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“THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’”

FEMALE STUDENT ALLEGEDLY VICTIM OF SEXUAL ASSAULT; SUSPECTED ATTACKER HAS HISTORY OF SIMILAR CRIMES, POLICE SAY

P3

SSM OBSERVES CONSISTENT RATE OF STROKE CASES AMONG MIDDLE-AGED, YOUNGER PEOPLE

P4

MACAU SELECTED AS 'CULTURE CITY OF EAST ASIA 2025'

P6



Hong Kong police yesterday detained a performance artist on the eve of the 35th anniversary of China's Tiananmen Square crackdown, signaling the city's shrinking freedom of expression, critics say. Police took away Sanmu Chen in Causeway Bay, near a park that used to host annual vigils for the 1989 crackdown victims. The vigil has disappeared under a national security law decree in 2020.

AP PHOTO



South Korea announced yesterday it'll suspend a rapprochement deal with North Korea to punish it over its launches of trash-carrying balloons. North Korea flew hundreds of balloons dropping trash and manure on South Korea, reacting to previous South Korean leafleting campaigns. South Korea's presidential national security council decided to suspend a 2018 inter-Korean agreement, allowing the resumption of military drills near the border and propaganda broadcasts.

AP PHOTO



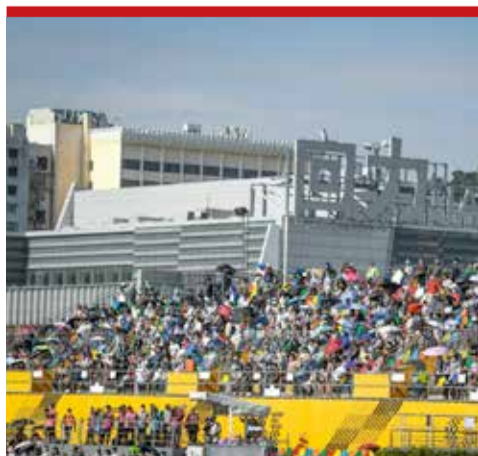
Pakistan Gunmen fatally shot a police officer assigned to protect polio workers in Pakistan's northwest, an official said yesterday. The attack occurred in Lakki Marwat district, and one attacker was also killed. No group claimed responsibility. Anti-polio campaigns in Pakistan often face violence from militants. A five-day anti-polio campaign began Monday in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, targeting vaccination for 3.28 million children under age 5, with 26,000 police protecting the teams.

More on backpage



STRUGGLING WITH THE STORM

Heavy rains and flooding prompt calls to improve drainage infrastructure as schools close P3



SPORTS BUREAU GRAND PRIX APPEAL 'REMAINS DESPITE RACE CHANGE'

P5

GAMING LVS, GENTING TO INVEST OVER USD7 BILLION IN SINGAPORE

P7



POLITICS

UK AND US ELECTIONS: TWO VERY DIFFERENT SYSTEMS UNITED BY A COMMON POLITICAL LANGUAGE

GARRET MARTIN

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL
SERVICE

VOTERS in the United Kingdom on May 22 learned the date they would be joining the many, many people casting ballots around the world in 2024.

In a surprise move, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak announced a snap election to be held on July 4 – six months earlier than many had expected. An early election is certainly a major gamble for the prime minister but one he felt was worth taking. With the ruling Conservative Party more than 20 percentage points behind opposition Labour in the latest polls, Sunak faces an uphill battle to stay in office.

The Labour Party, led by Keir Starmer, is heavily favored to return to power for the first time since 2010.

To a U.S. audience, many of the top issues in the election campaign will sound familiar: the economy, immigration, health care, Ukraine and Gaza. The choice of date, too, may ring a bell – and political soothsayers are already trying to read into what it means for the U.K. election to fall on Independence Day.

But as to the campaign itself – well, they do things a bit different on the other side of the pond. While Americans may be used to set terms and lengthy campaigns filled with endless advertising, in the U.K. such things are, to use a

Britishism, “just not cricket.” Here are three main ways in which the British conduct their elections.

1. ELECTION TIMELINE

U.S. elections follow a predictable schedule. In 1845, Congress passed a law establishing a single day for federal elections to take place on “the Tuesday next after the first Monday in November.” Further, presidents are elected for a fixed four-year term, making the dates for upcoming votes knowable for the foreseeable future.

That isn't the case in the United Kingdom. By convention, elections have been held on a Thursday since 1935. But the month of the vote has varied considerably. For the most part, they take place in late spring or early summer – but fall and winter elections are not unheard of.

The U.K. Parliament does have a fixed term of five years, with elections automatically scheduled once that time has lapsed. In practice, however, parliaments have rarely gone the full five years.

Indeed, prime ministers in the United Kingdom have the authority to request the dissolution of Parliament at any time. They can do so without the approval of the cabinet, and so prime ministers have taken liberal advantage of their ability to control the timing of the election to try and gain an advantage.

Many thought that Sunak may have been eyeing an election later in the year, but a number of factors, including economic forecasts and not wanting the dis-

traction of a U.S. election, may have factored in to him calling an earlier-than-expected vote.

2. CAMPAIGN RULES

Besides the shifting timing, the nature and rules of the campaign are also very different in the United Kingdom. This starts with the sheer brevity of the campaign. Once Parliament is dissolved, the election must take place 25 working days later. This means the parties have a mere six weeks to make their case to the public.

And unlike in a presidential system, voters in the United Kingdom do not cast a ballot for the person they want to see lead the country. Instead, the U.K. is divided into 650 distinct constituencies; voters pick their preferred candidate to represent their local constituency in Parliament. The party with the most seats typically wins the election, and the leader of that party has the opportunity to become prime minister and govern as a single-party government or as part of a coalition.

U.K. election campaigns are also subject to strict rules to maintain neutrality. Once the campaign starts, the period of “*purdah*” kicks in, which imposes certain restrictions on government activities. This involves, for instance, strict prohibitions on government ministers announcing new initiatives to affect the election or using public funds for political purposes.

In the same manner, civil servants – employees of the crown

who work for the government but are not political appointees – are required to maintain strict impartiality and not become involved in partisan debates.

Moreover, the Office of Communications, the United Kingdom's independent media regulatory authority, also enforces strict rules for broadcast media, including television and radio. The 2003 Communications Act requires that all broadcast media must cover the elections in an impartial manner, providing coverage of all parties, even if they do not assign equal time.

Broadcast media is also not allowed, on polling day, to suggest the outcome of the vote before polls are closed.

In a huge departure from the U.S., U.K. political parties are banned from buying television ads, but this rule does not apply to streaming television.

3. THE ROLE OF MONEY

The limited role of money is another distinct feature in U.K. elections. Even factoring in the different population sizes, U.K. elections are significantly cheaper than their counterparts in the United States.

Indeed, total campaign spending in the 2020 U.S. elections, covering presidential and congressional races, hit more than US\$14 billion. That scale completely dwarfs how much parties and candidates will be able to spend in the 2024 United Kingdom election.

Through regulations estab-

lished by the Electoral Commission, an independent government agency, a British party that competes in all constituencies in the United Kingdom will be allowed to spend just over £34 million (around \$43 million) in total to support all candidates.

That figure in itself marks an 80% increase from the allowance at the last election in 2019, so to factor for inflation since limits were set in 2000.

Individual candidates can spend funds to support their campaign. But the amount, defined partly by the size of the constituency, is low and in the scale of tens of thousands of pounds. This is again a far cry from some of the more expensive congressional races in the United States, where even primary elections could attract close to \$30 million in spending.

CHALLENGING TIMES AHEAD

As a result, both Sunak and Starmer will have only a short time – and limited funds – to make their case to voters. Whoever wins will face a very challenging situation at home and abroad, with little to no respite. According to the think tank Institute for Fiscal Studies, the state of public finances is “a dark cloud that hangs over the election.” And then there is the delicate matter of maintaining a special relationship with the U.S. – a country that may itself have a very different political landscape after it goes to the polls later in the year.

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Rainstorm causes school closures and flooding

NADIA SHAW

A rainstorm hit Macau yesterday, prompting the suspension of classes for secondary, primary, infant, and special education schools in the afternoon. Residents and visitors were advised to prepare for the rainstorm by wearing waterproof gear and delaying outdoor

activities until the weather improved.

The heavy rain and thunderstorms were due to an eastward airflow, leading to a yellow rainstorm warning at 8:25 a.m., upgraded to red from 9 a.m. to 12 a.m. During this time, Macau saw significant rainfall, with flooding in low-lying areas.

Rainfall peaked at 65mm on the Macau Peninsula, a

new record for the city. Tai-pa recorded 39.2mm, and 41.8mm in Coloane. The highest water level reached 26cm in Mercado De S. Lourenço.

All rainstorm warnings were lifted just before 1p.m., but the public was urged to stay informed and take precautions. More rain was seen in the afternoon, with nearly 100mm of rainfall recorded

by 3 p.m.

The weather bureau noted that a wide cloud band is currently affecting the South China coast, with thunderstorms impacting the Guangdong coast. It is forecast that a low-pressure trough will influence the region later in the week, leading to increased cloud cover and rain, with several thunderstorms expected.

Heavy rains and flooding prompt calls to improve drainage infrastructure

STAFF REPORTER

FLOODING in low-lying parts of Macau during heavy rains recently has renewed calls for officials to bolster the city's drainage network and coordinate emergency response plans across departments.

Leong Hong Sai, head of the Macau Geotechnical Engineering Department (LECM), said rainwater had overflowed into Av. de Horta e Costa and other low-lying areas due to the sudden influx that exceeded canal capacity.

As cited in a TDM report, he recommended rerouting upstream flows to alleviate choke points. Improving the pumping station and sewer projects under

construction in the inner harbor could also help regionally, according to Leong.

Leong Chong In of the Municipal Affairs Bureau's advisory panel added that high tides can backlog canals and wells when combined with heavy downpours. Various district renovation projects are ongoing as well, which may impact surrounding drainage systems, he noted.

With typhoon season approaching amid lengthy construction timelines, Leong urged timely dredging, restaurant discharge inspections, and cross-departmental emergency plans be implemented to coordinate the response.

Strong storms last month highlighted



the need for Macau's drainage network to keep pace with weather extremes. Officials now face calls to reinforce aging systems and bolster emergency coordination to minimize future flooding risks.

As heavy rains caused flooding in parts

of Macau earlier last month, some residents were calling on officials to evaluate the drainage capacity of the city's infrastructure and strengthen maintenance efforts. Water leaked from the ceiling of the Border Gate underground bus terminal as drain-

nage lines at the nearby border checkpoint backed up during downpours. However, experts believe Macau should review drainage systems in each district to prepare for increasingly frequent severe weather, and implement response plans.

CRIME

MAN ARRESTED OVER BLACKMAIL AND RAPE OF LOCAL FEMALE STUDENT

HOWARD TONG

A local female student is suspected of being a victim of sexual assault. Her attacker is suspected to be a mainland man with a history of sexual assault crimes.

In a press announcement yesterday, the Judiciary Police (PJ) said that they have teamed up with their mainland counterparts in Dongguan to investigate the suspected rape case involving the middle school student.

They have arrested the 31-year-old man who is accused of posing as multiple online personas to trick the female student into sending nude photos to him, then using those photos to extort about RMB8,000 from her.

He is also suspected of coercing the student to meet him at hotels in Zhuhai three times between April 18 and May 20, where he allegedly sexually assaulted her.

After learning of the incident, the authorities immediately coordinated with the school and counseling agencies to reach out and provide support to the students and parents involved. The victim is currently reported to be emotionally stable and continues to receive guidance and care from the school and counseling services.

The victim's parents reported the incident to the police, leading to the arrest of the mainland suspect in Dongguan. The Macau police are in further communication with their mainland counterparts, including the potential extradition of the suspect to Macau for prosecution.

The Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ) has expressed deep concern over the sexual assault case and has called on parents to be more attentive to their children's daily social activities, money usage, and emotional well-being. They urge parents to take the initiative in caring for their children if they notice any abnormalities.

The bureau also reminds students to be cautious when making friends, to handle personal information carefully, and to be wary of blindly trusting online contacts. Students are encouraged to telephone to the Educational Psychological Counseling and Special Education Center on 2840 1010 if they need help.



HEALTH

SSM OBSERVES CONSISTENT RATE OF STROKE CASES AMONG MIDDLE-AGED AND YOUNGER PEOPLE

STAFF REPORTER

DATA from the Health Bureau (SSM) shows that stroke patients span all age groups, with common risk factors among middle-aged and elderly individuals, including chronic conditions like hyperlipidemia, hypertension, diabetes, and obesity.

In response to an interpellation from lawmaker Leong Sun Iok, director of Health Bureau Alvis Lo further remarked that children and adolescents, the main causes are often congenital abnormalities and metabolic disorders.

To address modifiable risk factors, Lo said the bureau promotes healthy lifestyles and self-management, starting in schools, families



and communities. Programs like "Healthy Buildings" and "Healthy Restaurants" aim to create a supportive environment through the whole society, bolstering chronic disease awareness.

Since 2016, the Conde S. Januário Hospital (CHCSJ) has operated a green channel and taskforce for acute stroke patients, allowing them to receive

urgent treatments within the critical golden timeframe. The hospital also has rehabilitation beds, and the Health Bureau (SSM) subsidizes non-profit organizations to provide continuing rehabilitation services after hospitalization.

The SSM has gradually increased the number of subsidized rehabilitation beds to over 220, and will refer eligible

patients to relevant institutions. Additionally, Lo said the government is building a 300-bed rehabilitation hospital in the Islands Hospital, which is expected to further meet the demand for rehabilitation services.

Also, Administrative Regulation No. 16/2020 expanded the scope of subsidies for the public medical insurance coverage of residents living in mainland China's Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. Coverage now includes all nine Guangdong cities for a subsidy limit of 1,000 patacas. Starting May 1, the plan was also extended to Hengqin.

Lo said the bureau will further strengthen cross-border medical cooperation in the region.

GBA

Construction of secondary school in Hengqin in full swing

THE construction of the secondary school at the Macau New Neighbourhood (MNN) in Hengqin, is in full swing as of 27 May, the Macau Urban Renewal Limited announced in a press statement.

The secondary school will feature an outdoor sports field, sports hall, canteen, multi-purpose classrooms, car parking area for teaching staff, among others.

Project completion is expected to be in 2026 and will be handed over for operations, completing the basic education facilities that MNN has to offer.

The secondary school has an area of about 20,000 square metres, with a gross floor area of 28,000 square metres. It will be a five-storey building that, under preliminary plans, will have 36 classes with a capacity of about 1,200 pupils.

The MNN project has a plot ratio of 2.17 and a greenery coverage of over 35%.

Decoration works are being carried out at the shops in the neighbourhood, which will gradually open from July. The types of shops range from a supermarket, food and beverage, and retail shops among others. LV

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SPORTS

ID: Grand Prix appeal remains despite race change

STAFF REPORTER

THE allure of the Macau Grand Prix is still evident despite a change in racing categories, according to Macau's sports bureau chief.

"The international events organized by the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) hold significant authority," said Pun Weng Kun, president of the Sports Bureau (ID), on the sidelines of an event yesterday. "For many years, aspiring young drivers have viewed the Guia Circuit in Macau as a platform to advance to higher-level races."

The reassurance comes as Macau prepares to host the FIA Formula Regional World Cup during the 71st Macau Grand Prix in November, replacing the previous FIA For-



mula 3 race.

"The allure of the Macau Grand Prix lies in its event arrangement and the unique circuit, which attracts teams and drivers from around the world," Pun further emphasized.

While some have expressed concerns about the shift to the Formula Regional category, Pun dismissed the notion that it would lower the level of competition. He highlighted that the FIA World Cup is the "most authoritative" event, and many young international

drivers see the Macau Grand Prix as a stepping stone to higher-level racing.

Pun stated that the Macau Guia Race props have a unique charm, and the FIA also values the Macau circuit, arranging various events to be held there based on different eras.

The Formula Regional category, launched in 2018, represents certified regional Formula 3 championships, with five FIA-certified series running globally and approximately 92 drivers competing worldwide.

Four-time Macau winner Hickman wins TT's RST Superbike

RENATO MARQUES

PPETER HICKMAN, one of the most successful racers at the Guia circuit and last year's winner of the Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix, has won the RST Superbike race at the Isle of Man Tourist Trophy (TT) on Sunday afternoon (L.T).



Peter Hickman

The four-time Macau winner has extended his laurels at the TT to claim his 14th win.

The Monster Energy BMW by FHO Racing rider took the lead of the race only on the final lap to win by 5.84 seconds over Davey Todd (Milwaukee BMW). Dean Harrison (Honda Racing) took out third position.

The race was initially led by Michael Dunlop (MasterMac by Hawk/

MD Racing Honda) who had a 25-second advantage until two-thirds of the race distance but, unfortunately, an issue with the side pod on his visor while leaving the pits after his second pit stop forced him to stop on the track to fix the issue, causing him to drop to fourth.

Despite finishing fourth, Dunlop secured a new lap record for the Superbike class with the

fastest lap of the race, at an average speed of 135.970 miles per hour (218.82 kilometers per hour).

After a rest day, the TT will be back on the roads of the island today with two races: the RL360 Superstock TT Race 1, and the Metzeler Supertwin TT Race 1. Both races feature a large number of famous names also from Macau's Road Racing event.

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ELECTRIC SCOOTER FIRE AT ILHA VERDE CAR PARK, TWO OTHER VEHICLES DAMAGED

An electric scooter caught fire in the parking lot of the Ilha Verde neighborhood around midnight last night, the Fire Service Bureau (CB) has reported. According to the preliminary investigation, the CB believes that the fire was caused by a short circuit at the vehicle's charging cable. Although the CB was called to the scene, by the time of their arrival the parking lot security staff had already extinguished the fire. The CB also found that, besides the scooter causing the fire, two vehicles of the same kind, parked immediately next to it also suffered damages.

PROPERTY SALES ON THE RISE

Data from the Finance Services Bureau shows there were 184 residential transactions in the first half of May, 16 more than in the second half of April, an increase of about 9%. The average price per square meter of residential transactions during the period was MOP91,361, up slightly by about 0.4% from the second half of April.

MAN WITH SUSPENDED LICENSE CAUGHT DRUNK DRIVING

A local man in his 30s who crashed his car into a pole was found to be suspected of drunk driving with a suspended license. The incident occurred yesterday about 7 a.m. when the police received a report of a private car stopped in the middle of the road. The police found the driver lying down in the car, asleep in the driver's seat. The front and body of the car displayed fresh damage and green paint, and there were signs of damage on the metal pillars next to the car.

DSPA TO LAUNCH NEW PILOT PROJECT FOR FOOD WASTE COLLECTION AT PRIVATE BUILDINGS

RENATO MARQUES

THE Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPA) is to launch a pilot project aiming to collect food waste from residential buildings, the director of DSPA, Raymond Tam, said to the media on the sidelines of the launching of the festival for the celebration of World Environment Day that took place on Sunday at Praça da Amizade in Central Macau.

Tam told the media that this project will be conducted in phases, with the first phase to involve collecting domestic waste at large residential complexes.

The DSPA director also added that this pilot project is part of the work related to creating an Organic Waste Recovery Center in Macau and also to the opening of the new public housing developments.

Tam added that the construction of the Center will be moving forward before the end of this year.

According to information provided by DSPA, food waste currently represents between 30 to 40% of the total urban solid waste in Macau, representing in 2022 some 5,500 tons, up 6.2% from the previous year.

The collection of food waste in Macau as a pilot project started back in 2012 and involved mostly food and beverage establishments, hotels and social wel-



fare institutions.

Since 2021, the DSPA has extended this program to several supermarkets, public services, schools, banks, and other places, starting also to collect household food waste via the installation of food waste collection points and treatment machines.

Currently, the food waste has only been processed to produce soil fertilizers; the DSPA said that the goal of constructing the Recovery Center is that the facility may produce electricity from biogas, with that biogas generated by the anaerobic digestion of the food waste.

Data disclosed by the DSPA shows that, from 2021 to 2023,

there was a major step in the collection of food waste, with such collection passing from 180.68 tons (2021) to 680.97 tons (2023).

The same data disclosure shows that, in only the first four months of this year, some 256.51 tons of this type of waste has already been collected through the different community programs.

The Organic Waste Recovery Center, budgeted at MOP1.8 billion, should be completed in about three years.

Authorities estimate that when the Center is in full operation it will be able to process around 150 tons of food waste per day.

GOV'T TO REVISE RULES ON SINGLE-USE PLASTIC NEXT YEAR

AT the same event, the director of DSPA, Raymond Tam, also added that the authorities are preparing to produce amendments to the current regulations over single-use plastics in Macau. According to Tam, these rules will be revised next year for the implementation of stricter measures and further restrictions on several kinds of products, such as plastic cutlery, non-biodegradable plastic plates, and cups, as well as disposable Styrofoam food trays.

Macau selected as 'Culture City of East Asia 2025'

STAFF REPORTER

MACAU has been selected as the "Culture City of East Asia 2025," the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) announced yesterday.

In a statement, the government said that it "had actively prepared and promoted its candidacy for the designation." An inter-secretariat working group was responsible for the city's application and preparations. Six finalist cities underwent evaluations, and Macau sent a delegation led by Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Ao Ieong U to make its final presentation in May.

Macau was chosen over the other five candidates to take the top



honor of "Cultural City of East Asia 2025." This adds to Macau's international reputation as a metropolis where East-

ern and Western cultures converge.

As the winner, Macau will use the designation to enhance its role in Chi-

na's "One Belt, One Road" initiative. It will develop activity plans under the theme "Encounter of the East with the West and

Asian harmony." Plans include cultural exhibitions, conferences and showcasing intangible cultural heritage. Macau also aims to leverage the selection to improve cultural infrastructure and promote multicultural exchange.

The Culture City of East Asia program is an art and culture event launched by China, Japan, and South Korea. Each year, the three nations will name one or two cities from each country as the Culture Cities of East Asia to promote cultural exchanges and cooperation.

Titles will be awarded at the 15th Conference of Ministers of Culture of China, Japan and South Korea in September in Japan.



A rendered image of Genting Singapore's planned new hotel in Sentosa

GAMING

LVS, Genting to invest over USD7b in resort expansion plans in Singapore

NADIA SHAW

THE casino industry is closely watching developments in Singapore as the city-state begins

the second phase of its casino resort expansion.

The resorts' development is on the verge of commencing its second phase, as both developments are preparing for sub-

stantial expansions, which hold a collective investment value exceeding USD7.5 billion.

Back in May, Genting Singapore, which operates Resorts World Sentosa, announced that

it will tender construction contracts for the new hotels by September, as reported by Nikkei Asia.

Parent company of Marina Bay Sands, Las Vegas Sands, meanwhile, announced in April that its construction will begin July 2025, with a new 15,000-seat arena and other facilities expected to be completed in July 2029.

Marina Bay Sands has been a financial powerhouse since its 2010 opening, ranking among LVS's most profitable properties.

The resort, Marina Bay Sands - famous for its ship-like rooftop garden spanning three skyscrapers - will add a fourth hotel tower. The expansion in Singapore will include a fourth hotel tower with 1,000 luxury suites, a 15,000-seat entertainment arena, and additional MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions) space, signaling the region's growing importance as a destination for integrated resort development.

The expansion plans in Singapore were approved by the government in 2019; however, the Covid-19 pandemic caused a delay in their implementation.

The investment cost for the expansion rose significantly from the initial amount stated in 2019 - SGD4.5 billion each - due to recent inflation. Genting's investment surged by approximately 50% to SGD6.8 billion.

Sands also mentioned in a fi-

ling this year that they anticipate the total project cost to surpass the previously referenced amounts, attributing it to inflation, higher material and labor costs, and other factors.

Despite pricey investments, both operators are proceeding with their ambitious plans as Singapore becomes increasingly important in their business portfolios. In the first quarter of the year, Singapore accounted for nearly 50% of the Sands' adjusted EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization). Genting's Singapore operations have outperformed those in its home country, Malaysia.

Meanwhile, Singapore's measured approach to gaming, focusing on social responsibility, presents both opportunities and challenges for Macau's gaming giants. While the expansion opens a new market for growth and diversification, it also intensifies regional competition, making it crucial for Macau's gaming industry to adapt and innovate to stay ahead.

Experts have also warned that Macau is experiencing competitive pressure as Thailand, Japan, the UAE, and other countries ride the wave of gaming legalization.

In 2023, Macau's gaming revenue reached MOP180 billion, and the Macau government expects to generate around MOP83.61 billion in gaming tax revenue by the end of 2024.

GAMING

JP Morgan predicts GGR decrease for June following surge in May

MACAUI is on course for an expected gross gaming revenue (GGR) pull-back this month after "a record high mass GGR" in May, analysts at JP Morgan Securities Asia Pacific predicted.

Last month's mass-market gross gaming revenue (GGR) recovered to around 115% of pre-pandemic levels, according to the institution's estimates.

"Not only was it better than the (already elevated) consensus of MOP19.5-20B, the month also saw the best GGR in more than 50 months, as well as the highest mass GGR in Macau's history," said analysts DS Kim, Mufan Shi, and Selina Li, as cited in a GGRA-sia report.

Macau's overall May GGR was nearly MOP20.19 billion, up 8.9% on April's circa MOP18.55 billion,



according to official data. This was the best monthly performance since January 2020, when the city's GGR stood at MOP22.13 billion.

"The continued strength in GGR growth remains clear," said analyst Vitaly Umansky of Seaport Research Partners. However, he cautioned that "base mass recovery remains subdued... offset partially by strong premium mass."

Looking ahead, JP Morgan analysts forecast a pullback in June, predicting monthly GGR to reach MOP18 billion, or MOP600 million per day. Deutsche Bank Securities Inc expects a sequential per day decline of 9.0 percent for the month.

"Weather often plays a role in June results as typhoon season has already begun," noted Umansky.

"Any major weather event in the region could have a negative impact on revenue and visitation during the summer months."

Overall, Macau's second quarter GGR could reach US\$7.07 billion, an increase of 24 percent year-on-year, but still down by 23 percent versus the same period in 2019, according to Deutsche Bank Securities.



TRANSPORT

LRT PASSENGERS DROPPING

THE number of passengers transported by the Light Rapid Transit (LRT) has dropped once again in May this year.

According to a statistic released by the Macao LRT Corporation, the daily passenger average was 11,800, a figure that represents a reduction of 400 passengers per day when compared to the previous month (April).

The figure is also the lowest result of the number of passengers transported this year. Previ-

ously the lowest month had been March with an average of 12,000 passengers per day.

For the first five months of this year, the average number of passengers transported reached a total of 66,700; that is, some 13,340 per month.

When it was projected, the LRT was said to have a total capacity of 8,000 people per hour per direction (pphpd), a capacity that was increased in 2020 to 14,200 pphpd. **RM**

WHAT HAPPENS IN NEVADA

LONGTIME FEDERAL JUDGE LARRY HICKS IN NEVADA HIT AND KILLED BY A VEHICLE NEAR COURTHOUSE IN RENO

SCOTT SONNER, RENO

LARRY HICKS, a federal judge in Nevada for more than 20 years who presided over cases ranging from U.S. environmental disputes to political corruption trials, died after being struck by a vehicle at an intersection near the federal courthouse in Reno, authorities and his family said. He was 80.

Hicks was pronounced dead at a hospital after the crash Wednesday afternoon. Reno police said the driver cooperated with authorities and impairment didn't appear to be a factor.

Hicks was the father of current Washoe County District Attorney Chris Hicks, whose office released a statement on behalf of the Hicks family.

"Judge Larry Hicks was a deeply admired lawyer and judge, a devoted friend, mentor, and a committed servant to the administration of justice," the statement said. "To us, he was first and foremost, a man who put nothing before family. He was a hero in all manners, a loving husband of nearly 59 years, a doting dad, an adoring Papa, and brother."

Hicks' caseload over two decades sampled all slices of Nevada life, from conflicts over water rights, wild horses and gold mines to crooked politicians, casino workers, Las Vegas entertainers and championship boxers.

He was nominated to the U.S. District Court for Nevada in 2001 by Republican President George W. Bush and was sworn

in shortly after the Sept. 11 attacks. He continued to hear cases after assuming senior judge status in 2012.

"He was a pillar of the Reno community — a universally respected District Attorney, partner in private practice, and federal judge," the federal court said in a statement Thursday. "He was a brilliant jurist who personified honesty, wisdom, courtesy, and unimpeachable integrity."

Nevada Gov. Joe Lombardo said the entire state was in mourning over the death of the man with "unmatched professional integrity." Lombardo said in a statement all flags would be lowered to half-staff until sunset Friday.

In one of his highest-profile trials, Hicks sentenced Nevada lobbyist and political power broker Harvey Whittemore to prison for two years in 2013 for making illegal contributions to Democratic U.S. Sen. Harry Reid's campaign in 2007.

Sitting in Las Vegas instead of his usual Reno courtroom, Hicks sentenced three former Clark County commissioners to federal prison in 2006 after a sensational trial in a federal political corruption case, dubbed "Operation G-sting," that stemmed from bribes paid to elected officials by a strip club owner.

Hicks heard dozens of conservationist challenges of federal land management decisions in Nevada, where U.S. government agencies control about four-fifths of the land. He often deferred to U.S. Bureau of Land Management expertise in

approval of controversial mining projects and wild horse roundups, but not always.

Last year, he sided with environmentalists and adopted a U.S. appellate court's strict interpretation of a 150-year-old mining law that blocked a metals mine in Nevada. In 2015, he handed horse advocates a rare victory when he temporarily blocked a federal roundup of hundreds of mustangs.

Among celebrity cases, Hicks ordered rock star Rod Stewart to pay a Las Vegas casino more than \$3 million in 2006 for not returning money he was paid before he canceled a concert in 2000. In 2012, he ordered boxer Floyd Mayweather Jr. to pay about \$114,000 to rival fighter Manny Pacquiao's lawyers in a defamation case.

Perhaps more than any other, the Whittemore case offered both a behind-the-scenes glimpse of the sometimes cozy political and business relationships in a western state like Nevada and the sort of candor and calm demeanor on the bench that won him respect from prosecutors and defense attorneys alike.

He put the trial on hold at one point, telling lawyers on both sides that he was "conditionally recusing" himself for at least a week so they could decide whether they thought he should continue, in light of a variety of past business and family relationships he disclosed during a 40-minute hearing.

Hicks said he had known Whittemore casually probably



U.S. Federal Court Judge Larry Hicks

more than 20 years. The judge said that rather than put any of the lawyers in the "awkward" position of having to make a motion to toss Hicks off the case, his recusal would become permanent if his clerk didn't receive confidential letters from each party indicating they wanted to waive the judge's recusal. Both sides did, and praised Hicks' handling of the matter.

Hicks was born in Evanston,

Illinois; graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno, and the University of Colorado School of Law; and became a prosecutor in Reno in 1968. He was elected as Washoe County district attorney in 1975 and served until 1979, when he joined a prominent Nevada law firm, according to the State Bar of Nevada. He was awarded the association's Presidential Award in 2020. **MDT/AP**

CORPORATE BITS

SJM brings city's best to 'Experience Macao' roadshow in Korea



SJM Resorts, S.A., recently participated in the "Experience Macao roadshow in Korea," themed "My favorite Macao". The roadshow spanned four days, showcasing Macao's unique offerings to Korean travelers, and showcasing

the range of dining experiences, accommodation, activities, and sporting events available in Macao.

Spanning four days, this event kicked off with an industry event on May 29 leading into a vibrant public roadshow that ran

from May 30 to June 2.

The event was launched on May 29 with an industry event, followed by a public showcase at Shinsegae Gangnam Central City. SJM had its extensive portfolio of travel products, including unique dining experiences, accommodation, captivating activities, and thrilling sporting events all on show.

Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes, director of Macao Government Tourism Office, and SJM representatives engaged with key players in the Korean travel industry, discussing targeted travel offerings that align with Macao's vision as a "World Center of Tourism and Leisure."

TIS commemorates new grads



The recent 2024 graduation ceremony of The International School of Macao (TIS) celebrated the graduation of 63 students.

The TIS Class of 2024 achieved outstanding results, with graduates receiving offers from over 600 uni-

versities around the world and over MOP28 million in scholarships. These universities include prestigious institutions like Columbia, Carnegie Mellon University, UCL, University of Toronto, University of Edinburgh, and others.

TIS Head of School Lorne Schmidt praised the graduating class's exceptional accomplishments across academics, athletics, extracurricular activities, and community service. He expressed confidence that the graduates would go on to make valuable contributions to their communities and the world, as cited in the statement.

Notable guests included the head of Department of Students from Education and Youth Development Bureau of Macao SAR (DSEDJ) Chan Lok Wai, the Acting Consul General of Canada in Hong Kong and Macao Mr. Jason Reeve, TIS Board of Governors Dr. KL Tong, and TIS School supervisor Dr. Howard Stribbell.

MEMORY

Overseas communities carry the torch to keep Tiananmen memories alive

KANIS LEUNG & TIAN MACLEOD JI, HONG KONG

As the 35th anniversary of Beijing's Tiananmen Square crackdown neared, Rowena He, a prominent scholar of that chapter of modern China's history, was busy flying between the United States, Britain and Canada to give a series of talks. Each was aimed at speaking out for those who cannot.

The 1989 crackdown, in which government troops opened fire on student-led pro-democracy protesters, resulting in hundreds, if not thousands, dead, remains a taboo subject in mainland China. In Hong Kong, the massive June 4 annual vigil that mourned the victims for decades has vanished, a casualty of the city's clampdown on dissidents following huge anti-government protests in 2019 that started peacefully and became violent at later stages, paralyzing the financial hub.

He was still reeling from the loss of her academic position after Hong Kong authorities last year rejected her visa renewal, widely seen as a sign of the financial hub's decline in intellectual freedom. Despite the exhausting schedule of talks, the former protester in the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou in 1989 viewed this as her duty.

"We cannot light the candles in Hong Kong anymore. So we would light it everywhere, globally," she said.

As Beijing's toughened political stance effectively extinguished any large-scale commemorations within its borders, overseas commemorative events have grown increasingly crucial for preserving memories of Tiananmen. Over the past few years, a growing number of talks, rallies, exhibitions and plays on the subject have emerged in the U.S., Britain, Canada, Aus-



Rowena He poses for a photograph after the play "May 35th," whose title is a roundabout way to refer to June 4, in London

tralia and Taiwan.

These activities foster hope and counteract the aggressive efforts to erase reminders of the crackdown, particularly those seen in Hong Kong. In 2021, the city's police charged three leaders of the group that organized the vigil with subversion under a 2020 sweeping national security law that has all but wiped out public dissent. Later, the group voted to disband. Tiananmen-related statues were also removed from universities.

Last week, under a new, home-grown security law, Hong Kong police arrested seven people on suspicion of alleged sedition over their posting of social media content about commemorating the Tiananmen crackdown. A Christian newspaper, which typically publishes content related to the event ahead of its anniversary, left its front page mostly blank. It said it could only turn words into blank squares and white space to respond to the current situation.

Today, the park that used to hold the vigil will be occupied by a carnival held by pro-Beijing groups.

However, attempts to silen-

ce commemorative efforts have failed to erase the harrowing memories from the minds of a generation of liberal-minded Chinese in the years after tanks rolled into the heart of Beijing to break up weeks of student-led protests that had spread to other cities and were seen as a threat to Communist Party rule.

He, who was 17 years old at the time, recalls that protesters like her took to the streets out of love for their country. When the crackdown happened, she spent the entire night in front of her TV, unable to sleep. After she returned to school, she was required to recite the official narrative — that the government had successfully quelled a riot — in order to pass her exams.

"I never killed anyone. But I lived with that survivor's guilt all those years," she said.

To preserve memories of the event, a museum dedicated to the Tiananmen crackdown opened in New York last June. It features exhibits such as a blood-stained shirt and a tent used by student protesters.

A similar museum operated by

vigil organizers was shuttered in Hong Kong in 2021.

As of early May, its board chair Wang Dan, also a leading former student leader of the Tiananmen protests, estimated the New York museum attracted about 1,000 people, including Chinese immigrants, U.S. citizens and Hong Kongers. To expand its audience, Wang said he plans to organize temporary exhibitions on university campuses in the U.S., and possibly in other countries over the longer term.

He said overseas memorial events are crucial because mainland Chinese and Hong Kongers can see overseas memorial activities online.

Aline Sierp, a professor of European history and memory studies at Maastricht University in the Netherlands, said overseas commemorative activities allow the memories to travel and endure, providing access for other people and future generations.

But she said it can be "a double-edged sword" because adapting the memories to new places might risk fragmenting or de-contextua-

lizing them in the future.

Alison Landsberg, a memory studies scholar at George Mason University in Virginia, said that overseas efforts carry the potential to inspire people from other places who are facing their own challenges in the pursuit of democracy.

To carry the memories forward, film and television dramas can be powerful tools for people to take on memories of events through which they didn't live, she said.

She said overseas theater productions about the crackdown, which began last year in Taiwan and continued in London this year, have a greater possibility of making those connections and potentially reaching a broader audience.

"When you have a dramatic narrative, you have the capacity to bring the viewer into the story in a kind of intimate way," Landsberg said.

Last week, members of an audience at a London theater were visibly moved, some to tears, after watching the play "May 35th," a title that subtly references the June 4 crackdown.

The play, produced by Lit Ming-wai, part of the Hong Kong diaspora who moved to the U.K. after the enactment of the 2020 security law, tells the story of an elderly couple who wish to properly mourn their son who died in 1989.

Its director, Kim Pearce, who was born in the U.K. in the 1980s, said the tragedy had resonated with her from a young age and she was once moved to tears when she read the poem "Tiananmen" by James Fenton. Working on this project, she said, has further deepened her connection to the stories.

British theater-goer Sue Thomas, 64, also found the play deeply moving. "Particularly as a parent myself now, which I wasn't then, which sort of made me think of it in a much more sort of heartfelt way," she said. **MDT/AP**

ESPIONAGE

Beijing accuses two Chinese citizens of being British spies

BEIJING has accused two Chinese citizens of spying for Britain, in the latest test of a relationship that has grown increasingly fraught.

China and the U.K. have clashed over Beijing's clampdown on free speech and open elec-

tions in Hong Kong. In a message on social media yesterday, the Ministry of State Security, China's main intelligence service, said it uncovered a major espionage case involving a couple identified only by their surnames, Wang and Zhou, who were alle-

gedly recruited by Britain's foreign intelligence agency, MI6. It said Wang had gone to Britain as a student in 2015 and was later joined by his wife. It said Wang was given hotel rooms, trips around the country and financial incentives.

It said the couple worked for the Chinese government in a "central state agency" and handled government secrets, which they passed to MI6. No information was given about what specific information the couple may have provided. The

ministry said the case was still under investigation and gave no word on the location of the couple.

There was no immediate comment from Britain.

Last month, Britain said two men would go on trial on suspicion of

collecting sensitive information for Hong Kong authorities. A third suspect, 37-year-old Briton Matthew Trickett, was also charged in the case, but was found dead in a park under what police said were unexplained circumstances. **MDT/AP**

INDIA | EXPLAINER

WORLD'S LARGEST ELECTION COULD ALSO BE ONE OF ITS MOST CONSEQUENTIAL

SHEIKH SAALIQ, NEW DELHI

INDIA has close to 970 million voters among its more than 1.4 billion people, and its general election pits Prime Minister Narendra Modi, an avowed Hindu nationalist, against a broad alliance of opposition parties that are struggling to play catch up.

Now 73, Modi first swept to power in 2014 on promises of economic development, presenting himself as an outsider cracking down on corruption. Since then, he has fused religion with politics in a formula that has attracted wide support from the country's majority Hindu population.

India under Modi is a rising global power, but his rule has also been marked by rising unemployment, attacks by Hindu nationalists against minorities, particularly Muslims, and a shrinking space for dissent and free media.

HOW DOES THE ELECTION WORK?

The final day of voting in the 6-week-long election was Saturday. The vote counting will start today and will be updated throughout the day. The election results will likely be known the same day.

The voters are choosing 543 members for the lower house of Parliament for a five-year term.

Votes were cast at more than a million polling stations. Each of the seven voting phases lasted a single day with several constituencies across multiple states voting that day. The staggered polling allowed the government to transport election officials and voting machines and deploy tens of

AP PHOTO



AP PHOTO
Polling station during the last round of a six-week-long national election in Varanasi, Saturday. Vote-counting starts today

thousands of troops to prevent violence. Candidates crisscrossed the country, poll workers hiked to remote villages, and voters lined up for hours in sweltering heat.

India has a first-past-the-post multiparty electoral system in which the candidate who receives the most votes wins. To secure a majority, a party or coalition must breach the mark of 272 seats.

India uses electronic voting machines.

WHO IS RUNNING?

Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party and his main challenger, Rahul Gandhi of the Indian National Congress, represent Parliament's two largest factions. Several other important regional parties are part of an opposition bloc.

Opposition parties, which previously were fractured, have united under a front called INDIA, or Indian Na-

tional Developmental Inclusive Alliance, to deny Modi a third straight election victory.

The alliance has fielded a single main candidate in most constituencies. But it has been roiled by ideological differences and personality clashes, and has not yet decided on its candidate for prime minister.

Most exit polls project Modi is set to extend his decade in power with a third consecutive term, especially after he opened a Hindu temple in northern Ayodhya city in January, which fulfilled his party's long-held Hindu nationalist pledge. During the polls Modi escalated polarizing rhetoric in incendiary speeches that targeted the country's Muslim minority.

Another victory would cement Modi as one of the country's most popular and important leaders. It would follow a thumping win in 2019, when the BJP clinched

an absolute majority by sweeping 303 parliamentary seats. The Congress party managed only 52 seats.

WHAT ARE THE BIG ISSUES?

For decades, India has clung doggedly to its democratic convictions, largely due to free elections, an independent judiciary, a thriving media, strong opposition and peaceful transition of power. Some of these credentials have eroded under Modi's 10-year rule, with the polls seen as a test for the country's democratic values.

Many watchdogs have now categorized India as a "hybrid regime" that is neither a full democracy nor a full autocracy.

The poll results will also test Modi's limits. Critics accuse him of running on a Hindu-first platform, endangering the country's secular roots.

Under Modi, the media, once viewed as vibrant and largely independent, have become more pliant and critical voices muzzled. Courts have largely bent to Modi's will and given favorable verdicts in crucial cases. Centralization of executive power has strained India's federalism. And federal agencies have bogged down top opposition leaders in corruption cases, which they deny.

Another key issue is India's large economy, which is among the fastest growing in the world. It has helped India emerge as a global power and a counterweight to China. But even as India's growth soars by some measures, the Modi government has struggled to generate enough jobs for young Indians, and instead has relied on welfare programs like free food and housing to woo voters.

MDT/AP

PAKISTAN

Christian accused of blasphemy and attacked by a mob died of injuries

A Pakistani Christian accused of blasphemy and attacked by a mob last month died of his injuries yesterday, a police official said.

Police in eastern Punjab province arrested more than 100 Muslim men and charged them

under anti-terrorism laws for attacking a Christian father and son over allegations they desecrated pages of Islam's holy book.

Nazir Masih, 72, suffered severe head injuries during the May 25 violence and was taken to a

Rawalpindi hospital.

He died despite twice undergoing surgery and was buried in the city of Sargodha amid tight security, said district police officer Assad Ijaz Malhi.

Videos from Sargodha showed Christians

carrying Masih's coffin through the street. They shouted "Praise to Jesus" and "Jesus is great." The casket was draped in black cloth and bore a small crucifix.

Malhi said police have registered cases against 500 people for attacking

Masih's home.

The mob went on the rampage after locals said they saw burnt pages of the Quran outside the house and accused Masih's son of being behind it.

The violence brought back memories of one of the worst attacks on Pakistani Christians in 2023, when thousands of people set ablaze churches and homes of Christians in Jaranwala, also in Punjab.

Muslim residents at

the time also claimed they saw two men desecrating the Quran.

Blasphemy accusations are common in Pakistan and under the country's blasphemy laws, anyone found guilty of insulting Islam or Islamic figures can be sentenced to death.

While no one has been executed on such charges, just an accusation can cause riots and incite mobs to violence, lynchings and killings.

MDT/AP

PHILIPPINES

Zelenskyy promotes peace summit he says China and Russia are trying to undermine

JIM GOMEZ, MANILA

UKRAINIAN President Volodymyr Zelenskyy was in the Philippines yesterday in a rare Asian trip to urge regional leaders to attend a Swiss-organized global peace summit on the war in Ukraine that he accuses Russia, with China's help, of trying to undermine.

Zelenskyy arrived unannounced and under heavy security in Manila late Sunday after speaking over the weekend at the Shangri-La defense forum in Singapore. He was given a red-carpet welcome with military honors yesterday at the presidential palace before meeting with Marcos.

In a recording released by the administration, Zelenskyy seemed to indicate Marcos accepted the invitation, though it wasn't clear if the Filipino leader agreed to personally attend the peace summit in Switzerland or to send a representative.

"I'm happy to hear today from you that you'll participate in our peace steps," Zelenskyy told Marcos. "It's a very strong signal."

Marcos' administration did not immediately comment on the matter.

Ukraine, Zelenskyy said, will also open an embassy in Manila, a decision Marcos welcomed as it would help facilitate more assistance to the war-ravaged nation.

"We continue to do all that



Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy signs the guest book beside Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. at the Malacanang presidential palace in Manila, yesterday

we can to promote peace and to bring an end to the fighting," Marcos said.

Zelenskyy had planned but failed to meet with Marcos on the sidelines of the annual defense gathering in Singapore and decided to fly to Manila to personally invite Marcos to attend the summit in Switzerland.

Both leaders spoke critically of China at the Singapore forum, which was attended by top defense and government officials from around the world, including from Washington and Beijing. The talks were held amid the raging wars in Gaza and Ukraine as well as growing ten-

sions and rivalry for influence between the United States and China in the Indo-Pacific region.

At a news conference in Singapore Sunday, Zelenskyy accused China of helping Russia to disrupt the Swiss-organized peace summit by pressuring other countries and their leaders not to attend the talks.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry did not respond immediately to a request for comment on Zelenskyy's claim.

China has taken what it says is a neutral position on the war, putting it at odds with Ukraine, the U.S. and most of Europe and its trade with Russia has grown,

easing the economic impact of Western sanctions. American, Ukrainian and other intelligence agencies say there is evidence that Chinese parts are winding up in Russian weaponry, even if China is not directly arming its neighbor.

Switzerland had been hoping China would attend the peace conference in mid-June, but Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning signaled Friday that that was unlikely.

At the security forum, Zelenskyy urged top defense officials to participate in the talks in Switzerland, expressing disappointment over the failure of some countries to

commit to attending. Ukraine, he said, has proposals to make at the summit as a basis for peace, addressing nuclear security, food security, the release of prisoners of war and the return of Ukrainian children abducted by Russia.

Zelenskyy said Ukraine is "ready to hear various proposals and thoughts that lead us ... to an end of the war and a sustainable and just peace."

U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin met with Zelenskyy on the sidelines of the conference and renewed U.S. commitments to Ukraine. In an address to the forum Saturday, Austin said that "Putin's war of aggression has provided us all with a preview of a world that none of us would want."

Marcos, whose country has had escalating clashes with China over disputed islets in the South China Sea, bluntly underscored the dangers of the regional flashpoint Friday at the defense forum. He said that if "a willful act" should result in a Filipino dying in the high-seas hostilities, "that is, I think, very, very close to what we define as an act of war."

"That would certainly increase the level of response," Marcos said in response to a question.

"Illegal, coercive, aggressive and deceptive actions continue to violate our sovereignty, sovereign rights and jurisdictions," Marcos said, without naming China, but he added the Philippines remained committed to a peaceful resolution of the disputes.

Austin said at the forum that U.S. commitment to the Philippines as a treaty ally is "ironclad" but reiterated the importance of dialogue with China.

"There are a number of things that can happen at sea or in the air, we recognize that," he said. "But our goal is to make sure that we don't allow things to spiral out of control unnecessarily." MDT/AP

INDONESIA

Jakarta to deport a fugitive to Thailand who is wanted on murder, drug trafficking charges

ONE of Thailand's most wanted fugitives will be escorted home on a Thai air force plane after being arrested on Indonesia's tourist island of Bali following months on the run in connection with several killings and drug trafficking charges in his homeland, officials said yesterday.

Chaowalit Thongduang escaped from detention in Thailand while being treated at a hospital. When he was



Indonesian police officers escort Thai fugitive Chaowalit Thongduang in Jakarta

detained Thursday, he was using a fake Indonesian national identity

card which he received shortly after arriving in Indonesia's northern-

most province of Aceh in December after a 17-hour speedboat trip

from India, said Wahyu Widada, head of the Indonesian National Police's Criminal Investigation Department.

Chaowalit was arrested in a raid at his apartment in Badung regency in Bali. Authorities seized four cellphones from him along with several fake identity documents.

"We are still investigating local residents who helped issue Chaowalit's fake identity," Widada said.

Thai Minister of Justice Tawee Sodsong, who traveled to Indonesia to meet with Chaowalit, said he will be flown on a military plane today to Thailand, where he is wanted in the murder or attempted murder of police officers and others and drug trafficking.

Tawee said Chaowalit praised the authorities for being able to trace him after he fled through several countries.

Thai Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin said he was confident that the legal system which apprehended Chaowalit could bring him to justice.

Indonesia and Thailand signed an extradition agreement in 1978. MDT/AP

AP PHOTO



Trump gestures while attending the UFC 302 mixed martial arts event Saturday, June 1, 2024, in Newark, New Jersey

USA

Trump joins TikTok and calls it 'an honor,' although as president he tried to ban it

JILL COLVIN, WILL WEISSERT & MEG KINNARD

DONALD TRUMP has joined the popular video-sharing app TikTok, a platform he once tried to ban while in the White House, and posted from a UFC fight two days after he became the first former president and presumptive major party nominee in U.S. history to be found guilty on felony charges.

"It's an honor," Trump said in the TikTok video, which features footage of him waving to fans and posing for selfies at the Ultimate Fighting Championship fight in Newark, New Jersey, last weekend. The video ends with Trump telling the camera: "That was a good walk-on, right?"

By Sunday morning, Trump had amassed more than 1.1 million followers on the platform and the post had garnered more than 1 million likes and 24 million views.

"We will leave no front undefended and this represents the continued outreach to a younger audience consuming pro-Trump and anti-Biden content," Trump spokesman Steven Cheung said in a statement about the campaign's decision to join the platform.

"There's no place better than a UFC event to launch President Trump's Tik Tok, where he received a hero's welcome and thousands of fans cheered him on," he added.

Democratic President Joe Biden signed legislation in April that could ban TikTok in the U.S., even as his campaign joined in February and has tried to work with influencers.

Trump received an enthusiastic welcome at the fight at Newark's Prudential Center, where the crowd broke into chants of "We love Trump!" and another insulting Biden with an expletive.

It was Trump's first public outing since a jury in New York found him guilty Thursday on 34 charges of falsifying business records as part of a scheme to illegally influence the 2016 election by covering up hush money payments made to a porn actor who claimed she and Trump had sex. Trump has maintained he did nothing wrong and plans to appeal the verdict. He will be sentenced on July 11.

Throughout his campaign, Trump has used appearances at UFC fights to project an image of strength and to try to appeal to potential voters who may not closely follow politics or engage with traditional news sources. It's also part of a broader effort to connect with young people and minority voters, particularly Latino and Black men.

TikTok, owned by Beijing-based ByteDance, is another opportunity to reach those potential voters. The platform has about 170 million users in the U.S., most of whom skew younger — a demographic that is especially hard for campaigns

to reach because they shun television.

As president, Trump tried to ban TikTok through an executive order that said "the spread in the United States of mobile applications developed and owned" by Chinese companies was a national security threat. The courts blocked the action after TikTok sued.

Both the FBI and the Federal Communications Commission have warned that ByteDance could share user data such as browsing history, location and biometric identifiers with China's government. TikTok said it has never done that and would not, if asked.

The platform was a hot topic of debate during the 2024 GOP primary campaign, with most candidates shunning its use. Many, including former Vice President Mike Pence, called for TikTok to be banned in the U.S. due to its connections with China.

Trump said earlier this year that he still believes TikTok posed a national security risk, but was opposed to banning it because that would help its rival, Facebook, which he continues to criticize over his 2020 election loss to Biden.

"Frankly, there are a lot of people on TikTok that love it. There are a lot of young kids on TikTok who will go crazy without it," Trump told CNBC.

The legislation signed by Biden gives ByteDance nine months to sell the company, with a possible additional three

months if a sale is in progress. If it doesn't, TikTok will be banned. Biden barred the app on most government devices in December 2022.

His reelection campaign nonetheless uses the app, which it joined the night of the Super Bowl in February. Aides argue that in an increasingly fragmented modern media environment, the campaign must get its message out to voters via as many platforms as possible, including TikTok as well as WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.

Biden's "bidenhq" account currently has more than 330,000 followers and 4.5 million likes.

Trump's appearance at Saturday's fight came after he had sat down for an interview with Fox News Channel's "Fox & Friends Weekend" that aired Sunday.

In that appearance, Trump said he was "OK" with the prospect of potential jail time or house arrest, saying it was "the way it is."

But he again suggested the public might not accept such a punishment for a former president now running to return to the White House.

"I don't know that the public would stand it, you know. I'm not sure the public would stand for it," he said. "I think it would be tough for the public to take. You know, at a certain point there's a breaking point."

Trump, as he has throughout the trial, maintained his innocence, saying he "did absolutely nothing wrong." MDT/AP

this day in history

1991 UK ARMY SPENDING TO BE CUT



Britain is to reduce the amount it spends on the army by more than a quarter over the next five years, Defence Secretary Tom King has confirmed.

After the spending cuts the service will contain 116,000 soldiers - fewer than outlined in last year's strategy plan, "Options for Change", which sought to save between 10-15% of army costs.

Britain's armed units could be cut by half leaving one division in Germany as part of Nato's rapid response force, and the rest in Britain.

More than one third of infantry could go but the regimental system - under which soldiers make career-long attachments to a single part of the army - will remain unchanged.

Speaking in the Commons, Mr King said the cuts would be carried out in a "sensitive and intelligent way," and one which recognised the "tremendous benefits that flow from the deep tradition of the regimental system".

But some regiments are likely to disappear. Intense lobbying is to be expected from military circles as the army decides where to make the cuts.

The Queen is said to have tried to veto any cutbacks to the household cavalry in the Brigade of Guards.

More details of the army's new shape should be announced later this summer in a government white paper on the future of all three fighting services.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The Conservative Government's decision to reduce money spent on the army was made against a background of long-term cuts in defence spending. The last Tory administration, in office from 1992 to 1997, made average reductions of 3% a year, according to the Institute of Fiscal Studies. Labour has followed this trend by cutting defence spending by an average of 1.3% a year over the period 1997-2001. Politicians argued that reductions in the early 1990s were justified because of the reduced threat brought about by the end of the cold war.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
 Mar. 21-Apr. 19
 Connect the dots. Profitable opportunities arise in conversation. Learn voraciously. Over three weeks, write your fascinating story.

TAURUS
 Apr. 20-May. 20
 Pitch your brilliant ideas. The next several weeks can get especially lucrative, with Mercury in Gemini. Network, connect and share. Discuss profitable possibilities.

GEMINI
 May. 21-Jun. 21
 You have an advantage, with Mercury in your sign. You're especially brilliant. Get the word out for a cause close to your heart.

CANCER
 Jun. 22-Jul. 22
 Get into a thoughtful, creative phase, with Mercury in Gemini for three weeks. Write down your dreams. Listen to your angels. Organize and plan.

LEO
 Jul. 23-Aug. 22
 Collaborate with friends. Your team's especially hot for the next three weeks with Mercury in Gemini. Negotiations go well. Communication builds teamwork and coordination.

VIRGO
 Aug. 23-Sep. 22
 Your professional influence grows through networking. Share resources, news and opportunities. Make valuable connections over the next three weeks, with Mercury in Gemini.

LIBRA
 Sep. 23-Oct. 22
 Travel and investigate. Expand frontiers and boundaries over three weeks, with Mercury in Gemini. Explore, research and study. Solve puzzles. Make valuable discoveries.

SCORPIO
 Oct. 23-Nov. 21
 Coordinate important financial decisions with your partner. Shared profits arise in communication over the next three weeks, with Mercury in Gemini. Discuss the possibilities.

SAGITTARIUS
 Nov. 22-Dec. 21
 Learn from someone brilliant over the next three weeks. It's easier to understand what others want. Create partnership through communication, with Mercury in Gemini.

CAPRICORN
 Dec. 22-Jan. 19
 Find solutions for your work, health and fitness in communication with Mercury in Gemini for three weeks. Discuss ways to improve physical performance.

AQUARIUS
 Jan. 20-Feb. 18
 Express your love, passion and creative ideas, with Mercury in Gemini. Romance and fun spark in conversation over the next three weeks. Share inspiration.

PISCES
 Feb. 19-Mar. 20
 Align on renovation plans. Communication comes easier at home and with family, with Mercury in Gemini for the next three weeks. Discuss domestic possibilities.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

EASY					EASY+														
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WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	19	29	fine
Changchun	11	16	rain
Chengdu	20	32	cloudy
Chongqing	17	29	fine
Fuzhou	23	32	rain
Guangzhou	24	29	rain
Guiyang	14	24	cloudy
Haikou	25	29	thunderstorms
Hangzhou	19	24	rain
Harbin	10	13	rain
Hefei	18	29	overcast
Nanjing	19	29	cloudy
Shanghai	20	24	rain
Taipei	24	29	rain
Wuhan	19	30	fine
Hong Kong	26	28	rain
WORLD			
Moscow	16	24	thunderstorms
Frankfurt	13	23	cloudy
Paris	13	23	cloudy
London	9	20	cloudy
New York	18	26	cloudy

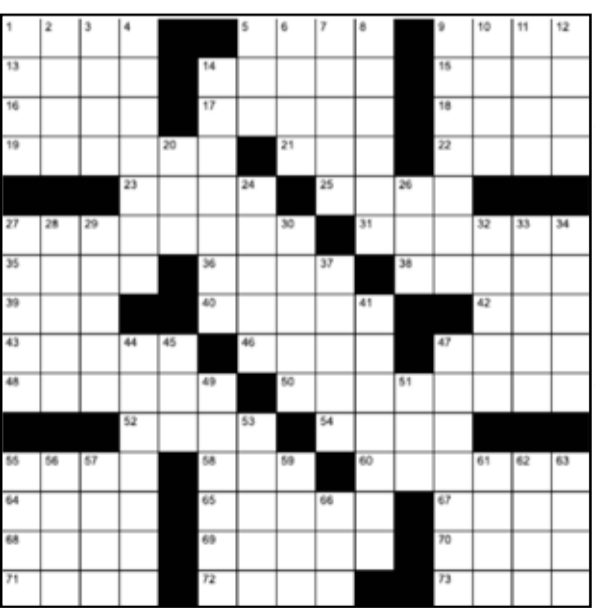
CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Low-___ diet; 5- Slammin' Sammy; 9- Cat's nail; 13- Plains native; 14- One in second, say; 15- Per; 16- Deep sleep; 17- Indian state; 18- Start to type?; 19- Musical dramas; 21- Mr. Onassis, to friends; 22- French summers; 23- URL starter; 25- Tennis units; 27- Unusual; 31- Parlor piece; 35- Take down ___; 36- Modernists; 38- Hotelier Helmsley; 39- Composer Rorem; 40- Zsa Zsa or Eva; 42- Ave. crossers; 43- Tractor pioneer John; 46- World's longest river; 47- 160 square rods; 48- Help; 50- Currently; 52- Hey, you!; 54- Mex. miss; 55- Help in a heist; 58- A mouse!; 60- Mischievous; 64- BMW rival; 65- Fortuneteller's deck; 67- Dorothy's dog; 68- Mil. school; 69- Strike; 70- List-ending abbr.; 71- ___ Like It Hot; 72- Exxon, once; 73- Fury;

DOWN 1- Designer Chanel; 2- On the peak of; 3- Trevi Fountain site; 4- Tight embrace; 5- Brillo rival; 6- Greek peak; 7- Singes; 8- Military organizations; 9- Actress Holm; 10- Café au ___; 11- Skin disorder; 12- ___ on first?; 14- Enduring; 20- City in GA; 24- Song of praise; 26- Business card no.; 27- White-and-black bearlike mammal; 28- Tools for duels; 29- Surrenders, as territory; 30- Redbreast; 32- Puccini classic; 33- Diary bit; 34- Relaxes; 37- Flies alone; 41- Big revision; 44- Dangerous current; 45- Tricky curve; 47- Power plug transformer; 49- Deadly fly; 51- PIN requester; 53- Crews; 55- Small batteries; 56- Osso ___; 57- Dutch cheese, wrapped in red wax; 59- Actor Kristofferson; 61- Small amount; 62- Adult male deer; 63- Gap; 66- Siouan speaker;

Yesterday's solution

S	P	E	N	T	J	A	P	A	N	T	R	A
H	A	L	E	R	A	L	A	M	O	A	S	
E	L	I	T	E	W	A	I	S	T	O	B	I
A	N	E	E	D	I	D	L	E	D			
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W	E	A	K	E	R	O	N	E	S	S		
A	T	S	E	A								
O	S											
D	D											
R	E	C										



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PSP 28 573 333	Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944	
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MUSIC

'BORN IN THE USA' TURNS 40

The popular rock 'n roll tune still remains one of Bruce Springsteen's most misunderstood songs



DIANE WINSTON,
PROFESSOR OF
COMMUNICATION
AND JOURNALISM

ELTON JOHN, Adele and R.E.M. did it. So did Rihanna and the Rolling Stones. If Donald Trump tried to use her music, Taylor Swift would likely do it, too.

Many musicians have said “no” when politicians try using their music for campaigning. But Bruce Springsteen may be the most famous naysayer of all.

In September 1984, Springsteen's “Born in the U.S.A.” was atop the charts, and Ronald Reagan, running for reelection against Walter Mondale, told a New Jersey audience that he and the singer-songwriter shared the same American dream.

Springsteen disagreed.

Three days later, performing in Pittsburgh, Springsteen spoke about his version of that dream.

“In the beginning, the idea was we all live here a little bit like a family where the strong can help the weak ones, the rich can help the poor ones. You know, the American dream,” he said in between songs.

“I don't think it was that everybody was going to make a billion dollars but that everybody was going to have an opportunity and a chance to live a life with some decency and some dignity.”

June 4, 2024, marks the 40th anniversary of “Born in the U.S.A.,” Springsteen's top-selling album. In my recent book, “Righting the American Dream: How the Media Mains-

streamed Reagan's Evangelical Vision,” I describe the president's attempt to use Springsteen's lyrics to support that vision, which included cutting welfare, boosting the military and ending abortion – all positions dear to the religious right.

Springsteen had a different vision, and Reagan's attempt to co-opt it spurred the singer to be more explicitly political in his words and actions.

BLINDED BY THE LIGHT

The confusion over “Born in the U.S.A.” is easy to understand. Just look at the album's cover art.

Shot from the rear, Springsteen is facing a huge American flag. The flag's red and white stripes, along with Springsteen's white T-shirt, blue jeans and red baseball cap, all telegraph, “America.”

So why a butt shot of the blue-jeaned rocker whose pose screams youth, sex and swagger?

The photo is a Rorschach test, a purposeful mixed message.

Springsteen called the album's eponymous title song “one of my greatest and most misunderstood pieces of music.” It's driven by forceful, pummeling drums and a synthesizer's haunting refrain. Springsteen's gruff rasp can make it difficult to hear the lyrics, which express the anguish of a Vietnam vet who regrets enlisting and faces unemployment at home.

Yet the song's chorus, which Springsteen sings proudly and loudly, fist in the air, repeats “Born in the U.S.A., I was born in the U.S.A.”

Springsteen was doing two

things: criticizing the war and subsequent treatment of veterans and affirming his American birthright. The song was, in his words, “a demand for a ‘critical’ patriotic voice along with pride of birth.”

HUMAN TOUCH

But its message eluded many listeners, including conservative columnist George Will, whose wife had been given two tickets to a concert.

Afterward, Will told his Washington Post readers that Springsteen “is no whiner, and the recitation of closed factories and other problems always seems punctuated by a grand, cheerful affirmation: ‘Born in the U.S.A.!’”

Will, a favorite of the Reagan's inner circle, was the likely source for the president's mistaken view that he and Springsteen shared the same American dream.

Springsteen wrote about everyday people: bus drivers, factory workers, waitresses and cops. Reagan needed their votes, but not all of them were his people. His fiscal policies benefited wealthy Americans and corporations but did little for working families and the poor.

Springsteen said as much in a Rolling Stone interview at the end of 1984: “And you see the Reagan reelection ads on TV – you know: ‘It's morning in America.’ And you say, well, it's not morning in Pittsburgh. It's not morning above 125th Street in New York. It's midnight.”

In that same interview, Springsteen admitted that he last voted in 1972, when his candidate, George McGovern,

lost to Republican incumbent Richard Nixon. His preference, he said, was “human politics” – concrete action with a direct effect on local communities.

He put that into practice at the Pittsburgh concert following Reagan's shout-out. Making a US\$10,000 donation to a food bank for unemployed steelworkers, he urged his audience to also support the cause. His pitches for local food banks have been a concert staple ever since.

THE PROMISED LAND

Reagan articulated his American dream in speeches and interviews.

He believed God had blessed America with freedom – a freedom embodied in free markets, limited government and the freedom to live according to your religious beliefs.

Springsteen has made his American dream the subject of his music: a nation that welcomes immigrants, condemns racism and opposes economic inequality. Its people stand together even – especially – amid tragedy.

Before Reagan cited him as a Republican muse, Springsteen was content to let his music convey his politics.

Afterward, he was more candid, often riffing on a favorite phrase, “Nobody wins, unless everybody wins.”

In 2004, he jumped into electoral politics, supporting John Kerry's presidential bid. At a large Midwest rally, he warned that the ideals championed in his music were at risk, “‘United We Stand’ ... and ‘one nation indivisible’ aren't just slogans. They need to remain the guiding principles of

our public life.”

Four years later, Springsteen campaigned for Barack Obama and again in 2012. He supported Hillary Clinton in 2016, and in 2020 he restyled “My Hometown” for a Biden campaign ad.

NO SURRENDER

In May 2024, things came full circle when Donald Trump, the putative GOP presidential candidate, name-checked Springsteen at a New Jersey rally. But this time, the candidate wasn't praising the Garden State troubadour.

He called Springsteen a “wacko,” before claiming that the Boss and other “liberal singers” had nonetheless voted for him in 2020. Then Trump falsely added that his crowds outnumbered Springsteen's.

But Springsteen made his opinion on the candidate clear in a 2020 interview, when Trump was running for reelection: “I don't know if our democracy could stand another four years of his custodianship.”

Springsteen's recent collection of R&B standards is titled “Only the Strong Survive,” and on the cover, the rocker is dressed in black, grizzled but game, looking directly at the viewer.

With the title, is he hinting that Reagan's evangelical vision and Darwinian approach to economics had crushed Springsteen's own American dream?

Or does his assured pose convey his belief that there's still “treasure for the taking, for any hard working man, who'll make his home in the American land”? **MDT/THE CONVERSATION**

RUGBY

France Sevens raises expectations for home Olympics after first world series win

HIGH expectations on the France rugby sevens side for its Paris home Olympics will intensify after it won its first world series title in Madrid yesterday.

COURTESY ANTOINE DUPONT



The men outmuscled Argentina in the final 19-5 after the women were runner-up to Australia 26-7 at Metropolitan Stadium.

Since the world series began in 1999, France had never finished in the top four until last year. This season, it won the Los Angeles leg in March for its first tournament victory in 19 years.

France came to the series finale in Madrid ranked fifth but edged Fiji in the semifinals and avenged a pool loss to Argentina.

"The next tournament in Paris will be another story so we'll take the pleasure now," France coach Jerome Daret said. "When you're on top of the wave, you have to be hard on your mind-

set. I'm very proud of the team, they never gave up, big heart. But it's not finished. We have a big target in a few weeks and maybe win the Olympics."

The Argentines led for almost the entire series and knocked out defending series champion New Zealand to reach the Madrid final unbeaten and have a shot at their first world series title, too.

They started the final better. Rodrigo Isgro made a try-saving

tackle on Jean Pascal Barraque, then Luciano Gonzalez, playing with a heavily taped right ankle, fended off two defenders to score the opening try in the left corner.

But seconds before halftime, France attacked from behind its own tryline and Varian Pasquet and Barraque worked to set Stephan Perez-Edo Martin free from the halfway line. France led 7-5 at halftime.

When Isgro was yellow-car-

ded for a deliberate knockdown in the second half, France used the man advantage to score through Jefferson-Lee Joseph. They clinched the win with a minute to go when Antoine Dupont's inside pass gave captain Paulin Riva a try.

Dupont, the former 15s world player of the year who sacrificed the Six Nations to try for the Olympic sevens squad, has played three tournaments for France and won two golds and a bronze.

"Antoine Dupont is the best player in the world, we think," Riva said. "When he is on the pitch, we have a lot of confidence."

The final finished with an all-in melee. Isgro took exception to Riva's late clearout and tip-tackled him onto his neck. Isgro, the world sevens player of the year, was red-carded and a sanction may affect his Olympic appearance.

The France women have ne-

ver won a tournament and were managing their final to halftime — 7-7 — until Australia cut down the errors. Then it became another Maddison Levi show.

Levi brushed off two defenders for the go-ahead try, finished off the second in the other corner, and face-palmed a defender to score her third.

Levi scored 13 of Australia's 21 tries in Madrid, including three hat tricks in five games. Her 69 tries in the season were the second best total in series history, among men and women, after Vilimoni Delasau's 83 for Fiji in the inaugural 1999-2000 season.

Arguably her biggest moment was in the semifinal against New Zealand. The clock was in red, Australia trailed 19-14, and Levi regained the restart and ended up scoring the tying try. Then Tia Hinds kicked the conversion from the touchline.

New Zealand had won the last four tournaments. MDT/AP

AD

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OPINION

China Daily
 Editorial, China Daily

NO ROOM FOR INTERFERING IN TAIWAN QUESTION

Despite the discussions about the conflicts in Gaza and Ukraine, the main focus of attention of the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore over the weekend was on the Asia-Pacific and what is perceived to be the most likely flashpoint for a potential conflict between China and the United States — the Taiwan question.

The concern about the escalating frictions sparking an explosive incident was given greater substance by some of the participants bringing their anti-China agenda to the meeting with a view to turning the occasion into an opportunity to fly the flag for their cause and rally Asian countries and international public opinion against Beijing.

In light of this, that the Chinese and United States defense chiefs had their first in-person meeting since 2022 was of great significance. The two militaries share an imperative need for open lines of communication.

Their face-to-face meeting was thus a welcome development to those hoping Beijing and Washington can defuse their relations, as was the news that the two sides are to resume conversations between their theater commanders.

Judging from what was heard in Singapore over the past few days, fears of the worst-case scenario are not far-fetched, despite all the talk about avoiding it.

On Taiwan, Washington and Beijing have made things sufficiently clear to each other — Beijing has no room to back off since it is a matter of sovereignty and territorial integrity; Washington has no intention of backing off as the island is a key tool of its strategy to contain China, being a means to put pressure on Beijing and solicit others to assist it in that cause.

Washington will therefore continue to hollow out its legal obligation to uphold the “one-China” principle as recognized in international law and carry on militarizing the island with arms sales and military assistance, seeking to embolden the separatists on the island in an attempt to distort the Taiwan question, mislead international public opinion and so intensify its efforts to contain China with the Taiwan question.

Beijing, as Chinese Defense Minister Dong Jun said in Singapore, will oppose any interference in the Taiwan question, which is purely an internal affair of China, and it will decisively quash any attempt at Taiwan’s “independence”.

On the Taiwan question, the US’ messaging provokes unrealistic fantasies in the “independence-minded” Democratic Progressive Party decision-makers who are stepping up their efforts to pursue “Taiwan independence” in an incremental way, by severing the social, historical and cultural links across the Taiwan Strait with the aim of realizing the “desinicization” of the island.

In his keynote speech at the meeting, Dong left no room for ambiguity about Beijing’s position, saying that it has always been committed to peaceful reunification, but that this prospect is being undermined by “Taiwan independence” elements with the collusion of external forces.

Stating bluntly that the fanatical separatists are betraying the Chinese nation and their ancestors with their bid to cleave the island from the motherland, he said they will be nailed to the pillar of shame by history.

He also left no one in any doubt that should it prove necessary Beijing will not hesitate to use force to quash any bid to divide the nation. Calling the separatists’ pursuit of “independence” an act of self-destruction, he stated unequivocally that “Whoever dares to sever Taiwan from China will be crushed”.

The Taiwan question is China’s fundamental core interest, and the fact that there is only one China and Taiwan is an inalienable part of China’s territory, of which the government of the People’s Republic of China is the sole legitimate representative, is an established historical fact enshrined in historical treaties and United Nations resolutions.

It is the US’ breaking of international law and its ill-judged and ill-intentioned emboldening of the separatists on the island that risk igniting the fuse in the Taiwan Strait.

The cost of your next flight is likely to go up. That’s the word from the International Air Transport Association, which held its annual meeting yesterday in Dubai, home to the long-haul carrier Emirates.

While carriers recover from the groundings worldwide from the coronavirus pandemic, industry leaders told journalists that there are several costs likely to push those ticket prices ever higher.

Part of that comes from worldwide inflation, an ongoing problem since the pandemic started. Jet fuel costs, roughly a third of all airline expenses, remain high.

Meanwhile, a global push for the aviation industry to decarbonize has more carriers fighting for the little amount of so-called sustainable aviation fuel, or SAF, available in the market.

“The airlines will continue to do everything they can to keep costs in control as much as possible for the benefit of consumers,” said Willie Walsh, the director-general of the International Air Transport Association, an industry-trade group.

“But I think it’s unrealistic to expect that airlines can continue to absorb all of the costs. ... It’s not something we like to do, but it’s something we have to do.”



This combo image shows (from top less, clockwise) Warden, Su, Fraser, Barra, and Tome - the top five highest paid women

MORE WOMEN IN THE US MADE THE LIST OF TOP PAID CEOs IN 2023

MAE ANDERSON

MORE women are attaining the top job at companies in the S&P 500, but their numbers are still minuscule compared to their male counterparts.

Of the 341 CEOs included in the AP’s annual compensation survey, 25 are women. That’s the most women making the list since the survey began in 2011. But the numbers haven’t budged very much. The second highest tally was 21 women in 2017.

The survey, based on data analyzed for The Associated Press by Equilar, includes CEOs at S&P 500 companies who have served at least two fiscal years at their companies, which filed proxy statements between Jan. 1 and April 30, 2024.

Christy Glass, a professor of sociology at Utah State University who studies equity, inclusion and leadership, said that while seeing more female CEOs this year is a positive, overall the trends are discouraging.

“We’ll see a year where there’s kind of a banner year of women CEOs,” she said. “But then a year or two down the road, we’ll see a

significant turnover.”

Lisa Su, CEO and chair of the board of chipmaker Advanced Micro Devices, was the highest paid female CEO in the AP survey for the fifth year in a row in fiscal 2023, bringing in total compensation worth \$30.3 million — flat with her compensation package a year earlier. Her rank rose to 21 overall from 25.

Su received a base salary of \$1.2 million and a performance bonus of more than \$1.4 million. The bulk of her package was \$21.8 million in stock awards.

Su has been chief of AMD, based in Santa Clara, California, since 2014. The company is part of a growing number of companies trying to take advantage of a broader interest from businesses looking for new AI tools that can analyze data, help make decisions and potentially replace some tasks currently performed by human workers. AMD’s stock price surged 127% in 2023.

The others in the top five highest paid female CEOs include Mary Barra of automaker General Motors with total compensation of \$27.8 million; Jane Fraser

of banking giant Citigroup with a package worth \$25.5 million; Kathy Warden of aerospace and defense company Northrop Grumman Corp. at \$23.5 million; and Carol Tome of package deliverer UPS Inc., whose pay was valued at \$23.4 million.

Some notable female CEOs aren’t included since they became CEO less than two years ago or their company files proxy statements outside of the January through April window, including Julie Sweet of consultant Accenture and Sue Nabi, CEO of Coty Inc.

The median pay package for female CEOs rose 21% to \$17.6 million. That’s better than the men fared: Their median pay package rose 12% to \$16.3 million.

But the highest paid men still make far more than the highest paid women. Broadcom CEO Hock Tan raked in \$161.8 million — the vast majority of that in stock awards.

Part of the issue of the disproportionate numbers of men to women is the “glass cliff,” Glass said. Her research shows women are more likely to be appointed CEO at disadvantaged companies. **MDT/AP**



Palestinian health officials reported Israeli strikes killed 11 people overnight, including women and children, in central Gaza. A strike on a home in Bureij refugee camp killed four, and another in Nuseirat refugee camp killed seven. U.S. President Joe Biden announced Israel’s proposal for a three-phase cease-fire and hostage release deal. Israel’s offensive in Gaza has faced criticism for the high civilian toll and widespread destruction.

USA Dr. Anthony Fauci testified before a House panel about the origins of COVID-19. The Republican-led subcommittee has been investigating the nation’s pandemic response and U.S.-funded research in China. Fauci reiterated his openness to both theories of the virus’s origins but emphasized evidence supporting natural origins. He faced questions about “gain of function” research and the credibility of his former agency, the National Institutes of Health.



USA The Washington Post announced that its executive editor, Sally Buzbee, has stepped down. She will be replaced by Matt Murray, former editor-in-chief of The Wall Street Journal, through the presidential election. Robert Winnett, deputy editor of the Telegraph Media Group, will take over after that. The Post is launching a new division focused on reaching audiences in different ways, reflecting a shift in the newsroom’s operations.



Mexico Claudia Sheinbaum won Mexico’s presidential election, becoming the country’s first female president. She faces pressing gender-related issues, including femicide, gender violence, and a significant employment gap between men and women. Sheinbaum’s policies will need to address these challenges after taking office on Oct. 1. Her victory marks a historic turning point in a country where women only gained the right to vote in 1953.