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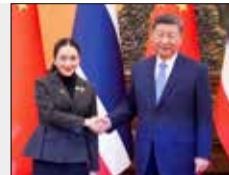
“THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’”

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THE 2025 SANDS CHINA MACAO INTERNATIONAL 10K RACE WILL TAKE PLACE ON MARCH 16, WITH REGISTRATION OPENING ON FEB. 8-9

MACAU'S POST OFFICE MAINTAINS ITS PARCEL BAN DESPITE USPS POLICY REVERSAL

XI AND THAILAND'S PM VOW TO CRACK DOWN ON SCAM NETWORKS THAT PLAGUE SOUTHEAST ASIA



Philippines A U.S. military-contracted plane crashed in Maguindanao del Sur yesterday, killing all four people on board. Witnesses reported seeing smoke and hearing an explosion before the aircraft crashed. The site was secured by local authorities, and no civilians were injured.



Philippines The Philippine Senate said yesterday that it will begin Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment trial in June after accusations of corruption, plotting assassination, and weak responses to China's maritime aggression. The case has deepened political divisions, with critics calling it persecution and activists demanding swift accountability.



New Zealand Protests overshadowed New Zealand's Waitangi Day yesterday as Māori leaders condemned proposed treaty changes. Prime Minister Christopher Luxon skipped the main event, drawing criticism. The treaty, signed in 1840, remains contested, with Māori activists warning that redefining it could undermine Indigenous rights and historical reparations.



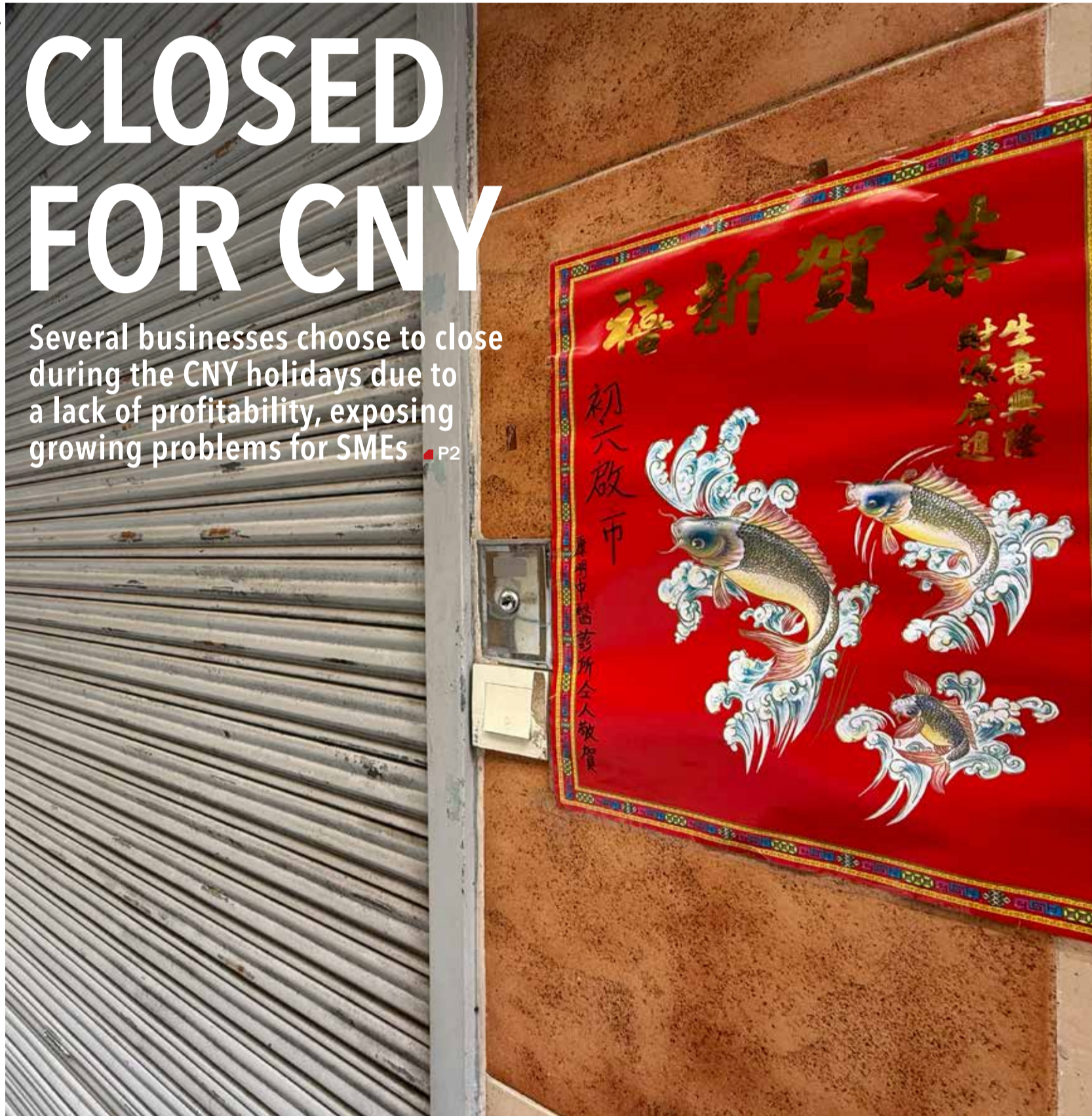
Australia A wave of antisemitic attacks, including arson and vandalism, has gripped Australia. Authorities suspect foreign influence and have arrested 12 people. Parliament passed tougher hate crime laws, while political leaders debate the role of pro-Palestinian protests. Jewish leaders say fear in their community is at unprecedented levels.

More on backpage

CLOSED FOR CNY

Several businesses choose to close during the CNY holidays due to a lack of profitability, exposing growing problems for SMEs

RENATO MARQUES



AVIATION
AIRPORT SEES GROWTH IN PASSENGER TRAFFIC DURING THE SPRING FESTIVAL



P4

P15

DRIVER ERROR CAUSES BUS CRASH

A bus crashed into a roadside barrier near Tap Seac on Wednesday, with police attributing the incident to driver error. The accident occurred around 1:30 p.m. when the driver, a man in his 50s, reportedly pressed the accelerator instead of the brake. No injuries were reported among the passengers. Authorities confirmed the driver passed an alcohol test at the scene. Police have since filed charges for unsafe vehicle operation, emphasizing the need for increased safety measures on local roads. Further investigations are ongoing to determine additional factors in the crash.

IAM UPGRADING FLOWER CITY PARK PLAYGROUND

The Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) will begin optimization works on the children's playground in Flower City Park starting February 10, temporarily closing the facility for approximately 150 days. The enhancements will introduce new play equipment designed for children aged 2 to 12, including climbing and balance features. The existing facilities have deteriorated over the years, prompting the need for updates. In addition to new equipment, the project will install safety flooring and a barrier-free passage connecting the playground to the Activity Room. Children's washbasins will also be added to improve accessibility.

MPU LAUNCHES FINANCIAL TECHNOLOGY COURSE

The Center for Continuing Education at the Macau Polytechnic University (MPU) is set to launch its inaugural "Financial Technology and Industry Practice" course on March 12. This initiative aims to equip financial practitioners and interested individuals with essential knowledge and skills in modern financial technology. The course, which is part of the Continuing Professional Development Program for Insurance Intermediaries, offers diverse content that covers the fundamentals, applications, and risks of financial technology across banking, securities, and insurance.

ECONOMY

BUSINESSES CHOOSE TO CLOSE DURING CNY DUE TO LACK OF PROFITABILITY

RENATO MARQUES

DURING the recent Spring Festival Golden Week (CNY), many local businesses chose to close in order to celebrate the holiday, foregoing potential sales opportunities.

In response to growing calls for government support for small and medium enterprises (SMEs), the Times investigated why these businesses decided to shut down instead of seizing the opportunity to boost sales.

Eric, a restaurant and bar manager, operates in the area connecting the Ruins of St. Paul's and other historic monuments to the city center.

Located in an area of high tourism flow, Eric explains why his establishment was closed for seven days.

"We have closed from January 26 and reopened only on the seventh day of the New Year [February 4] as Monday [February 3] is our regular weekly off," he explained.

When questioned by the Times about what drove this decision to close for a whole week, Eric elaborated, "Over the years, we've realized that staying open during CNY doesn't make financial sense for us. This is for two reasons. First, the slight increase in sales we might see does not justify the additional expenses for staff. Second, most of our employees are from mainland China and have family there, so CNY is a very important holiday for them."

"Not being able to visit their families would create significant issues and conflicts. We choose to avoid that and instead take the time to rest, evaluate the business, and come up with new ideas," he added.

When asked if this decision negatively affects the business due to its location in a tourist area, the manager acknowledged that it does. However, he pointed out that because most group travels are pre-arranged, his establishment does not benefit, as it isn't part of those plans.

"We realized that being in this area highly frequented by tourists

is not necessarily good for our business. You see, most tourists travel in these organized groups, and even if they want to stop at our place to eat or drink, they can't," he said.

"Everything in these groups is pre-arranged, and they have specific places to visit and places to be at this time or that time. For small snack shops, this might be fine, but it doesn't fit with our business concept," he added.

The manager further explained that his business caters mainly to locals and regular customers who want to enjoy a relaxing time or organize a private gathering or birthday party, among other celebrations. This concept does not cope with the tourism "rush."

"Besides, most of our regulars [customers] are also out of Macau this season. It just makes sense for us to follow the holidays for the sake of everyone."

Also interviewed by the Times, a manager of several businesses in the same area, who wished to remain anonymous, stated that out of the six different establishments he oversees, only one stayed open during the holidays.

"We manage six different establishments in this area. Only one remained open during the first three days of CNY; the others closed for the public holidays, and in fact, two of them have not yet reopened since the break," he explained.

The same company representative explained that only the main restaurant remained open due to its high demand and reservations during this period. In contrast, the other establishments closed to allow staff time off.

"I can tell you that the other businesses, which also include retail and food & beverage, barely break even most months. Adding the extra costs of triple-pay wages during this period would severely impact operations," he said, adding that feedback from other local merchants showed only a 30-40% increase in sales.

He also noted that, since the

RENATO MARQUES



company owns several small businesses, closing some allowed them to redistribute staff to the open locations, ensuring enough personnel to handle the higher demand during the season.

Staff shortages also contributed to the decision to close another restaurant near the city center.

The shopkeeper explained that most staff prefer to enjoy the holiday, and without sufficient personnel, the restaurant had no choice but to close.

As the Times reporter experienced in loco, a visit to the ci-

ty's old neighborhoods, even six or more days into the New Year, still finds many establishments closed.

Signage indicates that the CNY is the motif for temporarily halting business operations.

During the eight-day Spring Festival Golden Week, statistics show Macau welcomed nearly 1.31 million visitors. Average daily arrivals were about 164,000, down 3.5% from last year but close to the 2019 level of 171,702. Among the visitor arrivals, the volume of mainland visitors exceeded one million overall.

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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Gov't maintains parcel ban despite USPS policy reversal

LYNZY VALLES

THE Macao Post and Telecommunications Bureau has confirmed that it will maintain its stance on suspending the delivery of parcels to the US amid the reversal of the United States Postal Service's (USPS) policy.

Macao's postal service, Correios e Telecomunicações (CTT), implemented the suspension on Wednesday night, a day after the USPS announced that it would no longer accept parcels from China and Hong Kong following the US government's decision to impose an additional 10% tariff on Chinese goods.

However, on Wednesday night, the US rescinded the ban just one day

after implementing it.

In a reply to the Times yesterday regarding whether it would reverse its decision as well, the bureau said, "Our arrangement remains unchanged."

Earlier this week, China announced retaliatory tariffs on select American imports and an antitrust investigation into Google, just minutes after a sweeping levy on Chinese products imposed by US President Donald Trump took effect.

Although this isn't the first round of tit-for-tat actions between the two countries, analysts said China is much better prepared this time, announcing a slew of measures that go beyond tariffs and cut across different sectors of the US economy.

AVIATION

Airport sees growth in passenger traffic during CNY

MACAU International Airport (MIA) experienced a significant boost in passenger traffic during the Chinese New Year (CNY) season, with over 170,000 passengers passing through the airport between January 29 and February 4.

This marked a 5.4% increase in passenger volume compared to the same period in 2024, according to data released yesterday.

In addition, the airport handled more than 1,265 flight movements, a rise of 6.7% from the previous year.

The peak of traffic occurred on February 2 and 3, when daily passenger numbers reached 26,000 and 25,000, respectively.

This represented a 4% and 12% increase from the same days in 2024, further reflecting the bustling atmosphere at the airport.

Data from MIA revealed that routes to the mainland of China



LYNZY VALLES

accounted for 50% of total passenger traffic, followed by international routes at 33% and routes to Taiwan at 17%. Popular destinations included Shanghai, Taipei, and Bangkok.

Compared to the same period in 2019, both passenger traffic and flight movements have recovered to 80% of pre-pandemic levels.

In January 2025, MIA reported nearly 680,000 passengers and 5,261 flight movements, reflecting year-on-year increases of 15.1% and 8.2%, respectively.

Looking ahead, MIA plans to introduce preferential policies to encourage airlines to expand international routes and increase international passenger traffic. **LV**

AD

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Sands China
澳門國際十公里長跑賽
Macau Internacional 10K
Macao International 10K
16/03

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Sub-organismos
Associação



主辦
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www.macao10k.com

AUTHORITIES DENY DEEPPAKE FRAUD OR EXTORTION CASES

VICTORIA CHAN

THE Office of the Secretary for Security (GSS) has confirmed that there have been no reported. This statement comes amid concerns regarding the misuse of manipulated images and videos of lawmakers or other prominent individuals.

The Office disclosed that a 2024 extortion scheme targeting Legislative Assembly members, involving altered nude images, did not result in any financial losses.

The Secretary's office reported that this blackmail attempt, uncovered last December, involved manipulated photographs sent to lawmakers. Fortunately, the victims' vigilant responses effectively thwarted any harmful consequences.

Authorities attributed this success to heightened public awareness and timely police alerts. In response, the Judiciary Police have intensified efforts to educate residents on identifying and responding to such crimes.



The extortion attempts included lawmakers receiving emails containing fake nude images, accompanied by threats to publish the photos unless they contacted the alleged blackmailers

via WhatsApp.

Several lawmakers expressed their fear of opening these emails, underscoring the psychological toll of such threats.

Lawmaker Leong Sun Iok rai-

sed concerns after several MPs, including Leong Hong Sai, reported receiving similar emails with manipulated images, threatening public exposure unless they responded via WhatsApp. Notably,

similar incidents have also occurred in Hong Kong, targeting members of its Legislative Council.

Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak, acknowledged the challenges in detecting online extortion involving AI-altered images and emphasized the need for continued public awareness campaigns.

While the manipulated image scheme is not new, Wong clarified that it differs from real-time video deepfake technology, which Macau has yet to encounter in criminal cases. He assured that authorities are closely monitoring evolving criminal tactics related to artificial intelligence, enhancing investigative capabilities, and fostering regional cooperation with law enforcement.

To combat evolving AI-driven crimes, authorities are enhancing investigative capabilities, strengthening cross-border cooperation, and conducting public outreach.

Last year, the Judiciary Police organized 700 anti-fraud activities, reaching 120,000 participants, and released an awareness video on deepfake technology, which garnered 147,000 views by year-end.

MELCO

City of Dreams Sri Lanka casino to open in late 2025

STAFF REPORTER

THE casino at City of Dreams Sri Lanka is set to open in the third quarter of 2025, according to John Keells Holdings, the project's local partner.

Operated by Melco Resorts & Entertainment, the casino is part of a large-scale integrated resort in Colombo.

Melco's entry into the project followed

a 20-year casino license approval by Sri Lankan authorities.

In April 2024, John Keells Holdings and Melco announced their partnership, rebranding the development from Cinnamon Life Integrated Resort to City of Dreams Sri Lanka.

The USD1.2 billion resort has been in development since 2014.

Some sections,

including the 687-room Cinnamon Life Hotel, restaurants, and banquet spaces, opened in October 2024. The remaining elements, such as the 113-room Nuwa hotel and the gaming floor, are still under construction.

John Keells Holdings chairman Krishan Balendra confirmed that work is moving forward smoothly.

"Fit-out works relating to the remainder of the project comprising the 113-key 'Nuwa' hotel and gaming operations are progressing well," he said. Originally slated for a mid-2025 launch, the casino will now debut alongside the resort's retail mall later in the year.

Melco Resorts has committed USD125 million to the project and anticipates annual gross gaming revenue between USD200 million and USD250 million.

Balendra expressed confidence in the resort's long-term success, noting strong demand for event spaces and positive customer feedback.

According to the group, City of Dreams Sri Lanka "will unlock its full potential as a transformative development in South Asia and be a catalyst in creating tourism demand, foreign exchange earnings for Sri Lanka and generating employment."



GAMING

SUSPICIOUS TRANSACTIONS IN CASINOS HIT A NEW RECORD IN 2024

STAFF REPORTER

THE number of suspicious transactions recorded in Macau's casinos reached a new record in 2024, driven by the recovery of the economy and tourism.

In 2024, the gambling sector generated MOP226.8 billion in revenue, a 23.9% increase from the previous year. In addition, the city welcomed 34.9 million visitors last year—a 23.8% rise compared to 2023. However, according to data released by the Financial Intelligence Office (GIF), the six casino operators in Macau reported 3,837 suspicious transaction reports related to money laundering or terrorist financing in 2024, an 11.8% increase from the previous year.

The transactions reported involved issues such as the conversion of chips with little or no

gambling activity, the conversion of chips on behalf of third parties, and the exchange of currency or money conversion. In response, the GIF stated there would be "continued investment in resources by reporting entities in detecting suspicious transactions."

Moreover, the GIF received 5,245 reports, with 73.2% coming from casino concessionaires, 20.9% from banks and insurance companies, and 5.9% from other institutions and entities.

These sectors—including pawnshops, jewelry stores, real estate agents, and auction houses—are required to report any transaction of MOP500,000 or more to the authorities. Of the total reports received, the GIF referred 142 suspicious transactions to the Public Prosecution's Office for investigation last year, 26 more than in 2023.



AGAM says Sands10k to blend culture and competition

CHAN Pou Sin, president of the General Association of Athletics of Macau (AGAM), discussed the upcoming marathon's goal of showcasing Macau's culture while providing a seamless experience for runners.

He also highlighted the plan to invite top athletes from mainland China to compete alongside local participants.

In an interview on the sidelines of the Sands10k press conference yesterday, Chan emphasized the 10-kilometer race's popularity, a distance enjoyed by both professional and amateur runners.

"We've always had special guests, and this year is no exception," Chan said, confirming that last year's male and female champions have been invited to participate,

depending on their availability.

Chan reflected on recent improvements designed to enhance the runner experience. "We're focusing on how to better support runners before, during, and after the race," he explained. The race route will highlight Macau's cultural landmarks, blending traditional and modern attractions, including iconic sites like the Venetian.

When asked about starting arrangements, Chan shared that top runners, including locals, are positioned based on their previous race results, while other runners will follow a natural order. He expressed hope for strong performances from Macau's athletes, emphasizing that the event plays an important role in promoting local talent and cultural pride. VC

SPORTS

Sands International 10K set for March 16

THE 2025 Sands China Macao International 10K will take place on March 16, with registration opening on Feb. 8 and Feb. 9, organizers announced at a press conference yesterday.

Registration for the 10km event will open at 9 a.m. on Saturday (Feb. 8), with 7,000 spots available. The fun run, approximately 5km, will begin at 9 a.m. the following day, with 3,000 spots available.

The 10K race begins at 7 a.m., followed by the Fun Run at 7:45 a.m. Both events will start at Sai Van Lake Square and finish at the Olympic Sports Centre Stadium.

Luís Gomes, president of the Sports Bureau, expressed gratitude for the event's strong community support since its inception. "This large-scale sporting event can further propel the development of the local sporting industry," he stated, highlighting its role in boosting sports tourism.

Wilfred Wong, executive vice chairman of Sands China Ltd.,



highlighted the event's evolution into a significant annual occasion, drawing approximately 10,000 participants from 48 countries last year. He noted that by maintaining this event, the goal is to enhance public health awareness and promote Macau as a hub for tourism and leisure.

Chan Pou Sin, president of the General Association of Athletics of Macau (AGAM), noted the diverse distance options available for participants, which cater to various fitness levels. He encouraged early registration and preparation, invi-

ting runners to experience Macau's unique landscape.

Participants can register online via the event's website or mobile app, with limited spots available.

Additionally, the popular "Sands 10K Presents: The FUNkiest Costume Award" will return, encouraging creative costumes themed around oceanic elements.

Jointly organized by the Sports Bureau, Sands China Ltd., and the General Association of Athletics of Macau (AGAM), the event aims to promote sports participation among residents and tourists alike.

AD

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龍蝦國王暢「游」澳門
COASTAL FANTASIA
2025 Philip Colbert in Macao
15/01 - 16/03

Macao Science Center Waterfront

Venetian Macao Outdoor Lagoon

World-Renowned Pop Artist
PHILIP COLBERT

First Debut in Macao, Come & Visit

Supporting Party: [Logos of Macao Science Center, Instituto Cultural, etc.]

Organizer: Sands China Ltd.

CRIME

PJ APPREHENDS SYNDICATE FOR LIVE-STREAMING COVERT VIP BETTING

STAFF REPORTER

THE Judiciary Police (PJ) has uncovered a scheme involving a criminal syndicate from mainland China, revealing a sophisticated operation in which undercover agents were sent to discreetly monitor activities within a VIP gaming room.

During a press conference yesterday, law enforcement officials detailed how the syndicate used WeChat groups to entice mainland Chinese gamblers into participating in illicit betting practices that sidestepped standard gaming regulations.

The investigation began with an initial tip-off received by the PJ, leading to further inquiries that exposed a series of illegal betting activities orchestrated by the syndicate between August of last year and this month.

The syndicate successfully conducted at least 11



betting operations, with total wagers estimated at around HKD790,000, while covert bets reached approximately HKD5.36 million.

Taking decisive action on Feb. 5, the PJ raided a VIP gaming room on the Cotai Strip, arresting three men from mainland China, aged between 29 and 35, one of whom was identified as a key figure in the syndicate.

During the raid, police seized vital evidence, including mobile phones used for live-streaming the illicit gaming activities, along with other confiscated items, such as headphones, gaming chips valued at HKD344,000, and HKD600,000 in cash.

Following their arrests, some suspects resisted cooperation and refused to assist with the ongoing investigation.

GBA

New streamlined services to help enterprises invest in Hengqin

VICTORIA CHAN

MACAU is introducing new services to empower local businesses to capitalize on opportunities within the Guangdong-Macau In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, as reported by the Commerce and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) of Macau.

Through the "Cross-Border Commercial Registration Facilitation Services," Macau enterprises can now complete commercial registration procedures and obtain necessary business licenses without leaving Macau. This simplifies the process, significantly reducing time and costs for investors aiming to establish operations in the zone.

Since the launch of this service, over 100 applications have been processed, resulting in nearly 90 completed commercial registrations. Notably, more than 40% of

these registrations fall under sectors such as integrated tourism, big health, modern finance, high technology, and culture and sports. The initiative has also attracted foreign investors from countries like Portugal, Germany, the Czech Republic, and Australia, who view Macau as a strategic gateway to both domestic and international markets.

To further support investors, IPIM and Hengqin authorities have introduced the "Prior Technical Meeting" mechanism, which facilitates online consultations for prospective investors. Developed in collaboration with various government bodies, this initiative allows businesses to engage directly with relevant departments, receiving personalized advice on administrative procedures and license applications. It aims to enhance understanding of investment processes and expedite project establishment in the Cooperation Zone.

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TECH

Researchers link DeepSeek's blockbuster chatbot to China Mobile ban in US

BYRON TAU,
WASHINGTON

THE website of the Chinese artificial intelligence company DeepSeek, whose chatbot became the most downloaded app in the United States, has computer code that could send some user login information to a Chinese state-owned telecommunications company that has been barred from operating in the United States, security researchers say.

The web login page of DeepSeek's chatbot contains heavily obfuscated computer script that when deciphered shows connections to computer infrastructure owned by China Mobile, a state-owned telecommunications company. The code appears to be part of the account creation and user login process for DeepSeek.

In its privacy policy, DeepSeek acknowledged storing data on servers inside the People's Republic of China. But its chatbot appears more directly tied to the Chinese state than previously known through the link revealed by researchers to China Mobile. The U.S. has claimed there are close ties between China Mobile and the Chinese military as justification for placing limited sanctions on the company. DeepSeek and China Mobile did not respond to emails seeking comment.

The growth of Chinese-controlled digital services has become a major topic of concern for U.S. national security officials. Lawmakers in Congress last year on an overwhelmingly bipartisan basis voted to force the Chinese parent company of the popular video-sharing app TikTok to divest or face a nationwide ban though the app has since received a 75-day reprieve from President Donald Trump, who is hoping to work out a sale.

The code linking



AP PHOTO

DeepSeek to one of China's leading mobile phone providers was first discovered by Feroot Security, a Canadian cybersecurity company, which shared its findings with The Associated Press. The AP took Feroot's findings to a second set of computer experts, who independently confirmed that China Mobile code is present. Neither Feroot nor the other researchers observed data transferred to China Mobile when testing logins in North America, but they could not rule out that data for some users was being transferred to the Chinese telecom.

The analysis only applies to the web version of DeepSeek. They did not analyze the mobile version, which remains one of the most downloaded pieces of software on both the Apple and the Google app stores.

The U.S. Federal Communications Commission unanimously denied China Mobile authority to operate in the United States in 2019, citing "substantial" national security concerns about links between the company and the Chinese state. In 2021, the Biden administration also issued sanctions limiting the ability of Americans to invest in China Mobile after the Pentagon linked it to the Chinese military.

"It's mindboggling that we are unknowingly allowing China to survey Americans and we're doing nothing about it," said Ivan Tsarynny, CEO of Feroot.

"It's hard to believe that something like this was accidental. There are so many unusual things to this. You know that saying 'Where there's smoke, there's fire'?" Tsarynny said.

Stewart Baker, a Washington, D.C.-based lawyer and consultant who has previously served as a top official at the Department of Homeland Security and the National Security Agency, said DeepSeek "raises all of the TikTok concerns plus you're talking about information that is highly likely to be of more national security and personal significance than anything people do on TikTok," one of the world's most popular social media platforms.

Users are increasingly putting sensitive data into generative AI systems — everything from confidential business information to highly personal details about themselves. People are using generative AI systems for spell-checking, research and even highly personal queries and conversations. The data security risks of such technology are magnified when the

platform is owned by a geopolitical adversary and could represent an intelligence goldmine for a country, experts warn.

"The implications of this are significantly larger because personal and proprietary information

could be exposed. It's like TikTok but at a much grander scale and with more precision. It's not just sharing entertainment videos. It's sharing queries and information that could include highly personal and sensitive business information," said Tsarynny, of Feroot.

Feroot, which specializes in identifying threats on the web, identified computer code that is downloaded and triggered when a user logs into DeepSeek.

According to the company's analysis, the code appears to capture detailed information about the device a user logs in from — a process called fingerprinting. Such techniques are widely used by tech companies around the world for security, verification and ad targeting.

The company's analysis of the code determined that there were links

in that code pointing to China Mobile authentication and identity management computer systems, meaning it could be part of the login process for some users accessing DeepSeek.

The AP asked two academic cybersecurity experts — Joel Reardon of the University of Calgary and Serge Egelman of the University of California, Berkeley — to verify Feroot's findings. In their independent analysis of the DeepSeek code, they confirmed there were links between the chatbot's login system and China Mobile.

"It's clear that China Mobile is somehow involved in registering for DeepSeek," said Reardon. He didn't see data being transferred in his testing but concluded that it is likely being activated for some users or in some login methods.

MDT/AP

AD

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Obstetrics & Gynaecology : Dr. Fong Kuan Io

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Orthopaedic Surgery & Sports Medicine : Dr. Lam Kun Kuan

ENT : Dr. Cheng Zheng Ang

Cardiology : Dr. Jin Chun, Dr. Leong Man Kin

General Medicine : Dr. Ng Kam Hong, Dr. Lam Weng Chio

Dietitian : Chan Lai U Joey

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AI DISRUPTION: ASSUMPTIONS ON TIMING AND O

ANALYSIS
BY LEANDA LEE, MDT

THE cascade effect of unintended consequences in markets and where the ripples are eventually felt in the lives of ordinary people continues to fascinate. The younger capitalists close to me whose prognosis of the price of energy inputs based on their long-term view that renewables and conventional power infrastructure are unlikely to meet the future requirements of a vibrant tech-rich economy and the energy markets have not had a good year. The year-to-date drop in the spot price of uranium has been around 36%, and this calendar year so far has not been pretty either. A third of the drop has occurred in only the last week as I write; 5% on Monday night 27th January alone: the man's not happy but he is showing his "mettle" by sticking to it – it's a long-term game after all, he says. The traders, however, need to make their money now and the necessary short-termism drives the volatility: the Term Price, however, offers another story vindicating those taking a long-term position in the face of investment market disruptions.

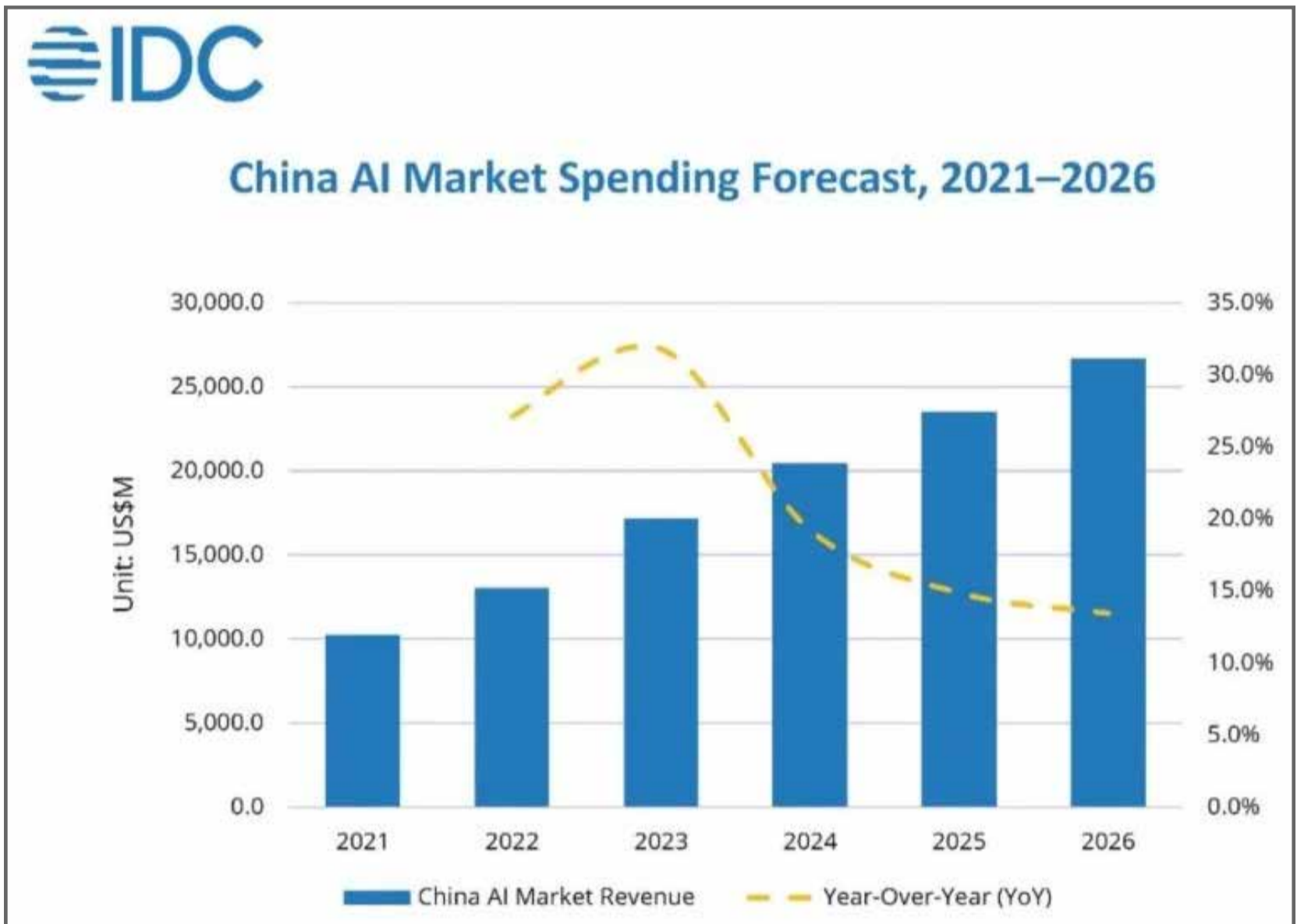
The rationale for investing in the uranium market for this n=1 was on the back of the shift to non-emissions producing resources for electricity production, that is, nuclear power. Economic activity is energy-based – it was always thus. Most of human existence we used energy from animal and human labour (maybe with some wa-

ter-, wind- and fire-power) when it was only efficient to produce one calorie if the people-power in the equation did

not expend more than that one calorie in doing so (the true definition of sustainability!).

The extraction of cheap energy that was sequestered over millennia and consumed by the industrialised world

has allowed us to use 10 to 15 calories of energy to produce every calorie of food, and we waste far more on trinke-



Medical data space launched in China's Greater Bay Area

ON THE AGENDA

THE establishment of the cross-border data space follows the recent formation of a digital health alliance in the area.

The Chinese University of Hong Kong and its partners have launched the first medical data space in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

This data space, according to a media release, provides opportunities for medical collaboration and scientific research development in the \$2 trillion economic region.

Partners, which include the International Data Space Association, the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corpo-

ration (HKSTP), the National Engineering Centre for Next Generation Internet and CUHK Big Data Ltd, have also started building the infrastructure's interoperability.

WHY IT MATTERS

The aim, said CUHK, is to ensure that data is secure across the entire flow process, from generation, acquisition, storage, processing, and distribution to destruction or archiving.

"The establishment of the Greater Bay Area cross-border medical data space will promote the flow and application of cross-border medical data, help the region's medical industry participate in international cooperation, and contribute

to the development of global health technology," it added in a statement.

Founding members of this project include the Zhongda Hospital, Shenzhen Qianhai Shekou Free Trade Zone Hospital, and Guangzhou Nansha District Health and Health Bureau. The Hong Kong eHealth Alliance, China Big Data Co., and The University of Hong Kong are also participating.

THE LARGER CONTEXT

The launch of the medical data space follows the recent formation of a 12-member digital health alliance in China's Greater Bay Area. This alliance, initiated by the HKSTP, effectively laid the foundation for the medical data space. The HKS-



HEALTHCAREITNEWS

TP, together with Hospital Authority Hong Kong, formed a precursor to this project. A data collaboration laboratory at HKSTP was introduced in 2023, providing direct exclusive access to the HA Self-service Data Platform, which

holds anonymous clinical records of around 200,000 patients.

The creation of the Greater Bay Area medical data space aligns with China's four-year Trusted Data Space Development Action Plan, launched last

year by the National Data Administration of China. It targets to pilot over a hundred trusted data spaces by 2028, promoting industry-wide data collaborations and creating economic value. **MDT/HEALTHCAREITNEWS**

ORIGIN THWART

ts, fast-fashion and low-quality shiny landfill. To enable the continuation of the degree of energy use that in the past would have been defined as ruinous, but now to do so without the pollution and climate damaging costs of fossil fuels, has required some concerted re-jigging of our energy markets, thus the bets on uranium.

Another explanation for the increased demand is increased electricity use in transport, communications technology, manufacturing and residential heating/cooling (aggravated by climate change) and other home-based uses. Global electricity demand is expected to increase by an average of 3.4% annually to 2026 according to the International Energy Agency, much of it supported by an improving economic outlook and the drive towards electrification in advanced economies and China to meet decarbonisation targets. To maintain targets, power production needs to shift from 18% share of electricity in 2015 globally to 30% in 2030. Not only does the share of the energy pie increase but the pie itself is growing: electricity consumption in data centres, AI and the cryptocurrency sector is set to double by 2026 – for visualisation purposes, this is similar to the entire electricity consumption of Japan.

China's manufacturing centres are critical to supply the world with the necessary hardware and technology for the electrification shift (see graph for production growth). China's electricity demand in 2023 rose by 6.4% and per capita consumption continues to be higher than Europe. Regardless of a slowing economy, high per capita use is forecast to

continue, driven by China's investment in and position as the leading global supplier of clean energy technologies, including electric vehicles. The supply of these products into the local Chinese market will further push up electricity consumption from renewable sources here.

This is the context within which the price of uranium shifted overnight on the 27th January. A shift in any element in the broader context has potential to disrupt forecasts. What happened at the end of January made the market take a very close look at that specific assumption in the energy supply and demand model.

The Chinese AI firm Deepseek, the developer of the R1 model released last month, shook the energy market for a while, more than rattling just the AI industry. The issue was not that efficiencies over time were not expected in AI, it was the timing and the origin of the development that caught the global market off-guard. Deepseek's lean use of energy and integrated circuits has provided evidence that Chinese technologies no longer rely on borrowed knowhow and copied hardware. This success points to impressive strengths in development expertise. Necessity is the mother of invention, and it was resource constraints in the global landscape combined with Chinese government direction, investment and support for AI research and innovation which have created the right circumstances (note graph for growth in AI investment).

Power crises and U.S. chip export restrictions among others presented environmen-

tal threats, and government investment in chip technology and AI education offered the opportunities. In hindsight, a good ol' SWOT analysis points towards a potential for this occurring. The plethora of other AI models in China lends credence to the idea that Deepseek's launch on the global stage is not an aberration.

The AI roll-out will continue to disrupt and not just the energy sector or the semiconductor supply market. New and existing forms of AI will disrupt the labour market, whether it becomes a substituting technology, increasing unemployment and further exacerbating inequalities (feelings of shame and being unvalued, and placing power and control in the hands of a few), or a complementing technology which enhances productivity and assists people in the quality of their work or conversely risks the de-skilling of the workforce as people rely on AI as a crutch. As an example of ethical concerns, academic publishing is being challenged by a form of plagiarism on steroids and one that is far harder to detect with the current technologies. Journal publishing companies are grappling with a spectre of unknown quantity and nature that cuts to the heart of knowledge creation and the credibility of experts in their field.

The complexities and challenges of AI will be felt in other spheres, including political and cultural ones. MDT reported last week that China has put boundaries around AI for the safety of the community, privacy and ethical concerns. Regulating and being cautious about AI's influence is imperative so that it remains a tool under our control to help us progress as a society and not become a disruptive vector that gives others control over how we think, what we believe and who we become.

WORK IN PROGRESS

NOTES ON ACADEMIC STUDIES



From the Pearl River Delta to the Greater Bay Area: State Spatial Transformation and City-Regionalism in South China

Environment and Planning F: Philosophy, Theory, Models, Methods and Practice (2024)

This paper revisits China's city-regionalism through a multi-scalar analysis of state entrepreneurialism, focusing on the evolution from the Pearl River Delta to the Greater Bay Area. It examines the state's role in spatial restructuring and the implications for regional development.



Greater Bay Area (GBA): Importance of Hong Kong and Guangzhou

Jean A. Berlie, Manuel Benard
Open Access Library Journal (2023)

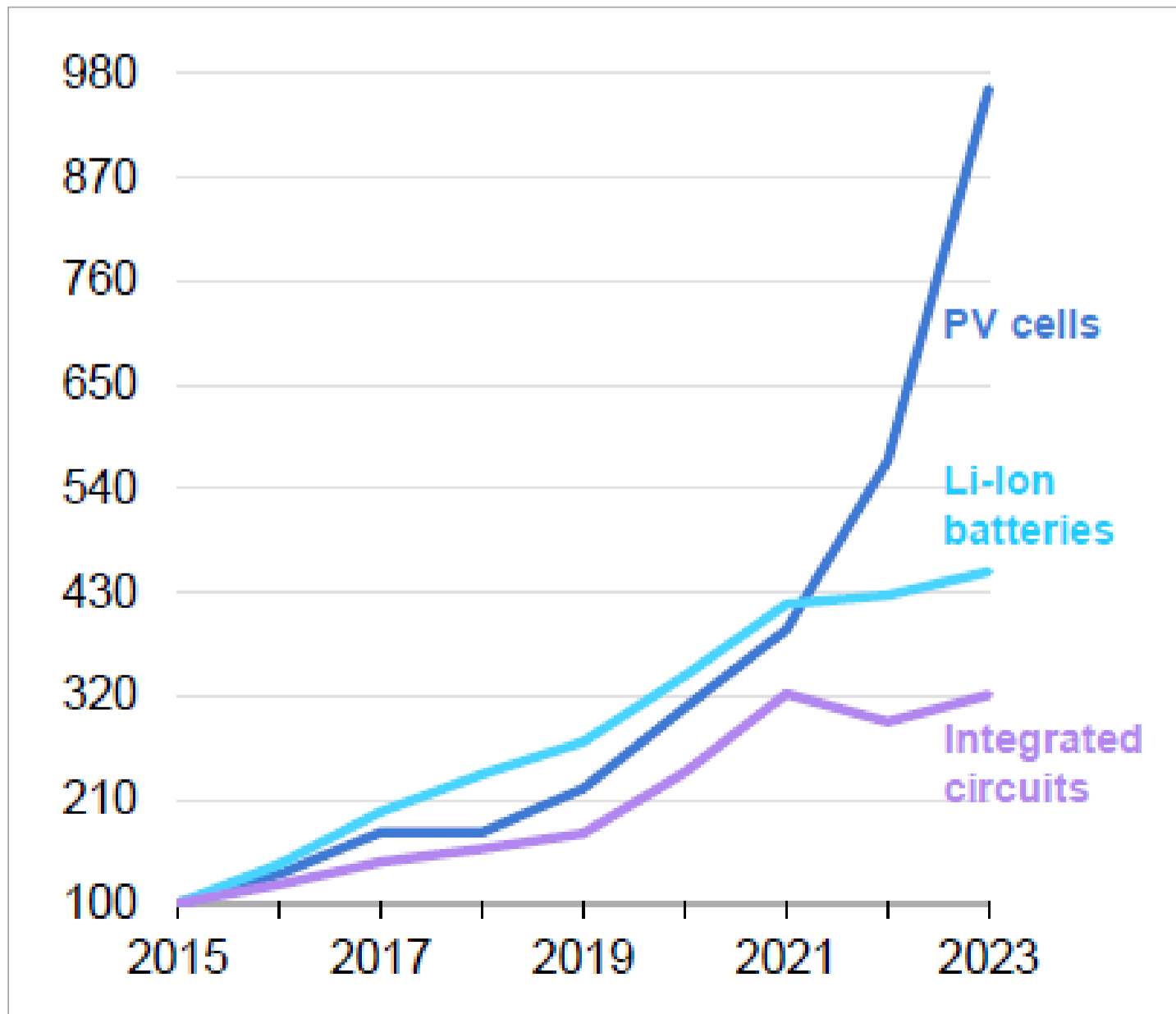
This research highlights the critical roles of Hong Kong and Guangzhou within the GBA. It discusses their political, cultural, administrative, and financial significance, emphasizing Hong Kong's position as a global financial hub and Guangzhou's industrial strengths. The paper also addresses the challenges of integrating different legal systems within the GBA and the importance of international arbitration in facilitating business operations.



Challenges of Blockchain Adoption in Financial Services in China's Greater Bay Area

Xiongfei Zhao, Yain-Whar Si
arXiv preprint (2023)

This paper explores the increasing use of blockchain technology in the financial services sector of the GBA. It analyzes the distinctive features of blockchain, such as decentralized architecture and tamper-proof data structures, and assesses their applicability in areas like insurance, banking, payments, and asset trading. The study also reviews barriers to widespread blockchain adoption, including risks associated with transaction fees and mining rewards, providing insights for researchers and developers in the financial services industry.



China's growth in production output in renewables manufacturing. Source: IEA

DIPLOMACY

Xi and Thailand's leader vow to crack down on scam networks that plague Southeast Asia

HUIZHONG WU, BANGKOK

CHINA'S leader Xi Jinping and visiting Thai Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra vowed to crack down on the scam networks that plague Southeast Asia as the two leaders met yesterday in Beijing.

Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos, which are south of China and share borders with Thailand, have become major centers of online scam operations where people lured by false advertising of well-paid jobs are trafficked to secretive compounds where they are forced to work by criminal groups that run online scams targeting people all over the world.

That has impacted Thailand's reputation, as multiple high-profile stories of Chinese people being lured to work in Bangkok only to be trafficked into a scam compound in Myanmar have surfaced, with Chinese actor Wang Xing being the latest such victim.

Thai and Chinese officials have taken public steps to address the



In this photo released by the Thailand's Government Spokesman Office, President Xi Jinping shakes hands with Thailand's Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra in Beijing, yesterday

scam issue, including a reported visit to the border region by Liu Zhongyi, China's vice minister of public security.

"China appreciates Thailand's strong measures to combat online gambling fraud. Both sides should

continue to strengthen law enforcement, security, and judicial cooperation," Xi said, according to state broadcaster CCTV.

Paetongtarn echoed that, saying "Thailand is willing to strengthen law enforcement cooperation with

China and other neighboring countries and take resolute and effective measures to combat cross-border crimes such as online gambling and fraud."

Ahead of her visit, Thailand cut off electricity to some areas in

Myanmar by its border to try to disrupt the operations of the scam compounds. The effect of that is unclear as the compounds often have their own generators.

The visit to China was Paetongtarn's first as prime minister and comes as the two countries celebrate 50 years of establishing diplomatic relations.

On other bilateral issues, Xi said China was willing to work on a new railway project between the countries. On Tuesday, Thailand approved a \$10 billion railway project that will eventually connect Bangkok to the Laos-China high speed railway. He also said they hoped to deepen cooperation in electric vehicles, with Thailand being an emerging market for Chinese automakers.

China was once a significant part of Thailand's tourism segment but was down to 6.7 million visitors in 2024, less than the 11 million visitors in 2019 before the coronavirus pandemic when Chinese visitors were nearly a third of all arrivals.

Paetongtarn has shown Thailand is willing to accommodate Chinese interests on key issues.

In January, a group of Chinese Uyghur detainees in Thailand pleaded for help before they were deported to China. Thailand's decision to deport the Uyghurs, a largely Muslim ethnic group, came ahead of the two countries 50th anniversary of relations.

After the meeting in Beijing, Paetongtarn said that Thailand "firmly" abides by the one-China principle, Beijing's position that the island of Taiwan is part of China. **MDT/AP**

SOUTH CHINA SEA

A flurry of international naval drills around the Philippines prompts complaints from Beijing

A flurry of naval drills surrounding the Philippines involving the United States and its partners has prompted complaints from Beijing, which claims the entire South China Sea and accuses Manila of colluding with others to destabilize the region.

The U.S. 7th Fleet based in Japan said forces from Australia, Japan, the Philippines, and the U.S. conducted a "multilateral Maritime Cooperative Activity" within the Philippines' Exclusive Economic Zone on Wednesday.

Such drills "strengthen the interoperability of our defense/armed forces doctrines, tactics, techniques, and procedures," the fleet said in a news release. The maneuvers were taking place within the Philippines' zone, but the fleet gave no details on the



Two Philippine Air Force FA-50 fighter jets fly with two U.S. Air Force B-1 bomber aircraft during a joint patrol and training over the South China Sea, this week

exact location.

More exercises involving the U.S., Japan and France were planned for later this week in the Philippines Sea, which China does not claim.

That exercise "is designed to advance coordination

and cooperation between French, Japanese and U.S. maritime forces while simultaneously demonstrating capabilities in multi-domain operations," the fleet said.

The U.S. aircraft carrier Carl Vinson, French car-

rier Charles De Gaulle and Japan's Izumo-class multi-functional destroyer Kaga will take part in the drill starting Saturday, along with their escorts and air wings, the fleet said.

France's participation is especially significant because of the distance from its home base, 6,000 kilometers away in Toulouse, commander of the Carrier Strike Group Rear Adm. Jacques Mallard was quoted as saying.

Meanwhile, Tian Junli, spokesperson for China's Southern Theater Command, accused the Philippines of "colluding with outside countries to organize 'so-called joint patrols,' which he said "destabilize the region," Chinese state media said yesterday.

Tian said the Philippines

actions were "an attempt to endorse its 'illegal claims' in the South China Sea and "undermine China's maritime rights and interests." He specifically pointed to U.S.-Philippines joint patrols on Tuesday and said China had carried out its own patrols in the region on Wednesday.

China is one of six regional powers that claims the strategic South China Sea in part or in whole, ignoring a ruling by a United Nations-backed court that tossed out most of its claims and building human-made islands equipped with airstrips and other infrastructure of military use. China's coast guard and maritime militia frequently clash with ships from fellow claimants Vietnam and the Philippines.

Though it claims not to disrupt shipping or overfli-

ghts in the sea, through which an estimated \$5 trillion in global trade transits each year, China is adamantly opposed to foreign military shipping in the area.

The waterway is also believed to be sitting atop vast undersea deposits of oil and gas and while China says it wants to come to a negotiated agreement about the use of the sea, such efforts have made little progress.

China says the U.S. and other countries that don't border on the sea should have no say in affairs concerning it, although the U.S. — which takes no formal stand on sovereignty issues involving the sea — has maintained bases and alliances in the region long before China made its formal claim to sovereignty using the so-called "eight dash line."

Beijing is especially angered over U.S. "freedom of navigation operations" in which Navy ships sail close to Chinese-held maritime features to show Washington does not recognize China's sovereignty claims. **MDT/AP**

ANALYSIS

Inside the operations that took captive two North Korean soldiers fighting Ukraine

HANNA ARHIROVA, KYIV

WHEN Ukrainian soldiers captured two North Korean prisoners of war last month, it provided the first undeniable proof of Pyongyang's direct involvement in the war against Ukraine.

It also shed some light on the mindset and training of the conscripted North Korean soldiers sent to fight Russia's war a continent away from their home.

Highly disciplined, ready to die but also very young and with little battlefield experience they elicited curiosity and even some pity from the Ukrainian soldiers who captured them during two separate missions on Jan. 9.

Their capture confirmed what Ukraine, South Korea and the U.S. had been saying for months: Thousands of North Korean troops were fighting alongside Kremlin forces in the battle for Russia's Kursk border region — something Moscow had never confirmed.

"You will live," one North Korean captive is assured

Capturing a North Korean prisoner had long been an objective for the Ukrainian special forces, even as the North Koreans seemed willing to kill themselves or a wounded comrade to elude capture. Only one had been taken captive, in December, but he died of his wounds.

Then intelligence came about three soldiers stranded in the so-called gray zone — a dangerous no-man's-land on the front line controlled by neither side. The soldiers were identified as North Koreans because they, not Russians, were operating in that sector of Kursk.

"They were likely abandoned," said a Ukrainian soldier who participated in the mission and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because special forces members are not authorized to reveal their names.

The team advanced through a barren winter forest toward the coordinates where a drone had spotted the three lost soldiers.

"Koreans are incredibly tough," the soldier said. "We've seen them carrying enormous loads: one soldier as small as a child, with a heavy backpack and a machine

AP PHOTO



This image made from a video provided by Ukrainian Presidential Press Office on Jan. 11, 2025, shows Ukrainian forces capturing two North Korean soldiers fighting alongside Russian forces

gun, yet sprinting."

As they closed in, the Ukrainians came under enemy fire, and two of the North Koreans were killed in the firefight. The third soldier was wounded in his legs.

When the Ukrainians reached him, his only remaining weapon was a single grenade. Disoriented, he didn't resist as the group began providing first aid and their commander discreetly removed the grenade. The North Korean, unaware of this, continued searching his pockets for it afterward.

The Ukrainian soldier said he tried to communicate with the captured man. He first spoke in Russian, eliciting a faint response. Then he heard the soldier muttering phrases in English and switched to his own broken English.

He asked the soldier's age and how long he had been serving. The soldier said he was 21 years old and had already spent four years in the military.

"He said conscription starts at 16 and lasts eight years," the Ukrainian soldier said. Despite his own 12 years of service and being a father of three, the soldier felt an unexpected wave of compassion.

"I looked at him, and honestly, I felt sorry for him," he said. "He asked for water, and we gave him some. Then he asked for a cigarette, and we gave him one. He called us

'brothers.'"

The team bandaged the North Korean soldier's legs and were carrying him toward Ukrainian-controlled territory when they were detected by a Russian reconnaissance drone, prompting a barrage of enemy fire.

"They must have realized we'd captured him and were desperate to take him out," the soldier said.

The team eventually reached a Ukrainian evacuation vehicle. They loaded the wounded North Korean into it. Only then, noticing the blue armbands on their sleeves, did he grasp he was in Ukrainian hands. He began searching frantically for his grenade again.

"When I handed him over to the medics, he looked terrified that I wasn't going with him," the soldier said. "I told him, 'Everything will be fine, you will live.'"

With that, the vehicle drove off, concluding the operation after eight tense hours.

"I do feel sorry for him, but damn, they came to our land," the soldier said. "Still, I'd like to meet him again someday."

A North Korean soldier attempts suicide rather than be captured

On the same day, soldiers from an airborne unit captured another North Korean soldier, this time by chance and without initially realizing who

they were taking prisoner.

It all began around 5 a.m., when a North Korean assault struck their position.

"The battle was intense and dragged on for hours," recalled 27-year-old paratrooper Maksym Didorchuk. The air thundered with explosions, and the sky buzzed with drones. The North Koreans attacked relentlessly.

"Their assaults are massive, but they're treated as expendable," Didorchuk said. "They're tough because they rely on sheer numbers"

"They follow orders," and never retreat, he said. "They're likely being used as training material."

Around noon, a reconnaissance drone spotted a lone soldier moving erratically from the Russian side toward the rear of the Ukrainian position.

"He was zigzagging, moving left and right," Didorchuk said. "Nobody knew who he was. The order was to intercept him, provide medical assistance if necessary, and decide what to do next."

Didorchuk and another paratrooper set off toward the soldier, guided by a Ukrainian reconnaissance drone. They eventually reached an area near destroyed Russian weaponry, where they saw the soldier sitting, his face hidden from view.

The paratroopers approached cautiously, asking in

Ukrainian if the soldier needed help. No response. They tried Russian. The soldier glanced at them but remained silent. Switching to English also yielded no reaction.

Finally, as they drew closer, they saw his features clearly — and realized he was North Korean.

The soldier's arm was wounded, and his jaw bandaged, likely before he was separated. His movements were slow and uncoordinated, possibly the result of a concussion, Didorchuk said.

"He didn't seem to know where he was going."

Attached to his armor were a grenade and a knife. The paratroopers gestured for him to remove them, but he appeared confused.

"He didn't know if we were allies or enemies," Didorchuk said.

After repeated gestures, the soldier dropped the grenade and the knife. The paratroopers motioned for him to follow, and he complied. They maintained a cautious distance, aware that Russian drones could spot them and attack to prevent the North Korean from being captured.

"From what I understand, they don't want Koreans taken prisoner. They quickly evacuate their wounded and dead to erase all traces," Didorchuk said.

As they waited in a trench for transport, the North Korean asked for a cigarette, then another, while the paratroopers kept a vigilant eye not only on him but on the skies for Russian drones.

When the vehicle arrived, the North Korean soldier grew nervous. Suddenly he lunged at a concrete pillar, striking his head against it.

"I saw it as an attempt at self-destruction," Didorchuk said.

The soldiers secured him in the vehicle to be transferred to the authorities.

Ukraine's SBU security service, which interrogated the POWs, said one had no documents, while the other carried a Russian military ID in the name of a man from Tuva, a Russian region bordering Mongolia.

It said one of the soldiers claimed he was told he was going to Russia for training, not to fight against Ukraine. He said his combat unit only received one week of training alongside Russian troops before being sent to the front. **MDT/AP**

ANALYSIS

From fighting disease to protecting the Amazon rainforest, USAID has big impact across the globe

KIMBERLEE KRUESI

THE Trump administration's decision to close the U.S. Agency for International Development has drawn widespread criticism from congressional Democrats and raised questions and concern about the influence billionaire ally Elon Musk wields over the federal government.

The United States is by far the world's largest source of foreign assistance, although several European countries allocate a much bigger share of their budgets to aid. USAID funds projects in some 120 countries aimed at fighting epidemics, educating children, providing clean water and supporting other areas of development.

Here is a look at USAID's impact around the world:

PROTECTING THE AMAZON RAINFOREST AND FIGHTING COCAINE IN SOUTH AMERICA

USAID has been critical in providing humanitarian assistance in Colombia, conservation efforts in the Brazilian Amazon and coca eradication in Peru. Recent USAID money has also supported emergency humanitarian aid to more than 2.8 million Venezuelans who fled economic crisis.

In 2024 alone, the agency transferred some \$45 million to the U.N. World Food Program, mostly to assist Venezuelans.

In Brazil, USAID's largest initiative is the Partnership for the Conservation of Amazon Biodiversity, which focuses on conservation and improving livelihoods for Indigenous peoples and other rainforest communities.

Over in Peru, part of USAID's \$135 million funding in 2024 was dedicated to financing cocaine-production alternatives such as coffee and cacao. The humanitarian agency has been seeking to curb production of the drug since the early 1980s.

Disease response, girls'



education and free school lunches in Africa

Last year, the U.S. gave the sub-Saharan region more than \$6.5 billion in humanitarian assistance. But since Trump's announcement, HIV patients in Africa found locked doors at clinics funded by an acclaimed U.S. program that helped rein in the global AIDS epidemic.

Known as one of the world's most successful foreign aid program, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, or PEPFAR, has been credited with saving more than 25 million lives, largely in Africa.

"The world is baffled," said Aaron Motsoaledi, the health minister of South Africa, the country with the most people living with HIV, after the U.S. freeze on aid.

Motsoaledi says the U.S. funds nearly 20% of the \$2.3 billion needed each year to run South Africa's HIV/AIDS program through PEPFAR, and now the biggest response to a single disease in history is under threat.

The effects of halting U.S. aid are also rippling across sub-Saharan Africa. In Ghana, the Chemonics International development group said it's pulling logistics for programs in maternal and child health, malaria response and HIV.

Education programs have been halted in Mali, a conflic-

t-battered West African nation where USAID has become the country's main humanitarian partner after others left following a 2021 coup.

In civil-war-torn Sudan, which is grappling with cholera, malaria and measles, the aid freeze means 600,000 people will be at risk of catching and spreading those diseases, said an official who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly on the matter.

HOSPITALS IN WAR-RAVAGED SYRIA

Doctors of the World Turkey says it has been forced to lay off 300 staff and shutter 12 field hospitals it runs across northern Syria, a region devastated by years of war and a huge 2023 earthquake. Hakan Bilgin, the organization's president, said it relies on USAID for 60% of its funding and has had to cut its daily consultations from 5,000 to 500.

"As a medical organization providing life-saving services, you're basically saying, 'Close all the clinics, stop all your doctors, and you're not providing services to women, children, and the elderly,'" Bilgin said.

Bilgin said the impact on northern Syria, where millions rely on outside medical aid, could be catastrophic. "The real impact is bigger

than we can measure right now," he said in the group's Istanbul office, surrounded by half-unpacked boxes and worried colleagues.

SUPPORT FOR MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES FROM THE BALKANS TO UGANDA

In Kosovo, which has received more than \$1 billion from USAID since 1999, women's groups fear the impact of losing American funding for gender and diversity-related projects in the conservative country.

"This might leave women's groups stranded and unsupported," said Ariana Qosaj Mustafa of the Kosovo Women's Network.

Emina Bosnjak of the Sarajevo Open Center said USAID promotes awareness of discrimination, violence and hate speech, and marginalized groups would suffer if that stops.

"Stronger narratives that stand against human rights and stand against democracy and rule of law will actually become more visible," she said.

A non-profit organization supporting LGBTQ people in Uganda also feels under threat. Pius Kennedy, a program officer with the Kampala-based nonprofit Africa Queer Network, said he and five other permanent employees had been ordered by USAID to stop work.

He said the funding freeze could erase years of gains made in protecting sexual minorities in Uganda, one of more than 30 African countries where homosexuality is criminalized.

"We would always look at the United States as something that we would always run to in case you are facing a number of insecurities in the country," Kennedy said — but that may no longer be the case.

SUPPORT FOR MEDIA IN MYANMAR AND MINE CLEARANCE IN CAMBODIA

The freeze of foreign assistance from USAID include \$39 million for rights, democracy, and media in Myanmar, whose military seized power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi in 2021, a human rights group said yesterday.

The group Human Rights Myanmar said the frozen funds "are vital for organizations challenging military rule and promoting democracy, which advance U.S. interests by upholding American values and countering China's authoritarian influence." **MDT/AP**

this day in history

1987 S KOREA CLASHES OVER STUDENT DEATH



South Korean police have made hundreds of arrests in the country's biggest demonstrations for six years.

Rallies went ahead across the country to commemorate the recent death in custody of student Park Chong-choi, in spite of yesterday's warnings by President Chun Doo Hwan.

Mr Park, 21, a linguistics student at Seoul National University suffocated during police interrogation for alleged pro-communist activities on 14 January.

The ruling Democratic Justice Party claimed dissidents were using the memorial services as an excuse for violent and illegal political rallies.

Organisers of the demonstrations - including church, labour and student groups as well as the political opposition - claimed they just wanted to honour Mr Park.

The government had ordered the country's 120,000 police to tighten security in readiness for the memorials.

Police arrested 2,400 suspects and placed a dozen leading dissidents under house arrest last night.

In response to the police mobilisation a spokesman from the main opposition party, the New Korea Democratic Party, said: "Our anger at the present regime has reached a point no longer bearable."

Up to 30,000 riot police lined up to face as many as 20,000 demonstrators in the streets of the capital, Seoul, in three hours of confrontations.

Police were trying to prevent the crowds from reaching the main memorial mass at the Catholic Myongdong Cathedral.

Smaller demonstrations took place in 17 provincial cities including Pusan, Kwangju and Taegu. No major incidents were reported but there were sporadic outbreaks of violence as protesters threw petrol bombs and stones at the police, who responded with tear gas.

Official sources said 34 police were injured and they made 799 arrests nationwide - 740 people were detained for further questioning.

There were no figures available about how many civilians were injured.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

There were further demonstrations in memory of Park Chong-choi on 3 March, when 300 Buddhists tried to hold a service. This time about 30,000 riot police confronted 5,000 demonstrators and made 600 arrests.

At the trial of the two police officers charged with murdering Mr Park in May 1987, three more officers were implicated and subsequently charged.

In response to allegations of a cover-up President Chun Doo Hwan dismissed his prime minister - Lho Shin-yong - and three other senior ministers.

After further civil unrest President Chun was forced out of office and replaced by the liberalising, anti-corruption presidency of Roh Tae-woo.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Secure links that are important to you by reaching out with a friendly word or two, but don't worry about carrying the conversation too far. You'll find that even the simplest gestures have a meaningful influence.

TAURUS
Apr. 20-May. 20
Love yourself through the twists and turns that lie ahead, trusting in your ability to thrive and prosper. Focus on what you hope to call in, allowing the wheel of fortune to turn in your favor.

GEMINI
May. 21-Jun. 21
Take a few moments for stillness once you've awakened, considering what you can do to make your and other people's day brighter. The more you put yourself out there, the more likely you are to benefit.

CANCER
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
Now is the time to draw lines where they are needed most, compromising your needs for no one. If any aspects of your life need clarity, now is a good time to ask for signs.

LEO
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Trust in the opportunities that arise, as the universe likely placed them in your path. Give yourself permission to fantasize about a different life.

VIRGO
Aug. 23-Sep. 22
You'll see hints of payoff within your professional and romantic investments, though these signs may seem subtle at first glance.

LIBRA
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
Now is also a good time to expand upon philosophical research and evolve your belief systems. Visualize your best life, taking the first steps toward manifesting it, even if they're small, to begin with.

SCORPIO
Oct. 23-Nov. 21
Focus on maximizing wellness by cultivating healthy routines, hobbies, and relationships. Branch out socially. Consider enrolling in a class or embracing group activities that make way for creative exploration.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Shed more layers to cultivate true closeness. Creative expression can also reveal corners of your mind that others aren't aware of. Take time to recharge seriously.

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Trust your intuition when it comes to laying new groundwork, allowing hard work and devotion to your cause to speak for itself in good time. Rally for reinforcements.

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
The kinder you are to family and friends, the easier it will be to show this level of compassion to yourself. Focus on your financial future, consider how smart investments can lead to prosperity.

PISCES
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
Focus on cultivating a sense of security and emotional well-being. You'll have a chance to unlearn patterns that haven't been serving you. Lean into family and close connections.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	-11	-4	fine
Changchun	-22	-11	snow
Chengdu	4	7	cloudy
Chongqing	7	9	rain
Fuzhou	9	15	overcast
Guangzhou	10	15	rain
Guiyang	0	1	rain
Haikou	17	19	cloudy
Hangzhou	1	3	fine
Harbin	-23	-11	snow
Hefei	-3	0	fine
Nanjing	-2	0	fine
Shanghai	0	3	overcast
Taipei	13	14	rain
Wuhan	0	3	fine
Hong Kong	12	20	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	-6	-3	cloudy
Frankfurt	0	5	cloudy
Paris	5	6	snow
London	3	4	rain
New York	-3	4	cloudy

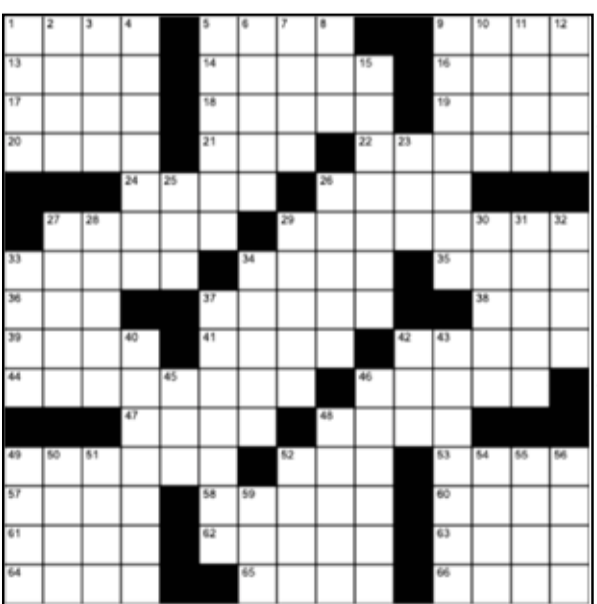
CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1-Boutique; 5- Bryce Canyon site; 9- At the drop of ___; 13- Spanish appetizer; 14- Hawaiian state birds; 16- Delayed; 17- At any time; 18- Alpaca's cousin; 19- Fr. miss; 20- Proceeded; 21- Ernie of the PGA; 22- Destroy hearing; 24- Nitti's nemesis; 26- Biblical garden; 27- Stalks; 29- Capital of South Australia; 33- Indira Gandhi's father; 34- Indication; 35- Moderately cold; 36- Historic time; 37- Gillette razors; 38- No-win situation?; 39- Gas burner or Sicilian volcano; 41- Woodland animal; 42- No longer fresh; 44- Act of seizing authority; 46- Boisterous; 47- ___ epic scale; 48- Baseball glove; 49- Gun; 52- It's not PC; 53- Falls behind; 57- Toiletries case; 58- Task; 60- Dies ___; 61- Mother of Helen of Troy; 62- Studio stand; 63- High time; 64- Espied; 65- ___-bits; 66- Olympian's quest;

DOWN 1- Goulash; 2- Own; 3- Dentist's request; 4- Associate; 5- Except if; 6- Informs; 7- Collections of anecdotes; 8- Skirt stitching; 9- Annual reference book; 10- 50%; 11- Salt tree; 12- Adolescent; 15- Makes sorrowful; 23- Snake-like fish; 25- Australian bird; 26- Mystery writer's award; 27- Perfect Sleeper maker; 28- Express gratitude; 29- Broadcaster; 30- Smidgens; 31- Lace mat; 32- Waiting for the Robert ___; 33- Nair competitor; 34- Dutch painter Jan; 37- Move forward; 40- Eternal; 42- Boozehound; 43- Naming; 45- Singer Yoko; 46- Pleasantly; 48- Female horses; 49- Collectible frames; 50- To ___ (perfectly); 51- Au naturel; 52- Lion's share; 54- Suffix with buck; 55- London jail; 56- E-mail command; 59- 'Bali --';

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ONEI	SERYA	NEMO
PERSUADE	PETROL	
ACCUSE	SHELTER	
RARER	ESTO	OLA
ENE	TREAT	HAT
NAP	ROARE	ELENI
ALERTED	HAIRNO	
ERLE	KILLE	EYED
REDD	ESSEN	SONY



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PJ (Open line) 993	Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775	Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333	Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944	
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731	
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333	
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DRIVE IN

'NO OTHER LAND' IS A SHOCKING LOOK AT PALESTINIAN LIFE UNDER OCCUPATION

MARK KENNEDY, MDT/AP
ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

THE irony shouldn't be lost on anyone that "No Other Land," a documentary about the systemic demolition of Palestinian homes in the West Bank, cannot find a cinematic home, either with a distributor or a major U.S. streamer.

Producers have opted to self-distribute this powerful, pointed look at Israel's policies in seized land despite the movie earning an Oscar nomination and wins at the Berlin International Film Festival, Gotham Awards and Los Angeles Film Critics Association Awards. "No Other Land" is, in its nature, a piece of advocacy. There are no both-sidesing explored here. The filmmakers — a Palestinian-Israeli collective of four directors — make it clear they hope documenting their plight will get the United States to pressure Israel to stop the destruction.

The documentary is largely told from the perspective of



A scene from "No Other Land" (Antipode Films)

Basel Adra, an activist born in Masafer Yatta, a collection of villages in the southern mountains of the occupied West Bank. The Israelis have ordered Palestinians off the land to make room for a military training ground.

Shot between 2019 and 2023 — filming ended before the Israel-Hamas war exploded — the bulldozers arrive and ne-

ver stop, protected by soldiers and ripping through simple concrete homes. The residents retreat to caves, albeit with high-def TV connections. Then they try to rebuild, often under the stealth of night. Then the bulldozers return.

"They destroy us slowly. Every week, a home," goes the narration. "Every week a new family must decide: Endure,

or leave their land."

Adra and Palestinian co-writer and co-director Hamdan Ballal are joined by an Israeli journalist, Yuval Abraham, who arrives in Masafer Yatta with the cinematographer Rachel Szor. Abraham is asked point blank on his arrival: "What do you think about what your country is doing to us?" His answer: "I think it's a crime."

"We have no other land," says one resident, giving the documentary its name. At one point, a playground is demolished. At another, a school. Then a well is filled with concrete and water lines are cut with a chainsaw. Sometimes, nearby Israeli settlers attack as soldiers stand by.

The Palestinians are unarmed, except for cellphone cameras, which the soldiers clearly hate. When they march — a ragtag group with a banner reading "Palestinian Lives Matter" — they are met with stun grenades.

Shaky cellphone footage of

military altercations mix with archive footage, TV newscasts and dreamy, languid shots of dusty villages at night lit by naked bulbs. Sometimes current day images melt to those of a generation ago, when in home movies we see Adra's father protesting the same injustices, a never-ending cycle. His first memory is his father's first arrest.

"No Other Land" is a piece of resistance but also humanization. When Adra is about to be arrested, his mother says what mothers regularly do: "Go wear a warmer coat," she counsels. Palestinian children laugh as they play games in the street, throw snowballs in winter and sway gleefully from makeshift swings.

"I hope we'll change this bad reality," says Adra at the end. "I hope," chimes in Abraham.

"No Other Land," in movie theaters in select cities, is not rated but has language and violence throughout. Running time: 95 minutes. ★★★★★

AD

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TASTE OF EDESIA

Valentine's Day for Gourmets

IRENE SAM, MDT

FOR those who are thinking of where to take a special someone to celebrate love this Valentine's Day, JW Marriott Hotel Macau would be a great choice, with two dining experiences that embody romance and indulgence. From the lavish Valentine's Dinner Buffet at **Urban Kitchen** to the refined Valentine's Day Menu at The Lounge, every detail has been curated to create cherished memories this Valentine's season.

Urban Kitchen is where couples embark on a romantic culi-

nary journey this Valentine's Day. An opulent Valentine's Dinner Buffet awaits, offering an evening of love. Begin the celebration with the finest Oyster Ideale N°4 and Boudeuse N°4, or delight in the elegance of a live Caviar Bar. The buffet features culinary highlights including tender Slow-roasted Orange-fed Australian Wagyu, delicate Italian Beef Carpaccio, and fragrant Black Truffle Honey Glazed Ham. Guests can also savor Mediterranean Baked Fish, smoky Barbecued Iberico Ribs, freshly grilled seafood, and an array of international specialties. To end on a

sweet note, a decadent selection of crafted Valentine's desserts serves as the perfect finale to the romantic evening.

To celebrate love in an atmosphere of timeless elegance, at The Lounge, an intimate dining experience awaits. Begin the celebration with premium oysters and the delicate decadence of caviar, the perfect prelude to a sumptuous seafood platter. Brimming with whole Boston Lobster, succulent shrimps, half-shell mussels, conchs, and snow crab legs, the offering is further elevated with a bottle of Perrier-Jouët Rosé Champagne, setting the stage for an unforgettable day of love and indulgence.

JW Marriott Hotel Macau combines exceptional cuisine, elegant ambiance, and impeccable service to provide the perfect setting for celebrating love. So let's toast to romance, indulge in the finest flavours, and create unforgettable memories on this Valentine's Day.



BOOK IT

MAGGIE SU'S DEBUT NOVEL OFFERS UNIQUE LOOK AT HUMANITY

WITH the rise of Artificial Intelligence and the uncertainty of the geopolitical moment, it seems appropriate to start 2025 with some surreal fiction.

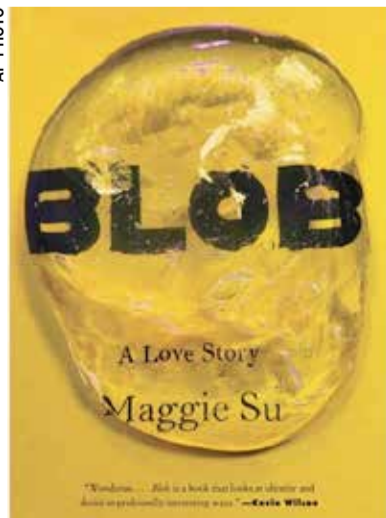
So how about "Blob: A Love Story," starring a Taiwanese-American named Vi, who stumbles upon a "beige gelatin splotch" with mouth, eyes, and lips, next to a trash can outside a dive bar, takes it home, feeds it and helps it morph into a real man?

That's the plot summary in brief, and it's a whole lot weirder than that. First-time novelist Maggie Su has fun letting Vi essentially mold her ideal man — "He doesn't look like any one movie star but rather a conglomeration of movie stars" — but the story isn't played entirely for laughs. Creating and interacting with Bob the blob (yes, that's the name she gives him. It?) gives Vi plenty of time to think about her own life. She's uneasy about the way she treats so-called friends and has not yet come to terms with a recent breakup.

In other words, she's a 20-something trying to figure herself out who has a lot of growing up to do. She dropped out of college and works a dead-end front desk job at the Hillside Inn and Suites. She isn't very nice to most of the people she spends time with throughout the story — from her co-workers to her family. But

nurturing Bob convinces her that fresh starts are possible. "He's so pure. Anything I do or say could taint him," she thinks at one point.

Of course, blobs who transform into humans also develop feelings. It's our brains that differentiate us from the rest of the animal kingdom, after all. So when Bob escapes Vi's apartment and meets other people, Vi's very good looking Frankenstein monster is no longer hers. Whose or what is he, though? That's a question Su could probably write another book about. In this one, she's content to leave Vi in a better place than where she started, all thanks to a random encounter with a blob. **ROB MERRILL, MDT/AP**



"Blob: A Love Story" by Maggie Su (Harper)

ITUNES

Swedish indie folk singer Sarah Klang's 'Beautiful Woman' is stunning

IN a clipped Nordic accent, Swedish indie folk singer Sarah Klang politely asked the soundboard operator at Nashville's Blue Room to turn up her microphone. The request, made recently during a rare U.S. performance in the intimate music space attached to Jack White's Third Man Records, seemed entirely unnecessary.

Her voice could fill every crevice of the room, even if she used no microphone at all. Live, just as on record, her tone pins you down and holds you the moment she opens her mouth.

On her fifth album, "Beautiful Woman," out Friday, Klang worked for the first time with American producer Eric D. Johnson, known for his work with Bonny Light Horseman, the Fruit Bats and the Shins. It's a winning partnership that lands somewhere between folksy Americana and '90s jangle-pop, set apart not only by Klang's voice but also by her honesty.

"Practicing every night / How to dance in slow motion," she sings on the title cut. "Writing in my diary, goals for the new year / 16 and alone in my room."

Klang leans into the song's chorus with characteristic

directness. "When I grow up," she sings, "I want to be a beautiful woman."

If wistfulness had its own voice, it might sound like her. Klang manages to convey pain even when she is singing about finding happiness, as she does on several cuts here. Few singers blend hope and sadness into such a rare mix of intensity: Billie Holiday, Hank Williams, Judy Garland, Patsy Cline, Amy Winehouse. The list isn't long.

That may sound like hyperbole for a singer from Sweden who has gained a following in Europe but hasn't made her mark across the ocean yet. Still, it seems inevitable that she will.

On this album, Klang details body-shaming, motherhood and her own arduous journey in a world that holds women to impossible standards.

"Nothing tastes as good as feeling skinny / I was told when I was young," she sings on "Other Girls," a not-so-subtle reference to a quote frequently attributed to supermodel Kate Moss.

The words come slowly. Klang's voice sinks into her own rigorous journey to self-acceptance without seeming preachy or pedantic. It rises



"Beautiful Woman" by Sarah Klang (Network Music Group)

toward the majestic closing anthem, "I Have Everything," but every note she sings tells you the outcome is no sure thing.

"Could I wake up tomorrow / And put some music on," she sings, "I would smile at my daughter and tell the sorrow I'll be gone / 'Cause you see I have everything I want."

My path to Klang's music started with my 20-something daughter, who included some of Klang's earlier work on a couple of Spotify playlists. The first few times her songs came up, I inevitably asked: "Who is that? Where is she from?"

The answers are all right here.

Her name is Sarah Klang. She comes from Sweden. And she has arrived.

SCOTT STROUD, MDT/AP

OPINION

China Daily
Editorial, China Daily

COOPERATION A WINNING PROPOSITION FOR ALL

Just two weeks after the new US administration was sworn in and already some countries are lamenting that being Washington's adversary may be safer than being its ally, having had a bitter taste of "America first".

Although the tariffs on Canadian and Mexican exports to the United States have been put on hold after both neighbors vowed to retaliate in kind, they are a stern warning to all US allies and partners that when it comes to "America first", Washington will not hesitate to strong-arm anyone, even the European Union and the United Kingdom, in its endeavor to "Make America Great Again".

Calling the EU's 300 billion (\$312 billion) deficit with the US an "atrocious" on Sunday, the US president said tariffs on EU goods will "definitely happen".

Despite their reluctance to get into a trade war with a key traditional ally, EU leaders have seen the need for unity in the face of the threat, vowing at an informal summit in Brussels on Monday that the bloc would fight back.

In an era marked by global interconnectedness and economic interdependence, the US administration is threatening to disrupt the delicate balance of international commerce and sow seeds of discord among nations primarily for the benefit of that country's uber-wealthy. The US administration's shortsighted protectionism will inflict widespread harm. The US-China trade disputes since 2018 exemplify this: tariffs disrupted supply chains, raised consumer costs and stifled innovation.

The notion that there will be a winner in a trade war is a fallacy.

China and the EU, as two of the world's largest economies, have consistently demonstrated that cooperation yields dividends. Bilateral trade surpassed \$785.8 billion in 2024, up 0.4 percent from 2023, with China remaining the EU's top trading partner. They have also shown that dialogue and negotiation are the more productive way to resolve differences.

The hard-negotiated Comprehensive Agreement on Investment between the two sides — though pending ratification due to pressure from the US — highlights the potential for balanced economic ties, as it addresses market access, subsidy transparency, and fair competition. Moreover, collaboration on climate change — a shared existential challenge — has borne fruit through joint initiatives such as the China-EU Partnership on Climate Change, which pursues clean energy and biodiversity goals.

Linking unrelated issues such as the Ukraine crisis to trade relations is politically motivated obstruction. Those in the EU who conflate China's economic ties with Russia as a threat to the bloc misunderstand them. The trade, which is conducted transparently under World Trade Organization rules, does not undermine China's commitment to partnership with the EU.

History teaches that trade wars leave scars but no victors. China's unwavering commitment to multilateralism and mutually beneficial cooperation stands in stark contrast to the isolationist winner-take-all agenda of the US administration.

By prioritizing dialogue, respecting market principles, and leveraging platforms such as the World Trade Organization, China and the EU can chart a course toward shared prosperity — one that transcends the zero-sum thinking that has Washington in its grip — and fortify the global economy against mutually harmful fragmentation.

In an era of unprecedented challenges, cooperation is not merely an option — it is the only viable path to a future that does not entail a small human survival colony on Mars.

Only through collaboration and shared prosperity can we build a more resilient, equitable, and interconnected global economy for the benefit of all. [Abridged]

BANK OF ENGLAND HALVES UK GROWTH PROJECTION AND CUTS MAIN INTEREST RATE TO 4.50%

THE BUZZ

The Bank of England halved its growth projection for the British economy this year as it cut its main interest rate yesterday for the third time in six months.

In a statement, the bank's nine-member Monetary Policy Committee lowered its main interest rate by a quarter of a percentage point to 4.50%, taking it to its lowest level since mid-2023.

That decision was widely expected in financial markets.

What wasn't expected was the scale of the growth downgrade in the bank's accompanying economic forecasts. The bank now predicts that the British economy will only grow by 0.75% this year,

down from its previous forecast of 1.5% just three months ago.

If that turns out to be remotely accurate, it will be hugely disappointing news for the U.K.'s new Labour government, which has made growth its number one mission as it will boost living standards and generate funds for cash-starved public services. With growth proving elusive, the party's popularity has fallen sharply since its election victory.

Treasury chief Rachel Reeves, who faced criticism for raising taxes on business in her first budget last October, welcomed the interest rate cut.



AP PHOTO

US DEMOCRATIC SENATORS PROTEST TRUMP GRANTING MUSK'S STAFF ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED INFO US

DAVID KLEPPER, WASHINGTON

DEMOCRATS on the Senate Intelligence Committee are demanding answers after they say President Donald Trump gave billionaire Elon Musk and his staff access to sensitive data and classified secrets as part of their work to overhaul the federal government.

The lawmakers yesterday [Macau time] wrote to Susie Wiles, Trump's chief of staff, and asked what security precautions had been taken to prevent unauthorized leaks of information by staff at the Department of Government Efficiency, known as DOGE. Trump tapped Musk to run the taskforce, which has quickly gotten to work dismantling whole agencies of the federal government.

As part of that effort, Musk and his staff have gained access to computer systems that the senators say contain potentially sensitive medical and financial information about millions of Americans as well as federal payroll information, classified documents, information from

foreign intelligence partners and the identities of undercover agents and intelligence sources.

In the letter, the senators warned that national security and the personal privacy of Americans could be at risk if the information is mishandled — intentionally or through negligence. They ask whether Musk's team has met with U.S. intelligence officials to discuss how to reduce the chances of the data being misused and what steps to take to protect classified information, such as the identities of CIA informants or the actions of overseas intelligence operatives.

Such information would be highly valuable to the spy agencies of Russia, China, Iran and other nations, and its loss could put lives at risk while undermining efforts to prevent terrorism and other threats to the U.S., the senators wrote.

"No information has been provided to Congress or the public as to who has been formally hired under DOGE, under what authority or regulations DOGE is operating, or how DOGE is vetting and monitoring its staff and representatives before providing them see-

ingly unfettered access to classified materials and Americans' personal information," the senators wrote.

The letter was signed by seven Democrats serving on the Intelligence Committee as well as independent Sen. Angus King of Maine. It was released on the same day the CIA announced it had offered buyouts to an unspecified number of staffers.

Rep. Jim Himes of Connecticut, the top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, expressed his own concerns that the Trump administration's review of CIA staffing could reveal details that jeopardize national security and agents in the field.

"Those details are secret for a reason — because protecting the identities of CIA employees is critical to their safety and mission, a mission that helps keep Americans safe every day," Himes said.

The White House did not immediately respond to the senators' questions. Musk has dismissed criticism of his government involvement, saying it just shows his effort is needed. MDT/AP



AP PHOTO

Indian opposition lawmakers protested yesterday over the alleged mistreatment of 104 deported migrants shackled during a U.S. flight. The deportees reported harsh conditions, sparking outrage. The Indian government engaged with U.S. officials, emphasizing dignity for returnees while reiterating its opposition to illegal immigration.



AP PHOTO

United States A Japan Airlines Boeing 787 clipped a parked Delta 737 while taxiing at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. No injuries were reported among passengers or crew. The incident, which caused minor disruptions, is under investigation by the FAA.



Portugal Rahim Al-Hussaini was named the new Aga Khan, succeeding his late father (pictured) as the Ismaili Muslim spiritual leader. The 53-year-old has long been involved in philanthropy and environmental efforts through the Aga Khan Development Network, which operates in over 30 countries.



AP PHOTO

Sweden Authorities confirmed yesterday that a gunman who killed 10 people at an adult education center in Orebron, before being found dead with three firearms, was linked to the school but found no terrorism ties. The attack, Sweden's worst mass shooting, has shocked the nation.