points to 24.8%, equivalent to about four adults supporting one older adult. In addition, there were 204,400 households in Macau, an increase of 700.

Meanwhile, the birth rate fell to 5.5%, as the city recorded 3,712 births in 2023, a decrease of 632 compared to the previous year.

As regards population movements, those new arrivals from mainland China in possession of one-way permits grew by 1,113 year-on-year, to 3,416 in 2023. Women comprised 67.2% of this total. Meanwhile, those individuals holding newly granted rights of residency increased by 321 to 878, with 362 of these from Hong Kong.

Marriage registrations totaled 3,168 in 2023, up by 441 year-on-year.

AVIATION

AIRPORT OPERATION EXPANSION UNDERWAY AS AIRLINES CONSIDER FLIGHTS TO MACAU

STAFF REPORTER

THAILAND'S Really Cool Airlines has expressed interest in operating a new service between Macau International Airport and Thailand. Additionally, airlines from Nepal and Sri Lanka are also considering establishing chartered flights from their respective countries.

The Macau International Airport Company (CAM) has said in a statement that several South Asian carriers aim to commence operations in the fourth quarter of this year.

Apart from Macau, Really Cool Airlines plans to also introduce routes to Japan, Hong Kong, mainland China, Singapore, and Georgia in the second half of 2024.

CAM also announced that the number of passengers passing through the Macau International Airport in February was the second-highest number on record since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020. CAM

reported that the number exceeded 600,000 passengers, but that it also fell short of the total in August last year, which was close to 603,000 passengers.

According to CAM's data, average monthly passenger volume in 2023 was 429,000, with only July, August and December surpassing 550,000. CAM attributed the increase in February to the Lunar New Year holiday, which attracted many tourists.

Earlier this year, CAM's marketing director, Eric Fong, predicted a potential growth in passenger volumes of up to 15% in 2024. However, even if this estimate is reached, the anticipated total of 5.92 million passengers will still fall significantly short of pre-pandemic levels, which saw 9.61 million passengers recorded in 2019.

Currently, Macau International Airport serves 25 different airlines, catering to various destinations across Asia.

GBA CITIES COULD BID TO CO-HOST 2031 FIFA WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT

HONG Kong, Macau, and cities in the GBA should jointly bid to host the FIFA Women's World Cup in 2031, Kenneth Fok Kai-kong, a delegate from Hong Kong to the National People's Congress (NPC), has suggested.

Fok emphasized the existing facilities in the region and pointed out that Saudi Arabia's bid for the 2034 men's tournament made a joint bid more feasible.

Fok submitted a document to the NPC, stating that the rotation policy of FIFA makes it less likely for the men's World Cup to return to Asia.

He highlighted that the Greater Bay Area, with its Kai Tak Sports Park and Guangzhou Nansha Urban Sports Complex, which will be used for the National Games in 2025, already possesses sufficient facilities to meet the requirements of the Women's World Cup.

Fok expressed confidence in the coordination and communication mechanism established by the governments of the three regions.

"With the Greater Bay Area co-

COURTESY FIFA



-hosting the National Games in 2025, we have enough facilities in Kai Tak Sports Park and Guangzhou Nansha Urban Sports Complex to meet the needs of the competition," he wrote.

Pui Kwan-kay, the president of the Hong Kong Football Association, confirmed that preliminary discussions had taken place with Sun Wen, vice-chairman of the Chinese Football Association, regarding the joint bid. While Kai Tak and the 60,000-seat sport stadium in Nansha meet FIFA's requirements, Macau's Olym-

pic Sports Centre would likely need upgrades.

Fok also proposed the establishment of a Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Sports Bay Area and compared its potential to sports hubs like New York, San Francisco and Tokyo.

He mentioned the region's abundant sports resources, including the long-standing Guangdong-Hong Kong Cup and the Macau Grand Prix. Fok further noted that 68 arenas in the area were undergoing upgrades, adding to the excellent sports infrastructure in Kai Tak and Nansha.

GBA

LOCAL FIRM CONFIDENT IN HENGQIN FUTURE

ANTHONY LAM

THE adjusted border management of Hengqin will further improve the convenience of interactions between Macau and the island, Henry Ng, chairman of Zenta Group, has said.

The comment was made at the enterprise's spring cocktail reception held recently.

Ng said that the gradual implementation of various favorable policies would further facilitate the entry of Macau goods and personal belongings into Hengqin, as well as increase the flow of people and logistics.

He believes these will attract capital flow and strengthen connections between investment industries, which will be very convenient for the company's business development.

He also pointed out that topical policies supporting the health, technology, and AI industries would help attract related companies to develop in Hengqin.

The company entered Hengqin in 2019, Ng added, and will continue to utilize Hengqin for its development across the GBA.

Ng also said that his enterprise's latest product, the Z4 AI model, would be able to help business development and pre-sale work. It can be applied in scenarios such as tourism, retail, investment promotion, funds, securities, banking, insurance and real estate.

The enterprise has also closed a deal with an investment firm in Hong Kong on the capitalization of a smart financial prediction system.

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Michelin Guide adds three new restaurants in Macau to Bib Gourmand Award

RENATO MARQUES

THE Michelin Guide Hong Kong & Macau 2024 yesterday unveiled the first winners of this year's edition of the respected, famous and worldwide restaurant awards.

The Bib Gourmand selection, always announced one week before the main event, includes a list of restaurants that offer both "good quality" and "good value cooking" – although these restaurants are not competing for Michelin Stars, the higher culinary award.

In this year's Bib Gourmand awards, the Guide added three new Macau establishments, growing its list to a total of 10.

The new entrants are two restaurants in Taipa, Kapok and Restaurante Litoral; and one in the Peninsula, Son Tak Kong, located at Rua dos Mercadores, close to Senado Square.

The Guide notes Kapok, which serves Cantonese food, as a newly recognized restaurant with ceiling fans, bowl pendant lights and



Dishes from Son Tak Kong

Lingnan-style-stained glass.

The menu is dominated by traditionally made Cantonese cuisine favorites.

Taipa's Restaurante Litoral is known to present Portuguese and Macanese classics in a relaxed manner, while Son Tak Kong's heritage and history is also noted by the Guide for serving honest and traditional cuisine dishes. Son Tak

Kong opened in 1979.

The three restaurants join the list of Macau food and beverage establishments already presented this award, including Chan Seng Kei (Coloane), Cheong Kei (Rua da Felicidade, Macau), Din Tai Fung (City of Dreams), IFTM Educational Restaurant, Lok Kei Noodles (Patane), Lou Kei (Fai Chi Kei) and O Castiço (Taipa).

This year, the Guide attributed 77 Bib Gourmand Awards to food establishments, 10 of which are from Macau and 67 of which are from the neighboring region of Hong Kong. Of these 67, only seven are new.

"We are delighted to welcome seven new additions from Hong Kong and three from Macau to the Bib Gourmand selection, hi-

ghlighting the talent and vibrancy that these cities of gastronomy have to offer," Gwendal Poullennec, International Director of the Michelin Guide said, adding, "These 77 Bib Gourmand food establishments not only showcase the thriving food culture that permeates Hong Kong and Macau but also highlight the many possibilities that connoisseurs looking for great culinary experiences can enjoy – and at affordable prices, too."

The Bib Gourmand Awards are the recognition from the Guide to venues that offer high-quality food at affordable prices. Among the most significant criteria is the fact that diners need to be able to enjoy a three-course meal, excluding drinks, for a maximum price of HKD400 in Hong Kong and MOP400 in Macau.

The full selection of the Michelin Guide Hong Kong & Macau 2024, including its Starred Restaurants selection, will be announced on March 14 in a ceremony in Macau at the Grand Lisboa Palace Resort in Cotai.

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GOV'T REITERATES SILENCE DURING SMALL HOURS

ANTHONY LAM

ONLY construction works that do not emit significant noise will be allowed after midnight, the Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPA) has said.

In response to lawmaker Ron Lam's written inquiry, director for Environmental Protection Tam Vai Man cited the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) explanation that permits for road works during special hours will be issued to reduce disruption to daily traffic.

These are road works where existing asphalt is lifted and new asphalt is laid.

Tam said the noisiest part of work is conducted from 8 p.m. to midnight.

Citing the IAM, he said there are promotions to familiarize people in the neighborhood about the arrangements.

While citing the Public Works Bureau (DSOP), Tam said the supervisory unit of a road work will constantly monitor noise, and will take noise-blocking measures or adjust work schedules to strike a balance between the



work and the resting schedule of nearby residents.

Tam's bureau, meanwhile, has compiled guidelines about pollution from road works or construction sites.

The guidelines outline requirements and standards with which specially-permitted road works must abide.

His bureau has also recommended that guidelines be added to tenders as clear requirements.

Legal fines or punishments will be issued where over-

standard noise from road works is detected, said the DSPA head, adding that patrols are conducted when specially-permitted road works are in progress.

Tam has also cited the DSOP explanation that some road works need to progress at night to minimize their impact on daytime traffic and people's commuting between work and home.

Information about such road works is available at the work site and the website of the DSPA, Tam added.

PUBLIC WORKS

GOV'T RECEIVES 12 BIDS FOR FIRST PHASE OF AV. MARGINAL DO PATANE FOOT BRIDGE

THE Public Works Bureau (DSOP) received a total of 12 bids for the first phase of the pedestrian flyover construction project at Avenida Marginal do Patane, according to information presented at the tender bids opening ceremony.

According to DSOP officials, of the 12 bids, 11 were immediately accepted while one was conditionally accepted pending the presentation of additional supporting documents.

The project is likely to start construction in the second quarter of this year and aims to reroute pedestrian traffic in this area to an upper level so that

vehicle traffic can flow smoothly.

This is just the first phase of the project which includes a total of two bridges. When complete, the pedestrian flyover will have a rectangular shape linking all sides of the intersection, similar to the existing bridges beside the Lin Fong Sports Center.

For the time being, the flyover will have an "L" shape, which corresponds to half of the total project, and bids point to a maximum construction time of 385 working days.

The proposals received by DSOP suggest a cost ranging from 29 million patacas to more than 41 million patacas. RM



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C&C RECEIVED THE 1ST SILVER
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FOR RESPONSIBLE ENTREPRENEURSHIP
IN MACAU (2023)



TRADE

China's exports and imports beat estimates for first two months, signaling improving demand

ZEN SOO, HONG KONG

CHINA'S exports and imports for the first two months of the year beat estimates, an indication that demand may be improving as Beijing attempts to speed up its economic recovery.

Exports in January-February grew 7.1% from a year earlier, according to customs data released yesterday, up from a 2.3% rise in December. Imports rose 3.5%, compared to 0.2% growth in December. The trade surplus was \$125 billion.

The world's second-largest economy has struggled to bounce back after the COVID-19 pandemic, as it grapples with weaker demand globally and a slump in its property sector that is weighing on growth.

Though China usually releases trade data monthly, the data for the first two months of the year are combined to avoid distortions from the weeklong Lunar New Year holidays, when many businesses and factories are closed.

Demand for Chinese exports has weakened since the Federal Reserve and central banks in Europe and Asia began raising interest rates last year to cool inflation that was at multi-decade highs.

Manufacturing activity in China has also contracted for five conse-

AP PHOTO



cutive months, according to an official purchasing managers' index. The PMI has fallen for much of the past year.

China has set a target of around 5% for economic growth this year, Chinese Premier Li Qiang informed delegates to the annual session of the National People's Congress.

The target is seen as ambitious by economists who say more policy support is required to boost growth.

It's also raising concerns over whether China might seek to push exports sharply higher to support growth. Worries over surging exports of electric vehicles to Europe have raised alarm over whether Chinese-

made EVs might crowd out those made by local manufacturers.

The data for January-February show China's trade in U.S. dollar terms with Europe and Japan falling, while exports to the U.S. rose 5% from a year earlier.

Much of the growth in exports came from trade with China's Southeast Asian neighbors. Exports to the region rose 4.8% from a year earlier while imports climbed 6%.

China's exports of vehicles jumped 22% in January-February in terms of volume and nearly 13% in terms of value, the data show. There was no breakdown by destination or type of vehicle. **MDT/AP**

CRYPTO CURRENCY

Spain puts temporary ban on Worldcoin eyeballs scans

SPAIN'S privacy watchdog has ordered for Worldcoin, the company created by OpenAI CEO Sam Altman that scans eyeballs to make digital IDs in exchange for crypto, to cease its operations in the country for three months amid concerns over what it is doing with users' personal information.

The stated goal of Worldcoin is to give people a form of identification that could never be stolen or duplicated. It says the way it can do this is by creating a "World ID" by scanning someone's eyeballs through "orbs" — a device that captures an image of their irises, the colored parts of the eyes.

In exchange, people who sign up get Worldcoin cryptocurrency.

Spain's Agency for Data Protection told Worldcoin's parent company Tools for Humanity Corporation yesterday [Macau time] to stop collecting personal data and keep hold of all information already collected.

The agency said in a statement that it had received various complaints against the company that range from gathering the personal information of minors to not allowing for people to withdraw their consent to sharing personal data.

People have lined up at points where these orbs are placed in cities like Madrid and Barcelona in recent months. More than 360,000 people in Spain have signed up for Worldcoin, according to the most recent company data from November.

While Worldcoin argues that the data is used to create a unique, secure form of identification, privacy experts have concerns that the company may use the information in other ways, like personalized marketing.

That has led other countries to investigate Worldcoin's operations, including France and Germany.

The Kenyan government has likewise suspended new sign-ups for Worldcoin as it investigates whether people's information is being properly protected.

Worldcoin responded that their operations preserve privacy.

"The Spanish data protection authority (AEPD) is circumventing EU law with their actions today, which are limited to Spain and not the broader EU, and spreading inaccurate and misleading claims about our technology globally," Jannick Preiwisch, Worldcoin's data protection officer, said in a statement. **MDT/AP**

CORPORATE BITS

Sands China partners with CCTV to foster 'industrial synergy'



Sands China Ltd. has announced it will collaborate with CCTV.com to co-organize a diverse range of online

and offline activities in the fields of cultural tourism, sports industry, education and research, art and cul-

ture, cultural branding and more.

"This collaboration aims to build a strong media network with 'one network + two destinations + multiple platforms' and foster the development of Macau's industrial synergy," the gaming operator said in a statement.

The two parties will also jointly develop new cultural brands, or promote existing ones, related to stage plays, variety shows, films, TV dramas and online audio-visual content through the organization of events, tours, exhibitions and festivals. The parties will also work together to produce stage plays, digital dramas and other intellectual property projects in Macau.

Pastry chef Angelo Musa shares insights to over 80 pâtissiers



Angelo Musa, a world champion pastry master and author, was invited by MGM to showcase his pastry-making expertise at the "CHOCOLART Culinary Demonstration" to over 80

pâtissiers and small enterprise owners from Macau, as well as chefs and entrepreneurs from Hong Kong and mainland China.

During the event yesterday, Chef Musa shared his

insights towards pastry-making, followed by demonstration of four types of French chocolate pastries, by using eight different types of chocolate from Chocolaterie de l'Opera, a French artisanal chocolatier established nearly a century ago.

Geoffrey Simmons, vice president of Food and Beverage at MGM, expressed, "MGM endeavors to bridging cultures around the world through artistic initiatives including performing arts, music, visual arts and more."

"This collaboration is part of MGM's initiatives to encourage culinary exchange, and to strengthen Macau's positioning as the Creative City of Gastronomy," he added.

ESPIONAGE

EX-GOOGLE CHINESE ENGINEER CHARGED WITH STEALING AI TRADE SECRETS

ERIC TUCKER, WASHINGTON

A former software engineer at Google has been charged with stealing artificial intelligence trade secrets from the company while secretly working with two companies based in China, the Justice Department said yesterday [Macau time].

Linwei Ding, a Chinese national, was arrested in Newark, California, on four counts of federal trade secret theft, each punishable by up to 10 years in prison.

The case against Ding, 38, was announced at an American Bar Association conference in San Francisco by Attorney General Merrick Garland, who along with other law enforcement leaders has repeatedly warned about the threat of Chinese economic espionage and about the national security concerns posed by advancements in artificial intelligence and other developing technologies.

"Today's charges are the latest illustration of the lengths affiliates of companies based in the People's Republic of China are willing to go to steal American innovation," FBI Director Christopher Wray said in a statement. "The theft of innovative technology and trade secrets from American companies can cost jobs and have devastating economic and national security consequences."

Google said it had determined that the employee had stolen "nu-



Items are displayed in the Google Store at the Google Visitor Experience in Mountain View, California

merous documents" and referred the matter to law enforcement.

"We have strict safeguards to prevent the theft of our confidential commercial information and trade secrets," Google spokesman Jose Castaneda said in a statement. "After an investigation, we found that this employee stole numerous documents, and we quickly referred the case to law enforcement. We are grateful to the FBI for helping protect our information and will continue cooperating with them closely."

A lawyer listed as Ding's defense attorney had no comment yesterday.

Artificial intelligence is the main battleground for competitors in the field of high technology, and the question of who dominates can have major commercial

and security implications. Justice Department leaders in recent weeks have been sounding alarms about how foreign adversaries could harness AI technologies to negatively affect the United States.

Deputy Attorney General Lisa Monaco said in a speech last month that the administration's multi-agency Disruptive Technology Strike Force would place AI at the top of its enforcement priority list, and Wray told a conference last week that AI and other emerging technologies had made it easier for adversaries to try to interfere with the American political process.

Garland echoed those concerns at the San Francisco event, saying that, "As with all evolving technologies, (AI) has pluses and minuses, advantages and disad-

vantages, great promise and the risk of great harm."

The indictment unsealed in the Northern District of California alleges that Ding, who was hired by Google in 2019 and had access to confidential information about the company's supercomputing data centers, began uploading hundreds of files into a personal Google Cloud account two years ago.

Within weeks of the theft starting, prosecutors say, Ding was offered the position of chief technology officer at an early-stage technology company in China that touted its use of AI technology and that offered him a monthly salary of about \$14,800, plus an annual bonus and company stock. The indictment says Ding traveled to China and participated in

investor meetings at the company and sought to raise capital for it.

He also separately founded and served as chief executive of a China-based startup company that aspired to train "large AI models powered by supercomputing chips," the indictment said.

Prosecutors say Ding did not disclose either affiliation to Google, which described him Wednesday as a junior employee.

He resigned from Google last Dec. 26.

Three days later, Google officials learned that he had presented as CEO of one of the Chinese companies at an investor conference in Beijing. Officials also reviewed surveillance footage showing that another employee had scanned Ding's access badge at the Google building in the U.S. where he worked to make it look like Ding was there during times when he was actually in China, the indictment says.

Google suspended Ding's network access and locked his laptop, and discovered his unauthorized uploads while searching his network activity history.

The FBI in January served a search warrant at Ding's home and seized his electronic devices, and later executed an additional warrant for the contents of his personal accounts containing more than 500 unique files of confidential information that authorities say he stole from Google. **MDT/AP**

NATIONAL SECURITY

Canada reaches settlement with Canadian detained in China for three years

CANADA'S government has reached a settlement with one of two Canadians who were detained in China for nearly three years on national security charges during a diplomatic fight between the two countries.

John K. Phillips, a lawyer for Michael Spavor, confirmed yesterday [Macau time] that a settlement had been concluded, without giving any details.

"I am only able to say that the matter between Mr. Spavor and the government of Canada has been resolved," Phillips said.

The Globe and Mail newspaper, citing an uni-

dentified source, reported Wednesday that Spavor reached a mediated settlement worth about \$6 million Canadian (US\$4.4 million) after he threatened to sue the government and his fellow prisoner, Michael Kovrig.

Kovrig, who previously acknowledged to the Globe and Mail that he was in talks with Canada over compensation, did not respond to a message seeking comment.

The Globe and Mail reported that Spavor alleged he was arrested because he had given information about North Korea to Kovrig, who worked for the Canadian Embassy in Chi-

na and passed it on to his government. Kovrig was on leave from the embassy and working for a think tank when he was detained.

Canada's government has long maintained the two men were held to pressure Canada to release a senior executive of Chinese tech firm Huawei Technologies, who had been detained in December 2018 at the request of U.S. authorities who wanted her to face charges in America.

"China's arbitrary detention of Michael Spavor and Michael Kovrig was unjust and unacceptable," Global Affairs Canada reiterated in

a statement.

The department declined to comment further, citing privacy considerations.

Both Spavor and Kovrig were arrested nine days after the Huawei arrest and released the same day in September 2021 that the Huawei executive, Meng Wanzhou, was allowed to return to China, ending her U.S. extradition case.

China has said the two Canadians were suspected of crimes endangering national security.

Spavor worked in China running tours of North Korea along with sports, business and other exchanges

tal, Pyongyang, in 2013.

Kovrig told the Globe and Mail that he acted properly in his dealings with Spavor and followed the "standard of laws, rules and regulations governing diplomats."

Canada does not have a covert spy agency operating abroad, such as the American CIA, but the information gathered by diplomats is often shared with Canada's spy agency, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service. **MDT/AP**



Michael Spavor, director of Paektu Cultural Exchange

DIPLOMACY

Wang accuses US of devising tactics to suppress China despite improvement in relations

KEN MORITSUGU, BEIJING

CHINA'S foreign minister accused the U.S. yesterday of devising tactics to suppress China's rise and criticized the Biden administration for adding more Chinese companies to its sanctions lists.

Wang Yi, speaking to media during the annual meeting of China's legislature, said China's relations with the U.S. have improved since Presidents Xi Jinping and Joe Biden met in November, but America has not fulfilled its promises.

"If the U.S. always says one thing and does another, where is its credibility as a major power? If the U.S. gets nervous and anxious when it hears the word 'China,' where is its confidence as a major power?" he said. "If the U.S. is obsessed with suppressing China, it will eventually harm itself."

Wang, a 70-year-old veteran diplomat who has earned Xi's trust, returned to the foreign minister's post last summer after his successor, Qin Gang, was abruptly dismissed without explanation after a half year on the job. Wang is also the ruling Communist Party's top foreign affairs official, a more senior position that he moved to when Qin became foreign minister at the end of 2022.

Wang also reiterated a Chinese call to make Palestine a full member of the United Nations.

Analysts had speculated the



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi speaks during a press conference on the sidelines of the National People's Congress in Beijing, yesterday

Communist Party might use the weeklong meeting of the National People's Congress to name a new foreign minister, but that appeared off the table after an agenda released on the eve of the opening session did not include personnel changes.

China's U.N. ambassador, Zhang Jun, said during a Security Council debate in January that China supports Palestine becoming a full member as soon as possible, as a first step toward creating a Palestinian state, according to Chinese media reports.

Wang called yesterday for a major international conference to draw up a roadmap and timetable for a two-state solution. "We

support Palestine becoming a full member of the United Nations and call on individual members of the Security Council not to set obstacles for this any more," he said.

He accused the United States, without mentioning it by name, of stirring up trouble in Taiwan and the South China Sea. China says that self-governing Taiwan is part of China and should be under its control, and it claims a wide swath of the South China Sea, putting it at odds with the Philippines, Vietnam and other Southeast Asian neighbors.

The Philippines and the U.S. have accused China of aggressive tactics in trying to block Philippines ships from reaching reefs and

other outcroppings that both sides claim, most recently in a collision between coast guard vessels of both countries this week.

"For unreasonable provocations, we will take just countermeasures," Wang said. "We also advise certain countries outside the region not to stir up trouble, choose sides, and not to become disruptors and troublemakers in the South China Sea."

He said countries that insist on maintaining official ties with Taiwan are interfering in China's domestic affairs. Most countries, including the United States, don't have diplomatic ties with Taiwan, but China objects to visits by U.S. lawmakers to the island and U.S. sales of military

equipment for its defense.

China will continue to work for peaceful reunification with Taiwan, Wang said, but warned that anyone who supports independence for Taiwan would pay a price. Most Taiwanese prefer to remain separate from China without antagonizing it. They fear Chinese rule could endanger their freedoms and democracy, particularly after the crackdown on Hong Kong.

"Our bottom line is also very clear," Wang said. "That is Taiwan will never be allowed to split from the motherland."

Wang praised China's growing ties with Russia, noting that trade between the two reached \$240 billion last year, beating a target to hit \$200 billion in trade by the end of 2024.

The U.S. and EU say that China is giving Russia an economic lifeline at a time when they are trying to pressure its government with sanctions over its 2022 invasion of Ukraine, which sparked a devastating war that has continued for more than two years.

"Russian natural gas has entered thousands of households in China, and Chinese cars are driving in the streets of Russia, which fully demonstrates the strong resilience and broad prospects of mutually beneficial cooperation," Wang said.

Poland's deputy foreign minister, Wladyslaw Bartoszewski, told a Chinese diplomat the country should not provide political, economic and military support to Russia, a Polish government statement said. Bartoszewski made the comment at a meeting on Wednesday with a Chinese diplomatic envoy, Li Hui, who is visiting several European countries this week for talks on the conflict.

The U.S. and EU expanded sanctions on companies and individuals from China and several other countries two weeks ago for allegedly aiding Russia's war effort. **MDT/AP**



Malaysian PM Anwar Ibrahim

DIPLOMACY

Malaysian PM urges US and China cooperation in Asia-Pacific

U.S.-led Western rivalries against China for strategic influence in the region. He also rejected Western criticism that Malaysia is too accommodating of China as it becomes increasingly assertive in the South China Sea.

Anwar, in a speech at Australian National University yesterday, promoted "empathy" toward China, which he said regarded negative reactions to its rise as an "attempt to

deny their legitimate place in history."

"I believe that Malaysia and Australia have a duty to try the utmost to encourage the United States, China and other major players in the Asia-Pacific to conduct themselves in a manner that is conducive to the enhancement of regional cooperation and economic integration," Anwar said.

Without Southeast Asian nations' interven-

tion, the region would be "principally dictated by the calculations and designs of the major powers."

Anwar outlined globally significant societal and political shifts in the U.S. over the past three decades such as globalization that benefited the Asian working class and reduced the U.S. industrial base. Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan had also impacted Americans' psyche.

"The upshot is a preference for leaders who are more transactional with the rest of the world," said Anwar, referring to U.S. politicians.

"The Washington consensus is gradually eroding, if not altogether disappeared," he added.

Western perspectives on the future of global order should not be expected to be embraced universally, Anwar said. **MDT/AP**

MALAYSIA'S prime minister said yesterday that the United States has become more "transactional," using rewards and punishments to achieve aims with other

countries, and should be encouraged to enhance cooperation with China in the Asia-Pacific region.

Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim advocated against taking sides in

JAPAN

PRITZKER PRIZE GOES TO ARCHITECT YAMAMOTO WHO VALUES COMMUNITY IN SPACES

JOCELYN NOVECK

THE Pritzker Architecture Prize has been awarded to Japan's Riken Yamamoto, who earns the field's highest honor for what organizers called a long career focused on "multiplying opportunities for people to meet spontaneously, through precise, rational design strategies."

Yamamoto, 78, has spent a five-decade career designing both private and public buildings — from residences to museums to schools, from a bustling airport center to a glass-walled fire station — and prizing a spirit of community in all spaces.

"By the strong, consistent quality of his buildings, he aims to dignify, enhance and enrich the lives of individuals — from children to elders — and their social connections," the jury said, in part, in a citation released this week. "For him, a building has a public function even when it is private."

In an interview from Yokohama, where he is based, Yamamoto said he was both proud and "amazed" to win the prize, seen as the Nobel of architecture, at this point in his career.

"Soon I will be 79 years old," he said. "This prize is a big moment for me. In the near future I think many people will listen to me very carefully. Maybe I can say my opinion more easily than before."

The architect explained that his craft is not simply to design buildings, but to design in the context



Japan's Riken Yamamoto (left) speaks with his staff member near a scale model of a building at his office in Yokohama

of their surroundings, and hopefully to impact the surroundings as well.

A key example: Yamamoto's virtually transparent Hiroshima Nishi Fire Station, designed in 2000, with a facade, interior walls and floors made of glass. The building invites the public to experience the daily activities of firefighters, something it rarely sees. The result encourages passersby "to view and engage with those who are protecting the community, resulting in a reciprocal commitment between the civil servants and the citizens they serve," organizers said.

Normally, Yamamoto said, a fire station would be built from

concrete. He had a different perspective, which he submitted in a competition with other architects.

"I proposed a very radical idea," Yamamoto said. "The idea was that the fire house should be the center of the community. Not only their fire work but their daily life should be the center, because they are living at the place, for 24 hours they have activities." He described firefighters training with ropes and ladders in a central atrium visible from outside.

"Many young children come to see," he said. "It's very interesting for them."

A more recent design with a similar concept is The Circle at Zurich's airport, designed in 2020,

a major commercial center for shops, restaurants, hotels and a convention hall. Yamamoto said he aimed to create an open, 24-hour environment, a space to welcome city residents as well travelers.

"I proposed a very open system," he said, "no gate, no entrance, no door." He said snow or rain sometimes enters the space via a partially open roof.

Another noted design is the Hotakubo housing project in Kumamoto, Japan, Yamamoto's first social housing project, made up of 110 homes in 16 "clusters."

"How do you make a community out of 110 family houses?" he mused in an interview about the

1991 design. "It is very difficult." Most apartments, he noted, are boxes inside of a bigger box. "It's very easy to create privacy, but very difficult to make a community because each house is independent," he said.

The architect's solution: a tree-lined plaza at the center that can only be entered via a residence. In this way, he explained, he was able to combine the private with the public, giving individual families their privacy while promoting connections between them. Terraces also overlook the common space.

Yamamoto was born in China in 1945 and raised in Japan from early childhood. He said he first grew attracted to architecture while still in high school. He received a master's degree in architecture from Tokyo University in 1971, and founded his own practice two years later.

Many of his ideas on community were inspired by three extensive trips he took early in his career — not to famous monuments but instead to villages around the world, he said, in Europe, North Africa, Latin America, the Middle East and Asia. In such villages, he examined the relationship of the family unit to the broader community and explored the idea of a "threshold" between public and private space. He also said he was inspired by the writings of philosopher Hannah Arendt.

A book by Yamamoto, "The Space of Power, The Power of Space," is due to be published next month, an English translation of his 2015 work.

Yamamoto, who lives and works in Yokohama and has held numerous teaching positions, is the 53rd laureate of the Pritzker Architecture Prize, established in 1979 by the late entrepreneur Jay A. Pritzker and his wife, Cindy. Winners receive a \$100,000 grant and a bronze medallion. **MDT/AP**

DIPLOMACY

Australian, Vietnamese PMs elevate their nations' booming economic relationship

AUSTRALIAN and Vietnamese prime ministers yesterday discussed ways of improving an already booming economic relationship, as part of Australia's strategy to diversify trade away from China.

Vietnamese Pham Minh Chinh's official state visit came after he attended a summit of Southeast Asian leaders this week co-chaired by his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese and

Laotian Prime Minister Sonexay Siphandone.

The Vietnam bilateral relationship has proved a success in Australia's hedge against Chinese economic moves. Australia says China's official and unofficial trade barriers have cost Australian exporters up to 20 billion Australian dollars (\$13 billion) a year since 2020, though those steps have been relaxed gradually since Albanese's government came to

power in 2022.

Albanese said trade between Australia and Vietnam had increased 75% in two years to AU\$25.7 billion (\$16.9 billion) in 2022, the most recent year for which data was available. Vietnam had become Australia's 12th-largest trading partner.

"Prime Minister Chinh and I discussed our shared determination to grow our trade and investment links to su-

pport both our countries' economic prosperity," Albanese told reporters.

The leaders agreed to elevate the bilateral relationship to a comprehensive strategic partnership which Chinh said was the highest level of cooperation Vietnam enjoyed with any country.

The improved relationship was the result of increasing political trust and diplomatic cooperation, Chinh said. **MDT/AP**



Australian PM Anthony Albanese and Vietnamese PM Pham Minh Chinh embrace at the end of a joint statement in Canberra, yesterday

FROZEN IN TIME

Families of those on missing Flight 370 cannot shake off their grief without answers

EILEEN NG, KUALA LUMPUR

OVER the past decade, Grace Subathirai Nathan graduated from law school, got married, opened a law firm and had two babies. But part of her is frozen in time, still in denial over the loss of her mother ten years ago today on a missing Malaysia Airlines plane in 2014.

There has been no funeral service, and Grace, 35, still speaks of her mother in the present tense. When she got married in 2020, she walked down the aisle with a picture of her mother tucked in a bouquet of daisies — chosen because of her mother's name, Anne Catherine Daisy.

The Malaysian criminal lawyer has become one of the key faces of Voice 370, a next-of-kin support group, as she channeled her grief into keeping alive the quest for answers in the mysterious disappearance of MH370 that has ripped many families apart.

"In terms of going on, I progressed in my career, in my family life ... but I am still trying to push for the search of MH370 to continue. I am trying to push for the plane to be found, so in that way I haven't moved on," Grace said in an interview. "Logically in my brain I know I am probably never going to see her again, but I haven't been able to accept that fully, and I think emotionally, there's a gap that hasn't been bridged due to the lack of closure."

The baffling disappearance of Flight 370 still captivates people around the world. The Boeing 777 left Kuala Lumpur with 239 people on March 8, 2014, but dropped off radar screens shortly after and never made it to Beijing, its destination. Investigators say someone deliberately shut down the plane's communications system and took the plane off course.

The jet is believed to have plunged into a remote part of the southern Indian Ocean based on satellite data, but a massive underwater search was fruitless. No wreckage or bodies have ever been found except for some fragments that washed ashore on the eastern African coast and Indian Ocean islands.

AP PHOTO



Grace Subathirai Nathan, showing a picture of her mother on her cellphone during an interview with The Associated Press in Kuala Lumpur

Families of those on board, many from China, have found different ways to cope with the grief over the years, but one thing is constant — their mission for justice and answers. The pain continues to torment some families in China, who are skeptical of theories of the plane's fate and hang on to hope that their loved ones may one day return.

Like Grace, Chinese farmer Li Eryou also has not held a funeral or memorial service for his only son.

He has a board at home on which he counts each passing day since MH370 disappeared. Li Yanlin, 27, had a promising career as an engineer with a Chinese telecommunications company that was cut short by the tragedy.

The pain comes easily, triggered by a sound, an object, even a flower, Li said.

"All these years I've been drifting along in life like a ghost," Li said in an interview in China's Handan city. "When I meet my friends and relatives, I have to put on a smile. At night, I can become true to myself. When all is quiet in the dead of night, I weep without people knowing."

Li recently moved to stay with his daughter due to poor health. At his former residence, newspaper clippings of the mis-

sing aircraft that have yellowed with age still hang on the wall and his son's room is kept largely untouched.

"I believe my son is still on the flight, that he's still around. Or he is living on a remote island like Robinson Crusoe," Li said, in a reference to his son's favorite book.

Li and his wife seldom travel but have made multiple trips to Malaysia to seek answers and to Madagascar, where parts of the aircraft have washed up on beaches. The lack of answers merely deepens their agony.

They are among about 40 Chinese families that have rejected a small compensation

payment from the airline. They have sued five entities including Malaysia Airlines, Boeing and aircraft engine maker Rolls-Royce, seeking larger compensation and answers to who should be held accountable. Court hearings started in Beijing in November and a verdict could take months.

On the 100th day after the flight vanished, Li penned his first poem expressing his longing for his son. Since then, he has written about 2,000 that have helped him cope with the grief.

"We shouted to the Earth: Malaysia Airlines 370. The Earth roars, it is silent and does not go away. It's not here, not here.

Don't you see the heavy backpack on my son's shoulders? Drops of sweat from hard work shine on his forehead," says one verse. "We appeal 10,000 times, restart the search."

"I wrote down my feelings. The only reason I could survive all these years is because of these words," Li said.

There is now new hope for closure. During a 10-year remembrance event in Kuala Lumpur last Sunday, Malaysia's government said it will consider a proposal for a new search by U.S. marine robotics firm Ocean Infinity, which conducted a "no find, no fee" hunt in 2018. It is unclear whether Ocean Infinity has new data to pinpoint the location of the plane.

"Once we know what happened, only then can a true form of healing begin ... until those questions are answered, no matter how much you try to move on or how much you try to close that chapter, it will never go away," Grace said.

Her mother was originally not meant to be on the flight. She was due to fly a week earlier but delayed her trip to care for Grace's ailing grandmother, who died months after the plane's disappearance.

"MH370 extends far beyond our need for closure and I just want everybody to know that MH370 is not history. It's the future of aviation safety because until we find MH370, we cannot prevent something like this from happening again," Grace said.

Jacquita Gomes, whose husband Patrick was an in-flight supervisor on the plane, said 126 books have been written and numerous documentaries have been made about MH370, but much of that has been speculation with no real answers.

"We keep the memories of him alive and constantly talk about him. He might be gone but not forgotten and never will be, so we urge for the search to go on," she said. "We need to make sure that flights are safe again. ... Let's not forget all those on board." **MDT/AP**

AP PHOTO



Chinese farmer Li Eryou flips through old newspaper articles on the missing flight MH370 at a village in Hebei province

AP PHOTO



Fidan Ataselim, general secretary of We Will Stop Femicides Platform or WWSF, walks on the street following an interview with AP in Istanbul

WOMEN'S DAY

Turkey struggles to stop violence against women

AYSE WIETING & SUZAN FRASER, ISTANBUL

MUHTEREM Evcil was stabbed to death by her estranged husband at her workplace in Istanbul, where he had repeatedly harassed her in breach of a restraining order. The day before, authorities detained him for violating the order but let him go free after questioning.

More than a decade later, her sister believes Evcil would still be alive if authorities had enforced laws on protecting women and jailed him.

"As long as justice is not served and men are always put on the forefront, women in this country will always cry," Cigdem Kuzey said.

Evcil's murder in 2013 became a rallying call for greater protection for women in Turkey, but activists say the country has made little progress in keeping women from being killed. They say laws to safeguard women are not sufficiently enforced and abusers are not prosecuted.

At least 403 women were killed in Turkey last year, most of them by current or former spouses and other men close to them, according to the We Will Stop Femicides Platform, a group that tracks gender-related killings and provides support to victims of violence.

So far this year 71 women have been killed in Turkey,

including seven on Feb. 27 — the highest known number of such killings there on a single day.

The WWSF secretary general, Fidan Ataselim, attributed the killings to deeply patriarchal traditions in the majority Muslim country and to a greater number of women wishing to leave troubled relationships. Others want to work outside the home.

"Women in Turkey want to live more freely and more equally. Women have changed and progressed a lot in a positive sense," Ataselim said. "Men cannot accept this, and they are violently trying to suppress the progress of women."

Turkey was the first country to sign and ratify a European treaty on preventing violence against women — known as the Istanbul Convention — in 2011. But President Recep Tayyip Erdogan withdrew Turkey from it 10 years later, sparking protests.

The president's decision came after pressure from Islamic groups and some officials from Erdogan's Islam-oriented party. They argued that the treaty was inconsistent with conservative values, eroded the traditional family unit and encouraged divorce.

Erdogan has said he believes that men and women were not biologically created as equals and that a woman's priority should be her family and motherhood.

The president insists that Turkey does not need the Istanbul Convention, and has vowed to "constantly raise the bar" in preventing violence against women. Last year, his government strengthened legislation by making persistent stalking a crime punishable by up to two years in prison.

Mahinur Ozdemir Goktas, the minister for family affairs, says she has made protecting women a priority and personally follows trials.

"Even if the victims have given up on their complaints, we continue to follow them," she said. "Every case is one too many for us."

Ataselim said the Istanbul Convention was an additional layer of protection for women and is pressing for a return to the treaty. Her group is also calling for the establishment of a telephone hotline for women facing violence and for the opening of more women's shelters, saying the current number is far from meeting demand.

Most of all, existing measures should be adequately enforced, Ataselim said.

Activists allege that courts are lenient toward male abusers who claim they were provoked, express remorse or show good behavior during trials. Activists say restraining orders are often too short and those who violate them are not detained, putting women at risk.

"We believe that each of the femicide cases were preventable deaths," Ataselim said.

Each year, women's activists in Turkey take to the streets on International Women's Day on March 8 and on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women on Nov. 25, demanding greater protection for women and Turkey's return to the treaty.

Turkish authorities regularly ban such rallies on security and public order grounds.

Demonstrators often carry signs that read: "I don't want to die" -- the last words uttered by Emine Bulut, who died in a cafe in Kirikkale in central Turkey after her husband slit her throat in front of her 10-year-old daughter. Her death in 2019 shocked the nation.

Evcil, killed in a salon where she worked as a manicurist, suffered physical and mental abuse after eloping at 18 to marry her husband, who is currently serving a life sentence in prison, her sister Kuzey said. Evcil decided to leave him after 13 years of marriage.

Kuzey described her sister as a kind woman who "smiled even when she was crying inside."

Authorities have named a park in Istanbul in Evcil's memory.

"My hope is that our daughters don't experience what we have experienced and justice comes to this country," Kuzey said. MDT/AP

this day in history

1971 POST STRIKE ENDS WITH PAY DEAL



British postal workers have gone back to work today after seven weeks on strike.

The 200,000 postmen and women voted by 14-1 yesterday in favour of a deal hammered out after more than 13 hours of talks at the Department of Employment on Friday.

They had been demanding a 13% pay rise — but they have settled for a complex package which will award them wage increases after an inquiry into the efficiency of Post Office staff and management.

Strikers are disappointed because they are being asked to return to work without even the 8% rise offered when the walk-out began on 20 January.

The strike has cost the average postal worker about £150 in lost earnings over the seven weeks. It has cost the Post Office an estimated £25m in lost revenue.

Post union general secretary Tom Jackson had urged his members to return to work saying it would be unable to make any more "hardship payments" to the 30-40,000 members who had no income at all.

At a rally in Hyde Park on Friday, Mr Jackson was jeered when he announced the terms of the deal. Members called "Sell out" and "Hey, hey, Tommy J, how about our £3 pay?"

Under the terms of the deal, the outcome of an agreed independent investigation would be binding on the Post Office and the union.

Mr Jackson hopes any pay increase will be backdated to January.

But the deal represents a defeat for Mr Jackson who had set his face against arbitration.

He said: "If we had had more money, the strike would have gone on. Facing the reality, this is the best way out of a bad position."

Postal services have resumed today but it is expected to take some time before the backlog is cleared.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT





The Post union submitted a claim for a minimum £3 a week rise or 15-20% on 30 October 1970. If implemented, it was estimated it would have cost the Post Office £50m.

Management made an offer of 8% on 14 January. Members walked out on 20 January at the beginning of the first national post strike. Some post offices opened for a few hours each week to allow pensions and other benefits to be paid.

By the time the deal was announced on 4 March, the workers had reduced their claim to 13% while the management offer was increased to 9% with conditions attached. Decimal currency was introduced on 15 February, so when postal services resumed the minimum rate for first-class was set at 3p (equivalent to 7.2d) compared with 5d prior to the strike.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

 ARIES Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Share support in community to solve a common challenge. Friends are a big help. Take new territory, when possible. Diplomacy works.	 TAURUS Apr. 20-May. 20 Slow to assess conditions. Professional changes require adaptation. Another wants action. It's OK to hold onto what you have. Set a juicy goal.
 GEMINI May. 21-Jun. 21 Dream big. An exploration leads in unexpected directions. Adapt around obstacles or traffic. Determine your parameters. Research reveals treasures.	 CANCER Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Together you can navigate uncharted waters. Slow to consider alternate options. Find clever efficiencies. Contribute to grow your family's prosperity.
 LEO Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Make long-term plans together. You can see the limitations, obstacles and barriers. Take heart. Advance anyway. Support each other. Love finds a way.	 VIRGO Aug. 23-Sep. 22 You're energized but the road may not be clear. Slow to check conditions. Avoid risky situations. Carry a first aid kit. Enjoy natural beauty.
 LIBRA Sep. 23-Oct. 22 Creativity flowers. Romantic ideas develop into something wonderful. Don't get attached to the results you think you want. What you get might be better.	 SCORPIO Oct. 23-Nov. 21 Physical action gets results at home. Domestic projects provide satisfying results. Consider multiple options. Prepare to change direction as situations demand.
 SAGITTARIUS Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Write your story. Your unique view can be helpful for others. Practice tact and diplomacy with a controversy. Illuminate dark corners.	 CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You can win a lucrative prize despite challenges. Assess and monitor conditions. Keep an ace up your sleeve. Prepare carefully. Rely on backup plans.
 AQUARIUS Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Carve out special time for yourself. Savor personal rituals to process recent changes. Adapt thoughts for a new reality. Imagine the perfect outfit.	 PISCES Feb. 19-Mar. 20 Reassess how plans are going. Avoid noise, crowds or chaos. Adapt schedules to finish what you promised. Guard time to rest and recharge.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

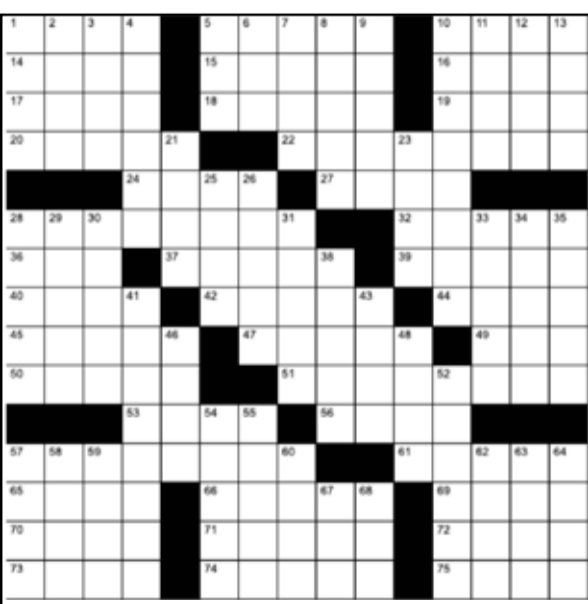
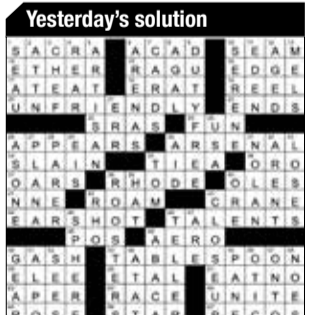
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	-1	11	fine
Changchun	-7	-2	cloudy
Chengdu	8	13	rain
Chongqing	11	16	overcast
Fuzhou	8	17	cloudy
Guangzhou	13	19	overcast
Guiyang	6	13	overcast
Haikou	17	19	rain
Hangzhou	4	12	cloudy
Harbin	-11	-3	cloudy
Hefei	0	13	cloudy
Nanjing	2	12	cloudy
Shanghai	4	13	fine
Taipei	12	15	cloudy
Wuhan	1	16	cloudy
Hong Kong	17	19	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	-7	2	cloudy
Frankfurt	1	11	fine
Paris	7	13	cloudy
London	7	9	fine
New York	5	12	overcast

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- "The Thin Man" dog; 5- From head ___; 10- Cotton seed pod; 14- Afternoon affairs; 15- Join forces; 16- Suffix with buck; 17- Cupid, to the Greeks; 18- University of Florida player; 19- Volunteer's words; 20- Curved letters; 22- An amorous glance; 24- Balkan native; 27- Appear; 28- Cocks; 32- Slender gulls; 36- Shade provider; 37- Port-au-Prince is its capital; 39- Snob; 40- Dog-powered snow vehicle; 42- ___ Gras; 44- Orchestral heavyweight; 45- Large cat; 47- Bluffer's ploy; 49- Jiff; 50- Chairs; 51- Courteously; 53- Cameo shape; 56- Sawbucks; 57- Skinny kid?; 61- Sniggler; 65- "Giant" author Ferber; 66- Actor's parts; 69- Prefix with conference; 70- Prepare a book or film for release; 71- Little ones; 72- Unchanged; 73- Wall St. institution; 74- Designer Simpson; 75- Hydroxyl compound;

DOWN 1- Fit to ___; 2- Sun. speeches; 3- Town near Santa Fe; 4- Evaluate; 5- Pull; 6- ___ whim; 7- Bandleader Puate; 8- Siouan speakers; 9- Uncanny; 10- Process of springing someone from jail; 11- Killer whale; 12- Burden; 13- Isolated; 21- Clockmaker Thomas; 23- Permits; 25- Paper quantity; 26- Wild rose; 28- Takes five; 29- Stan's partner in comedy; 30- Last Greek letter; 31- Leash; 33- Shake awake; 34- Prestigious prize; 35- Actor Keach; 38- Blockhead; 41- Cause to explode; 43- ___ of Man; 46- Invitation request; 48- ___ kleine Nachtmusik; 52- Deadly fly; 54- Main artery; 55- Christopher of "Back to the Future"; 57- I've ___ had!; 58- Whirlpool; 59- Black cuckoos; 60- Actress Sommer; 62- The Tower of Pisa does this; 63- Ticklish doll; 64- Film unit; 67- Long, thin snake-like fish; 68- Opposite of NNW;



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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Tou Un
HKD 2,980,000 1 bed 1 bath



Jade Garden
HKD 11,880,000 4 bed 3 bath

DRIVE IN

'LOVE LIES BLEEDING' IS PEAK KRISTEN STEWART

JAKE COYLE,
MDT/AP FILM WRITER

MMUSCLES ripple, veins pop and electronic music throbs in "Love Lies Bleeding," a heaving, hyper-sexy neo-noir drenched in sweat, blood and bug guts.

If that last one seems a touch less expected, that moment, courtesy of a beetle-chomping Ed Harris, is far from the only off-the-wall provocation in Rose Glass's film, a pulpy, fable-like lesbian crime thriller where bodies, large and small, get ravaged beneath starry desert skies.

Not all of it works. Heavy doses of melodrama and flashy surrealism sap some of the lurid spell of "Love Lies Bleeding." But this feels tantalizingly close to the idealized version of a Kristen Stewart film. Stewart has been one of the most electric stars for years. But "Love Lies Bleeding," in which she plays a cynical gym worker named Lou who falls in love with a body-building drifter, Jackie (Katy O'Brian), gives Stewart a vivid noir sandbox where all of her talent for obsession, desire and rage finds its gnarliest expression yet.

Glass, the British filmmaker

AP PHOTO



Katy O'Brian, left, and Kristen Stewart in a scene from "Love Lies Bleeding" (Anna Kooris/A24)

whose 2019 horror film "Saint Maud" marked an exciting debut, opens "Love Lies Bleeding" on a slightly magical note, gazing at the stars. The camera pans slowly down to a New Mexico warehouse where music thumps and people are flocking to. What sinister nocturnal den could this be? It's momentarily disappointing to learn that it's merely a gym, full of men and women pushing them-

selves to exhaustion with machines and dumbbells. Signs around them blare slogans like "Only Losers Quit."

The urge to make yourself bigger — with weights, drugs, guns, power or, maybe, love — reverberates through "Love Lies Bleeding." More than once, Glass will linger on muscles swelling, almost Hulk-like, though those expansions have nothing on the

immensity Lou and Jackie ultimately find together.

Poisons are also lurking everywhere. To the exercisers, weakness is one. Lou is a smoker but trying to quit. Jackie is hooked on a body-builder fantasy and self-actualization mania. And then there's the malignancy of the local shooting range, where Lou Sr. (Harris) presides over a corrupt gun-dealing empire behind

a desk surrounded by creepy crawlies. The satire of "Love Lies Bleeding" isn't timid. A billboard reads: "Dreams, Next Exit."

The shooting range is where Jackie lands a job, after a transactional encounter with a sleazy, mulleted flunky named JJ (Dave Franco) in his car.

"Love Lies Bleeding" is set in the 1980s, though it feels more out of time. As things spiral in the script by Glass and Weronika Tofiliska, the movie keeps an expansive eye toward the grisly happenings, at times adopting the perspective of Jackie's drugged delirium, like when she escapes to Las Vegas to participate in a body-building contest, or sliding closer to Lou Sr., as he coolly pulls strings.

Neo-noirs made with this degree of style deserve some latitude to go for broke. As the sign says, "Only losers quit."

"Loves Lies Bleeding," an A24 release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association for violence and grisly images, sexual content, nudity, language throughout and drug use.

Running time: 104 minutes.

★★★★★

AD

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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

TASTE OF EDESIA

British-inspired Thai at The Londoner

IRENE SAM, MDT

THAI food lovers who delight in an interesting interior would be thrilled to visit **The Mews**, a refined Thai restaurant led by creative senior chef Nong-nuch “Nuch” Sae-eiw (chef Nuch).

Since June 2023, Chef Nuch has been presenting an experiential tasting menu of authentic flavours from across Thailand. Her culinary philosophy is to uncompromisingly stay true to the cuisine of her homeland, whether that is her version of a well-known dish or one of her own creations, every bite is a true taste of Thailand. Passionate about sourcing key ingredients and seasonal produce, including herbs and spices, Chef works closely with artisanal and organic farms there to ensure a constant supply of premium products.

During her career, Chef Nuch has held senior positions at a number of Michelin rated and award-winning restaurants, including her most recent role prior to joining The Mews as head chef of Lahnyai, owned by Thai celebrity chef Thitid ‘Ton’ Tassanakajohn. Chef

Nuch considers working for Chef Ton during her two-year tenure was a defining moment in her career and considers him a friend and mentor, but at The Mews, she has had the freedom to create her own menus. Currently the restaurant serves two tasting menus, the Seasonal Menu and the Signature Menu. The Signature Menu showcases Chef Nuch’s most ambitious and elevated creations. This includes Sunflower Chicken Tom Kha soup, Grilled Snake River Farms Wagyu Beef with Red Curry Sauce and Chakram Leaves, and Charcoal Grilled Iberian Pork Skewer with Ma-Kwaen Pepper Glaze and Eggplant Relish.

Diners can expect to be taken on a journey across Thailand defined by authentic flavours and a respect for tradition, combined with modern techniques, exquisite plating and a passion for originality. The restaurant is named after London mews, a row or street of houses that were former stables with living quarters above, built behind large houses prior to the era of the motorcar. Guests feel this detailed narrative immediately when stepping into The Mews, which comple-

te with cast iron farrier and forging tools, horseshoes and arched brick ceiling, is a recreation of the stabling and workshop area featuring 18th and 19th century masonry techniques.

The drama continues into the dining rooms, as just like the original use in which a hidden passageway connected the stable and the grand home in front, the main dining area has its own hidden entrance. Guests are invited to find the correct horse-topped riding crop to open the door that leads them into a Thai culinary paradise and the three highly decorative dining rooms.

There is the Elephants’ room featuring an entire room dedicated to hand-carved wooden panels and lanterns complemented by luxurious soft furnishings, the Lantern room decorated with three dimensional tiles and a ceiling filled with soft-hued antique silk lanterns, and the Giants’ room, adorned by hundreds of Thai door knockers offset with plush fabric padded panels.

This combination of genuine Thai cuisine with attention-to-detail interiors will leave guests feeling transported as they discover the restaurant.



BOOK IT

Brooks’ Austen-esque WWII novel has romance, betrayal and a touch of macabre

IN a chance meeting in 1934, Nina hosts a dinner party. She’s 14, trying on womanhood for the first time, and even the drunken foolery of Guy Nicholson and his friend can’t outweigh the growing importance of his gaze. Before she knows it, she’s smitten.

“The Woman in the Sable Coat” primarily takes place in a small village outside of English author Elizabeth Brooks’ native Chester, though reaching as far as Canada. And, recalling elements from her previous three novels, women take the spotlight in family dramas backlit by World War

II with occasional flickers toward thriller or mystery as chapters flip between Guy’s wife, Kate, in the first person, and Nina in the third.

Years after that disaster of a dinner party, when war is declared, Nina follows Guy to the Royal Air Force by joining the Women’s Auxiliary Air Force. It takes a while, but she gets her chance — her leaving behind her widower father and a string of boyfriends claimed by the war; him leaving behind a doomed marriage and a son.

Kate, meanwhile, diverts her worried thoughts away from her

own predicament and toward Nina’s father, Henry, who may know more about the town’s secrets than he lets on.

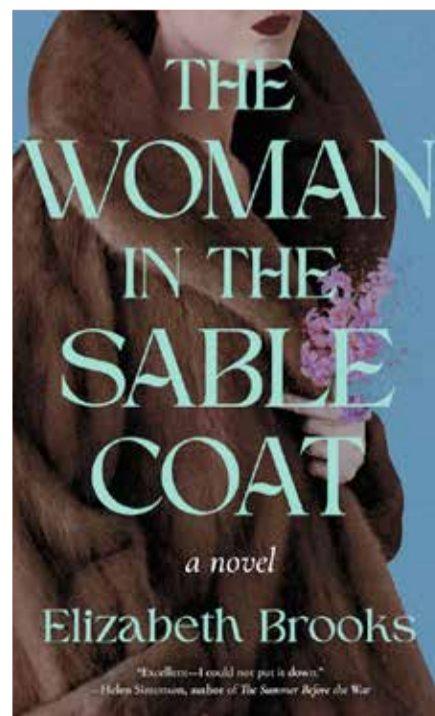
What unfolds next is a surprising series of turns that chip away at murky pasts and half-truths until everything is finally revealed.

“The Woman in the Sable Coat,” while full of rewarding surprises, is truly made by Brooks’ voice, in which every word has value and helps shape the exact texture of the moment.

Viewing a slice of the world through Nina’s and Kate’s eyes, it’s surprisingly easy to get swept

up into the story. It’s an exceptionally vivid picture, both of scenery and the inner workings of the characters’ minds. Emotions and motives are painted with rich colors that draw your eye to the most delicious details, when they matter, like an updated and more approachable Jane Austen.

A story of betrayal and unlikely friendships filled with reflective tidbits of wisdom, the novel blends WWII fiction with idyllic romance drama and a touch of macabre thriller for a polished addition to Brooks’ works. **DONNA EDWARDS, MDT/AP**



“The Woman in the Sable Coat” by Elizabeth Brooks (Tin House Books)

OPINION

China Daily
Editorial, China Daily

US LAWMAKERS KNOW
DRILL AHEAD OF ELECTION

The measure in the US funding legislation unveiled by congressional leaders on Sunday, which seeks to block China from buying oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve of the United States, is more symbolic than of practical meaning.

The issue of SPR oil sales to China actually heated up after US President Joe Biden announced a sale of 180 million barrels of SPR oil in 2022 to tame gasoline prices. Despite only 1 million barrels of that being sold, not to China, but to UNIPEC America, a Houston-based arm of China's Sinopec, whose business territory mainly covers the United States, Canada and other countries in the Americas, it sparked petulant outbursts from some US lawmakers.

Considering that China imported 563.99 million metric tonnes of oil last year, equivalent to an average of 11.28 million barrels per day. Even if the 1 million barrels of SPR oil had gone to China it would have been no more than a drop in the bucket. But as said, most of it went to the US and neighboring markets.

The China-bashing lawmakers also didn't bother to mention that the US government was forced to release the SPR oil to tame soaring inflation and high oil prices in the US at that time, which were attributable to the Ukraine crisis that it has orchestrated, as well as the US' sanctions on Russian oil.

The SPR currently holds more than 360 million barrels of oil, which is close to a 40-year low. That is not caused by China's buying, but the sales launched by the Biden administration in 2022 in a bid to dispel public anger over rising prices.

What the US lawmakers also didn't mention was that the oil and energy price in Europe at that time was much higher than that in the US, and the US oil and natural gas companies had taken full advantage of the US-made price gap to make huge and easy profits from the European countries.

The Democratic-controlled Senate actually passed a similar bill last July, 85 to 14, to ban exports to China of SPR oil. But as Senator Chris Murphy, a Democrat, pointed out at the time, it created the illusion of solving a problem while having very little political impact and likely doing more harm than good, as it is not China but the US oil companies dealing with China that will suffer from such a move.

China's largest source of oil imports is the Middle East. And almost all major oil producing countries, including the US, which sold 83 million barrels of oil to China in 2022, have maintained steady oil trade relations with China, the world's largest oil importer. Such diversified oil sources play a crucial role in ensuring the stability of the energy supply chains for China.

That the US lawmakers chose to pour the old wine into a new bottle regarding the small SPR oil trade with UNIPEC America is only political posturing ahead of the upcoming presidential election in November. As has become evident, the desire to take a hard line on China is one of the few truly bipartisan sentiments in the deeply divided US Congress. That means the US House of Representatives will very likely pass the bill in its vote on it, paving the way for the package to head to the Senate before Friday.

As Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin pointed out when commenting on the issue, relevant US politicians should abandon their Cold War zero-sum mentality and ideological prejudice, view China and Sino-US relations correctly, and do more things that are conducive to enhancing mutual trust and cooperation between China and the US, rather than the opposite.

TRUMP CHALLENGES BIDEN TO DEBATES
'ANYTIME' AFTER SUPER TUESDAY WINS

THE
BUZZ

Donald Trump has challenged Joe Biden to TV debates, as the rivals hurtle towards a White House rematch following their sweep of the Super Tuesday votes, BBC reports.

The Republican said he would take part in a TV forum with the Democratic president "anytime, anywhere, anyplace" posting online in all capital letters.

Biden's campaign said Trump was "thirsty for attention and struggling to expand his appeal".

No debates have so far been agreed ahead of November's election.

Trump's challenge came hours after his last Republican rival, Nikki Haley, dropped out of the race to be the Republican nominee for the White House.



AP PHOTO



MONDAY MORNING

OSCARS PRODUCERS
PROMISE CAMEOS AND
SURPRISES FOR SHOW

LINDSEY BAHR,
LOS ANGELES

WITH just a few days to go until the 96th Academy Awards on Sunday (Monday morning, Macau time), the show's producers are feeling good about what they've put together.

The nominees are some of the best the Oscars have seen, including some true blockbusters like "Oppenheimer" and "Barbie." Ryan Gosling is singing "I'm Just Ken" during the show. There will be a live orchestra in the theater. And the ever-reliable Jimmy Kimmel is back to host the proceedings for the fourth time.

"We're really excited about this year," said Molly McNearney, who is executive producing the show for the fourth time. "It's a phenomenal year of movies. And we have great movies that the home audience is familiar with, which makes our jobs easier."

The producers were hired earlier than usual, meaning they've had more time to plan and study past Oscars broadcasts to try to home in on what works and what doesn't. One thing they've learned is that if the room is laughing, the au-

dience at home is usually laughing too.

McNearney, who is married to Kimmel, said that they're focusing on jokes over big, highly produced comedy bits. Kimmel will do his 10-minute monologue to kick off the show and will be sprinkled throughout.

"I think an evening that just makes people feel good is a win," McNearney said. "Our job as producers is to keep that feeling good moving quickly because it is a long show and we want to make sure people are staying throughout."

Another thing that works: When the speeches are good and people feel invested in the winners. Last year there were a lot of great comeback and underdog stories, from Brendan Fraser to Ke Huy Quan, which helped. This is not something the producers have any control over, but they are optimistic about the nominees and setting up scenarios with presenters who have a genuine connection either with each other or people in the audience.

"We want everybody to feel included, that they are part of our story," said executive producer and

showrunner Raj Kapoor. "I hope that we have put another kind of modern take on it that really focuses on storytelling and connection and that the audience in the theater and at home will just feel immersed in the experience all throughout the evening."

Kapoor noted that the live performances of the Oscar-nominated original songs should be a real highlight of the show too, from the Osage singers to Gosling. They've also re-designed the stage so that an orchestra of 42 musicians can be in the Dolby Theatre and seen on camera. And Kapoor teased that the In Memoriam sequence is something they've put a lot of time and thought into and that it is poised to tug at audience heartstrings.

"There's going to be entertainment and lots of surprises and a few cameos and things that haven't been announced yet. We're just really excited for everybody to come watch with us," Katy Mullan said. The 96th Oscars will be broadcast live on ABC from the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles on March 10 with the pre-show beginning at 6:30 p.m. EDT (Monday, 6:60 a.m., Macau time) MDT/AP

AP PHOTO



Russia It's not just opposition politicians who are targeted in the crackdown by Russian President Vladimir Putin's government in recent years. Also falling victim are independent voices as well as those who don't conform to what the state sees as the country's "traditional values." Russia's once-thriving free press after the collapse of the Soviet Union has been largely reduced to either state-controlled media or independent journalists operating from abroad, with few critical outlets still working in the country. Prominent rights groups have been outlawed or classified as agents of foreigners. Lawyers who represented dissidents have been prosecuted. LGBTQ+ activists have been labeled "extremists."

AP PHOTO



Poland saw its most violent protest by farmers and supporters yet yesterday as some participants threw stones at police and tried to push through barriers around parliament, injuring several officers, police said. Police used tear gas and said they detained over a dozen people and prevented the protesters from getting through to the Sejm, the Polish parliament. Farmers are angry over European Union climate policies and food imports from Ukraine that they say threaten their livelihoods.

AP PHOTO



Germany Millions of travelers were affected by strikes again yesterday after two unions called for two-day walkouts over wages and work conditions. Around 80% of all long-distance trains as well as regional and commuter trains in the country were canceled as train drivers went on strike. Air travel was affected as well, as ground staff for German airline Lufthansa stopped working early in the morning.