



**MONETARY AUTHORITY ANNOUNCED THAT RESIDENTS CAN BEGIN EXCHANGING FOUR PREVIOUSLY ISSUED ZODIAC BANKNOTES FROM MONDAY**

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**MACAU HOSTS GLOBAL TIMBER LEADERS AT SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRY SUMMIT**

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**VIETNAM FLASH FLOOD SWEEPS AWAY HAMLET AS STORM TOLL RISES TO 155 DEAD**

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AP PHOTO



**China-US** A former CIA officer, Alexander Yuk Ching Ma, faces a decade in prison after pleading guilty to spying for China. Ma, 71, accepted cash and gifts in exchange for classified information and will be subject to lifetime polygraph tests under a plea deal.

**Taiwan** A Taiwanese Mirage 2000 fighter jet crashed during a training exercise, but the pilot was found safe after ejecting. The jet lost power off the coast of Hsinchu, and rescuers located the pilot two hours later. Taiwan's air force uses Mirage jets and U.S.-made F-16Vs.

AP PHOTO



**Australia** Anti-war protesters yesterday clashed with police outside a military arms convention in Melbourne. Protesters threw bottles, rocks, and acid at officers, who responded with pepper spray and rubber bullets. At least 24 officers required treatment, and 39 protesters were arrested for various offenses, including assault and arson.

AP PHOTO



**Jamaica** is sending 24 soldiers and police officers to Haiti to support a U.N.-backed mission against violent gangs. The deployment is part of a larger pledge, though logistical challenges have delayed the full contingent. Haiti remains heavily impacted by gang violence, controlling much of the capital.

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# COUNTERMEASURES

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AP PHOTO

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### PASSPORT RULE EXCLUSIONS HAUNT MACAU IN ASIAN CUP

The Macau men's football team saw their hopes of competing in the 2027 Asian Cup dashed with a narrow 1-0 defeat to Brunei on Tuesday. In front of 1,368 spectators, Brunei scored the lone goal in the 10th minute on a rebound into an empty net. Macau came close in stoppage time, but missed a one-on-one opportunity. Having won the first leg 3-0, Brunei advanced to the next round of qualifiers for the Asian Cup in Saudi Arabia, ending Macau's campaign. Macau's squad was weakened by the exclusion of five Portuguese players who did not hold Macau SAR passports. This rule sidelined key players such as captain Nicholas Torrão and midfielder Filipe Duarte.

### PRUDENTIAL NAMES DAI AS NEW GM

Edward Dai has been appointed General Manager of Prudential's Macau branch, succeeding Chris Ma upon his retirement, the insurance giant announced this week. "The market landscape and immense potential of Macau make it one of the most exciting areas in the region," Dai noted in a company press release. With over 20 years in the insurance industry, Dai joined Prudential in 2013 and has held several senior roles in the company, overseeing agency strategy development. He is "delighted to have the opportunity to enhance Prudential's growing presence in the territory," Dai stated. CEO Lawrence Lam praised Dai's "success in driving business growth and his strategic insight, combined with vast experience."

### MACAU DELEGATION PARTICIPATES IN CYBERSECURITY EXPO

The Macao Post and Telecommunications Bureau (CTT) organized a 28-person delegation to visit the "Cybersecurity Expo" in Guangzhou earlier this week, following the "2024 China Cybersecurity Week" series of events. The expo featured exhibits on cybersecurity applications, innovations and collaboration opportunities between cities in the Greater Bay Area, including dedicated spaces for Hong Kong and Macau. Through visiting interactive displays and supply negotiations, the delegation gained insights into the latest technologies protecting critical infrastructure networks across the region. The event aims to promote cooperation across the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau area and enhance cybersecurity knowledge and skills.

# WYNN RESORTS ANNOUNCES \$800M SENIOR NOTES OFFERING

NADIA SHAW

WYNN Resorts, Limited (NASDAQ: WYNN) announced a private offering of \$800 million in senior notes due 2033 through its subsidiaries Wynn Resorts Finance, LLC and Wynn Resorts Capital Corp, on Tuesday Sept. 10. The 6.25% notes will be guaranteed by Wynn Resorts Finance's domestic subsidiaries and will rank equally with existing senior unsecured obligations.

The proceeds from the offering will be used to redeem Wynn Las Vegas' outstanding 5.50% senior notes due 2025, as well as cover related fees and expenses. According to the memo the remainder of the net proceeds will be allocated



for general corporate purposes, which may include covering all or part of the \$130 million forfeiture under the non-prosecution agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). The DOJ agreement

relates to an investigation into transactions at Wynn Las Vegas involving foreign customers.

Fitch Ratings stated in a memo that Wynn Resorts' ratings remain "unchanged" following the refi-

ancing announcement, noting that the transaction will allow the company to extend its near-term bond maturities.

The offering is being made to qualified institutional buyers under Rule 144A and to non-U.S. persons under Regulation S of the Securities Act. The notes have not been registered under the Securities Act or any state securities laws, and cannot be offered or sold in the United States without registration or an applicable exemption.

This strategic move by Wynn Resorts aims to strengthen its financial position and support its ongoing operations and expansion plans, including the Wynn Al Marjan Island project in the United Arab Emirates.

# Macau hosts global timber leaders at sustainable industry summit

NADIA SHAW

THE 2024 Global Legal & Sustainable Timber Forum kicked off yesterday in Macau, welcoming hundreds of forestry ministers, timber executives and international organization representatives from around the world.

The opening ceremony was attended by Macau Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng, along with officials from China's central government and several timber-producing nations including the Central African Republic, Fiji, Congo, and Brazil.

Secretary for Economy and Finance Lei Wai Nong highlighted China's role as a key supplier and consumer in the global timber trade. He noted a recent Chinese government guideline calling for accelerating the green transformation of industries, which could help promote sustainability in the timber market.

"Under this background, the 'Global Legal & Sustainable Timber Forum 2024' with the theme



"Together Towards Reliable and Effective Global Timber Supply Chains" provides a timely and effective platform for international timber suppliers, purchasers and traders to exchange and cooperate," Lei said.

The two-day forum has attracted around 700 delegates from 40 countries. It features keynote speeches, panel discussions and specialized sub-forums

on topics such as timber legality, sustainable forestry, advanced wood processing technology, green finance and more.

"Building on the exploration of frontier and hot topics through a series of keynote addresses, panel discussions and sub-forums, the event further leverages its function to promote exhibitions through conferences and attract investment through exhi-

bitions," Lei explained.

The event also includes a timber industry exhibition and the launch of international projects like the Global Timber Index and timber traceability system.

Lei noted the forum is the first major international forestry conference hosted in Macau, highlighting the city's growing role as a convention destination. He pledged the Ma-

cau government's continued support in attracting more professional, international events to the city.

The Global Legal & Sustainable Timber Forum is co-hosted by the International Tropical Timber Organization and Macau's Commerce and Investment Promotion Institute. It aims to promote sustainable forest management and legal timber supply chains worldwide.

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MacauDaily 澳門每日時報 \* DIRECTOR & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF\_Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com  
ASSISTANT EDITOR\_Lynzy Valles  
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS\_Leanda Lee, Severo Portela, Sheyla Zandonai

NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS\_Alex Torrão, Albano Martins, Annabel Jackson, Emilie Tran, Grace Yu, Irene Sam, Ivo Carneiro de Sousa, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Lao-Phillips, João Palla Martins, Jorge Costa Oliveira, Joseph Cheung, Juliet Risdon, Linda Kennedy, Paulo Cordeiro de Sousa, Renato Marques, Richard Whitfield, Sérgio de Almeida Correia, Viviana Seguí DESIGNER\_Rebeca Almeida | ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS\_JML Property, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars, Ruan Du Toit Bester | NEWS AGENCIES\_Associated Press, MacauHub, MacaoNews, Xinhua SECRETARY\_Yang Dongxiao amy@macaudailytimes.com

SEND NEWSWORTHY INFORMATION AND PRESS RELEASES TO: NEWSROOM@MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM WEBSITE: WWW.MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM.MO

A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

ADMINISTRATOR & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

OFFICE MANAGER\_Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

ADDRESS\_Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR Telephones: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84

Advertisement\_advertising@macaudailytimes.com

For subscription and general issues:

general@macaudailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd

GBA

# Macau strengthens cybersecurity cooperation with neighboring regions

VICTORIA CHAN

**M**ORE than 300 representatives from government departments, critical infrastructure, and various sectors of society attended the opening ceremony of the "2024 National Cyber Security Publicity Week-Macau Local Sub-forum." The director of the Judiciary Police (PJ) emphasized the need for increased public awareness and consolidated public defense against cyber threats.

In his keynote speech, Sit Chong Meng emphasized that "the importance of cyber security to national security and social development has never been greater" due to evolving digital threats. He noted that crimes like cyberattacks, cyber leaks, and cyber fraud pose serious threats that require a coordinated response.

Sit called for "strengthening

cybersecurity as the first and foremost task of all local governments." He announced the establishment of two new centers: the Cyber Safety Incident Pre-warning and Emergency Response Center, and the Cyber Security Incident Prevention and Response Center - to facilitate information sharing and incident management.

The PJ's director highlighted Macau's progress, noting that the region's cybersecurity system has gone through multiple stages from scratch, "from establishment to perfection" since implementing its 2019 Network Security Law. However, he cautioned that "the global and regional security situation is complex and complicated, with various types of traditional and non-traditional security threats intertwined."

To address this challenging landscape, Sit underscored

VICTORIA CHAN



the need for "enhanced cooperation, mutual learning, mutual consultation and mutual benefits" between jurisdictions. He pointed to a recent Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by Macau, Guangdong, and Hong Kong that aims to promote network security information sharing and coordinate responses to major cyber incidents.

The MOU also aims to fos-

ter talent development and public education initiatives, leveraging Greater Bay Area collaboration "to build a safe environment conducive to maintaining national security and economic development."

Sit emphasized that maintaining national cybersecurity requires enhanced cooperation and mutual benefits between jurisdictions. He noted that cyberattacks, data bre-

ches, and online fraud are "serious threats to national security and social stability" and necessitate a coordinated response.

The official also expressed hope that the sub-forum will serve as a platform for sharing insights and fostering collaboration among security professionals, and wished the event great success in strengthening Macau's defenses against evolving digital threats.

To bolster Macau's cyber defenses, the director emphasized the need for enhanced cooperation and information sharing among neighboring regions, including the signing of an MOU with Guangdong and Hong Kong. This collaboration aims to facilitate coordinated responses to major cyber incidents, as well as promote talent development and public education initiatives within the Greater Bay Area.

AD

慶祝中華人民共和國成立75周年、澳門回歸祖國25周年  
Celebração do 75.º Aniversário da Fundação da República Popular da China,  
e do 25.º Aniversário do Regresso de Macau à Pátria  
Celebration of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China,  
and the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Macao Special Administrative Region



澳門特別行政區  
二十五周年紀念  
Celebração do  
25.º Aniversário da  
Região Administrativa  
Especial de Macau

第 **32<sup>nd</sup>** 澳門國際煙花比賽匯演  
**Macao International Fireworks Display Contest**  
32.º Concurso Internacional de Fogo-de-Artifício de Macau

14,15,21/9 1,6/10/2024 21:00, 21:40

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DAY 3 AT WTT CHAMPIONS

# CHINA'S LIN SHIDONG DELIVERED A STUNNING PERFORMANCE

NADIA SHAW

THE excitement continued at the WTT Champions Macau 2024 yesterday, as table tennis enthusiasts witnessed intense competition during the round-of-32 matches. China's Lin Shidong delivered a stunning performance, defeating Germany's Benedikt Duda with a commanding 3-0 victory in the Men's Singles. In another match, Xu Yingbin of China secured a hard-fought 3-2 win against Chuang Chih-Yuan from Chinese Taipei.

As the evening progressed, table tennis enthusiasts were captivated by the round-of-16 matches. Local favorite Zhu Yuling faced off against China's Wang Manyu at 6:30 p.m. However, the world No. 3 proved too strong, securing a decisive 3-0 victory.

Following the match, Zhu re-



flected on her performance. "I think it was a marvelous match for me because I haven't played for such a long time. This week, I spent time with some of the top

players in the world. I feel so happy and excited. I'm especially thrilled to hear so many people cheering for me in Cantonese. I want to say thank you to everyone

for coming to see me in action," she said.

Despite the loss, Zhu's performance highlighted her resilience and dedication as she continues

her journey back to competitive table. Her recent matches have generated significant excitement, marking her return to the sport after a four-year hiatus. When asked when fans might see her compete again, she responded, "Who knows?"

Meanwhile, Liang Jingkun took on France's Simon Gauzy for a coveted spot in the quarterfinals with a victory over the Frenchman, who possesses a WR of 32 at 3-2s.

## TICKET INFORMATION AND TRANSPORTATION

As the tournament progresses, fans can expect more thrilling matches at the East Asian Games Dome. Tickets can be purchased via the Damai app or at various outlets in Macau.

Spectators are encouraged to arrive early, as gates open one hour before the matches begin.

Public transportation services, including bus routes and the Light Rapid Transit (LRT), will operate more frequently to accommodate fans. Parking will be available on a first-come, first-served basis near the venue.

# Macau New Neighbourhood adds workshop to Mid-Autumn Festival event this Sunday

MACAU New Neighbourhood (MNN) has been hosting a series of activities in Hengqin such as games, shows, lucky draws, workshops, market stalls during Lantern Festival, Women's Day and Children's Day, which have been attended by Macau and Hengqin residents.

With Mid-Autumn Festival being an important time in Chinese tradition, MNN is hosting the "Mid-Autumn Festival at Macau New Neighbourhood" this Sunday (15 Sept.) to mark the occasion in celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the People's Republic of China and the 25th Anniversary of the Macao SAR, the Macau Urban Renewal Limited said yesterday in a press release.

Moon lamp painting and jade rabbit lantern workshops, a perfume pouch making workshop will be added to the activity, where the public can join free of charge by following Ma-

cau Urban Renewal Limited official social media accounts. No registration is needed for the perfume pouch making workshop but the limited quota is available on a first-come first-served basis while stocks last.

For those who have previously signed up for the other workshops, a lucky draw has taken

place and an SMS message will be sent to the participants as confirmation. Limited quota to these workshops is available for walk-in visitors.

The event will also feature a real-life music performance inspired by "China-Chic" trend and a live gig by singer-songwriter Vivian

Chan. During the Mid-Autumn Festival, MNN will be adorned with a 3-metre tall moon and jade rabbit installation and over a hundred lanterns.

MNN will continue to organise activities in the community to bring "liveliness to the neighbourhood," the organizers said.



## ZODIAC BANKNOTES EXCHANGEABLE FROM SEPT. 16

MACAU'S Monetary Authority announced yesterday that residents can begin exchanging four previously issued Zodiac banknotes from Monday, Sept. 16. This exchange includes the Rat, Ox, Tiger, and Rabbit banknotes, which have been popular among collectors and residents.

The online registration process for the exchange has been completed, confirming that each registered Macau resident can exchange up to 15 pieces of each banknote from participating banks, for a total of 120 banknotes, with an exchange cap of MOPI,200. Notably, the exchange must be conducted in a single transaction, with no option to exchange individual types separately.

The exchange period runs from Sept. 16 to Dec. 6, 2024. Residents are reminded to bring the necessary documents and funds when visiting their chosen bank or to authorize a representative for the exchange.

Exchange locations include the Bank of China (BOC), Banco Nacional Ultramarino (BNU), ICBC (Macau), Tai Fung Bank, OCBC Bank, Luso International Bank, Banco Commercial de Macao (BCM), China Construction Bank Macau Branch, and China Guangfa Bank Macau Branch.

For further details, residents can visit the Monetary Authority's website or contact their hotline at 2856 5071 or 2856 5072 during business hours. NS

AP PHOTOS



Cadillac Optiq



Mazda CX-50 Hybrid



Ram 1500 REV



Porsche 911



Toyota 4Runner

## EDMUNDS

# Five game-changing vehicles you'll want to know about

CHASE BIERENKOVEN,  
EDMUNDS

If you're thinking about buying a new car but don't need one right away, now is a great time to show a little patience. Generally, waiting until the fall of winter can create an opportunity to purchase an all-new or significantly updated vehicle. The 2025 model year is jam-packed with big updates for some of the most popular vehicles. To give you an inside scoop on what's coming down the pike in the next few months, the automotive experts at Edmunds have picked five vehicles that promise to be well worth the wait.

### CADILLAC OPTIQ

Cadillac's Optiq SUV will be a new option for electric SUV shoppers who might have otherwise considered an Audi Q4 e-tron, Genesis GV60 or Tesla Model Y. A follow-up to the larger Lyriq luxury SUV, the smaller, less expensive Optiq targets the mainstream in a big way. Considering the

standard all-wheel drive, 300 horsepower and estimated 300 miles of range, it should be compelling. Another reason to be excited is that Cadillac's hands-free Super Cruise driving feature is standard equipment. Edmunds has found Super Cruise to be beneficial in making driving in heavy traffic less fatiguing.

Estimated on-sale date: Late 2024

Starting price: \$54,390, including destination

### MAZDA CX-50 HYBRID

Mazda's CX-50 is Edmunds top-ranked small SUV. It boasts a classy interior, sporty handling and a decent off-road capability. For 2025, the CX-50 will add hybrid fuel efficiency to the mix as well. The new hybrid version will borrow its powertrain from the Toyota RAV4 Hybrid. While there is not an official EPA figure yet, Mazda estimates it will get 38 mpg in combined city/highway driving. That's 10 mpg better than the CX-50's most efficient base engine. With 219 horsepower, the hybrid is

more powerful, too.

Estimated on-sale date: Late 2024

Starting price: \$35,390, including destination

### RAM 1500 REV

The Ram 1500 REV will be the automaker's first electric truck. Its dual electric motors will produce up to 654 horsepower and allow a max tow rating of 14,000 pounds. That's significantly more than the 10,000-pound maximum towing capacities of the electric Ford F-150 Lightning and Chevrolet Silverado EV. Two battery options will be available. The standard pack should propel the 1500 REV to an estimated 350 miles while the bigger battery will be good for an estimated 500 miles of range. Ram also says the 1500 EV will have multiple household-style power outlets to power tools and equipment for recreational use, job sites and more.

Estimated on-sale date: Late 2024

Estimated starting price: \$65,000

### PORSCHE 911

A new 911 is always a big deal, but this one is particularly special. For 2025, the 911 is going hybrid. However, Porsche didn't hybridize its iconic sports car just for better fuel economy. Here, the hybrid is about performance. The powertrain exclusive to the 911 GTS combines a turbocharged flat-six engine with a hybrid system to produce an impressive 532 horsepower. Besides the extra oomph, the hybrid system also helps to improve responsiveness at low rpm. Other changes for all 2025 911s include standard rear-axle steering and a fully digital dashboard.

On-sale date: Available now  
911 GTS starting price: \$166,895, including destination

### TOYOTA 4RUNNER

Toyota's 4Runner is getting a much-needed overall for 2025. This midsize SUV is thoroughly modern but still has all the qualities that made prior editions so popular. Toyota has dropped the old V6

in favor of a new turbocharged four-cylinder good for 278 horsepower. A 326-horsepower hybrid version will also be available. Inside, the new 4Runner sports an available 14-inch center touchscreen and chunky control knobs and switches. Of course, the latest 4Runner won't skimp on off-road capability. The new Trailhunter version, for example, will have additional ground clearance, 33-inch off-road tires, a locking rear differential and more.

Estimated on-sale date: Fall 2024

Estimated starting price: \$42,000

### EDMUNDS SAYS

The 2025 model year is jam-packed with big updates for some of the most popular vehicles on the market. These models we listed above will have some significant advantages over a vehicle in the here and now. Buyers shopping for new wheels will have a lot of exciting options to choose from in the next few months.

MDT/EDMUNDS

## CORPORATE BITS

### Alain Ducasse at Morpheus to host finale of Melco's The Black Pearl Diamond gastronomic series



The final chapter of the "Melco Style Presents: The Black Pearl Diamond Restaurants Gastronomic Series" will take place at City of Dreams' Alain Ducasse at Morpheus on October 26-27, a press release from the gaming operator says.

This four-hands collaboration will feature Alain Ducasse at Morpheus, a Black Pearl one diamond and Michelin two-starred restaurant, and Shan-

ghai's PHÉNIX, a Black Pearl one diamond and Michelin one-starred restaurant. Reservations are available with a 10% discount for Melco Style WeChat members.

Supported by the Macao Government Tourism Office, the series promotes Macau as a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy. The October event will highlight French cuisine through a six-cour-

se menu, blending signature dishes from both restaurants. Guests will sample creations like Alain Ducasse's Mediterranean Gamberoni with gold caviar and PHÉNIX's "Royal" Langoustine roasted with fig leaves.

Alain Ducasse at Morpheus has also introduced a new menu showcasing iconic dishes from Chef Ducasse's career. This selection includes langoustine with Kristal caviar and chocolate soufflé made with ingredients from Ducasse's Paris Manufacture.

For a more exclusive experience, a nine-course wine-pairing menu featuring rare vintages is available, priced at MOP 240,000 per table.

### Charlie Puth brings 'Something New' tour to Macau



Multi-platinum singer-songwriter Charlie Puth will perform at The Venetian Arena in Macau on Dec. 14, 2024, as part of his highly anticipated "Something New" tour. The Grammy-nominated artist is known for his chart-topping hits like "Attention," "We Don't Talk Anymore," and "See You Again."

Puth's Macau show will feature a mix of his iconic songs and new music from his upcoming fourth studio album, the follow-up to his 2022 release "CHARLIE." The Venetian Arena, formerly known as the Cotai Arena, has recently undergone renovations to enhance the venue's acoustics and VIP amenities, ensuring

an unforgettable concert experience for fans.

Tickets for the "Something New" tour go on sale from 12:00pm on Sept. 16, 2024 via Cotai Ticketing, Macau Ticket, and Damai, with prices ranging from MOP/HKD 588 to MOP/HKD 1,688. VIP packages, which include exclusive perks like a pre-show Q&A with Puth and special merchandise, will also be available.

Renowned for his musical talents and engaging live performances, Charlie Puth is set to captivate fans with his wide vocal range and the distinctive sound that has made him one of the music industry's most consistent and popular songwriters.

# Hong Kong hits out at US Congress for passing a bill that could close its representative offices

KANIS LEUNG & ELSIE CHEN,  
HONG KONG

**H**ONG Kong's government yesterday said the U.S. House of Representatives twisted facts in an attack on the city as it passed a bill that could close its representative offices in America, while Beijing threatened to take countermeasures if they are shuttered.

The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office Certification Act was part of a series of China-related legislative proposals being scrutinized by the House this week. Many of the proposals scheduled for a vote appear to have both Republican and Democratic support, reflecting a strong consensus that congressional actions are needed to counter Beijing.

If approved, the measures would still need to clear the Senate and be signed by the U.S. president before officially becoming law. They are expected to increase diplomatic tensions between the world's two largest economies, which see each other as rivals in many areas and have conflicting views over various issues, including on Hong Kong.

Yesterday, Hong Kong's Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development Algernon Yau strongly condemned the bill's passage, saying it was political slander against the laws that safeguard national security and smeared the city's human rights situation "without any reason at all."

He said the American Chamber



The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in New York City

of Commerce in Hong Kong had surveyed its members and found that about 70% of respondents felt no negative impact from the Beijing-imposed security law. He said there are about 1,200 American companies in the city.

"The passing of the bill ... actually is not creating any benefit to anybody at all," he said.

The Hong Kong government said in a statement that the attack on the semi-autonomous Chinese city was "politically driven," violated international law and "grossly interferes" in Hong Kong's affairs.

The office of China's Foreign Ministry in Hong Kong also issued a strongly worded statement, saying if the U.S. pushed the bill forward and shut the offices, China would take resolute countermeasures.

In Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said the act politicizes normal trade cooperation and is "very egregious." Mao said Hong Kong is the second-largest source of trade surplus for the U.S., warning the move would ultimately jeopardize America's own interests.

"China urges the U.S. to stop pushing forward the bill, so as not to cause more harm to the stability and development of China-U.S. relations," she said.

The bill passed the U.S. House with bipartisan support, 413-3, on Tuesday. It proposes to require the White House to remove the extension of certain privileges to the three Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in the U.S. — in Washington, New York and San Francisco

— if the city no longer enjoys a high degree of autonomy from China, and for other purposes.

Under the proposals, the U.S. secretary of state would need to determine whether the offices merit the privileges. If the answer is no, the offices would have to terminate their operations within 180 days after that determination is delivered to Congress.

Republican Representative Chris Smith, chair of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China, said in a statement that the act is a "necessary next step in tangibly demonstrating our solidarity with the persecuted citizens of Hong Kong."

Since the security was imposed, in 2020 to quell months of huge anti-government protests in 2019, authorities have arrested many

leading pro-democracy activists, including Apple Daily founder Jimmy Lai and former student leader Joshua Wong.

In response to the law, the U.S. previously deprived the territory of its preferential trading status and put sanctions on high-ranking Hong Kong officials. But Beijing and Hong Kong insist the law is necessary to bring back stability to the financial hub.

Anna Kwok, executive director of the Hong Kong Democracy Council, a Washington-based group advocating for the city's pro-democracy movement, said in a statement the bill was a much-needed response to hold the Hong Kong government accountable "for their blatant human rights abuses." Kwok was among a group of overseas-based activists targeted by Hong Kong police bounties.

Hong Kong has 14 overseas trade offices, aiming to strengthen economic, trade and cultural ties between the foreign territories and the city.

But they came under scrutiny when an office manager in its London branch along with two other men were charged in Britain for allegedly assisting the Hong Kong intelligence service in May.

Chinese authorities in both the U.K. and Hong Kong at that time criticized the charges brought by London authorities, saying they were the latest in a series of "groundless and slanderous" accusations that the British government has leveled against China. **MDT/AP**

## ECONOMY

# European business confidence in China is at an all-time low, report says

**C**HINA must reprioritize economic growth and reforms and boost investor confidence by leveling the playing field for all companies in the country, a European business group said yesterday.

With "business confidence now at an all-time low" over lagging domestic demand and overcapacity in certain industries, the annual European Business in China Position Paper called on China to open its economy and allow a more



President of the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China Jens Eskelund speaks during a press conference in Beijing, yesterday

free market to determine resource allocation. It also recommended introducing policies to boost domestic

demand. Profit margins in China are at or below the global average for two-thirds of

the companies surveyed earlier in the year, according to the paper published yesterday by the European Chamber of Commerce in China.

In August, China filed a complaint with the World Trade Organization over European Union tariffs on electric vehicles made in China. It also launched anti-dumping and subsidies investigations of European dairy products, brandy and pork exports. The tit-for-tat actions

have raised fears that a trade war may break out.

Many European businesses are deciding that the returns on investments in the world's second-largest economy are not worth the risks, due to issues including China's economic slowdown and a politicized business environment.

"For some European headquarters and shareholders, the risks of investing in China are beginning to outweigh the returns, a trend that will only intensify if key business concerns are left unaddressed," Jens Eskelund, president of China's European Union Chamber of Commerce, said in a message at the beginning of the paper.

The European Cham-

ber's paper proposes over 1,000 recommendations for China to resolve challenges and problems faced by European businesses operating in the country and boost investor confidence. Among them are calls for China to refrain from punishing companies for the actions of their home governments. Others include ensuring that policy packages for attracting foreign investment are followed by implementation, and refraining from "erratic policy shifts."

The report also recommended that the EU proactively engage with China and keep its responses "measured and proportionate" when disagreements arise. **MDT/AP**

VIETNAM

# Flash flood sweeps away hamlet as storm toll rises to 155 dead

A flash flood swept away an entire hamlet in northern Vietnam, killing 30 people and leaving dozens missing as deaths from a typhoon and its aftermath climbed to 155 yesterday.

Vietnamese state broadcaster VTV said the torrent of water gushing down from a mountain in Lao Cai province Tuesday buried Lang Nu hamlet with 35 families in mud and debris.

Only about a dozen are known so far to have survived. Rescuers have recovered 22 bodies and are continuing the search for about 70 others.

The death toll from Typhoon Yagi and its aftermath has climbed to 155. Dozens of people are still missing and hundreds were injured, VTV said.

Floods and landslides have caused most of the deaths, many of which have come in the northwestern Lao Cai province, bordering China, where Lang Nu is located. Lao Cai province is also



Rescue workers clear mud and debris brought down by a flood in Lang Nu hamlet in Lao Cai province

home to the popular trekking destination of Sapa.

Many roads in the province were blocked by landslides and unrelenting rainfall, said Sapa tour guide Van A Po. The weather has forced them to limit travel with all trekking suspended.

"It is very scary," he said.

Tourism is a key engine for the local economy, and many in the industry found themselves stranded. Nguyen Van Luong, who works in a hotel, said he couldn't return home since the 15-kilometer road from Sapa to his villa-

ge was too dangerous to drive.

"The road is badly damaged and landslides could happen anytime. My family told me to stay here until it's safer to go home."

On Monday, a bridge collapsed and a bus was swept away by flooding, killing dozens of people.

The steel bridge in Phu Tho province over the engorged Red River collapsed, sending 10 cars and trucks along with two motorbikes into the river. The bus carrying 20 people was swept into a flooded stream by a landslide in mountainous Cao Bang province.

Yagi was the strongest typhoon to hit the Southeast Asian country in decades. It made landfall Saturday with winds of up to 149 kph (92 mph). Despite weakening on Sunday, downpours have continued and rivers remain dangerously high.

The heavy rains also damaged factories in export-focused northern Vietnam's industrial hubs.

Storms like Typhoon Yagi are "getting stronger due to climate change, primarily because warmer ocean waters provide more energy to fuel the storms, leading to increased wind speeds and heavier rainfall," said Benjamin Horton, director of the Earth Observatory of Singapore. **MDT/AP**

AD

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AP PHOTO



This illustration provided by SpaceX in 2024 depicts a spacewalk from the Dragon capsule

NEW FRONTIER

# Billionaire attempts first private spacewalk

MARCIA DUNN,  
CAPE CANAVERAL

**F**IRST came space tourism. Now comes an even bigger thrill for the monied masses: spacewalking.

The stage is set for the first private spacewalk today. Tech billionaire Jared Isaacman will pop out of the hatch of his orbiting SpaceX capsule, two days after blasting off from Florida on a chartered flight that lifted him and his crew higher than anyone since NASA's moonwalkers. He partnered with SpaceX CEO Elon Musk to buy a series of rocket rides and help develop brand new spacesuits.

SpaceX is the first private company to attempt a spacewalk, until now the domain of just 12 countries. There's a reason why it's such a niche and elite group: Spacewalking is considered the most dangerous part of any flight after launch and reentry, and demands extensive training.

"Spacewalks are a whole different entire ballgame than just strapping into a rocket and riding it, getting some zero-g time and coming back," said retired NASA astronaut Chris Cassidy.

Cassidy knows firsthand

about the dangers of spacewalking: He was working outside the International Space Station in 2013 when his partner, Italian astronaut Luca Parmitano, almost drowned. Parmitano's helmet filled with water from his cooling garment, and he barely made it back inside in time. Another 30 minutes that day and "the answer might be different," Cassidy said.

Cassidy worries there's "a slippery slope" where the wealthy could try to jump to the front of a spacewalking line with minimal training.

Risk and disaster analyst Ilan Kelman of University College London said it's "appropriate and inevitable" that non-professionals will end up performing spacewalks. But he anticipates fatalities along the way.

"We can and should do plenty to reduce the risk," said Kelman. "We must be entirely honest with anyone participating, especially the low chance of rescue when something major goes wrong."

This spacewalk attempt won't be like what routinely happens at the International Space Station where astronauts float out to do repairs. Isaacman and SpaceX engineer Sarah Gillis

will venture just barely outside the capsule as they soar about 450 miles (more than 700 kilometers) above Earth. Their orbit was initially twice that high, but reduced for the spacewalk.

Besides being new to spacewalking, the crew of four will test suits fresh off the factory floor. All will be exposed to the vacuum of space since the Dragon capsule, unlike larger space vehicles, lacks an airlock.

For Isaacman, throwing away the cabin atmosphere and then restoring it is the riskiest part of the endeavor.

"You can't afford to get anything wrong along that journey or you sidetrack it," Isaacman said. "We're going out just long enough to do what we need to do to get the data."

The bulk of their training over the past two years has focused on the spacewalk, the highlight of their planned five-day flight. SpaceX put considerable preparation and testing into the capsule and suits, said SpaceX's Bill Gerstenmaier, a former NASA manager.

For safety, Isaacman and Gillis will always keep a foot or hand on the capsule or the ladder-like support that they'll position above the hatch. They will be tethered to 12-foot (3.6-meter) lines, but there will be

no dangling at the end of them.

The duo will take turns emerging from the hatch, each spending 15 to 20 minutes outside as they flex and test their suits. Their crewmates — SpaceX engineer Anna Menon and former Air Force Thunderbird pilot Scott "Kidd" Poteet — will monitor the spacewalk from inside.

The entire spacewalk should last no more than two hours. Isaacman has refused to say how much he invested in the flight.

To date, 263 individuals representing a dozen countries have performed spacewalks, according to NASA statistics, led by Soviet cosmonaut Alexei Leonov in 1965 with NASA's Ed White close behind.

China, the only other country to launch its own citizens into space, joined the spacewalking club in 2008. Europe, Japan, Canada and the United Arab Emirates also have seen their astronauts float outside, but always in NASA or Russian garb and under NASA or Russian control.

With SpaceX intent on getting people to the moon and Mars, "we need to start somewhere and the first step is what we're doing on this mission," Gillis said. **MDT/AP**

## this day in history

### 2001 US DECLARES WAR ON TERROR



The President of the United States has described the destruction caused in New York and Washington as an act of war against all freedom-loving people.

In a statement broadcast at 1053 local time (1553 BST), George Bush vowed the US would use all its resources to avenge the worst-ever attacks on American soil.

But he warned an angry and wounded nation they would have to be patient and said any action could be a monumental struggle.

The president has also been seeking the backing of world leaders for an international campaign against terrorism.

As the estimated number of dead rose into the thousands the day after the tragedy, members of the US government began talking openly of war.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell said: "It isn't going to be solved with a single counter-attack against one individual, it's going to be a long term conflict."

Expressions of support have come quickly from American allies, and also from countries not known for their sympathy with the US - the leaders of Libya and Palestine both condemned the attacks in the strongest terms.

Only Iraq has endorsed the atrocity, saying the attacks were a "lesson for all tyrants and oppressors" and the fruit of American crimes.

Tony Blair offered the unequivocal backing of the UK, echoing President Bush's words in his press conference announcing the recall of Parliament.

"I don't think there is any doubt at all that this threat is aimed at the whole democratic world," the prime minister told reporters.

"The US has been singled out... But these terrorists will regard us all as targets."

CourtesyBBCNews

## IN CONTEXT

The criminal investigation quickly identified the hijackers, and linked them to al-Qaeda - the Islamic militant group set up by the Afghanistan-based Osama Bin Laden. President Bush's "War on Terror" began on 8 October 2001 with an air bombardment of Afghanistan by US and UK forces. With the help of the Northern Alliance opposition group, the Taliban leaders of the country were quickly toppled. Many alleged members of al-Qaeda were caught and flown to a US base on Cuba, but Bin Laden proved to be more elusive and the hunt for him still continues.



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

**YOUR STARS**

**ARIES**  
Mar. 21-Apr. 19  
Widen your territory. Traffic and travel obstacles could arise. Technology makes things easier. Can you explore from home? Enjoy sweet discoveries.

**TAURUS**  
Apr. 20-May. 20  
Handle a financial challenge before it grows. Stay in communication. Change or keep your agreements. Postpone what you can to focus on balancing accounts.

**GEMINI**  
May. 21-Jun. 21  
Share support around an obstacle. Resolve a challenge with your partner. New information threatens assumptions. Abandon preconceptions.

**CANCER**  
Jun. 22-Jul. 22  
Maintain a steady pace with your work, health and energy. Make repairs. Avoid accidents or injury. Keep your equipment in good order. Nurture yourself.

**LEO**  
Jul. 23-Aug. 22  
Your perfect romance may not look like what you imagined. Share a passion. Consider what's most important to you. Find love in unexpected places.

**VIRGO**  
Aug. 23-Sep. 22  
Plan carefully before launching a domestic project. Do the research before investing time or money. Grab a golden opportunity for a long-desired change.

**LIBRA**  
Sep. 23-Oct. 22  
Connect over a brilliant idea. Brainstorm and consider. Discuss plans and preparations. Discover unexpected solutions to a breakdown.

**SCORPIO**  
Oct. 23-Nov. 21  
Repairing a mistake or misunderstanding could get expensive. Slow and proceed carefully to save. Discover an insider advantage or windfall.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Nov. 22-Dec. 21  
A beautiful possibility could seem fragile or remote. Avoid miscommunication or mistakes. Keep the faith. Rearrange what you've got. Patiently develop your skills.

**CAPRICORN**  
Dec. 22-Jan. 19  
Peace and quiet satisfies your spirit. Avoid crowds and expensive scenarios. Get introspective as you organize. Consider the past, present and future.

**AQUARIUS**  
Jan. 20-Feb. 18  
Huddle with your team to resolve a challenge. Share the load for greater ease. Hold off on big changes and wait for better conditions. Someone important is paying attention.

**PISCES**  
Feb. 19-Mar. 20  
Find another route around a professional obstacle. Don't get casual about keeping your promises. Stay in communication. Integrity provides workability.

**The Born Loser by Chip Sansom**



**SUDOKU**

**EASY**

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

**EASY+**

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

**MEDIUM**

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

**HARD**

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		1						

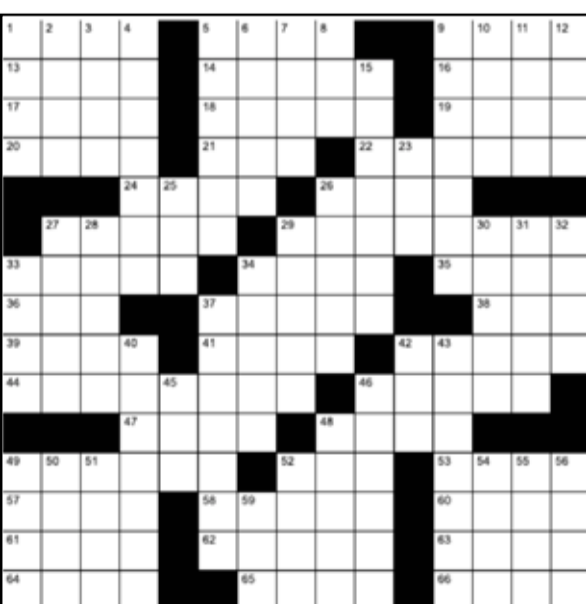
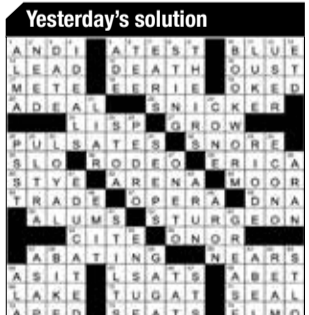
**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	17	28	fine
Changchun	12	25	cloudy
Chengdu	25	31	cloudy
Chongqing	28	37	fine
Fuzhou	27	34	cloudy
Guangzhou	26	34	showers
Guiyang	19	28	cloudy
Haikou	25	31	thunderstorms
Hangzhou	25	33	thunderstorms
Harbin	14	26	cloudy
Hefei	24	31	rain
Nanjing	26	32	thunderstorms
Shanghai	27	32	overcast
Taipei	26	31	cloudy
Wuhan	23	27	overcast
Hong Kong	28	33	fine
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	18	27	cloudy
Frankfurt	6	16	cloudy
Paris	7	16	rain
London	16	16	cloudy
New York	18	27	cloudy

**CROSSWORDS**

ACROSS 1- Word of regret; 5- Farm unit; 9- It parallels the radius; 13- Plaster backing; 14- Runs into; 16- Needy; 17- Short skirt; 18- Cited; 19- Lug; 20- Greek portico; 21- Ocean; 22- Hams it up; 24- Golf pegs, northern English river; 26- James of "The Godfather"; 27- Trials; 29- Act of seizing authority; 33- Bicker; 34- Richard of "Chicago"; 35- Metal filament; 36- Thrice, in prescriptions; 37- Lend \_\_\_ (listen); 38- Take a load off; 39- Chinese weight; 41- Gasp for air; 42- Wonderland girl; 44- Tries; 46- 1996 Madonna role; 47- Departs; 48- Thick slice; 49- Canal site; 52- Blushing; 53- Circular band; 57- Pulitzer-winning biographer Leon; 58- Actor Christopher; 60- "Hard \_\_\_!" (sailor's yell); 61- Cambodian currency; 62- Trig functions; 63- Genuine; 64- \_\_\_-bitty; 65- Put in order; 66- American football measure;

DOWN 1- Donations; 2- Café au \_\_\_; 3- \_\_\_ extra cost; 4- Japanese massage technique; 5- Entertains; 6- Waxy membrane at the base of a parrot's beak; 7- Singer McEntire; 8- Greek vowel; 9- So far; 10- Booty; 11- Brief letter, paper money; 12- NASA launch vehicle; 15- Athletic shoe; 23- Fannie \_\_\_; 25- Summer on the Seine; 26- Unit of weight in gemstones; 27- Rare delight; 28- White heron; 29- Mall frequenters; 30- Drop in on; 31- Writer Jong; 32- Nerve network; 33- \_\_\_ boy; 34- Flying pests; 37- Becomes visible; 40- According to law; 42- Actress Gardner; 43- Collection of books; 45- Pop's partner; 46- Firstborn; 48- Cut off; 49- Persian fairy; 50- Mine entrance; 51- Nair competitor; 52- Janet of Justice; 54- Intestinal sections; 55- Approach; 56- Neuter; 59- Sue Grafton's "\_\_\_ for Evidence";



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

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



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**Jade Garden (Taipa)**  
HKD 11,880,000 4 bed 3 bath

AP PHOTO



## US PRESIDENTIAL

# THE ONE AND THE ONLY DEBATE?

## Harris presses a more forceful case against Trump than Biden did on abortion, economy, and democracy in what can be the only debate before Election day

ZEKE MILLER, MICHELLE L. PRICE, JILL COLVIN & JOSH BOAK, PHILADELPHIA

**K**AMALA Harris pressed a forceful case against Donald Trump yesterday [Macau time] in their first and perhaps only debate before the presidential election, repeatedly goading him in an event that showcased their starkly different visions for the country on abortion, immigration and American democracy.

The Democratic vice president provoked Trump with reminders about the 2020 election loss that he still denies, delivered derisive asides at his false claims and sought to underscore the Republican former president's role in the Supreme Court's overturning of a national right to abortion two years ago. Trump tore into Harris as too liberal and a continuation of Biden's unpopular administration, as he launched into the sort of freewheeling personal attacks and digressions from which his advisers and supporters have tried to steer him away.

Less than two months from Election Day and hours before the first early ballots will begin to be mailed Wednesday in Alabama, the debate offered the clearest look yet at a presidential race

that has been repeatedly upended.

Harris' performance by nearly every measure seemed to be the opposite of President Joe Biden's in June, with sharp, focused answers designed to showcase the contrast between her and Trump, whereas Biden at times was muddled, halting and incoherent. Harris used her body language and facial expressions to confront Trump and express that she found his answers ridiculous, amusing or both — a pronounced change from Biden's slack-jawed expression when Trump attacked him.

Harris appeared intent on casting herself as a relief for voters seeking a break from Trump's acerbic politics — a contrast highlighted as Trump appeared to be set on his back foot by her needling.

In one moment, Harris turned to Trump and said that as vice president, she had spoken to foreign leaders who "are laughing at Donald Trump," and said she had spoken to military leaders, "and they say you're a disgrace."

As Trump, 78, again questioned her racial identity, the 59-year-old Harris, the first woman, Black person and person of South Asian descent to serve as vice president, pointedly gestured to Trump and responded, "I think the American people want better than that, want better than this."

Trump in turn tried to link Harris to the still-unpopular Biden, questioning why she hadn't acted on her proposed ideas while serving as vice president. Trump also focused his attacks on Harris over her assignment by Biden to deal with the root causes of illegal migration.

"Why hasn't she done it? She's been there for three and a half years," he said.

Harris promised tax cuts aimed at the middle class and said she would push to restore a federally guaranteed right to abortion

overturned by the Supreme Court two years ago. Trump said his proposed tariffs would help the U.S. stop being cheated by allies on trade and said he would work to swiftly end the Russia-Ukraine war — though he twice refused to say he believed it was in America's interest for Ukraine, which bipartisan majorities in Congress have backed, to win the war.

Trump again denied that he lost to Biden four years ago, when a mob of his supporters stormed the U.S. Capitol to try to stop the certification of his loss based on false or unsubstantiated claims of voter fraud. He tried to reverse the question of threats to American democracy and suggested criticism of him could be linked to the assassination attempt he survived in July.

"I probably took a bullet to the head because of the things that they say about me," he said. "They talk about democracy, I'm a threat to democracy. They're the threat to democracy."

Trump has in recent days ramped up his threats of retribution if he returns to the White House, saying he would prosecute lawyers, donors, and other officials whom he deems to "cheat" in the election.

"Donald Trump was fired by 81 million people," Harris said, "So let's be clear about that. And clearly he is having a very difficult time processing that."

Her campaign ended the debate by expressing openness to another meeting in October — and welcomed an endorsement from megastar Taylor Swift, who labeled herself a "childless cat lady" in a dig at Trump's running mate, Ohio Sen. JD Vance, as she encouraged her fans to vote.

### ABORTION: HARRIS DEFENDS SHIFTS TO THE CENTER

Harris sought to defend her shifts away from liberal causes to more moderate stances on fracking, expanding Medicare for all and mandatory gun buyback

programs — and even backing away from her position that plastic straws should be banned — as pragmatism.

Asked about her changing positions on a number of issues, she twice repeated a phrase she has used to try to explain it away, saying, "My values have not changed."

Trump, meanwhile, quickly went after Harris for abandoning some of her past liberal positions and said: "She's going to my philosophy now. In fact, I was going to send her a MAGA hat." Harris smiled broadly and laughed.

Harris, in zeroing in on one of Trump's biggest electoral vulnerabilities, laid the end of a federally guaranteed right to abortion at Trump's feet for his role in appointing three U.S. Supreme Court justices who overturned *Roe v. Wade*, leaving more than 20 states in the country with what she called "Trump abortion bans."

Harris gave one of her most impassioned answers as she described the ways women have been denied abortion care and other emergency care since that ruling, and said Trump would sign a national abortion ban if he wins.

Trump declared it "a lie," and said, "I'm not signing a ban and there's no reason to sign a ban."

The Republican has said he wants the issue left to the states.

Trump, who is trying to paint the vice president as an out-of-touch liberal while trying to win over voters skeptical he should return to the White House, continued to call Harris a "Marxist" and said, "Everyone knows she's a Marxist."

Harris' eyebrows shot up and she made an amused face, bringing her hand to her chin and staring at him.

### UKRAINE: TRUMP LEANED ON FAMILIAR FALSEHOODS

Trump attacked Harris for the inflation seen under the

Biden-Harris administration, a major liability for the vice president. He quickly turned his answer to warning about immigrants coming into the country — one of the subjects he's focused on most heavily in his campaign.

He called his proposed tariffs a straightforward way to make other countries pay up for what he has long argued is an imbalance that hurts the U.S. Harris called the tariffs an effective national sales tax. Trump reacted swiftly and called that "an incorrect statement."

Throughout his campaign, Trump has leaned on illegal immigration, an issue that has bedeviled Biden and Harris with rising numbers of illegal border crossings and the arrivals of thousands of people needing shelter in Democratic-led cities. He accused Democrats of abetting large numbers of unauthorized crossings — though they have dropped in recent months in part due to new asylum restrictions by the Biden administration.

But as he often does in his rallies and on his social media account, Trump reeled off a series of falsehoods or unproven claims about migrants. One of those claims was a debunked rumor that Trump and his allies have spread online in recent days, alleging Haitian immigrants in an Ohio town are hunting and eating pets. Officials in Springfield, Ohio, say they have no evidence of that happening.

"Talk about extreme," Harris said after Trump talked about dogs and cats being eaten.

### HARRIS' EXPRESSIONS FILLED THEIR SPLIT-SCREEN

As the debate opened, Harris walked up to Trump's lectern to introduce herself, marking the first time the two had ever met, since Trump skipped her 2021 inauguration. "Kamala Harris," she said, extending her hand to Trump, who received it in a handshake — the first presidential debate handshake since the 2016 campaign.

Trump has at times resorted to invoking racial and gender stereotypes and falsely claiming that Harris, who attended a historically Black university, hid her race during her career.

"I read where she was not Black," Trump said when asked about comments questioning Harris' race, adding a minute later, "and then I read that she was Black." He seemed to suggest her race was a choice, saying twice, "That's up to her."

"I think it's a tragedy that we have someone who wants to be president who has consistently over the course of his career attempted to use race to divide the American people," Harris responded. **MDT/AP**

TENNIS | DAVIS CUP

# Germany, Australia, Canada and Belgium earn victories openers

**G**ERMANY beat Slovakia 3-0 despite the absence of No. 2-ranked Alexander Zverev, and 2023 runner-up Australia came out on top in its duel with France yesterday [Macau time] as the group stage of the Davis Cup Finals kicked off.

Four groups play across four cities this week to qualify for the Final 8 knockout stage to be held in Malaga, Spain, in November. The top two in each four-team group will advance.

Germany and Slovakia were the first teams in action on Tuesday playing in China in Group C, which also includes the United States. The U.S. plays Chile on Wednesday.

Germany sent out Maximilian Marterer in the first singles match and the 104th-ranked player won 6-4, 7-5 against Lukas Klein. Yannick Hanfmann then saved a match point and rallied from a set down to win 3-6, 6-3, 7-6 (3) against Jozef Kovalik in the se-

AP PHOTO



Canada's Felix Auger Aliassime returns the ball to Argentina's Sebastian Baez during the Davis Cup group stage finals match

cond singles match.

U.S. Open doubles finalists Tim Pütz and Kevin Krawietz completed the German win by claiming a 7-5, 6-3 against win over Klein and Igor Zelenay.

After finishing runner-up the past two years, Australia is again among the favorites and beat France 2-1 in Group B in the Spanish town of Valencia.

Thanasi Kokkinakis gave Aus-

tralia a 1-0 lead with a 7-6 (4), 7-6 (3) win over No. 25-ranked Arthur Fils.

Kokkinakis, ranked 78th, fought back from a 4-2 deficit in the second set to record a first top-

30 win in the team competition.

"Arthur is a great player, he's going to be leading the French team for a while, so I knew it was a tough challenge," Kokkinakis said. "I just tried to hang in there and I think I played steady on the big moments. There wasn't much in it."

Frenchmen Pierre-Hugues Herbert and Edouard Roger-Vasselin saved a match point then took the second set of the decisive doubles match but ultimately lost to Matthew Ebden and Max Purcell 7-5, 5-7, 6-3. Purcell and fellow Australian Jordan Thompson won the men's doubles title at the U.S. Open last weekend.

Among the big names competing this week are Carlos Alcaraz of Spain and British player Jack Draper, who made it to the U.S. Open semifinals last week.

Italy beat Australia for the 2023 title.

Playing in Group D, Denis Shapovalov converted all four break points to defeat Francisco Cerundolo 7-5, 6-3 and give Canada an early lead. Felix Auger-Aliassime then beat Sebastian Baez 6-3, 6-3 to clinch Canada's victory. It ended 2-1 after Maximiliano Gonzalez and Andres Molteni came from behind to beat Shapovalov and Vasek Pospisil 2-6, 6-3, 6-2 in doubles.

In Group A, Belgium beat the Netherlands 2-1. **MDT/AP**

AD

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**OPINION**

**The Conversation**  
 Lee Banville, University of Montana



**'WHAT PEOPLE WANTED'**

Often these spectacles of American politics come down to some memorable moment – a rhetorical jab that bloodies an opponent, an unforced error that dogs a campaign for weeks. The first 30 minutes of Biden's performance in his June debate with Trump is just the latest in a long line of pivotal moments that can throw a campaign off.

But when does a fumbled phrase elevate into a political crisis or a factual slip turn into lost votes? And what from tonight's historic encounter will merit more than a couple of TikToks making fun of politicians?

We should know in the next day or so, but one may be when Trump claimed that ending the constitutional protection for abortion in *Roe v. Wade* had returned the issue to the states – a move, he said, "Every legal scholar, every Democrat, every Republican, liberal, conservative, they all wanted this issue to be brought back to the states where the people could vote. And that's what happened."

Harris then turned that phrase "what people wanted" back on the former president.

"You want to talk about this is what people wanted? Pregnant women who want to carry a pregnancy to term suffering from a miscarriage, being denied care in an emergency room because the health care providers are afraid they might go to jail and she's bleeding out in a car in the parking lot? She didn't want that. Her husband didn't want that. A 12- or 13-year-old survivor of incest being forced to carry a pregnancy to term? They don't want that," Harris said.

It was a moment of policy, but also a personal moment, and hit on a major theme of the race. That is the kind of moment we have seen stand out in the past: President Gerald Ford wrongly declaring Eastern Europe free of Soviet domination; President Ronald Reagan deftly dispatching concerns about his age with a well-placed quip about the youth and inexperience of his 56-year-old rival; President George H.W. Bush looking at his watch repeatedly during a 1992 town hall debate.

Now, Bush might have been the funny one, but it was former President Bill Clinton who, after mulling it over, offered some good insight into why some debate moments stick: "The reason the watch thing hurt so badly was it tended to reinforce the problem he had in the election."

Put another way, stories and moments that reaffirm a theme in the campaign that already is present in the minds of voters often resonate long after the lights dim.

So, now Americans will sit back and see what the echo chambers and cable outlets make of an exchange like the one on abortion. Will it fire up more women voters to back the Harris ticket or will it be lost in a sea of economic issues and immigration policy?

If Bill Clinton is right, the abortion back-and-forth will probably resonate if it connects to what voters already think about these candidates and what are the primary issues of this campaign. [Abridged]

The race to lead the Cheng family conglomerate of Hong Kong is now in full swing, as four siblings have attained prominent roles in the business empire, just when the group's core development arm is set to book its first annual loss in two decades, Nikkei Asia reported.

Chow Tai Fook Enterprises, the investment holding company of the family, set up a new chief executive office late last month staffed by three co-CEOs, with one being Christopher Cheng Chi-leong, the third and youngest son of family head Henry Cheng Kar-shun. According to Nikkei, the unlisted CTFE owns major stakes in the

group's core listed entities, including 45% of key property builder New World Development and 75% of infrastructure player NWS Holdings. Another listed arm, Chow Tai Fook Jewellery Group, is controlled separately by the family.

The latest move makes the CEOs of CTFE the most important executives within the group, the report contends. The announcement of Christopher's ascension made waves as observers look for signals on the conglomerate's future.

Henry said he was "excited" about the appointments, saying he has "worked closely with [them] in different fields of the business."



Pope Francis is welcomed by Singapore's Minister of Culture, Community and Youth Edwin Tong and his wife and the Ambassador of Singapore to the Holy at Singapore airport, yesterday

AFTER A VISIT TO IMPOVERISHED, DEVOUT TIMOR

**POPE LANDS IN ECONOMIC POWER SINGAPORE**

NICOLE WINFIELD,  
 SINGAPORE

POPE Francis flew to Singapore yesterday for the final leg of his trip through Asia, arriving in one of the world's richest countries from one of its poorest after a record-setting final Mass in East Timor.

After a brief farewell ceremony, Francis, the Vatican delegation and journalists traveling with him flew to Singapore aboard local carrier Aero Dili's only aircraft, an Airbus A320. It landed about three hours later in Singapore, where Francis had no public events scheduled for the rest of the day.

Francis wrapped up his visit to East Timor with a rally yesterday morning of its young people, who make up the majority of the 1.3 million population. He urged them to work together to build their young country, using the foundations of older generations who formally secured their independence from Indonesia in 2002, to grow in peace, prosperity and reconciliation.

"Go forward with the happiness of youth, but don't forget one thing," Francis told them. "You are the heirs of those who persevered in founding this nation. For this, don't lose your memory, the memory

of those who persevered with so much sacrifice to consolidate this nation."

The 87-year-old pope, who is on the longest and farthest trip of his pontificate, ditched his prepared remarks to speak off the cuff in his native Spanish, as he often does when he's around young people.

The joyous encounter came just hours after around 600,000 people — or nearly half the population — packed a seaside park for Francis' Mass. It was held on the same field where St. John Paul II prayed 35 years ago, when East Timor was under brutally oppressive Indonesian rule.

Francis came to East Timor, also known as Timor-Leste, to encourage it more than two decades after it secured independence as it struggles with poverty and high unemployment.

In his final remarks at the end of the liturgy, Francis warned the Timorese today to beware of the "crocodiles" who come ashore and "want to change your culture, your history."

It was an apparent reference both to East Timor's past, as a colonial possession of first Portugal and then Indonesia, but also its current attractiveness to international commercial interests eager to develop its natural gas reserves.

The oil and gas industry

is the bedrock of the Timorese economy and the main source of government revenue. Development of the promising offshore Greater Sunrise gas field, shared between Australia and East Timor, has been stalled for more than two decades — mainly over the question of which country the fuel should be piped to.

Timorese officials believe that piping gas into their country would deliver more benefits for their people despite the added logistical challenges. In an interview last week, President Jose Ramos-Horta said any alternative would have to be "a very persuasive proposal."

Francis, who is from Argentina and is history's first Latin American pope, has long railed against multinational companies that exploit poor countries for their natural resources for their own benefit without taking care to adequately compensate the local population or care for the environment.

"And don't go near those crocodiles because they bite, and bite a lot, a lot," Francis said Tuesday night, using a term in Spanish that means both "to bite" and to accept bribes.

old acolyte at the Dili Mass celebrated by St. John Paul II on the same field as Francis. **MDT/AP**



**Germany** BMW reduced its 2024 financial outlook due to recall costs affecting over 1.5 million vehicles. The faulty braking system recall, affecting models worldwide, will cost hundreds of millions of euros. BMW also noted weak demand in China, contributing to the lowered sales and earnings targets.



**France** Two Italian and two South Korean climbers were found dead near Mont Blanc's summit after going missing during bad weather. Rescue teams discovered their bodies at over 15,000 feet. Hypothermia was the cause of death. French authorities have launched an investigation into the incident.



**United Kingdom** King Charles III is scheduled to visit Australia and Samoa in October, his first Commonwealth tour since becoming king. The trip marks his return to public duties after receiving cancer treatment earlier this year. Charles will attend the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Samoa.



**Kenya** Hundreds of workers at Kenya's main international airport went on strike, protesting a deal with India's Adani Group to modernize and operate the airport. Workers fear job losses and worse working conditions. The strike caused flight delays, stranding passengers, while the government seeks to normalize operations.