

# Karate trio clinches Macau's 1<sup>st</sup> gold at National Games ever

Armindo Neves

The men's team kata (amateurs) mass participation event at the 15<sup>th</sup> National Games karate competition concluded yesterday, with the Macau delegation securing its first ever gold medal in the history of the National Games.

This gold medal also marked the first medal awarded at the local segment of the 15<sup>th</sup> National Games, with Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai presiding over the award ceremony.

The competition took place at the Macau Forum in Zape.

The 15<sup>th</sup> National Games, held not just in Guangdong but also in Hong Kong and Macau, ends on November 21. The grand opening ceremony will be held in Guangzhou on Sunday. However, some of the competitions had started last week.

According to DeepSeek, kata is a choreographed, formal sequence of movements that simulates a fight against multiple imaginary opponents. It is often described as a "shadow fight" or a "form" and is one of the three core pillars of traditional karate training, alongside basics (kihon) and sparring (kumite).

Sam told reporters after the award ceremony that he expressed his delight to the three karatekas at their achievement, describing it as a source of shared celebration and pride for all Macau residents. He particularly commended



Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai, standing in front of Macau's gold-medal karate team - Cheang Pei Lok (second from left), Kuok Kin Hang (second from right), Fong Man Hou (right) and coach Wang Yi-ta - poses during yesterday's awards ceremony at Macau Forum in Zape.

the outstanding and spirited performances of the kata team, which fully embodied the city's sporting ethos.

He also said that he had inspected all seven venues hosting

events for the Macau leg of the Games yesterday, confirming that transportation, medical services, security, and venue facilities were all fully prepared.

He expressed confidence in the

smooth organisation and completion of all hosted events, emphasising that every effort would be made to jointly foster a safe, harmonious, and favourable environment for the Games.



The "golden boys" comprise Cheang Pei Lok, Fong Man Hou and Kuok Kin Hang, Sunday's final torchbearer of the 15<sup>th</sup> National Games torch relay.

Kuok won a bronze medal in the men's karate at the 14<sup>th</sup> National Games, held in Shaanxi Province in September 2021, to become Macau's first-ever medallist at the Games.

Earlier yesterday, the Macau trio first defeated the Beijing team in the Round of 16. After advancing to the quarter-finals where they beat their Guizhou counterparts. They then defeated the Shandong representative team in the semi-finals. Finally, in the gold medal match, they scored 42.7 points, narrowly defeating the Hong Kong team by a margin of 2.3 points.

Continued on p.6

## 'Our brother-in-law': Arab world embraces New York's new mayor

TUNIS – The newly elected mayor of New York City, Zohran Mamdani, is married to Rama Duwaji, a woman of Syrian descent. For many in Syria, that practically makes him family.

That he's also a Muslim and a supporter of the Palestinian cause doesn't hurt either, and his election victory has inspired warm feelings and an outpouring of humour in the Arab world.

"I love how Syrians are now calling Zohran Mamdani our brother-in-law," wrote Karam Nachar, editor-in-chief of *Al Jumhuriya*, an independent Syrian media outlet.

"The poor man thought he was marrying one Syrian woman! No, habibi Zohran, you belong to the entire nation now."

Mamdani's wife Duwaji, a 30-year-old illustrator and designer, was born in Texas to Syrian parents

and grew up partly in Dubai. This has prompted many Syrians keen to share in the joy of his win to adopt him as one of their own.

Abdel Karim Bakkar, a Syrian scholar with more than three million Facebook followers, said he was "thrilled that the new mayor of New York City is our brother-in-law, but even more thrilled that he speaks for the marginalised, the working class, and the poor".

Uganda-born Mamdani will become New York City's first Muslim and socialist mayor when he takes office in January, and in his victory speech he responded to US President Donald Trump's anti-immigration platform by celebrating the Big Apple's diversity.

In a viral campaign video showing the 34-year-old addressing New Yorkers in fluent Levantine Arabic, he grins and pours himself

a glass of mint tea: "Now, I know what you're thinking, I might look like your brother-in-law from Damascus."

In Nablus, in the occupied West Bank, 26-year-old Palestinian student Saleh, who did not give his last name, called Mamdani's win "incredible".

"A Muslim mayor in a city with more Jewish residents than Tel Aviv, that's crazy," he said. – AFP

Macau's most popular English-language newspaper – Your trustworthy source of news & views

The Macau Post Daily

### Philippine death toll tops 140 as typhoon heads towards Vietnam

Typhoon Kalmaegi has killed at least 142 people and left another 127 missing after unleashing devastating flooding across the central Philippines, official figures showed yesterday, as the storm headed towards Vietnam. – Story on p. 8

### US Supreme Court appears skeptical of Trump tariff legality

A majority of US Supreme Court justices appeared deeply skeptical of the legality behind a swath of Donald Trump's tariffs as they heard a landmark case on Wednesday that could uphold – or upend – the president's economic agenda. – Story on p. 11

### Franco captivates young Spaniards 50 years after death

Spanish youth are increasingly seduced by Generalissimo Francisco Franco fifty years after the dictator's death, often unaware of his harsh rule and influenced by propaganda permeating social media, experts say. – Story on p. 12



# Customs nabs mainlander for peddling bogus Moutai

Armindo Neves

The Macau Customs Service announced in a statement on Wednesday night that its officers nabbed a mainlander for peddling counterfeit Moutai on Monday.

The statement identified the suspect as a 31-year-old male mainlander.

The statement said that on Monday the Customs Service received a report from Public Service Police that a man was seen hawking suspected counterfeit Chinese baijiu (“white liquor”) to passers-by in Taipa.

Customs officers rushed to the scene to intercept the man and seized a Chinese “white liquor” bottle found among his personal belongings. The suspect admitted to trying to sell the bottle for profit.

Customs officers searched his residence where they confiscated



This undated handout photo provided by the Macau Customs Service on Wednesday shows the five counterfeit Moutai bottles seized by its officers.

four more Chinese “white liquor” bottles suspected of being counterfeits, the statement said.

After appraisal by a brand authentication expert, all the bottles were confirmed to be counterfeit, with an estimated market value of approximately 8,000 patacas based

on the price of the genuine products.

A photo of the bottles showed that they claimed to be of China’s world-famous Moutai brand.

While searching the flat where the suspect stayed, the statement said, the customs officers discovered that five other mainlanders were staying there as well. The unit was equipped with 15 bunk beds, and there was strong evidence indicating involvement in the illegal provision of accommodation. The Customs Service passed the case about the suspected “illegal inn” to the Public Security Police (PSP) for follow-up.

In the statement, accordance with the “Legal Regime of Industrial Property” and the “Legal Regime of Offences against Public Health and against the Economy,” the suspect faces up to five years behind bars, or a hefty fine. ■

# Woman falsely accuses man of rape over unpaid sex

Armindo Neves

A mainland woman has been arrested by the Judiciary Police (PJ) for falsely accusing a man of rape on Tuesday, PJ spokesman Lei Chi Hou said during a regular press conference yesterday.

The press conference was held at the Judiciary Police (PJ) headquarters in Zape.

Lei identified the suspect as a 39-year-old mainlander surnamed Yan who told police that she is a physical therapist.

According to Lei, the Public Security Police (PSP) transferred Yan and the victim from the Chinese mainland to the Judiciary Police (PJ) on Tuesday night, where Yan maintained that she was overpowered and raped by the man in a hotel guestroom in Cotai, demanding that he be charged.

Lei said that PJ officers investigating the alleged case realised that multiple pieces of evidence contradicted the woman’s account. The evidence gathered by the police showed she had breakfast with the man after the alleged rape and that she unsuccessfully demanded HK\$10,000 through a phone message to the man. Besides, a medical examination revealed no signs of defensive wounds on Yan’s body, while their telecommunication records showed that a row arose between



Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Lei Chi Hou looks on during yesterday’s regular press conference at the PJ headquarters in Zape.

– Photo: Armindo Neves

them after the alleged incident as Yan demanded payment for the sexual intercourse.

Yan and the man met while travelling by coach from the mainland to Macau on Monday and they entered the special administrative region together. In the evening, according to Lei, Yan accepted the victim’s invitation to “rest” in his hotel room in Cotai, where they engaged in sexual intercourse. Subsequently, both argued about money, leading Yan to wrongly accuse the victim of rape, Lei said.

Yan has been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing a charge of making a false police report. ■

# Orbis Macau to hold charity street event tomorrow

Kristina Vallesteros

Orbis Macau will hold the second Charity Street Event for its annual Action for Sight (AFS) campaign tomorrow, according to a statement from the non-governmental organisation (NGO).

The first event was held in the Horta e Costa district in mid-October.

Tomorrow’s event will take place from noon to 6 p.m. in the Areia Preta and Iao Hon Market areas. The statement noted that volunteers in Orbis’ signature blue vests will collect donations to raise funds for its global sight-saving programmes.

Two information booths will be set up for the public: a main booth at the entrance to the Luso-Chinese

Vocational and Technical School and a supplementary booth in front of the iSQUARE Computer Plaza. The statement said the public can visit the booths to learn more about Orbis, its sight-saving programmes and sustainable training, as well as to learn about eye care.

Donors will receive a sheet of themed stickers, and those giving 100 patacas or more will also receive a commemorative badge, the statement noted. Additional mementoes are available for those signing up to monthly or annual donation programmes.

The third Charity Street Event is slated to take place on November 22 in Taipa, covering the surrounding area of Flower City Garden and Central Park. ■



This undated handout photo recently provided by Orbis Macau shows a volunteer in Orbis’ signature blue vest collecting donations during a previous Orbis Charity Street Event.

# Police nab local man for damaging illegally parked motorbike

Armindo Neves

The Public Security Police (PSP) have arrested a local man for knocking over an illegally parked motorbike, PSP spokesman Cheong Heon Fan said during a regular press conference yesterday.

The press conference was held at the Judiciary Police (PJ) headquarters in Zape.

Cheong identified the suspect as a local lorry driver surnamed Un in his thirties.

According to Cheong, on the evening of August 22, the motorcycle owner parked the vehicle on the pavement in Estrada dos Cavaleiros (騎士馬路) in the northern district. Upon returning on the morning of August 26, Cheong said, the owner discovered that his motorcycle had been knocked over,

with multiple scratches on the left side of the bodywork.

Cheong said that the estimated repair cost amounted to around 3,000 patacas. The owner subsequently reported the incident to the Public Security Police.

According to Cheong, PSP officers identified Un through CCTV footage. He was summoned to the Public Security Police on Tuesday where he admitted that on the night in question while walking home intoxicated, he accidentally collided with the motorcycle before leaving the scene.

Un was transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing charges of causing property damage.

Cheong also said that the motorcycle owner has been ordered to pay a fine of 300 patacas for illegal parking. ■



This undated handout photo provided by the Public Security Police (PSP) yesterday shows a PSP officer escorting Un into a police station.

## Published since Aug 2004

- Director & Chief Editor – Harald Brüning
- Office Manager – Sally Chong
- Marketing Manager – Kevin Cheung King Lok
- Managing Editor – Maria Cheang Ut Meng
- Editors – Lesley Wells, Johnny Un
- Senior Reporters – Tony Wong, Rui Pastorin
- Reporters – Ada Lei, Khalel Vallo, William Chan, Ida Cheong, Armindo Neves
- Chief Graphic Designer – Simon Wang
- Graphic Designer – Colin Zhong
- Administrative Assistants – Ester Mak, Carl Leong
- Printed by Tipografia Welfare Lda., 82-86 Rua dos Pescadores
- Wire services – AFP, Xinhua
- Chatbots: Poe, DeepSeek



## Macau Weather

MAINLY CLOUDY.  
PERIODS OF RAIN.  
FORCE 4 TO 5 EAST TO  
NORTHEASTERLY WINDS,  
OCCASIONALLY FORCE 6 WITH  
GUSTS.  
RELATIVE HUMIDITY WILL  
RANGE BETWEEN  
70% AND 95%.



23°C~27°C

Source: SMG

## Macau Cultural Box Ltd.

invites applications for the following position:

### Graphic Design

- Familiar with Soft Ware/In-design/Photoshop/Pagemaking
- Good command of English and Chinese
- Work at night (10 pm – 04 am (Sun -Thu))
- Mature, hard working, independent, self-motivated

Interested parties are welcome to send their detailed resume with a recent photo and expected salary to [joininmp@gmail.com](mailto:joininmp@gmail.com). All personal data collected will be used for recruitment related purposes only.



# Kun Iam Temple launches 'Silent Radiance of Unity' exhibition



Chairman of the Buddhist Association of Macau, the Venerable Jie Sheng (戒晟) (left), and Macau Catholic Diocese Bishop Stephen Lee Bun-sang address the "Silent Radiance of Unity – Macao in Harmony" exhibition during yesterday's opening ceremony at Kun Iam Temple. – Photos: Khalel Vallo

## Khalel Vallo

The "Silent Radiance of Unity – Macao in Harmony" exhibition, presented by six religious communities in Macau, opened yesterday at Kun Iam Temple.

Co-organised by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) and sponsored by the Cultural Development Fund (NDF), the event brings together six major religions in Macau – Buddhism, Taoism, Catholicism, Protestantism, the Bahá'í Faith, and Islam – to promote interfaith understanding and harmony through art.

According to a statement provided by the bureau yesterday, the collaboration among the six religions began in 2021, with past events including the "Macao Five Religions Music Appreciation"

in 2021, the "The Journey over a Thousand Miles – Six Religions Culture and Relics Exhibition" in 2023, and the "Macao Six Religions Music Appreciation" in 2024. Through such initiatives, the organisers aim to highlight peaceful coexistence and mutual respect among faiths, the statement noted.

During yesterday's opening ceremony, the Venerable Jie Sheng (戒晟), chairman of the Buddhist Association of Macau, said the exhibition took a year to prepare and aims to embody three key achievements – being the first to present a diverse art ecology in a religious venue, breaking boundaries between static and dynamic displays, and showcasing Macau's cultural awareness. He

also said that the exhibition would allow exhibitiongoers to "touch the light within" through an artistic experience.

Meanwhile, Macau Catholic Diocese Bishop Stephen Lee Bun-sang noted the exhibition has been curated by young members of the six religions under the supervision of their leaders, featuring over 70 works and 17 dialogues and experiential activities, adding that artists from Macau and abroad aim to express shared spiritual values through media such as calligraphy, sculpture, Portuguese-style tile painting, Chinese painting, and seal engraving.

The exhibition runs until December 5 at Kun Iam Temple and is open daily from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. ■

## Extra sessions to be added to 'Book for Book' swap

### Kristina Vallesteros

The Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) has announced additional sessions for its "Book for Book" swap, following an enthusiastic public response to the initiative, according to a Wednesday statement from the bureau.

The statement noted that the activity aims to promote the city's reading culture and provide a platform for the community to share and circulate books. The new sessions will be held on weekends from this month through next month to allow more residents to participate.

The statement listed the following locations and dates: Praça de Luís de Camões this weekend, November 8 and 9; the open space adjacent to Flower City in Taipa on November 22 and 23; and Pátio do Lilau on December 27 and 28. All sessions will run from 12 noon to 6 p.m.

Participants can exchange books on a one-for-one basis after on-site verification by staff. The statement noted that certain types of publications are excluded from the swap to ensure quality. These include textbooks, magazines, damaged books, and outdated science or travel guides. A limit of 20 books per participant will be in effect.

Exhibition panels from the Macao Public Library will also be on site at the events to inform the public about library resources and services. ■

文化局  
INSTITUTO CULTURAL

澳門公共圖書館  
BIBLIOTECA PÚBLICA DE MACAU

閱讀之城  
CIDADE DA LEITURA

以書易書  
TROCAR UM LIVRO  
POR OUTRO

5至12月期間，週六及週日

12:00  
18:00

5至12月期間，週六及週日

**2025** 圖書資源共享，閱讀扎根社區。

Partilha de recursos de leitura, enraizamento de hábitos de leitura nos bairros comunitários.

日期	地點
5/17 - 5/18	蘭花前地休憩區 Zona de Lazer da Praça das Orquídeas
5/24 - 5/25	黑沙環公園 Parque Urbano da Área Preta
7/26 - 7/27	嘉諾米耶園影地 (三連座) Ruanda de Carlos de Matos
9/27 - 9/28	祺子基綠楊花園休憩區 Área de Lazer do Edifício Luk Young Fie Yuen no Pátio Chi Kai
11/8 - 11/9	白鴿巢前地 Praça de Luís de Camões
11/22 - 11/23	氹仔花城公園側之空地 (近海濱花園) Espaço Lateral do Jardim das Flores (Próximo do Jardim da Praia)
12/27 - 12/28	亞婆井前地 Largo do Lilau

歡迎市民攜帶圖書到活動現場，以“一書換一書”方式，挑選及換取相等數量的心儀圖書。

Convidam-se os cidadãos para se dirigirem ao local da actividade com os seus livros para "trocar um livro por um outro", seleccionando os livros preferidos e trocando-os por um número igual ao dos seus próprios livros.

查詢 | Informações  
**2856 7576 2884 3105**  
服務服務時間 Horário de expediente de balcões

活動詳情 | Informação da Actividade  
**www.library.gov.mo**

This poster provided by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) on Wednesday promotes its ongoing "Book for Book" swap campaign and the dates of the additional sessions between this month and the end of the year.

## MPU marks significant milestone in 2026 QS Asia University Rankings

### Rui Pastorin

The Macao Polytechnic University's (MPU) ranking rose to 402<sup>nd</sup> place in the 2026 QS Asia University Rankings, according to a statement from the public university yesterday, noting that this marked a significant milestone.

The improvement was around 50 positions from last year, the statement said. The statement added that this year's rankings analysed higher education institutions across 25 countries and regions in Asia, with 1,500 universities making the list.

The statement quoted MPU Rector Marcus Im Sio Kei as saying: "This outstanding result is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our faculty, staff, and students. It is truly inspiring to witness MPU's ascent in international rankings."

Im also highlighted MPU's commitment to "enhancing the internationalisation of higher education in Macau by capitalising on its unique role as a 'Platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries [PSCs]'". This focus on partnerships with PSCs is "integral to MPU's mission of cultivating professionals with a global outlook, thereby contributing to the development of a talent hub" in the Greater Bay Area (GBA), according to the statement.

The QS (Quacquarelli Symonds) World University Rankings is a respected global ranking system that assesses universities using key indicators such as academic reputation, employer reputation, graduate outcomes, research publications, and international networks, the statement said. ■



This photo provided by the Macao Polytechnic University (MPU) yesterday shows Rector Marcus Im Sio Kei posing on the campus in Zape, as well as the public university's ranking in the 2026 QS Asia University Rankings.

2025年11月7日至2025年11月9日

**NARS** 將於澳門新八佰伴「貴賓日」推出一系列限量套裝 **低至43折**  
讓你搜羅不同的熱賣妝品、節日限量系列  
打造專屬的秋冬璀璨妝容



除咗折扣外

購物額滿MOP 1,380或以上

**即送皇牌產品!!!**

一連3日的購物禮遇絕不容錯過!



# ‘Radiant Blue’ merges tradition and innovation

**Khalel Vallo**

The solo exhibition “Radiant Blue” by local artist Hu Jiawen (胡嘉雯) continues this week at the Rui Cunha Foundation (FRC) gallery in Nam Van, inviting exhibitiongoers to explore exhibits made between traditional painting and contemporary experimentation.

According to a recent statement from the gallery, Hu aims to present an artistic journey that examines imperfection, transformation and memory through a series of works blending ink, blue printing, and burnt gold leaf.

The exhibition, as described on the information board at the entrance, “echoes the tranquil depth of blue printing while alluding to the resplendent traces left by scorched gold leaf.”

Hu’s art is rooted in the techniques of Gongbi figure painting through the integration of experimental ink and the physical textures of burned foil.

Gongbi (工笔 – “meticulous brush”) is a traditional Chinese painting style characterised by thorough, realist, and highly detailed brushwork.

The use of gold leaf burning produces cracks and textures that transform perceived flaws into aesthetic qualities, aiming to symbolise the passage of time and the resilience of emotion, the message noted, adding that Hu’s works are executed on silk and rice paper, combining meticulous brushwork with layered ink to form dreamlike compositions.

With free admission, the works can be viewed until tomorrow, with exhibitiongoers able to visit today from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and tomorrow from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. at 749 Avenida da Praia Grande, Luen Pong Building.

Local artist Hu Jiawen (胡嘉雯) poses during the opening ceremony of her solo exhibition “Radiant Blue” at the Rui Cunha Foundation (FRC) gallery in Nam Van on Tuesday.

– Photos: Khalel Vallo





# 5<sup>th</sup> Macau Qingdao Int'l Beer Carnival kicks off



▲ Officiating guests and representatives pose for a group photo during the grand opening of the 5<sup>th</sup> Macau Qingdao International Beer Carnival last night at the Wynn Palace Event Marquee, including Macau Government Tourism Office Director Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes (fourth from right). – Photos: Rui Pastorin

◀ A dragon dance followed by other performances takes place at Wynn Palace last night.

Rui Pastorin

The 5<sup>th</sup> Macau Qingdao International Beer Carnival kicked off yesterday with a grand opening at Wynn Palace Event Marquee in Cotai, where a variety of Tsingtao\* beers and cuisine were presented.

Celebrating beer culture, the carnival, which is on until November 16 at the Cotai integrated resort, is organised by Asia Brewery (Macau) Co. Ltd., Wynn Resorts and Macau Leisure Tourism Services Innovation Association, under the guidance of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the Qingdao Municipal People's Government.

The grand opening was attended by a number of guests and representatives including those from the local and central governments, as well as from Qingdao.

Yesterday's event featured dance and music performances, as well as the Macau debut of the "Tsingtao Extra Light" beer, which boasts zero sugar, and at 500 ml, has a total of 125 kcal and 3.5g carbohydrates.

Moreover, aside from a selection of beers presented throughout the carnival, the integrated resort operator said in a statement on its Facebook page that games and DJ sets are also featured. The statement also notes that the carnival is on until November 16, from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. throughout its run. ■

*\*According to its official website, the award-winning Tsingtao Brewery was established in 1903 by German and British merchants as Germania-Brauerei Tsingtao Co. Ltd. in Qingdao. It is one of the earliest breweries in China and is currently the sixth largest brewer in the world.*

## 'Abnormal' food in lunch boxes causes students' malaise

Ida Cheong

The Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) received a report from Kao Yip Middle School on Avenida Xian Xing Hai in Nape on Wednesday that food in the lunch boxes provided by a designated food supplier was found to have "abnormalities", according to an IAM statement yesterday.

The Municipal Affairs Bureau dispatched its officials to the school and notified the Health Bureau (SSM) and the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) about the incident, the statement said, adding that the food supplier concerned was being investigated, while food samples were collected for testing, which was still ongoing yesterday.

Moreover, the Municipal Affairs Bureau received further reports from parents yesterday, indicating that some of the students from the same school had experienced physical discomfort after consuming the food provided the previous day.

As a precautionary measure, the supplier has been ordered to suspend the provision of hot meals containing the suspect ingredients, the statement said.

The Health Bureau is conducting an epidemiological\* investigation, the statement said, adding that preliminary information suggested that the affected students had all consumed the school-provided lunches.

The statement pointed out that as a potential link to food safety issues cannot be ruled out, legal action would be initiated if

violations of the local Food Safety Law are identified in the meal provision process.

The statement added that the Municipal Affairs Bureau will stay in touch with the Health Bureau, the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau and the school to continuously monitor the situation. It urged students and staff who consumed the problematic food and are still experiencing any discomfort to seek medical attention as soon as possible. ■

*\* Epidemiology is the study of the distribution and determinants of health-related states or events in specified populations, and the application of this study to control health problems. – DeepSeek*



This photo downloaded from Kao Yip Middle School's official website shows its school on Avenida Xian Xing Hai in Nape.



澳門特別行政區政府  
Governo da Região Administrativa Especial de Macau  
體育局  
Instituto do Desporto

## Barrier installation schedule of for the 72<sup>nd</sup> Macau Grand Prix

"The 72<sup>nd</sup> Macau Grand Prix" will be held from 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> of November. Due to the event barriers will be installed and traffic will be suspended in the locations of the streets below starting from 10<sup>th</sup> November. These barriers will be progressively removed upon the conclusion of the racing on the 16<sup>th</sup> November and until the morning of the 17<sup>th</sup> November. The Macau Grand Prix Organizing Committee asks for the understanding of motorists and residents and appeals for the respect of temporary traffic signage and instructions of Traffic Authorities.

Date	Barrier Installation Time	Road	Location
10 <sup>th</sup> November (Monday)	15:00	Av. da Amizade	Exit of World Trade center
			Exit of Amizade building
		Est. de Cacilhas	Depósito de Pólvora (Ramp)
		Est. D. Maria II	Entrance and Exit of the garage at Communications Museum
		Rua dos Pescadores	Entrance and Exit of Macao Water
11 <sup>th</sup> November (Tuesday)	10:00	Av. da Amizade	Entrance and Exit of the garage at Jubilee Court Building (Next to petrol station)
		Est. de Cacilhas	Entrance and Exit of the garage at Cheng Pak Kok Building
	15:00	Est. dos Parses	Exit of the garage at the Monetary Authority of Macao
		Av. da Amizade	Junction of the crossing point from Rua de Nagasaki to Av. da Amizade (Next to Jardim San On Building)
		Est. D. Maria II	Entrance and Exit of Car Workshop (Next to Communications Museum)
12 <sup>th</sup> November (Wednesday)	10:00	Av. da Amizade	Junction of the crossing point from Amizade Bridge to Av. da Amizade



*This undated file photo released by the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) yesterday shows the CNY area for the selling and letting-off of firecrackers and fireworks in Taipa.*



# Training activities aim to promote National Games' barrier-free society

Ida Cheong

Training activities entitled “Courtesy without Boundaries, Access without Barriers” were held yesterday, with the aim of enhancing the barrier-free service capabilities of the tourism industry and volunteers for the 15<sup>th</sup> National Games, the 12<sup>th</sup> National Games for Persons with Disabilities, the 9<sup>th</sup> National Special Olympics and other sporting events, further promoting the establishment of an inclusive, barrier-free society, and simultaneously boosting the high-quality development of local tourism sector, according to a statement by the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO).

The one-day training activities, held at MGM COTAI, featured detailed introductions to the “Indoor Barrier-Free Navigation System for the 15<sup>th</sup> National Games, the 12<sup>th</sup> National Games for Persons with Disabilities and the 9<sup>th</sup> National Special Olympics Venues” and provided targeted training on barrier-free reception techniques for people with diverse needs. Nearly 400 people attended.

Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) Director Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes told reporters during the training activities that the barrier-free navigation system for the Games is planned to be expanded to other attractions such as museums and outdoor venues, supporting Macau's development as a World Tourism and Leisure Centre and fostering the creation



Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) Director Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes (front row, sixth from left), Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) President Hon Wai (front row, sixth from right) and other attendees pose for a group photo during the one-day “Courtesy without Boundaries, Access without Barriers” training activities at MGM COTAI yesterday.

— Photo: Ida Cheong

of an “inclusive city” to meet the travel needs of all tourists, including the elderly and individuals with special needs.

Senna Fernandes said in a speech that in preparation for the upcoming major sporting events, and following last month's “Hearts Connected, Inclusivity Achieved” International Day of Sign Languages promotion and training event, this kind of training session was once again organised in conjunction with MGM, aiming to help tourism professionals and Games volunteers equip themselves for their respective tasks

and prepare themselves thoroughly for their reception duties.

Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) President Hon Wai noted in a speech that his bureau will continuously organise training programmes to enhance understanding of people with disabilities, adding that the barrier-free service levels of the tourism industry and Games volunteers will be elevated through the training. Hon also said he hoped to set up an “inclusive and caring” tourism environment by jointly promoting Macau as a barrier-free travel destination in Asia.

According to the statement, the training was divided into two parts; the first part focused on the barrier-free navigation system for the Games' concept, how it benefits various users, and sharing practical operational techniques; the second part, themed “Understanding and Assisting Persons with Disabilities”, included learning about the characteristics of different types of disabilities, modes of communication and assistance techniques, as well as introducing and demonstrating the use of basic assistive devices. ■

## How China's leadership sees domestic, global landscapes for country's development over next 5 years

Analysis

BEIJING – The Communist Party of China (CPC) leadership has drawn a development roadmap for the world's second-largest economy in the next five years.

In the recommendations for formulating China's 15<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan (2026-2030) for national economic and social development, the Party leadership has also stated its views on the evolving international and domestic environments.

China is in a period of development where strategic opportunities exist alongside risks and challenges, with uncertainties and unforeseen factors on the rise, says the document of the recommendations adopted in late October.

The document notes that relations among major countries have an important bearing on the international landscape, the dynamics of which will in turn exert a profound impact on a country's domestic development.

Books lately published to help the public better understand the recommendations provide further details, summarized as follows.

### GLOBAL CHANGE BRINGS OPPORTUNITIES, RISKS

The global balance of power is shifting, and multipolarity is advancing amid twists and turns.

Although economic globalization has encountered headwinds, it remains an unstoppable trend. This process will create new space and opportunities for China to expand its high-level opening up, and to facilitate flows between domestic and international markets.

A new sci-tech revolution and industrial transformation wave is gaining momentum, with innovation and industrialization

accelerating worldwide. In some areas, China has already established an early advantage, creating favorable conditions to seize new development opportunities.

At the same time, China faces mounting external risks and challenges. The world is witnessing ever-greater instability, with geopolitical conflicts occurring with increasing frequency. Unilateralism and protectionism are on the rise, and hegemonism and power politics pose expanding threats. The global economic and trade order faces serious disruptions, and global growth momentum remains weak.

### CHINA'S DEVELOPMENT ADVANTAGES

China's development retains significant advantages.

**First**, the institutional strength of socialism with Chinese characteristics – underpinned by the Party's overall leadership, the ability to mobilize resources for major undertakings, and the combination of an efficient market and a well-functioning government – provides a strong guarantee for high-quality development.

**Second**, China's super-sized domestic market offers vast consumption potential, investment opportunities, and strong internal dynamism. And continuous improvements to the country's laws and business environment enhance its attractiveness to global resources and production factors.

**Third**, China's complete industrial system provides a solid foundation for the enhancement of its economic competitiveness, innovation and resilience.

**Fourth**, China has abundant human resources. The growing ranks of skilled workers, entrepreneurs and scientific

researchers are turning the demographic dividend into a talent dividend, injecting continuous innovation and creativity into economic and social development.

Overall, China's economy remains stable, with multiple strengths, robust resilience and enormous potential. The conditions underpinning its long-term growth have not changed.

### ADDRESSING CHALLENGES TO ENSURE BALANCED, SUFFICIENT GROWTH

China's development continues to face prominent issues of imbalance and insufficiency. Effective demand remains inadequate, and obstacles persist in domestic economic circulation. The transition from old to new growth drivers is a difficult task, while modernization lags behind in agriculture and rural areas.

Pressures on employment and income growth remain, and weaknesses in social security and public services persist. Changing demographic patterns are also presenting new challenges for economic and social governance, and potential risks remain in key areas.

During the 15<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan period, identifying stage-specific requirements for China's economic and social development will be crucial, as will seeking new ideas and methods to address these challenges.

Profound change brings both challenges and opportunities. Meeting these challenges requires determination and confidence. China must maintain strategic resolve, remain committed to managing its own affairs well, and sustain rapid economic growth and enduring social stability, thus beginning a new chapter of Chinese modernization. — Xinhua

## Xinjiang launches consumption voucher program to boost winter tourism

URUMQI – The northwestern Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region will launch a consumption voucher program on November 14 to boost winter tourism during its snowy season, the regional culture and tourism department announced yesterday.

A total of 10,000 vouchers, each with a face value of 20 yuan will be valid for use at 11 ski resorts rated at the 4S class or above across the region, covering popular winter destinations such as Urumqi, Changji, Ili and Altay, the department said.

Vouchers are applicable once a ski pass purchase reaches or exceeds 100 yuan. Skiers can claim their vouchers through a WeChat mini-program.

Renowned for its long snowy season and high-quality snow, Xinjiang has developed a comprehensive winter tourism system that integrates skiing, snow sightseeing and local cultural experiences.

During the previous snowy season, standardized ski resorts in Xinjiang welcomed approximately 3.57 million tourists, which was a year-on-year increase of 10.22 percent and generated a tourism revenue of 844 million yuan – up 39.13 percent year on year.

Department official Li Meng said that the voucher program will run until February 2026. It is aimed at stimulating spending on winter sports, and at boosting the high-quality development of the region's winter tourism sector.

— Xinhua



# Philippine death toll tops 140 as typhoon heads towards Vietnam

**Faith Brown with Cecil Morella in Manila**

LILOAN – Typhoon Kalmaegi has killed at least 142 people and left another 127 missing after unleashing devastating flooding across the central Philippines, official figures showed yesterday, as the storm headed towards Vietnam.

The typhoon is so far the globe's deadliest of 2025, according to disaster database EM-DAT. Trami, also in the Philippines, was last year's third-deadliest typhoon with 191 fatalities.

Floodwaters described as unprecedented rushed through Cebu province's towns and cities this week, sweeping away cars, riverside shanties and even massive shipping containers.

The national civil defence office yesterday confirmed 114 deaths, though that tally did not include an additional 28 recorded by Cebu provincial authorities. More than 500,000 Filipinos remain displaced.

In Liloan, a town near Cebu City where 35 bodies have been recovered, AFP reporters saw cars piled atop each other by floodwaters and roofs torn off buildings as residents attempted to dig out of the mud.

Christine Aton's sister Michelle, who has a disability, was among Liloan's victims, trapped in her bedroom as the floodwaters rose inside their house.

"We tried to pry open (her bedroom door) with a kitchen knife and a crowbar but it wouldn't budge.... Then the refrigerator started to float," Aton, 29, said.

"I opened a window and my father and I swam out. We were crying because we wanted to save my older sister.

"But my father told me we couldn't do anything for her, that all three of us might end up dead."

Chyros Roa, a 42-year-old father of two, said his family was saved by his dog's barking when water rushed into their home in the early hours, giving them just enough time to reach their roof.

"The current was really strong. We tried to call for rescue, but no one came. We were told the rescuers were swept away by the current," he said.



*In this handout video grabbed taken on Wednesday and released yesterday through the courtesy of the Facebook page of Brick George Anasta, vehicles are seen amongst the debris swept away by flash floods at the height of Typhoon Kalmaegi, along a street of a village in La Carlota city, Negros Oriental province, central Philippines. – AFP*

Yesterday, President Ferdinand Marcos declared a "state of national calamity", a move allowing the government to release funding for aid and impose price ceilings on basic necessities.

"Unfortunately, there's another (typhoon) coming with the potential to become an even stronger one," he said at an afternoon press briefing.

Still more than 1,500 kilometres to the country's east, tropical storm Fung-wong is slowly building strength as it heads towards the Philippines' main island of Luzon.

It could reach super typhoon status before it makes landfall on Monday.

## 'Once every 20 years'

State weather service meteorologist Benison Estareja told AFP the rains along Kalmaegi's path were 1.5 times the amount that would typically fall in Cebu for a full November, saying it was something that happened "once every 20 years".

The "highly urbanised" nature of the most-affected communities

around Cebu City had made it even deadlier, he added.

"Around four or five in the morning, the water was so strong that you couldn't even step outside," said Reynaldo Vergara, 53, adding that everything in his small shop in Mandaue had been lost when a nearby river overflowed.

"Nothing like this has ever happened. The water was raging."

In a radio interview, provincial governor Pamela Baricuatro called the situation "unprecedented".

Scientists warn that storms are becoming more powerful due to human-driven climate change. Warmer oceans allow typhoons to strengthen rapidly, and a warmer atmosphere holds more moisture, meaning heavier rainfall.

## 'Urgent and dangerous'

Kalmaegi windspeeds were increasing yesterday as it headed towards neighbouring Vietnam, where fear was mounting the damage of a week of flooding that has already claimed 47 lives.

The typhoon was forecast to make landfall in central Vietnam late yesterday, bringing waves as high as eight metres and powerful storm surges, according to the national weather bureau.

Deputy Prime Minister Tran Hong Ha urged local authorities to treat Kalmaegi as "urgent and dangerous", calling it "a very abnormal" storm in a statement Wednesday.

Authorities have ordered thousands to evacuate from coastal communities, and in Quy Nhon city – just south of where Kalmaegi is forecast to make landfall – an AFP reporter saw officials knocking on doors yesterday and warning people to flee.

Ten typhoons or tropical storms usually affect Vietnam, directly or offshore, in a given year, but Typhoon Kalmaegi is set to be the 13th of 2025.

The Philippines has already reached its average of 20 such storms with Kalmaegi, state weather specialist Charmagne Varilla told AFP, adding at least "three to five more" storms could be expected by December's end. – AFP

# Laos on alert as Typhoon Kalmaegi approaches

VIENTIANE – The Lao weather bureau has issued a nationwide warning as Typhoon Kalmaegi is forecast to bring moderate to heavy rainfall across central and southern parts of Laos from today to Sunday.

The storm, moving west-northwest at a speed of 39 km per hour, is expected to cross Vietnam before entering Laos, bringing light to moderate thunderstorms generally and heavy to very heavy rainfall with strong winds in parts of the central and

southern provinces, according to a report from the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology under the Lao Ministry of Agriculture and Environment yesterday.

Authorities are urging residents to stay vigilant for flash floods, landslides, and rising river levels, with the provinces most at risk including Attapeu, Sekong, Champasak, Salavan, Khammuan, Savannakhet, Bolikhamxay, Xayabouly, and Lao capital Vientiane.

– Xinhua

# Typhoon Kalmaegi makes landfall in central Vietnam, causing widespread damage



*Palm trees battered as strong winds arrive ahead of the landfall of Typhoon Kalmaegi near Quy Nhon beach in Gia Lai province in central Vietnam yesterday. – AFP*

HANOI – Typhoon Kalmaegi made landfall in central Vietnam yesterday evening, bringing torrential rains and powerful winds that caused widespread damage, local media outlet VNXpress reported.

The typhoon uprooted trees, damaged roofs, and shattered glass windows of buildings in several localities. Power outages were reported across large areas of several provinces, affecting hundreds of thousands of households.

Meanwhile, search operations were underway for three fishermen missing off Ly Son Island in Quang Ngai province after their vessel capsized in rough seas, according to the report.

Local authorities said rescue teams had received numerous emergency calls from residents reporting roof collapses and flooding, while strong winds had hindered immediate response efforts.

– Xinhua

# UK grandmother leaves Indonesia's death row to return home

**Aldiv Alfaseria with Marchio Gorbiano in Jakarta**

DENPASAR – Two British drug convicts including a grandmother on death row left a Bail jail yesterday, an Indonesian ministry official told AFP, as part of a deal to send them home.

Indonesia has some of the world's toughest drug laws, but has moved to release more than half a dozen high-profile detainees in the last year, including a Filipina mother on death row.

Lindsay Sandiford, 69, was sentenced to death on the tourist island of Bali in 2013 after she was convicted of trafficking drugs.

She will be repatriated along

with Shahab Shahabadi, 36, who was serving a life sentence for drug offences after his arrest in 2014.

The two convicts left prison and were transferred to the airport, law and human rights ministry official I Nyoman Gede Surya Mataram told AFP.

Sandiford wound up behind bars in Indonesia after customs officers found cocaine worth an estimated US\$2.14 million hidden in a false bottom in her suitcase when she landed in Bali in 2012.

Sandiford admitted the offences but said she had agreed to carry the narcotics after a drug syndicate threatened to kill her son.

The repatriation comes after Indonesia's senior law and human rights minister, Yusril Ihza Mahendra, signed a deal with British foreign minister Yvette Cooper last month for the transfer of Sandiford and Shahabadi.

Both prisoners are suffering from severe health problems.

Yusril said last month that Sandiford was "seriously ill", while Shahabadi was "suffering from various serious illnesses, including mental health issues".

An Indonesian official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told AFP that the two prisoners would be taken to a hospital for medical treatment after arriving in London.

## 'Goodbye letters'

Sandiford's case caught tabloid attention back in Britain, with one newspaper publishing in 2015 an article in which she detailed her fear of death.

"My execution is imminent, and I know I might die at any time now. I could be taken tomorrow from my cell," she wrote in the Mail on Sunday.

"I have started to write goodbye letters to members of my family."

As of August, nearly 600 inmates were on death row in Indonesia, according to the rights group KontraS, citing official data.

Among them are around 90 foreigners, according to the

Immigration and Correction Ministry.

Indonesia last carried out executions in 2016, killing one of its own citizens and three Nigerian drug convicts by firing squad.

President Prabowo Subianto's administration has repatriated several high-profile inmates since he took office in 2024, including the last five members of the so-called "Bali Nine" drug ring.

In December, Filipina inmate Mary Jane Veloso tearfully reunited with her family after nearly 15 years on death row.

In February, French national Serge Atlaoui, 61, was returned home after 18 years on death row. – AFP



# Shooting at start of Bangladesh election campaign kills one

Sheikh Sabiha Alam

DHAKA — Gunmen on motorbikes attacked a Bangladesh political rally, killing one person and wounding two others, including a candidate, officials said yesterday, after parties began campaigning for landmark elections.

Major parties opened their campaigns on Wednesday for the elections slated for February 2026, the first since a deadly uprising last year toppled the autocratic government of former ruler Sheikh Hasina.

Campaigning turned violent almost immediately.

The shooting took place at a rally on Wednesday for the powerful Bangladesh National Party (BNP) attended by hundreds in the port city of Chattogram, police said.

Senior BNP leader Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury said “it was an attempt to destabilise politics and disrupt the election”.

The BNP are widely seen as the frontrunner in the polls.



**Bangladesh National Party (BNP) candidate for the Dhaka-14 constituency, Sanjida Islam Tuli (centre) visits the Shah Ali Baghdadi shrine in Mirpur area, Dhaka, yesterday.**

— AFP

Police said the gunmen opened fire quickly on a crowd of hundreds at the rally but insisted that the BNP candidate was not the target.

“The miscreants... shot their target, and fled in a flash,” senior police officer Hasib Aziz told reporters late on Wednesday.

Candidate Ershad Ullah was shot and wounded, along with a supporter. A third man was killed.

“We would urge candidates to inform the police station at least 24 hours prior to any election campaign, so that more police can be deployed,” Aziz said.

## ‘Show restraint’

The South Asian nation of about 170 million people has been in political turmoil since Hasina was overthrown by the student-led uprising in August 2024.

Campaigning is technically unofficial because the election commission is not expected to announce the voting day until December.

Interim leader Muhammad Yunus, the 85-year-old Nobel Peace Prize winner serving as chief adviser, has repeatedly promised the elections will be held in February.

Yunus has ordered an investigation into the shooting, his media team said in a statement.

The interim government “calls on all political actors and their supporters to uphold calm, show restraint, and ensure that the February general election takes place in an atmosphere of peace, dignity, and fairness”, it said yesterday.

Bangladesh police offered cash rewards on Wednesday for

the surrender of more than 1,300 machine guns, rifles and pistols looted during last year’s uprising.

Lieutenant General Md Mainur Rahman told an army news conference on Wednesday that the military would provide security to ensure peaceful polls and that they would return to barracks after the election.

“We hope stability will be strengthened, law and order will remain normal, and we will return to the cantonment once the election is held,” Rahman said.

Major parties have unveiled their candidate lists, with the BNP saying this week that 80-year-old leader and three-time prime minister Khaleda Zia will run again, as well as her son, Tarique Rahman.

Bangladesh’s largest Islamist political party, Jamaat-e-Islami, said it had finalised a preliminary candidate list and was “engaging with other parties on the prospect of seat-sharing”, senior leader Abdullah Mohammad Taher told AFP. — AFP

## N Korea condemns ‘wicked nature’ of latest US sanctions

SEOUL — North Korea condemned yesterday the latest US sanctions imposed on people and organisations accused of cybercrimes, saying they showed Washington’s “wicked nature to be hostile” against the regime.

The criticism came after the US Treasury announced this week sanctions on eight individuals and two entities “for their role in laundering funds derived from a variety of illicit Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) schemes”.

The individuals were “state-sponsored hackers”, the department said, whose illicit operations were conducted “to fund the regime’s nuclear weapons programme” by stealing and laundering money.

Pyongyang’s “cybercriminals have stolen over US\$3 billion over the past three years”, US officials said, “primarily in cryptocurrency, often using sophisticated techniques such as advanced malware and social engineering”.

Kim Un Chol, vice-minister for US affairs at North Korea’s foreign ministry, denounced the move in a statement carried by

the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) yesterday.

“Recently, the new US administration has imposed its exclusive sanctions on the DPRK, the fifth of their kind since its assumption of office,” he said.

“By doing so, the US administration showed to the full its stand that it would be hostile towards the DPRK to the last,” he added.

Kim said sanctions would not affect the policy course of the nuclear-armed state but would “only be recorded as a typical example symbolising the failure in its incurable policy towards the DPRK”.

The latest measures came after US President Donald Trump repeatedly expressed willingness to meet North Korean leader Kim Jong Un during his Asia tour last week, an offer that went unanswered by Pyongyang.

Kim Jong Un met Trump three times for high-profile summits during the US leader’s first term, but talks collapsed over what concessions Pyongyang was prepared to make on its atomic weapons. — AFP

## Afghanistan opium cultivation falls 20 pct in 2025: UN report

KABUL — Opium cultivation in Afghanistan dropped by 20 percent in 2025, the United Nations said yesterday, while warning of a simultaneous surge in synthetic drug production and trafficking.

The Taliban authorities banned opium poppy cultivation nationwide in 2022, the year after they returned to power in Kabul.

The area dedicated to poppy farming fell from 12,800 hectares in 2024 to 10,200 hectares in 2025, a new report released by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) said.

Opium cultivation in 2022 covered around 232,000 hectares, according to the UNODC.

Output of opium, the core ingredient in heroin, was estimated at 296 tonnes in 2025, a 32 percent drop compared to the previous year.

Farmers’ income from opium sales fell by nearly half, from US\$260 million in 2024 to US\$134 million this year.

Prices of dry opium remain five times higher than the pre-ban average despite a decline in 2025, the UNODC said.

The agency also warned of a



**Afghan farmers harvest opium sap from a poppy field in the Chaparhar district of Nangarhar province on April 19, 2016.**

— AFP

sharp rise in synthetic drug activity, particularly methamphetamine.

“Synthetic drugs appear to have become the new business model for organised crime groups due to the relative ease of production, the greater difficulty in detection and relative resilience to climate changes,” it said.

The UN has repeatedly called on the international community to help Afghan farmers transition away from opium to other crops and livelihoods, a request also made by the Taliban government.

“After the ban, many farmers shifted to growing cereals and

other crops. Worsening weather conditions, such as droughts or low rainfall, however, resulted in over 40 percent of farmland laying barren,” the agency said.

The 2022 ban caused a shift in cultivation areas to Afghanistan’s northeast, away from Taliban strongholds in the south where it was previously cultivated.

Several people were killed in clashes in May 2024 between farmers and law enforcement forces sent to destroy poppy fields in the northeastern region of Badakhshan, which has resisted the opium ban. — AFP



**This picture taken on Wednesday and released by North Korea’s official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) yesterday shows North Korean leader Kim Jong Un (centre) attending the state funeral for the late Kim Yong Nam, former chairman of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People’s Assembly in Pyongyang.** — AFP

## Pakistan fires into Afghanistan despite truce: military source, witnesses

KABUL — Projectiles were fired from Pakistan into Afghanistan yesterday, an Afghan military source and witnesses told AFP, as the two neighbours were to resume talks in Turkey to reinforce a fragile ceasefire.

“Pakistan used light and heavy weapons and targeted civilian areas,” the Afghan military source said of the shelling, which witnesses said lasted 10-15 minutes.

“We have not retaliated yet, out of respect for the ongoing negotiations” in Istanbul, said the source, who

spoke on condition of anonymity.

The Pakistani military did not respond immediately to AFP’s requests for comment.

Border clashes early last month that followed explosions in Kabul killed more than 70 people, including around 50 Afghan civilians, according to the United Nations.

It was one of the deadliest confrontations in years between the South Asian neighbours, whose relations have deteriorated since the Taliban returned to power in Kabul in

2021, particularly over cross-border militancy and security concerns.

The two countries agreed to a ceasefire on October 19 in Qatar, but reached an impasse when trying to finalise details of the truce in Turkey last week.

Each accused the other of not acting in good faith in the process.

The negotiations were scheduled to resume in Istanbul yesterday but neither side indicated immediately whether the delegations had met.

Both sides warned of renewed fighting if the talks fail. — AFP



# Kirchner on trial in Argentina's 'biggest ever' corruption case

Tomás Viola

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina – Argentine ex-president Cristina Kirchner, already serving a six-year fraud sentence under house arrest, went on trial yesterday in a new corruption case described as the biggest in her country's history.

The centre-left Kirchner, a dominant and polarising figure in Argentine politics for over two decades, served two terms from 2007-2015.

Her latest trial comes as her ailing Peronist movement – named after iconic post-war leader Juan Perón – reels from its stinging defeat at the hands of budget-slashing President Javier Milei's party in last month's midterm elections.

Milei has hailed the result as a vindication of his radical free-market agenda, which the Peronists, champions of state intervention in the economy, vehemently oppose.

The so-called "notebooks" case at the heart of Kirchner's latest trial follows "the biggest ever corruption investigation in Argentina's legal history," according to prosecutor Estele León.

It revolves around records kept by a government chauffeur of cash bribes he claims to have delivered from businessmen to government officials between 2003 and 2015.

Kirchner, 72, was first lady from 2003-2007, when her late husband Nestor Kirchner was president.

She succeeded him after his term ended and later served as vice



**Argentina's former president (2007-2015) and vice-president (2019-2023) Cristina Fernández de Kirchner waves at supporters from the balcony of her residence, where she is serving house arrest in Buenos Aires, on September 20, 2025, on the 100<sup>th</sup> day of her arrest.**

– AFP

president to Alberto Fernández from 2019 until 2023, when Milei took office.

She is accused of leading a criminal enterprise that took millions of US dollars in bribes from businesspeople in return for the awarding of state contracts.

She appeared at the start of her trial via Zoom from her apartment in Buenos Aires.

A total of 87 people are charged in the case, including dozens of businesspeople and a former minister.

Kirchner's defence team has cast doubt on the credibility of the notebooks at the heart of the

prosecution's case, saying the entries were changed over 1,500 times.

## Battle over left's future

Kirchner's political career effectively ended in June when the Supreme Court upheld her corruption conviction over the awarding of public works contracts in the southern Patagonia region when she was president.

She was sentenced to six years in prison, which she was allowed serve under house arrest with an electronic ankle monitor, and banned from holding public office for the rest of her life.

The charismatic politician, who is revered by many on the left but detested by the right, maintains she is the victim of a right-wing judicial hounding aimed at destroying her career.

Kirchner faces between six and 10 years in prison if convicted at the end of what is expected to be a lengthy trial, and would likely ask again to serve her term under house arrest.

She continues to try to rally her supporters on social media and by appearing regularly on her balcony to greet well-wishers.

Her attempt to retain leadership of the Peronist movement has created tensions with Buenos Aires' popular governor, Axel Kicillof, widely seen as a possible future presidential contender.

"Peronism is going through a leadership crisis," political analyst Raul Timerman told AFP. – AFP

## Israeli forces kill West Bank teenager accused of throwing explosive

RAMALLAH, Palestinian Territories – The Palestinian health ministry said yesterday that Israeli troops shot dead a teenager in the occupied West Bank, while the military accused him of throwing explosives at soldiers.

The Ramallah-based ministry identified the 15-year-old as Murad Saifin, who according to the military had been killed late on Wednesday.

The ministry said the incident took place in the town of Al-Yamun, west of Jenin.

Late on Wednesday the military said its troops had killed a militant in the area of Al-Yamun.

"During operational activity of soldiers in the Al Yamun area, a terrorist hurled an explosive at the soldiers, who responded with fire and eliminated the terrorist," the Israeli military said.

In a separate incident, the Palestinian Authority reported the death of an elderly Palestinian woman from a heart attack when Israeli forces raided her home yesterday.

The PA's media office identified the woman as Haniya Hanoun, and said she was pushed around by soldiers who had come to arrest her grandson in their home near Ramallah.

The army told AFP it was looking into the incident.

Violence in the West Bank, which Israel has occupied since 1967, has soared since the war in Gaza broke out in October 2023.

At least 999 Palestinians, including militants, have been killed in the West Bank by Israeli forces or settlers since the start of the far bloodier war in Gaza, according to the Palestinian health ministry.

During the same period, 43 Israelis, including soldiers, have been killed in Palestinian attacks in the West Bank, according to official Israeli figures. – AFP

## US targets Hezbollah money movers as Israel strikes

WASHINGTON – The United States yesterday imposed sanctions on three Hezbollah members involved in financial transactions for the Lebanese militant group, as Israel launched new strikes.

The sanctions were announced ahead of a visit to Lebanon by John Hurley, the Treasury Department official in charge of sanctions against extremist groups.

The US Treasury Department said it was imposing sanctions on three Hezbollah members,

blocking any assets they have in the United States and making transactions with them subject to prosecution.

The three allegedly were involved in transfers of tens of millions of US dollars from Iran, the Shi'ite movement's main sponsor, in part by using money exchange companies that operate in cash.

"Lebanon has an opportunity to be free, prosperous and secure – but that can only happen if Hezbollah is fully disarmed and cut off from

Iran's funding and control," Hurley said in a statement.

Israel last year carried out major strikes against Hezbollah, hitting the group hard in the wake of the October 7, 2023 attack carried out by Hamas, also backed by Tehran.

Lebanon's fragile central government agreed to a plan to disarm Hezbollah. Despite a ceasefire in effect for a year, Israel yesterday carried out new strikes in Lebanon, vowing to stop Hezbollah from rearming. – AFP

## Pope Leo receives Palestinian president Abbas at Vatican

VATICAN CITY – Pope Leo XIV held his first meeting with Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas yesterday, where the Vatican said they discussed the "urgent need" to help the civilian population in Gaza.

The visit comes almost a month into a fragile ceasefire between Hamas and Israel, following two years of war triggered by the Palestinian group's October 7, 2023, attack.

Abbas is the longtime head of the Palestinian Authority, which exerts limited control over parts of the West Bank. His Fatah movement is the rival to Hamas, which took control of Gaza in 2007.

Abbas and Leo spoke by telephone in July but yesterday was their first in-person meeting since the American took over as head of the world's 1.4 billion Catholics in May.

"During the cordial talks, it was recognised that there is an urgent need to provide assistance to the civilian population in Gaza and to end the conflict by pursuing a two-state solution," the Vatican said in a statement afterwards.

It noted that the meeting came

10 years after the Holy See formally recognised the state of Palestine through an agreement signed in 2015.

Abbas met several times with Leo's predecessor, Pope Francis, who died in April.

In the final months of his pontificate, Francis hardened his rhetoric against Israel's assault on Gaza, but his successor has so far adopted a more measured tone.

Leo has expressed his solidarity with Gaza and denounced the forced displacement of Palestinians, but said the Holy See could not describe what was happening as a "genocide".

On Wednesday afternoon, Abbas laid flowers at Francis's tomb at the Rome basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore.

"I cannot forget what he did for Palestine and the Palestinian people," Abbas told reporters.

In 2014, then-Israeli president Shimon Peres and Abbas joined a prayer for peace with Pope Francis at the Vatican, planting an olive tree together.

Abbas will meet with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni today.

– AFP



**Pope Leo XIV (left) and Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas pose during a meeting at the Vatican yesterday.**

– AFP

## US circulates draft UN resolution for Trump's Gaza plan

UNITED NATIONS, New York – The United States on Wednesday presented a draft UN Security Council resolution to partner nations aimed at bolstering President Donald Trump's Gaza peace plan, including by greenlighting an international security force, Washington's mission said.

US Ambassador Mike Waltz shared the draft with the 10 elected members of the Security Council and several regional partners – Egypt, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Turkey – a spokesperson for the US mission said in a statement.

No date has been set to vote on the draft.

The US statement said the resolution "welcomes the Board of Peace," a transitional governing body for Gaza envisioned in Trump's 20-point plan, which he would chair.

It also "authorises the International Stabilisation Force" (ISF) outlined in the peace plan.

According to diplomatic sources, several countries have indicated their willingness to participate in the ISF, but insist on

a Security Council mandate before actually deploying troops into the Palestinian territory.

"Under President Trump's bold leadership, the United States will again deliver results at the UN – not endless talk," the US spokesperson said.

The creation of the international force was one part of the agreement that led to the fragile October 10 ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, following two years of devastating violence triggered by the October 7 attack.

Under the terms of the deal, troops would be drawn from mostly Arab and Muslim countries and deployed to Gaza to oversee security as the Israeli army withdraws.

"The parties have seized this historic opportunity to finally end decades of bloodshed and make the President's vision of lasting peace in the Middle East a reality," the US spokesperson added.

Subsequent phases of Trump's plan include further Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, disarmament of Hamas and reconstruction of the decimated territory. – AFP



## US judge drops criminal charges against Boeing over 737 MAX 8 crashes

Elodie Mazein

NEW YORK – A US judge dropped criminal charges against Boeing yesterday over deadly crashes of its 737 MAX 8 aircraft as part of an agreement between the company and prosecutors.

The Texas judge's decision stems from an agreement between the Department of Justice (DoJ) and the aircraft manufacturer to resolve the matter, announced on May 23, following the crashes which resulted in 346 fatalities.

Under the deal, Boeing will pay US\$1.1 billion in return for the dismissal of a criminal charge over its conduct in the certification of the MAX, according to a federal filing.

The accord scuttles a criminal trial that had been scheduled for June in Fort Worth, Texas.

The agreement resolves the case without requiring Boeing to plead guilty to fraud in the certification of the MAX, which was involved in two crashes in 2018 and 2019.

Boeing has said it is "deeply sorry" for the crashes of an Ethiopian Airlines flight that killed 157, and a Lion Air crash in Indonesia that killed 189.

Boeing has blamed the design of the Maneuvering Characteristics Augmentation System (MCAS), a flight handling system that malfunctioned.

"We are committed to honouring the obligations of our agreement with the Department of Justice. We are also committed to continuing the significant efforts we have made as a company to strengthen our safety, quality, and compliance programs," Boeing said in a statement yesterday.

### 'Making your products safe'?

When the outline of the deal was announced in May, family members of some MAX victims slammed the proposed settlement as a giveaway to Boeing.

"The message sent by this action to companies around the country is, don't worry about making your products safe for your customers," said Javier de Luis in a statement previously released by attorneys for plaintiffs suing Boeing.

Other family members expressed a desire for closure, with the DoJ quoting one family member who said "the grief resurfaces every time this case is discussed in court or other forums."

Thursday's announcement is the latest development in a marathon case that came in the wake of the two crashes that tarnished Boeing's reputation and contributed to leadership shakeups at the aviation giant.

The case dates to a January 2021 DoJ agreement with Boeing that settled charges that the company knowingly defrauded the Federal Aviation Administration during the MAX certification.

The 2021 accord included a three-year probation period. But in May 2024, the DOJ determined that Boeing had violated the 2021 accord following a number of subsequent safety lapses.

Boeing agreed in July 2024 to plead guilty to "conspiracy to defraud the United States."

But in December, federal judge Reed O'Connor rejected a settlement codifying the guilty plea.

– AFP

## UK prisoner surrenders after mistaken release: police

LONDON – A prisoner who was one of two mistakenly released from jail in the latest mix-up by the under-pressure UK prison system yesterday handed himself in to authorities, police said.

Police launched a manhunt on Wednesday after it emerged that Billy Smith, 35, and another prisoner, Brahim Kaddour Cherif, a 24-year-old Algerian, had been freed in error.

Smith surrendered to Wandsworth Prison in London three days after it wrongly freed him, Surrey Police, south of London, said.

Alex Davies-Jones, a junior minister in the justice ministry, said prison chiefs had been summoned for a meeting following a catalogue of errors by jail authorities.

Police yesterday were still searching for Cherif, who was released from the same prison on October 29 and remains at large.

The cases are an embarrassment to Prime Minister Keir Starmer's struggling centre-left Labour government, which polls indicate is

currently deeply unpopular with the British public.

Just last month, Hadush Kebatu, an Ethiopian asylum seeker convicted of sexually assaulting a teenage girl and a woman, was mistakenly released from prison before being recaptured following a 48-hour manhunt.

The UK government then forcibly deported Kebatu, giving him £500 (US\$661) to leave the country, and launched an independent investigation into his accidental release.

Figures showed 262 people were mistakenly freed from prison between March 2024 and March 2025, up from 115 in the 21 months previously.

Kebatu's arrest earlier this year in Epping, northeast of London, triggered weeks of demonstrations targeting hotels where asylum seekers were believed to be housed.

Starmer, prime minister since July 2024, is coming under fire on multiple fronts over immigration as the hard-right Reform UK party led by firebrand Nigel Farage surges in popularity.

– AFP

## US Supreme Court appears skeptical of Trump tariff legality



Anti-Trump demonstrators protest outside the US Supreme Court in Washington, DC, on Wednesday.

– AFP

Beiyi Seow and Chris Lefkow

WASHINGTON – A majority of US Supreme Court justices appeared deeply skeptical of the legality behind a swath of Donald Trump's tariffs as they heard a landmark case on Wednesday that could uphold – or upend – the president's economic agenda.

Billions of US dollars in customs revenue and a key lever in Trump's trade wars are at stake as the conservative-dominated panel again grappled with the Republican's attempts to expand presidential powers.

The high court's nine justices are considering Trump's use of emergency powers to impose "reciprocal" tariffs on nearly every US trade partner, as well as levies targeting Mexico, Canada and China over their alleged roles in illicit drug flows.

In a hearing lasting more than two-and-a-half hours, several conservative justices, along with the three liberals, questioned whether the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) that Trump invoked confers the authority to impose tariffs.

"The statute doesn't use the word tariffs," said Chief Justice John Roberts, and imposing tariffs is equivalent to taxation, which has always been a "core power of Congress."

The justices sought to clarify whether Congress has to give clear authorisation for policies with significant economic or political consequences.

Solicitor General John Sauer, arguing on behalf of the Trump administration, said this did not apply given the president's

inherent, broad range of authorities.

"President Trump determined that our exploding trade deficits have brought us to the brink of an economic and national security catastrophe," Sauer said.

Sauer sought to frame the issue as one involving the power to regulate foreign commerce – including the ability to impose tariffs – rather than the power to tax.

Justice Sonia Sotomayor, a liberal, noted that the power to impose taxes is a "congressional power, not a presidential power."

"You want to say tariffs are not taxes, but that's exactly what they are," Sotomayor said.

### 'Simply implausible'

Justice Neil Gorsuch, a Trump appointee, questioned if Congress could reclaim powers once it delegates them to the presidency, suggesting that "as a practical matter in the real world, it can never get that power back."

Neal Katyal, representing small businesses challenging Trump's tariffs, charged that it was "simply implausible" that in enacting IEEPA, Congress "handed the president the power to overhaul the entire tariff system and the American economy in the process."

He contended that the word "regulate" has also not been used to impose taxes.

But there were questions too surrounding refunds if Trump's tariffs were overturned, with Justice Amy Coney Barrett saying it could be "a mess."

The court's decision, which could take months to arrive, does not concern sector-specific tariffs Trump separately imposed, including on

steel, aluminium and automobiles.

Trump has brought the average effective tariff rate to its highest since the 1930s, and has repeatedly warned of calamity if his duties are overturned.

A lower court ruled in May that he had exceeded his authority, with the case ultimately making its way to the Supreme Court.

Trump did not attend Wednesday's hearing but several top officials did, including Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer.

"In recent years, the court has been reluctant to overrule presidential decisions of this magnitude," ING analysts said.

But the outcome is hard to predict, they added, as "upholding Trump's tariffs would shift the balance of power from Congress to the President."

Josh Lipsky of the Atlantic Council noted that even as justices were skeptical, they appeared concerned about fallout from overruling the tariffs.

"How do the refunds work?" Lipsky asked. "What does this mean for the president's foreign policy ability to negotiate deals?"

Although Trump's tariffs have not sparked widespread inflation, companies say they bear the brunt of higher import costs.

Lawyers noted that if the top court finds Trump's global tariffs illegal, the government can tap other laws to temporarily impose up to 15-percent duties while pursuing pathways for more lasting levies.

Countries that have already struck deals with Trump may therefore prefer not to reopen negotiations.

– AFP

## Mediators' proposal for Sudan stipulates 3-month truce: Saudi official

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia – A proposal by Sudan's international mediators outlines a three-month ceasefire across the country, a senior official from Saudi Arabia told AFP yesterday.

The United States, Egypt, the

UAE and Saudi Arabia proposed a "three-month humanitarian truce in all Sudan," the official said.

During this potential ceasefire, efforts will be made to bring together Sudan's paramilitary Rapid Support Forces and its

regular army for talks in Jeddah on a permanent peace deal, he said.

Sudan's army-aligned government indicated earlier this week that it would press on with the war following an internal meeting on a US ceasefire proposal.

– AFP



## Germany plans to back Brazil's proposed rainforest fund: sources

BERLIN – Germany plans to support Brazil's proposal for a global rainforest protection fund, sources in Berlin close to the government said yesterday ahead of the COP30 climate summit.

It remains undecided just how much money Germany might put behind the Tropical Forests Forever Facility (TFFF), which hosts Brazil are unveiling in hopes of attracting US\$125 billion in government commitments and private investment around the global UN climate gathering in the Amazon.

The sources said that German Chancellor Friedrich Merz finds the TFFF financing initiative interesting, and wants to support Brazil and demonstrate Germany's continued commitment to

multilateral climate efforts.

Merz is scheduled to meet Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva one-on-one during his trip to Brazil, sources in Berlin said yesterday.

Brazil has pledged US\$1 billion to the fund in hopes of kickstarting commitments.

The proposed fund would make annual payments to developing countries for every hectare of forest they keep standing.

Germany is leaving the size of its financial contributions open for the time being, according to the sources.

A source said that precise details of how the massive World Bank-managed TFFF fund would work still need to be closely examined. – AFP

## Chinese embassy donates teaching materials to Guinea-Bissau school

BISSAU – The Chinese Embassy in Guinea-Bissau has donated a batch of teaching materials to the Kwame Nkrumah National High School in the capital, Bissau, the embassy said on Wednesday.

The donation includes three printers, two scanners, 100 school backpacks, 900 notebooks, and 1,000 pens, according to a statement from the embassy.

"This support symbolises the profound friendship between the two countries and contributes to students' learning," said Chinese Ambassador to Guinea-Bissau Yang Renhuo during the handover ceremony held at the embassy.

Yang said that China's support for local students also includes scholarship opportunities, reaffirming the commitment to "strengthening the ties of cooperation and friendship between the two peoples."

For his part, José Issa Balde, principal of the high school, expressed gratitude for the donation and the scholarships, urging students to "work harder" and make full use of the opportunities provided by the embassy.

Guinea-Bissau is a member of the Macau-based Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries (Forum Macao).

– Xinhua

## Franco captivates young Spaniards 50 years after death

Sonia González

MADRID – Spanish youth are increasingly seduced by Generalissimo Francisco Franco fifty years after the dictator's death, often unaware of his harsh rule and influenced by propaganda permeating social media, experts say.

"Life was better under Franco" has become a trope on social media, hooking a frustrated generation that has received little education on the Franco dictatorship and is receptive to anti-system politics.

After overthrowing a democratic republic in a 1936-1939 civil war that killed hundreds of thousands of people, Franco ruled Spain with an iron fist until his death in 1975.

But Cristina Luz García, who teaches history at a Madrid school, said she has seen some of her students repeat "myths" and "phrases that are closely tied to the regime itself and Francoist propaganda".

Those pupils do not have "very deep knowledge of the person" or of "the negative consequences" of 36 years marked by torture and the denial of freedoms, she told AFP.

The pro-Franco narrative is, for some students, "a way to defy the teachers or appear to have a different opinion... which is something very attractive about adolescence itself", she added.

Constructing reservoirs, ensuring economic prosperity and creating social security are some of the feats – real or exaggerated – attributed to Franco as a way to weave an alternative narrative of his fascist-backed regime.

According to an October survey by national polling institute CIS, more than one-fifth of Spaniards thought the dictatorship was "good" or "very good", with 65.5 percent describing it as "bad" or "very bad".

A separate poll that month by conservative daily *El Mundo* found that the ruling Socialists had ceased to be the most popular party among



Memorabilia items of Spain's Generalissimo Francisco Franco and Falange founder José Antonio Primo de Rivera are sold at a stall in the Sunday flea market "Rastro" in Madrid on February 2, 2025. – AFP

the 18-29 age group.

The main conservative opposition People's Party (PP) had overtaken them, while the formation that increased its support most among Spain's youngest voters was the far-right Vox.

Both parties oppose the leftist government's measures to revisit Spain's Francoist past, including an official programme of events this year marking the 50th anniversary of the dictator's death.

### 'Education deficit'

The young "are incredibly frustrated" by precarious working conditions and unaffordable housing, said Veronica Díaz, coordinator of a master's degree in social problems at the National University of Distance Learning.

"They believe traditional political parties not only fail to solve their problems, but are part of them," Díaz told AFP, explaining the attraction of the far-right's "anti-system" discourse.

"The deficit in history education" at school and the proliferation of "content creators who reinterpret history" are leading young people who lack "enough critical tools" to "confuse those narratives with legitimate versions of history", said Díaz.

In the southern town of Iznalloz,

fellow history teacher José María García is trying to fill the knowledge gaps.

In 2020, he started to develop activities aimed at teaching his pupils "what Francoism really was", highlighting its "method of repression".

The project seeks to provide students with "material so that they are able to defend a discourse" different from what they encounter on social media.

### Raising awareness

His students Hugo Guindos, 15, and Erika Hurtado, 16, say they see "more and more" praise for Franco among their peers.

TikTok influencers "speak without arguments, and the people who do not have arguments either and listen to them, believe it", Hurtado told AFP.

Both students were previously unaware of the repression in their own region, where "there are a huge number of mass graves," said Guindos, surprised by the regime's frequent use of torture.

He believes the project is important "to raise awareness among the current generation" about the past, "now that Francoism is gaining strength".

Hurtado agreed that Franco had been misrepresented: "It was not as good a period as they say." – AFP

## Narco-sub carrying 1.7 tonnes of cocaine seized by Portuguese authorities in Atlantic

James Gregory

LISBON – Four suspects have been detained after Portuguese authorities intercepted a narco-sub carrying more than 1.7 tonnes of cocaine in the mid-Atlantic.

The semi-submersible vessel was bound for the Iberian peninsula and was seized in recent days, according to Portuguese officials.

Footage shows Portuguese police and navy surrounding the vessel before boarding, seizing the Class A substance and arresting four crew members said to be from South America.

The suspects, comprising two Ecuadorians, a Venezuelan and a Colombian, were remanded in pre-trial custody after their court appearance in the Azores on Tuesday, the police said.

Vitor Ananias, head of Portugal's police unit to combat drug trafficking, told a press conference that their different nationalities showed the organisation behind them was not

just based in one country.

The Lisbon-based Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre (MAOC) said it had received information in recent days indicating that a criminal organisation was in the process of dispatching a submersible loaded with cocaine destined for Europe.

A few days later, a Portuguese ship successfully located the submersible about 1,000 nautical miles (1,852 km) off the coast of Lisbon, in an operation backed by the UK's National Crime Agency and the US Drug Enforcement Administration.

Having seized the vessel, the Portuguese navy said it could not be towed back to shore due to poor weather and its fragile construction, and it later sank in the open sea.

Ananias told reporters that "between the heat, the vessel's fumes and high waves, with difficult weather conditions, even one day is

tricky [for the four men on board]. By the end of 15 or 20 days all you want is to get out".

Such incidents like these had been a "recurring situation in recent years", he added.

In March this year, a similar vessel carrying 6.5 tonnes of cocaine was seized about 1,200 nautical miles from Lisbon.

It also comes as the Trump administration ramps up its attacks on vessels it says are being used to smuggle drugs into the US.

Three men were killed last week in a US strike on an alleged drug vessel in the Caribbean, US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth said on Sunday.

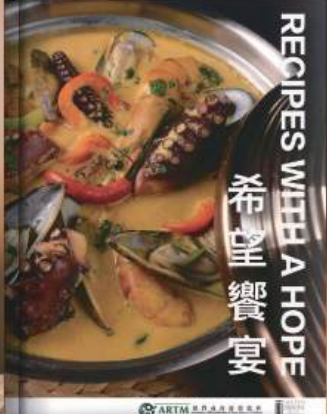
Experts have questioned the legality of such strikes under international law and they have drawn strong criticism from Latin American leaders whose citizens have been targeted.

– Courtesy of BBC; minor edits by the Post

Come & join us for our

# Book Release




Saturday,  
November 29  
4pm at IIM



pre-order now

ARTM Macau Charity Sale

Rua de Berlin, 204, Edif. Magnificent Court, 2 floor, NAPE, Macao





## Dutch giants Ajax sack coach John Heitinga

Richard Carter

AMSTERDAM - Dutch giants Ajax said yesterday they had sacked coach John Heitinga after a poor start to the season that has seen them rooted to the bottom of the Champions League table.

"Ajax is looking for a new head coach. In the meantime, Fred Grim will take over Heitinga's duties," the four-time European champions said in a statement.

Heitinga signed a two-year contract in May but has not been able to mastermind a turnaround in the club's fortunes. His contract would be terminated, Ajax said.

The club's technical director Alex Kroes admitted it was a "painful decision."

"We know it can take time for a new coach to work with a squad that has undergone changes," said Kroes.

"We have given John that time,



Ajax' Dutch headcoach John Heitinga gestures during the UEFA Europa League first leg play off against Union Berlin (GER) at the Johan Cruyff Arena, in Amsterdam on February 16, 2023. — AFP

but we believe it's best for the club to appoint someone else to lead the team."

Kroes himself offered his

resignation but the board asked him to stay in place to offer some continuity.

The technical director is under

contract until the end of the season.

"Should the club appoint a new technical director earlier, I will hand over my responsibilities at that time," he said.

The final straw appeared to be yet another humiliating loss in the Champions League on Wednesday.

Ajax lost 3-0 at home to Galatasaray, a bruising defeat that came on the back of a 5-1 thrashing away to Chelsea.

A 4-0 loss to Marseille and a 2-0 defeat at the hands of Inter Milan adds up to a miserable record in Europe of zero points, one goal scored and 14 conceded.

Domestically, Ajax currently sit in fourth place in the Dutch Eredivisie, languishing eight points behind place-setters Feyenoord and PSV Eindhoven.

Ajax fans had jeered Heitinga at Stamford Bridge for his substitutions and the supporters appeared to have

lost faith in their manager.

The Amsterdam-based club is still recovering from an extraordinary end to last season that saw them throw away the title from a seemingly impregnable position.

With only five matches to play, Ajax were nine points clear and seemingly cruising to the title.

But Ajax somehow contrived to hand the title to PSV Eindhoven, losing twice and drawing twice.

The season before, Ajax had suffered their worst-ever start to a campaign, at one point propping up the Eredivisie table.

Heitinga played at centre-back for Atletico Madrid, Everton and Fulham, retiring in 2016 after a brief second spell with boyhood club Ajax.

He played 87 times for the Netherlands but was sent off in extra time in the 1-0 loss to Spain in the 2010 World Cup final. — AFP

## Amorim urges Man Utd to 'focus on future' after Ronaldo criticism



LONDON —

Ruben Amorim has told Manchester United to "focus on the future" following former Old Trafford star Cristiano Ronaldo's withering assessment of his old club.

United are looking to rebuild following a woeful 2024/25 season, which saw them finish a lowly 15<sup>th</sup> in the Premier League and lose in the Europa League final to Tottenham Hotspur.

Ronaldo insisted this week United manager Amorim cannot do "miracles" at a club that is "not on a good path", saying "they need to change and it's not only about the coach and players".

But when Ronaldo's comments were put to his former Portugal team-mate ahead of this weekend's trip to Spurs, the United boss said: "Of course he knows and he has a huge impact in everything he said.

"What we need to focus [on] is in the future. We know that we as a club made a lot of mistakes in the past, but we are trying to change that. So, let's not focus on what happened. Let's focus on what we are doing now, and we are doing that."

Amorim said the changes being put in place were having positive results.

"We are changing a lot of things in the structure, the way we do things, the way we want the players to behave," said the 40-year-old coach.

"We are doing that and we are improving, so let's focus on the way we are doing things. We are improving, let's continue and forget a little bit the past."

United have lost their last four games against Spurs.

However, they head into tomorrow's match unbeaten in their last four Premier League matches, a sequence that includes a 2-1 win over

champions and arch-rivals Liverpool.

Amorim, asked how United had changed since being beaten by Spurs in the Europa League final in May, replied: "First of all, the characteristics of the players. So, we are a better team, we play better, we understand the game better. I think we are more confident."

"We reached that final confident that we could win because we were doing well in Europe, but in this moment we play with a different confidence."

"We manage the moments of the game better. But if you remember that game, they have that shot on the goal, they won the game."

"So, I expect a different game, that we can play better, but also to have a little bit luck to help us to win the game."

The game will kick off at 8:30 p.m. tomorrow evening Macau time. — AFP/MPD

## FIFA announce new peace prize to be awarded at World Cup draw in Washington



MIAMI—FIFA has created a new annual award called the FIFA Peace Prize to be awarded for the first time during the 2026 World Cup draw in Washington, world soccer's governing body said Wednesday.

"Football stands for peace, and on behalf of the entire global football community, the FIFA Peace Prize - Football Unites the World will recognise the enormous efforts of those individuals who unite people, bringing hope for future generations," FIFA president Gianni Infantino said in a statement.

The announcement came before Infantino appeared at the America Business Forum in Miami, where US President Donald Trump and Argentine World Cup champion Lionel Messi were also speakers.

The recipient of the inaugural award was not revealed, but there was immediate speculation that it

could go to Trump, an Infantino ally who is expected to be present at the December 5 draw at the Kennedy Center in the US capital.

Trump, flanked by Infantino, announced from the Oval Office in August that the draw would take place at the Kennedy Center, where he installed himself this year as chairman in what he called a war on "woke" culture.

Since returning to office for a second term in January, Trump has insisted he deserved the Nobel peace prize for his role in resolving numerous conflicts around the world.

But the US president was snubbed by the Norwegian Nobel Committee last month as it awarded the peace prize to Venezuelan opposition leader Maria Corina Machado.

The 2026 World Cup will be co-hosted by the United States, Canada and Mexico from June 11 to July 19.

— AFP

## Football shorts

### Garcia broken nose adds to Barca defensive worries



BARCELONA —

Defender Eric Garcia suffered a broken nose during Barcelona's 3-3 Champions League draw at Club Brugge midweek and will have to wear a mask when he returns to action, the Spanish club said yesterday.

Coach Hansi Flick has used central defender Garcia more than any other player this season as the Catalan giants struggle at the back.

The club have conceded 20 goals in their 15 games.

Spaniard Garcia, 24, was pulled off during the draw in Belgium where Barcelona needed to come from behind three times and will likely sit out their league game at Celta Vigo this weekend.

"He will wear a protective mask and any potential involvement in the upcoming game against Celta Vigo will be assessed," the club said in a statement.

Barcelona are second in La Liga five points behind Real Madrid.

— AFP

### De Rossi takes over as coach of troubled Genoa



MILAN — Serie

A strugglers Genoa yesterday named Daniele De Rossi as coach to replace Patrick Vieira, who left the club at the weekend.

Genoa said in a brief statement that it was "extending a warm welcome to Daniele De Rossi", who was to lead an afternoon training session.

He will hold his first press conference today.

Genoa were winless in Serie A when Vieira agreed to leave last Saturday morning, but Roberto Murgit and under-17 coach Domenico Criscito led the club to a 2-1 win at Sassuolo on Monday night that lifted them off the bottom of the table.

Rossi, a rugged midfielder who won the World Cup with Italy in 2006, played 17 seasons for his home-town club Roma and won 117 Italy caps.

He had brief stints as a coach at second-division Spal, where he lasted 17 games in 2022 and then 30 at Roma.

He took Roma to the 2024 Europa League semi-final but was fired after four winless games at the start of the following season.

Last week, Genoa also sacked sporting director Marco Ottolini and have replaced him with Spaniard Diego Lopez. — AFP



FIFA President Gianni Infantino goes up on the stage to speak at the American Business Forum at the Kaseya Center in Miami on Wednesday. — AFP



## MotoGP legend Agostini admires Marc Marquez's 'desire to win'

### MotoGP

**Hélène Dauschy**

PARIS – MotoGP legend Giacomo Agostini has praised the “desire to win” displayed by freshly-minted world champion Marc Marquez.

In an interview with AFP ahead of this weekend's race in Portugal Agostini had warm praise for Marquez, who wrapped up his seventh MotoGP crown in Japan in September with five rounds to go.

“I admire him because he evokes emotions,” said the 83-year-old Italian, whose record of eight premier class crowns has stood for half a century.

Agostini, who retired in 1977 with 15 titles across all categories, has been impressed with how Marquez has responded after several seasons in the doldrums with injuries and an under-performing Honda.

The Spaniard's fortunes picked up dramatically when he moved to Ducati's Gresini satellite team in

2024, and he has swept away his rivals this term since graduating to Ducati's factory bike for his first championship since 2019.

“He never thought it was over, and it's very important to have the strength to continue and the desire to win,” Agostini said.

Asked if he was surprised to still hold the premier class record of eight titles 50 years on, he replied: “I'm happy, but well, records are made to be broken after all.

“Valentino [Rossi] came close [he won seven] but didn't make it. Marquez is still young [32], maybe he'll achieve it, or maybe not.”

After sealing title number seven Marquez required shoulder surgery following a crash in Indonesia, ruling him out of the rest of the season.

He has a long history of injuries, including breaking his right arm at the start of the 2020 season, an injury that almost forced him to retire.

“After an accident, it's difficult [to come back], but he worked hard,

he never thought it was over, and it's very important to have the strength to continue and the desire to win,” Agostini told AFP.

“He has the drive, [the thirst] for victories; he wants to win like all great riders.

“I admire him because he evokes emotions on the track. Everyone loves this kind of person who does things that many don't, no matter the sport.”

Agostini reflected on Marquez's momentous move in leaving Honda after a 10-year spell that harvested six world crowns to join the Ducati stable.

“He had the strength to leave Honda, which is the biggest brand in the world.

“It's not easy to leave a brand like Honda to go to Ducati. But he told himself, ‘I want to win’ - and to win, you need a bike that gives you the possibility.

“He broke a millionaire contract to join a private team [Gresini], it's admirable.” – AFP

## NZ make changes after Barrett brothers' injuries as Scotland drop Van der Merwe

### Rugby

EDINBURGH – New Zealand coach Scott Robertson has changed his second row and midfield for tomorrow's Autumn Nations series rugby union international against Scotland at Murrayfield after injuries to brothers Scott and Jordie Barrett.

All Blacks captain Scott Barrett, a second row forward, received a cut to his leg three minutes into a 26-13 win over Ireland in Chicago last weekend, that required a dozen stitches.

Jordie, meanwhile, was ruled out of the rest of New Zealand's northern hemisphere tour after the centre suffered an ankle injury in the same match.

The two players who replaced them at Soldier Field will start tomorrow.

Josh Lord comes in for Scott Barrett at lock and Leicester Fainga'anuku for Jordie Barrett in the All Blacks' midfield.

Another change to the starting 15 sees Wallace Sititi return at blindside flanker following a breakthrough 2024 campaign.

Beauden Barrett, the other Barrett brother in the squad, is at fly-half, with flanker Ardie Savea taking over the captaincy.

New Zealand have never lost to Scotland, winning 30 of 32 Tests with two draws, in a fixture dating back to 1905.

But Scotland pushed the All Blacks close in their two most recent encounters before losing 22-17 in 2017 and 31-23 when the teams last met three years ago.

“We are honoured to be part of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of rugby at Murrayfield, it will be a special occasion,” said Robertson.

“We have a proud history

with Scotland, and recent games between us have been close.”

### Van der Merwe dropped

Scotland, who thrashed the United States 85-0 last weekend, have dropped joint record try-scorer Duhan van der Merwe and former captain Jamie Ritchie.

Glasgow wing Kyle Steyn starts instead of Van der Merwe, with club-mate Gregor Brown lining up at blindside flanker in place of Perpignan back-row Ritchie.

“It's really rewarding Kyle's form this season, and probably since he came back from injury after the Six Nations,” said Scotland coach Gregor Townsend.

“Not all of our players have been able to play a number of games leading into this tournament, but Kyle's been consistently strong in all aspects of his game so he's earned this opportunity.”

This is the first time the South Africa-born Van der Merwe has been dropped for Test duty by Townsend.

“Of course he'd be disappointed but he's trained well this week and that's all you ask for players, to park the disappointment and get behind the team that's selected at the weekend,” said the coach.

As for the challenge of trying to guide the Dark Blues to their first win over the All Blacks, former Scotland playmaker Townsend added: “They [New Zealand] are a form side, they're a cohesive side. They've picked, I believe, the strongest team available to them.

“We're playing the number two team in the world. We've just got to deliver close to our best performance this weekend.”

The game will start at 11:10 p.m. tomorrow Macau time.

– AFP/MPD



US' Jessica Pegula returns the ball to Italy's Jasmine Paolini during their WTA Finals tennis tournament in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia yesterday. Pegula kept her chances of reaching the semi-finals of the WTA Finals alive by easing past Paolini 6-2, 6-3. The world number five had to avoid a straight-sets loss to maintain her shot at advancing from the group stage, but must now await the result of the later showdown between Coco Gauff and Aryna Sabalenka to learn her fate in the tournament. Action in the Stefanie Graf Group has come down to the wire with three of the four players all in with a chance of moving on to today's semi-finals.

– AFP

## Max seeks more Brazil magic to maintain pressure on McLaren duo

### F1

SAO PAULO – Max Verstappen may be 36 points off title leader Lando Norris but he will be the man to beat this weekend as he seeks to complete a hat-trick of Interlagos victories.

The 28-year-old four-time world champion has won the Sao Paulo Grand Prix three times for Red Bull - in 2019, 2023 and 2024.

Last year he triumphed from 17<sup>th</sup> on the grid with a virtuoso drive in heavy rain as Norris, seeking to cut the Dutchman's lead, finished sixth.

This time, it is the champion who is hunting down the McLaren men who head the title race.

Norris leads teammate Oscar Piastri by one point after his Mexican win, but with four race weekends remaining, it appears Verstappen is on a roll.

Three wins and six consecutive podium finishes have lifted him

back into contention after being 104 points behind at the end of August and, as he has admitted, he loves to race in Brazil.

“It is a special place for me,” he said.

“Not only because of the incredible races and great moments that we have had there, but also because my ‘family-in-laws’ are from Brazil.

“It can rain heavily so you can have crazy races like last year which was emotional and very important in the championship.”

Verstappen's partner Kelly Piquet is the daughter of three-time champion Nelson Piquet and mother of his daughter Lily born in May this year.

He has been staying with the family in Brazil ahead of this weekend's race.

“I will wear my special Brazil helmet for this race,” said Verstappen.

“It's a place that has a lot of history and a great legacy and holds

so many great memories for me. And I always love racing at such an ‘old school’ track.”

Victory in Mexico was a boost for Norris, whose best Brazil result was second two years ago, while Piastri, struggling to recover his earlier vim and consistency, was a personal best eighth last year.

As Red Bull continue to develop their 2025 car, McLaren have turned their attention to next year's new rules, apparently allowing others to steal the initiative - until Norris responded in emphatic style.

Team chief Andrea Stella said after the 25-year-old Briton's win that he believed both McLaren drivers had reasons to be confident ahead of the final four race weekends with sprints included in Brazil and Qatar.

### Late threat

“We go into these races with more understanding of how to

extract performance from our car consistently because over the four races before Mexico we left some performance in the garage,” he said.

Having struggled in low-grip conditions, Piastri has worked to adapt his style and felt after Mexico that he was in a better position than many observers believed, even if Norris has reeled off five successes against him in their intra-team duel.

“In the final four races, I think there is no reason to believe that one track may favour one driver or the other,” added Stella, aware also of the mounting late threat from not only Verstappen, but also Ferrari and Mercedes as three teams scrap for second place in the constructors' championship.

McLaren wrapped up their second title several weeks ago and arrive in Brazil on 713 points, but behind them Ferrari on 356 lead Mercedes on 355 and Red Bull on 346.

“We've had a couple of tough

weekends, but we're still in the fight for P2,” said Mercedes boss Toto Wolff.

“Our advantage over our rivals disappeared across Austin and Mexico, but we can strike back in Brazil.”

Mercedes' George Russell won in Brazil in 2022 while Ferrari's seven-time world champion Lewis Hamilton has also revelled in some thrilling triumphs at Interlagos in 2016, 2018 and 2021 while driving for Mercedes.

Hamilton and team-mate Charles Leclerc, who announced his engagement to Alexandra Saint Mleux last week, were fast in Mexico where Leclerc finished second and they will target another strong showing.

With rain forecast, a wild and highly-competitive weekend's action is in prospect at a circuit that tends to produce unexpected results and much drama.

– AFP



# Sculpture of Trump strapped to a cross in Switzerland

BASEL, Switzerland – A realistic-looking sculpture of Donald Trump in an orange jumpsuit and strapped to a cross has stirred discussion – and smiles – in Switzerland, where it went on display this week.

The work, by British artist Mason Storm and titled “Saint or Sinner”, depicts the US president in prison garb with his eyes closed and his body laid out on a slightly tilted, padded white cross, evoking a possible crucifixion – or an execution by lethal injection.

It has been on display in the northern Swiss city of Basel since last Saturday, after a showing earlier this year in Vienna.

“It is scary realistic,” said Konrad Breznik, owner of the Gleis 4 gallery displaying the piece.

“When we installed it, we came that close, and you would see every wrinkle and the skin is so realistic, it’s really scary,” he told AFP.

The gallery had initially aimed to show the work at its premises at the Basel central train station starting in September.

But it ultimately abandoned that plan in favour of a less-crowded space, mounting the sculpture in a showcase window on Basler Kunstmeile, a pedestrian walkway in the heart of Basel.

On Tuesday, many passers-by stopped to smile at the artwork, but no one expressed outrage.

“It’s a sign that we have democracy... that we are allowed to show things like this,” Marit, a Norwegian national living in Basel, told AFP.

Asked if she thought the piece could have been shown in the United States, she said: “I don’t think so, no.”

Breznik said he believed the US president might actually appreciate the piece.

“I do absolutely think that Mr Trump might see himself very well in the role of a modern Jesus,” he said.

“I’m pretty sure he is very much convinced that he is doing

the right thing.”

Mason Storm, an anonymous London artist known for hyper-realistic yet unconventional street art-inspired sculptures and canvases, conceals his face behind balaclavas or masks of his own design.

His often provocative works, which poke fun at hypocrisies found in modern society, are often compared to those of his famous compatriot Banksy.

On his Instagram account, he describes himself as “the artist people love to love and love to hate, international Bon viveur pusher of pigment and a doer of deeds”.

Long before “Saint or Sinner” arrived in Basel, the work was acquired by a collector: an “internationally renowned figure living in Europe”, whose name will remain confidential, according to the gallery. – AFP



A passer-by on Monday takes a picture of an art piece by British artist Mason Storm called “Saint or Sinner”, depicting US President Donald Trump dressed in an orange prison jumpsuit on a cross, displayed at a gallery in Basel.

– AFP

## Meghan Markle set for big screen return: reports

LOS ANGELES – Prince Harry’s wife Meghan Markle is to make her return to the big screen, media reported on Wednesday, with a small cameo role in a film being shot around Los Angeles.

The Duchess of Sussex was reportedly shooting scenes for “Close Personal Friends,” which features “Emily in Paris” star Lily Collins, alongside Jack Quaid, Brie Larson and Henry Golding.

Entertainment title *Variety* said the comedy “revolves around a ‘regular’ couple that meets a celebrity couple while on a trip to Santa Barbara.”

Markle starred in legal romp “Suits” for seven seasons before her fairytale wedding to the second son of Britain’s King Charles.

But she has not acted in seven years, after indicating she was giving up the profession.

The couple, who live in California after a bust-up with the British royal family, no longer have access to the public purse, relying instead on a pricey deal with Netflix and Markle’s nascent lifestyle brand.

The Netflix deal has spawned the popular, if much-mocked, series “With Love, Meghan,” which features Markle as a thriving domestic maven in a fictionalised home, hosting guests, harvesting honey and mixing bath salts.

Despite being blasted by critics as “pointless,” it has been extended for a second season, and a holiday special is due next month.

The couple have struggled to capture the public’s imagination since “Harry & Meghan,” a six-episode tell-all about their relationship and exit from the House of Windsor, which drew 23 million views in its first four days – a record for a Netflix documentary.

Harry and his wife stepped away from royal duties in 2020 as relations with his family – especially his brother William – spiralled.

His blockbuster memoir “Spare” in January 2023 upset Buckingham Palace with its criticism of family members, including William’s wife Catherine and his stepmother Queen Camilla.

He has since voiced hopes for a “reconciliation” and in September met Charles, 76, in London, months after it was revealed the monarch is undergoing treatment for an undisclosed cancer.

Harry’s uncle, Andrew, was stripped of his royal titles last month, after years of scandal over his friendship with convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, a one-time friend of US President Donald Trump. – AFP

## Star designer Rousteing quits fashion group Balmain

Antoine Guy and Sandra Biffot-Lacut

PARIS – Star designer Olivier Rousteing announced on Wednesday he was quitting as artistic director of French fashion house Balmain after 14 years in which he revolutionised the luxury group.

Rousteing was the first black designer to lead a major Paris fashion house and is credited with helping make luxury fashion more accessible, recruiting Kim Kardashian as one of the label’s best-known faces.

“I arrived when I was 24 [as a designer in 2009] with my eyes wide open and the determination to persevere always,” the 40-year-old said on Instagram.

He was promoted to creative director two years later.

“I am leaving Balmain with my eyes still wide open – open to the future and to the beautiful adventures to come.”

Rousteing gave no details of his future plans.

He thanked his colleagues and “all the people who believed in me from the start”.

Rousteing’s “visionary leadership not only redefined the boundaries of fashion but also inspired a generation”, said Rachid Mohamed Rachid, chief executive of Balmain’s owner, the Qatari investment fund Mayhoola, in a statement.

Balmain’s managing director Matteo Sgarbossa said Rousteing’s “passion over recent years will leave an indelible mark on the history of fashion”.

### Jet-set fashion label

Rousteing is credited with transforming Balmain from an exclusive club to a must-have label

for the global jet-set, drawing in top models, athletes and stars such as his friend Kardashian.

He was one of the first in the business to “openly admire both Kim Kardashian, who at the time was not a standard fashion figure, and pop culture, which some people judged as rather vulgar”, said Serge Carreira, a fashion expert at Paris’s Sciences Po university.

Hip-hop music rang out at Rousteing’s shows, seen as showcases of diversity, and the designer was not above collaborating with the likes of high-street retailer H&M as he brought fashion to a younger, less exclusive public.

His designs promoted a glamorous aesthetic credited with expressing strength and independence for women – and overturned masculine stereotypes with low necklines and sequins for men.

Rousteing’s work made him a

star in his own right, with nearly 10 million followers on Instagram and cameras following him on the red carpet and in the front row of fashion shows.

Adopted at birth and raised by a family in the southern French city of Bordeaux, Rousteing went in search of his biological parents, a quest documented in a 2019 Netflix documentary. He discovered that he is African, with a Somali birth mother and an Ethiopian birth father.

In 2021 he revealed that he had been seriously burnt when a gas fireplace exploded at his home in Paris the year before, posting photographs of himself in bandages.

He said he had kept the accident secret out of “shame” in a fashion world obsessed by “perfection”.

Balmain said it would announce its new artistic team “soon”.

– AFP, MPD



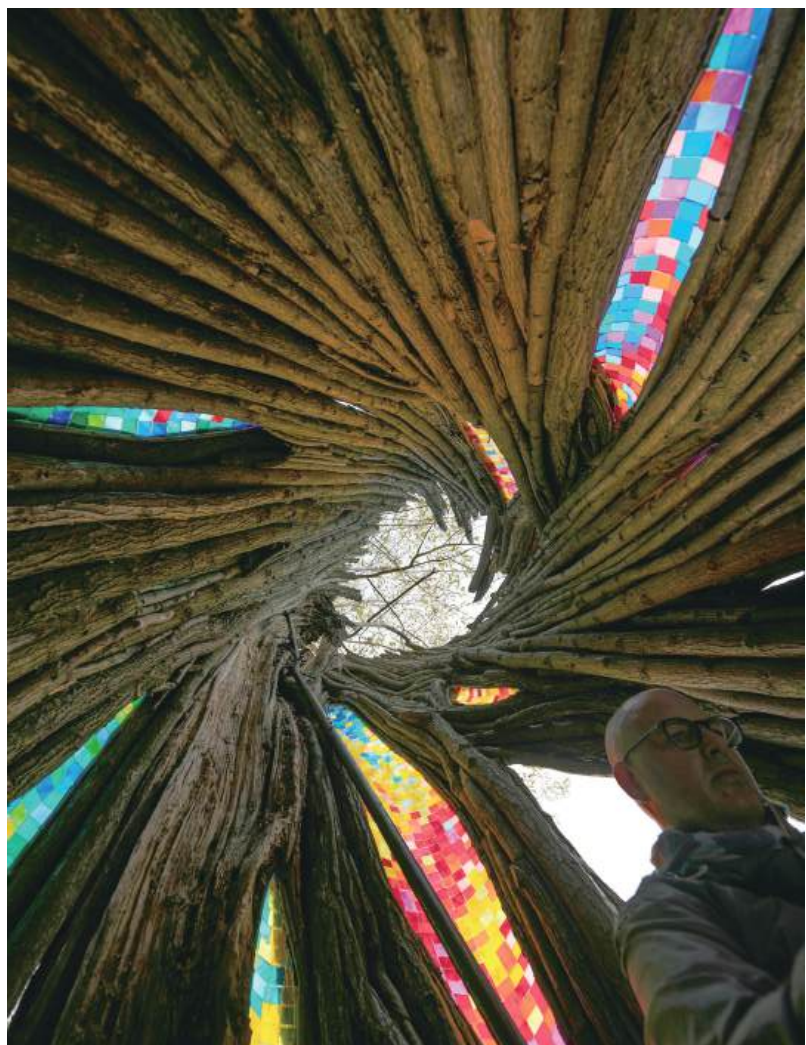
This undated file photo shows French designer Olivier Rousteing waving at the finale of the Balmain men’s spring 2016 show in Paris.

– AFP

### World Weather

CHINA	ASIA-PACIFIC	WORLD	LUSOPHONE
Beijing 5°C~11°C	Manila 23°C~32°C	New York 13°C~17°C	Lisbon 13°C~21°C
Shanghai 17°C~20°C	Bangkok 25°C~32°C	London 9°C~15°C	Rio de Janeiro 19°C~23°C
Hong Kong 22°C~26°C	Tokyo 9°C~20°C	Frankfurt 3°C~8°C	Luanda 24°C~27°C
Taipei 21°C~30°C	Singapore 25°C~34°C	Vancouver 5°C~11°C	Maputo 18°C~25°C
Guangzhou 22°C~27°C	Kuala Lumpur 24°C~34°C	Paris 9°C~15°C	Dili 23°C~32°C
Nanjing 15°C~17°C	Jakarta 23°C~34°C	Moscow 7°C~10°C	São Tomé 24°C~30°C
Guilin 19°C~23°C	Seoul 10°C~20°C	Las Vegas 12°C~26°C	Praia 21°C~31°C
Xi'an 8°C~13°C	Sydney 19°C~27°C	Monte Carlo 13°C~16°C	Bissau 23°C~32°C





### Stay away from us!

A Mulhouse zoo keeper tries to catch African penguins during the annual avian influenza (HPAI) vaccination campaign, at the Parc Zoologique et Botanique de Mulhouse, eastern France, yesterday. — AFP

### Homage to nature

This photo taken on Wednesday shows an interior view of the “Willow Temple” in Warsaw, Poland. The “Willow Temple” is an artistic installation made from a hollow, withered willow tree, transformed with stained glass, metal and wooden elements into a chapel-like space that blends nature and art.

— Xinhua

### Feline approved!

People photograph a Nissan Note Aura with a giant stuffed cat on top inside a Nissan showroom at the Ginza area of Tokyo yesterday. — AFP



### But does it rumble??

Visitors view an electric motor-bike at the booth of Honda at the Automobile exhibition area of the 8<sup>th</sup> China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai, yesterday. — Xinhua



### Swimming along

This photograph shows a 3D mapping projected onto a building during the press preview of the exhibition entitled “Lights of Nature” at the Jardin des Plantes in Paris, on Wednesday. — AFP



### Protesting for the climate

Oxfam activists wearing oversized masks representing Britain’s Prime Minister Keir Starmer, (from left to right) France’s President Emmanuel Macron, Canada’s Prime Minister Mark Carney, Brazil’s President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, US President Donald Trump, South Africa’s President Cyril Ramaphosa, European Commission President Ursula Von der Leyen and Argentina’s President Javier Milei pose during their “Big Heads” protest on the riverbank of the Federal University of Pará (Orla da UFPA), with Greenpeace’s Rainbow Warrior ship in the background, in Belem, Para state, Brazil, on Wednesday, on the sidelines of the COP30 UN Climate Summit. — AFP