

Dora Ng to expand 'Made in Macao' via Hengqin ties



Dignitaries and other guests cut the ribbon during yesterday's opening ceremony of the 12th Macau Industrial Products Show, including Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai (centre), Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) National Committee Vice Chairman Edmund Ho Hau Wah (sixth from left), Central People's Government Liaison Office Deputy Director Lyu Yuyin (sixth from right), Foreign Ministry Acting Commissioner Cheng Lei (fifth from left), Legislative Assembly (AL) President André Cheong Weng Chon (fifth from right), and Secretary for Economy and Finance Dora Ng Wai Han (fourth from left).

– Photo: GCS

Tony Wong

Addressing yesterday's opening ceremony of this year's Macau Industrial Products Show, Secretary for Economy and Finance Dora Ng Wai Han underlined the Macau government's commitment to helping businesses expand markets for their "Made in Macao" products by more strongly leveraging the complementary strengths between Macau and Hengqin.

The four-day fair at the Macau Fisherman's Wharf Convention

and Exhibition Centre is on until 7:00 p.m. on Sunday.

The annual Macau Industrial Products Show is organised by the Industrial Association of Macau.

In her speech, Ng said that since its inception, the Macau Industrial Products Show has preserved shared memories for many citizens while serving as a crucial platform to showcase "Made in Macao" products and promote "Macao Brand" products. Since its relaunch in 2018, she said, the fair has

continuously incorporated elements such as industrial education, technological applications, and youth participation, demonstrating to the general public, particularly the younger generation, the vitality of Macau's traditional and emerging industries and giving them a more comprehensive understanding of the development and evolution of Macau's industrial sector.

The ongoing 12th Macau Industrial Products Show is open from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. today

and tomorrow, and from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Sunday.

Relaunch in 2018

The Macau Industrial Products Show was first held by the Industrial Association of Macau – which was founded in 1959 – in 1981, followed by editions in 1983, 1987, and 1995 – when Macau was still under temporary Portuguese administration.

After a hiatus of over two decades, the fair was relaunched



in 2018. Since then, the event has been held annually at the Macau Fisherman's Wharf Convention and Exhibition Centre, except in 2021 due to the government's special COVID-19 curbs.

About 130 exhibitors have joined this year's fair across 172 booths set up in eight themed zones: Macao Industrial Pavilion, Macao M-Mark and Halal Brand Enterprise Zone, Household Products Zone, Fashion Products Zone, Home Appliances Zone, Food & Beverage Zone, Food Products Zone, and Financial Services Zone.

M-Mark refers to the Macao Product Quality Certification Scheme.

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Children try on VR glasses at a science and technology museum in Bijie, Guizhou Province, on Tuesday. Advanced technologies, including exoskeleton devices, AI-powered glasses, and interactive robots, offered visitors engaging experiences at tourist destinations across the country during the seven-day "Golden Week" National Day holiday, which ended on Wednesday.

– Xinhua

China's new nuclear clock to redefine ultra-precise time measurement

BEIJING – Chinese scientists have developed a nuclear clock and achieved stable operation, shifting ultra-precise time measurement from electron transitions inside atoms to transitions within atomic nuclei, according to a research article published in the journal *Nature*.

Solid-state nuclear clocks have potential advantages in miniaturization and engineering, and are expected to meet the high-precision time and frequency requirements in such scenarios as

satellite navigation and deep-space exploration.

The nuclear clock uses lasers to drive precise energy-level transitions within the atomic nucleus of thorium-229, a special radioactive isotope, and uses the frequency of these nuclear transitions as its time reference. Researchers built the device with a self-developed 148-nanometer continuous-wave vacuum ultraviolet laser and a thorium-229-doped calcium fluoride crystal.

The new clock is expected to set a next-generation time and frequency standard, and marks an important breakthrough in the field of quantum precision measurement, said Zhai Hui, head of the Department of Physics at Tsinghua University.

"The successful development and stable operation of the nuclear clock means that the capability of quantum manipulation has extended to the nuclear scale," said Zhai.

– Xinhua

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The Macau Post Daily

Where the Long March began, China's new journey unfolds

The former ferry crossing is about half an hour's walk from the home of Sun Guanfa, 77, in Yudu, a hilly county in Jiangxi Province.

– Story on p. 7

Canadian poet and classicist Anne Carson wins 'crazy' Nobel

The Nobel Prize in Literature was awarded yesterday to Canadian poet Anne Carson for her modern twists on Greek mythology and antiquity that have inspired new forms of writing.

– Story on p. 11

Guinea-Bissau moves towards postponement of Dec election

Guinea-Bissau's electoral commission announced yesterday that conditions had not been met to organise its December 6 presidential and legislative vote, which was meant to restore civilian rule after a coup last November.

– Story on p. 12

Councillors urge more support for elderly carers

Armando Neves

The government-appointed Northern District Community Service Consultative Council held its regular monthly meeting yesterday, where members urged the government to strengthen support for elderly carers.

The first part of the meeting, held at the Patane Activity Centre, was open to the media, during which committee members raised several issues in their speeches. The meeting then proceeded behind closed doors, where Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) Department of Social Solidarity Chief U Ka Wai, Senior Service Division Community Service and Programme Unit Acting Chief Tang Chi Teng, and official Wong Weng Ian outlined the progress of the government's 10-Year Action Plan for Elderly Services.

According to a report by the *Post*, the elderly services plan comprises 96 action strategies centred around four key areas: Physical and Mental Well-being, Active Ageing, Diversified Provision, and Social Inclusion.

The council's deputy convenor, Chan Ian Ian, recommended that the bureau make use of civil organisations' networks to establish permanent digital support stations. These would help senior citizens to master apps such as the "Macao One Account" platform, outpatient appointment bookings, and electronic payments, enabling them to truly benefit from the convenience of smart elderly care.

Meanwhile, deputy convenor Wong Chio U recommended that the local government accelerate the elderly-friendly renewal of the city's old quarters, improve transport connections to various hospitals, and increase the provision of accessible toilets in public venues.

In the post-meeting press briefing, Chan cited an IAS statement released to councillors during the meeting.

According to the bureau, between this and next year, the plan will roll out 77 action strategies and 104 implementation plans. These cover 14 measures concerning physical and mental



Northern District Community Service Consultative Council Deputy Convenor Chan Ian Ian (right) and Councillor Ip Weng Hong look on during yesterday's press briefing after the government-appointed council's closed-door meeting at the Patane Activity Centre on Avenida de Demétrio Cinatti. – Photo: Armando Neves

well-being, 27 concerning active ageing, 26 concerning diversified provision for the elderly*, and 37 concerning social inclusion.

Specific measures include piloting advance care planning at two elderly residential care homes; setting up pop-up healthy community stations; conducting

health assessments for high-risk elderly persons; establishing a reward scheme for elderly volunteers; helping the elderly become familiar with AI apps; implementing a public library volunteer programme; supporting elderly care in the Greater Bay Area (GBA) through a pilot scheme; improving the ongoing

15-minute community elderly service circle on a pilot basis in Seac Pai Van; and regularly assessing the scope for adjusting the government's old-age pension.

Fellow councillor Ip Weng Hong cited colleagues' concerns regarding issues such as the carers' allowances, the government's high-rise rental residential building for senior citizens, and improvements to disability assessments.

IAS officials said that the bureau will continue to study the scope for adjusting usage fees for the high-rise rental residential building for senior citizens, adding that a mechanism has already been put in place to exempt persons with long-term and permanent disabilities from annual reassessments. In the future, the bureau will also assess the scope for adjusting the carers' allowances. ■

*Diversified provision for the elderly refers to a multi-channel social care model that relies on multiple providers – rather than the government alone – to deliver aged-care services, accommodation, and support systems. – DeepSeek

Gambler busted for kicking 'tai sai' machine to void losing bets: police

Sherwin Hng

A 52-year-old man has been arrested for kicking the door of a "tai sai"* gaming machine cabinet to trigger a system malfunction, causing losing bets to be voided and returned to his gaming account, Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Ho Ka Weng said during a special press conference yesterday.

Ho identified the suspect, surnamed Wu, as a mainland Chinese businessman.

According to Ho, police received a report from a casino in the peninsula at about 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday after casino security staff intercepted Wu over suspected fraudulent gambling.

An investigation showed that casino surveillance staff noticed a "tai sai" gaming machine repeatedly displaying an error signal while Wu was gambling at about 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday.

Ho said casino security observed

that before each fault signal appeared, Wu had kicked the cabinet beneath the display screen. The physical impact caused the machine to generate a system error, invalidating the round's outcome and returning bets that would have been lost back to Wu's gaming account balance.

Wu used this method six times within roughly an hour on Tuesday night whenever a round's outcome was unfavourable to his bet. He returned to the same casino on Wednesday and was intercepted by security staff, who immediately notified the police, Ho added.

According to Ho, the casino reported losses of at least HK\$13,000 as a result, while the total illicit amount gained by Wu remains under investigation.

The Judiciary Police seized HK\$3,500 in suspected illicit proceeds from Wu.

Ho also confirmed this is the first case uncovered in Macau involving this specific method of fraudulent gambling.

Wu faces charges of fraudulent gambling. The case has been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) for further legal proceedings. ■

*"Tai sai" is the Cantonese pronunciation of the Chinese term "大小" ("big [and] small"). It is a popular dice game also known in English as "sic bo" or "cussec". This game of chance is played with three dice. Players bet on the total sum of the three dice or on specific combinations. The core bet involves predicting whether the total will be "Big" (generally 11 to 17) or "Small" (generally 4 to 10), which is where it gets its Chinese name. It is local casinos' second most popular table game after baccarat. – DeepSeek, MPD

Police arrest young local couple for drug offences



This undated photo provided by the Judiciary Police yesterday shows evidence seized from the couple's flat in the northern district.

Sherwin Hng

The Judiciary Police (PJ) arrested a young local couple on Tuesday in connection with a drug case after finding an ecstasy tablet and drug-related paraphernalia at their home, spokesman Ho Ka Weng said during a regular press conference yesterday.

Ho identified the suspects as a 24-year-old man surnamed Mok, who claimed to work in the F&B sector, and his 26-year-old girlfriend, surnamed Wong, who claimed to be jobless.

According to Ho, police were investigating a separate drug trafficking case when they discovered the male's suspected involvement. Officers visited him and his girlfriend at a flat in the northern district at about 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday.

During a search of the flat, police found an ecstasy tablet with an estimated street value of about 200 patacas, alongside

transparent plastic bags, a straw, and banknotes bearing suspected drug residue.

Ho said the investigation indicated that both suspects had a habit of taking drugs, adding that the man had provided drugs to his girlfriend free of charge.

Urine tests showed that the woman tested positive for drugs, while the man tested negative, Ho added.

Both suspects are facing charges of drug-taking and possession of drug taking paraphernalia, while Mok faces an additional charge of drug trafficking.

The couple have been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) for further investigation.

Ho noted that the investigation is continuing to trace the source of the drugs.

According to Law No 17/2009, Wong and Mok face up to one and five years behind bars, respectively. ■



Judiciary Police (PJ) officers escort the hooded Chinese mainland suspect in the "tai sai" gaming machine fraud case from the PJ headquarters in Zape to a PJ vehicle en route to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) yesterday. – Photo: Sherwin Hng

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MACAU POST

Macau Weather

CLOUDY APART FROM SUNNY PERIODS.

FORCE 3 TO 4 EAST TO NORTHEASTERLY WINDS. RELATIVE HUMIDITY WILL RANGE BETWEEN 50% AND 85%.



25°C~30°C

Source: SMG

Govt Headquarters to host Open Day weekend

Ida Cheong

A two-day Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR) Government Headquarters Open Day activity will be held on Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. respectively, featuring a flower exhibition, along with musical and dance performances by the Public Security Police Force (PSP) band and students from the Macao Conservatory, according to a statement released by the Government Information Bureau (GCS) yesterday.

Meanwhile, the mansion's multi-purpose hall will present an exhibition detailing the government's "Third Five-Year (2026–2030) Plan", with the aim of providing information about the government's development blueprint, four major key projects, and the its ongoing initiatives to implement the plan, the statement said.

The flower exhibition themed "Nature in Harmony – A Harmonious Macao" showcases a butterfly-friendly ecological landscape, featuring over 20 varieties of colourful flowers and butterfly-attracting plants, the statement said, adding that the exhibition is divided into four main themed zones: the Protocol Palace front garden, the lawn, the flower pergola, and the Protocol Palace indoor display area.

Additionally, the Macao Post and Telecommunications Bureau will set up a temporary postal counter near Nam Van Lake, offering a commemorative-postmark service and philatelic products.

Visitors will also receive a complimentary souvenir, available while supplies last, the statement added.

For more information, please visit <https://openday.dsasg.gov.mo/>.

The statement reminded visitors not to take pets, umbrellas, food, or beverages into the headquarters. ■

2026 hush! beach gigs slated for Nov 14-15



Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) President Deland Leong Wai Man (fourth from right) and other representatives pose during yesterday's press conference for the "hush! Beach Concerts x Urban Sports Wellfest 2026", at MGM Cotai.

— Photo: Ida Cheong

Ida Cheong

The "hush! Beach Concerts x Urban Sports Wellfest 2026" is scheduled to take place on November 14 and 15 at Hac Sa Beach and the adjacent Temporary Green and Leisure Area, featuring over 20 local bands, alongside a lineup of masterclasses, workshops, community outreach activities, and original merchandise, Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) President Deland Leong Wai Man announced in a press conference yesterday.

The press conference for the two-day event was held at MGM Cotai. The event aims to create an annual signature cultural and sports brand event that showcases both cultural creativity and athletic vitality for residents and visitors alike.

Leong noted in a speech that the festival features over 20 local bands as its core performers, alongside a dedicated stage for youth and children's bands to foster up-and-coming performing arts talent. Aiming to encourage young people to engage with live popular music, bands will visit local campuses and neighbourhoods to host promotional performances and interactive demonstrations.

Meanwhile, a raft of music masterclasses, workshops, and community activities will be held to help elevate the creative and performance standards of local music professionals, Leong said.

Furthermore, the festival also partners with local entities to launch original products through the "hush! Brand Collaboration" programme, stimulating local

cultural and creative vitality, Leong noted.

"Building on the success of last year, music industry representatives were organised to participate in networking and matchmaking sessions, leading to several local bands being invited to perform at international music festivals in Singapore, Indonesia, and South Korea", Leong said, adding that the event continues to project Macau's performing arts strength onto the global stage.

Leong noted that in order to further empower talent cultivation and industry growth through cultural events, music industry networking sessions will return this year, aiming to broaden the international horizons and development opportunities for the local performing arts sector. ■

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Houston Rockets' Kevin Durant (left) and Dallas Mavericks' Kyrie Irving talk to each other at The Venetian Arena in Cotai yesterday – Photos: Khalel Vallo



The Houston Rockets' centre Steven Adams speaks with the media after yesterday's "Tip-Off Day" as part of the "NBA Cares x Sands Cares Community Impact Week 2026" at The Venetian Arena in Cotai. – Photo: Rui Pastorin

NBA stars embrace local debut as Mavericks and Rockets prepare for China Games



The Mavericks' Cooper Flagg speaks to the media yesterday.

Khalel Vallo

NBA (the United States' National Basketball Association) stars Kevin Durant, Kyrie Irving, alongside others, shared the excitement of bringing basketball to Macau as the Dallas Mavericks and Houston Rockets prepare to face each other in The NBA China Games 2026 at The Venetian Arena tonight.

Players from both teams spoke to the media yesterday ahead of the two preseason games, with several highlighting the opportunity to connect with local fans and experience the city and wider region.

For Irving, who first visited China when he was 19, said that returning to Asia carried a deeper significance. The Mavericks guard described his continued visits as a "social responsibility" to remain aware of the people and communities supporting him. "Coming back here is going to feel like a second home now," Irving said, adding that the current trip has also provided the Mavericks with an opportunity to "build chemistry" after significant changes to the roster.

Irving also welcomed the international basketball community's debates over the league's greatest scorers and most skilled players, saying such discussions contribute to the stories surrounding basketball.

Mavericks forward Cooper Flagg said he was focused more on the process than individual goals, emphasising the importance of showing up every day, working hard and not skipping steps. Flagg also described playing in a new culture as a special experience.

"It's really special to have that chance, like I said, to come to a new place, to embrace new fans, new culture,

and really spread the love of the game," Flagg said.

Mavericks centre Daniel Gafford praised the passion of Chinese basketball fans and said the team was focused on building chemistry and establishing its playing style ahead of the regular season. Gafford also said the Mavericks would need to "bring energy and physicality" against Houston, describing the Rockets as "a real physical team."

Meanwhile, for the Rockets, Durant said he was excited to be playing in an international competition and also facing Irving on the court again after the latter's extended absence after tearing his anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) last NBA season. "It feels amazing. I'm excited to see Kyrie back. He spent the last year and a half out with the ACL injury," Durant said, adding that "the game of basketball itself means Kyrie on the floor. So that's an exciting time."

Durant, who is entering his 20th NBA season, said he continues to be motivated by his desire for improvement rather than a particular individual accolade. "I love striving for perfection. I love teamwork and camaraderie. It's just fun. That's my lifestyle," he said. The Rockets forward also said he remains open to potentially representing the United States at the 2028 Olympics, although he stressed that much could change before then.

"Yeah, we'll see. I mean, it definitely will be amazing," Durant said. "It's always incredible to represent your country and have a lot of opportunities again. But a lot can happen in that time," he added.

Rockets forward Jabari Smith Jr. said the long trip to Macau had also helped strengthen the team's chemistry.

"I think you're just out here together. All you've got is yourself and all you've got is your teammates," Smith

said, adding that "you're forced to spend time with your teammates. You're forced to do different things with them, try different things with them. I think it's definitely a bonding thing for sure."

Smith noted that his primary goal for the season was winning, while also targeting a place on the NBA All-Defensive Team and looking to expand his game. "I want to make a deep playoff win. I want to be deep in the playoffs, the Western Conference Finals, win the West and get to the finals. That's my main goal," Smith said.

Meanwhile, Rockets centre Steven Adams also took time to experience Macau and Beijing's culture and history, saying he enjoys learning about Chinese culture and trying local food.

"I always love Chinese culture because it has a long history, you know, 3,000 years, and that's what's cool about Beijing. The Chinese culture, which I enjoy, that's what I've been doing around here in Macau as well, just learning a bit about the history," Adams said.

He also joked that former teammate Russell Westbrook would be his preferred companion for travelling around the region, saying Westbrook could take him to places he otherwise could not go. He also said that while he was in the local streets, he was mistaken for US-Hawaiian actor Jason Momoa.

The Mavericks and Rockets are scheduled to meet in two preseason games tonight and Sunday at The Venetian Arena as part of The NBA China Games 2026. For the players, the local trip represents both preparation for the coming NBA season and an opportunity to connect with a growing international basketball community.

25 troupes to vie in 13th int'l lion dance championship this weekend

Rui Pastorin

A total of 25 lion dance troupes with a record high of over 270 competitors will be vying for the top prizes during this weekend's "13th International Lion Dance Championship 2026 – MGM Cup" in the square in front of A-Ma Temple in Barra.

Coming from 14 countries and regions including Macau, the Chinese mainland, Hong Kong, China's Taiwan region, Southeast Asia, and elsewhere, competition categories comprise "Freestyle", "Women's", "Youth", and "Junior".

During yesterday's rehearsal sessions at the competition venue, team members from Canada, Malaysia and Macau told reporters about what they were looking forward to this weekend, along with their overall thoughts on competing in Macau.

This edition marks the first time that a team from Canada, the "Hong De Canada Dragon & Lion Dance Sports Association", is participating in the event. Representing the group, which brought six members to Macau, are brothers Mason and Martin Yong, who told media that they have been part of the group, headed by their father, for around 12 years.

The brothers, each acting as the head and tail of the lion, were happy to see many teams from different countries and regions competing at the event, noting that they are looking forward to watching other teams, learning more from them, and finding friendship. "We're just here to try and represent Canada as best as we can, and hopefully put on a great

performance", they noted.

Jason Tan, meanwhile, is marking the fourth time that he is competing in Macau, having done so in 2014, 2019, and 2024, he told the *Post*. Representing the 15-member "Dragon and Lion Dance Federation of Malaysia", Tan particularly highlighted the contest being held outdoors and in front of A-Ma temple while praising the initiative to promote the traditional culture behind lion dance. And while it is a competition, Tan said the priority is to finish and to especially do so safely, avoiding injuries "for every team, not just ours".

Lastly, Macau Lo Leong Sport General Association representative Jackson Sou (蘇展德) said that he is competing for the second year, and with many teams from different parts of the world, expects an intense competition, which he also told the *Post* is unique for being hosted in front of one of the sites in the Historic Centre of Macau.

The 21-year-old had got into lion dance through the MGM Junior Lion Dance Programme back in 2015 and has continued the sport since. During his remarks to the *Post*, Sou noted that lion dance is an important part of Chinese culture and, when asked about its promotion among young people, noted that many extra-curricular classes have been held in schools. His group is among those that host them, along with contests across different levels. Competitions, he said, are an important initiative to help popularise the sport and raise awareness for its culture to others. ■



Brothers Mason and Martin Yong from the "Hong De Canada Dragon & Lion Dance Sports Association" practise their routine yesterday during the rehearsal sessions ahead of the "13th International Lion Dance Championship 2026 – MGM Cup" at the square in front of A-Ma Temple in Barra.



Macau Lo Leong Sport General Association representative Jackson Sou (蘇展德) poses yesterday in front of a banner for this weekend's contest. – Photos: Rui Pastorin



Jason Tan from the Dragon and Lion Dance Federation of Malaysia poses yesterday in front of A-Ma Temple.

NBA Cares, Sands Cares hold 'Tip-Off Day'

Rui Pastorin

At The Venetian Arena yesterday, local students had a chance to interact with players from the Dallas Mavericks and Houston Rockets, which are both set to play the first of their two preseason games tonight, as part of the "Tip-Off Day" for the "NBA Cares x Sands Cares Community Impact Week 2026".

Featuring a basketball clinic, the event saw opportunities for local students from the Girls D Division team of Keang Peng School and Boys D Division team of Colégio Dom Bosco (Yuet Wah), two championship teams of the Macao Inter-School Basketball Competition, to take part in drills with professional coaches along with players from each team.

The youngsters also got to watch NBA players during their practice sessions, with many cheering on the Rockets' power forward Kevin Durant with each swish of the net.

Aside from the students and members from both Texan teams, the event, which drew around 400 participants, was also attended by executives and representatives



This group photo taken and provided by Sands China yesterday shows students, players from both the Houston Rockets and Dallas Mavericks, NBA executives, legends and coaches, executives and staff from Las Vegas Sands and Sands China, posing on the basketball court set up at the 14,000 seat The Venetian Arena in Cotai.

from Las Vegas, Sands China, and the NBA (the US' National Basketball Association), among others. NBA legends Yao Ming and Shawn Marion, along with rising star in

Chinese women's basketball Zhang Ziyu, were also in attendance.

Held alongside the basketball clinic was also the packing of goodie bags that featured

items such as water bottles provided by the Dallas Mavericks and sports wristbands from the Houston Rockets. They were assembled by members of the two teams, alongside students, executives from Las Vegas Sands and Sands China, and Sands Cares Ambassadors, all being slated to be distributed during the ongoing impact week.

Patrick Dumont, chairman of the board and chief executive officer of Las Vegas Sands Corp., and chairman of the board and non-executive director of Sands China Ltd., and governor of the Dallas Mavericks, pointed out during his remarks: "Having the NBA in Macau began with a dream. The dream started with the dream of Sheldon Adelson and Dr Miriam Adelson to turn Macau into a modern tourism destination that could host the NBA. And over the last 20 years, through investment and through the people of Macau, we've all worked together to create this wonderful tourism destination".

Dumont added that the company is very proud of the work that they continue to do in the community, adding that basketball brings people together, sport creates dialogue, brings families together. In his message to youngsters, he also encouraged them to keep working hard to achieve their dreams.

NBA Commissioner Adam Silver noted in his speech the importance of hosting programmes around the world directed towards the youth, reminding the students to dream big and pursue it, whatever the goal may be. "You have to dream big to achieve those goals", he said. He also highlighted that the game can teach players about teamwork, respect, and discipline, which will carry over to whatever goal they might have in life. ■



NBA players interact with students through a basketball clinic. – Photos: Rui Pastorin

Dora Ng to expand 'Made in Macao' via Hengqin ties

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In her speech, Ng noted that this year's fair has brought together about 130 exhibitors across various exhibition zones, including the Macao Industrial Pavilion and the M-Mark products zone.

With the theme "Macao Food Heritage and Innovation", Ng said, the Macao Industrial Pavilion also includes a dedicated exhibition area for the Macao Quality Brand Promotion Centre in Hengqin. The pavilion not only displays the research outcomes of local higher education institutions and secondary schools, but also integrates technological applications such as AI and robotics, demonstrating the new landscape of Macao's industrial heritage and innovation and the industrial integration between Macao and Hengqin, she said.

Concerning standards and brand building, Ng said, Macau's 3rd Five-Year Plan outlines the government's initiatives to support businesses in expanding markets for their "Made in Macao" products. In recent years, local businesses have been vigorously promoting the M-Mark Macao Product Quality Certification and Halal certification. Through e-commerce promotion and convention and exhibition events, Macao products' credibility and market acceptance have steadily grown, she said.

On this foundation, Ng said, the local government will place strong emphasis on technological transformation, smart manufacturing, the green transition, and brand going global, helping businesses translate their quality advantages into competitive market edges.

Ng said that the transformation and upgrading of Macau's traditional



This photo released in yesterday's article on his blog shows Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai (centre) visiting a booth after yesterday's opening ceremony of the 12th Macao Industrial Products Show at the Macao Fisherman's Wharf Convention and Exhibition Centre in Nape.

industries require a larger supporting space, and the Guangdong-Macao In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin serves as a key pillar to this end. Entering a new phase of development, she said, Macau should adopt a "Macao and Hengqin on one chessboard" mindset, so as to leverage Hengqin's spatial resources and industrial conditions, harness the complementary strengths of both sides, and drive synergistic industrial growth.

While Macau's area amounts to 33 km², Hengqin covers 106 km².

Through the "Macao Brand + Hengqin Space + Greater Bay Area MICE Resources" linkage model, Ng said, the Macao government will support businesses in establishing precise connections with both domestic and international markets for their "Made in Macao" products, opening up broader horizons for industrial transformation and upgrading.

Ng said that advancing Macau's appropriate economic diversification requires both cultivating emerging

industries and encouraging the transformation and upgrading of traditional ones. Ng said that she expects Macau businesses to seize the new opportunities arising from the Macao-Hengqin joint development, injecting new impetus into the brands, quality, and standards of "Made in Macao" products while making new contributions to Macau's appropriate economic diversification.

In addition to Ng, yesterday morning's opening ceremony was attended by other dignitaries including Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai, Edmund Ho Hau Wah, Macau's first chief executive and currently a vice-chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), Central People's Government Liaison Office in Macau Deputy Director Lyu Yuyin, Foreign Ministry Acting Commissioner Cheng Lei, and Macau Legislative Assembly (AL) President André Cheong Weng Chon.

This year's Macau Industrial

Products Show features a "Greater Bay Area Super Burger Festival" for the first time.

The Super Burger Festival for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) features burger brands from various cities across the Chinese mainland. The festival was first held in Zhongshan in December last year, followed by editions in Shenzhen in March and May this year.

The 11-member GBA consists of nine cities in Guangdong Province and the nation's two special administrative regions of Hong Kong and Macau.

After yesterday's opening ceremony, Sam and other dignitaries visited booths and talked with exhibitors.

Sam's blog on the fair

Meanwhile, Sam published an article on his blog on the chief executive's official website yesterday evening. Sam said that after speaking with several business representatives, he has learnt that they are committed to adapting to the times – taking the initiative to evolve and exploring new business opportunities.

Sam said that this fully demonstrates the traditional excellence,

spirit, and mindset deeply rooted in Macau's business sector: continuous self-improvement, pioneering effort, and innovation.

Sam also said he was aware that a larger number of halal-certified product enterprises have joined the fair this year than in previous years – well prepared to seize new market opportunities. Sam said he expects the local business sector – by making good use of the platforms and support provided by the government – to secure further international certifications, continue expanding business diversification, and jointly promote Macau's economic development.

Sam launched his blog – named Macau Marching Forward – on Thursday last week – this year's National Day. In his article published on that day, Sam elaborated on his exchanges with some of the local students who joined a five-day trip to Beijing last month to pay tribute to the national flag.

Sam talked with these students after addressing last Thursday's National Day reception at the Service Platform Complex for Commercial and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries (aka Forum Macao Complex) in Sai Van. ■

Macau logs 1.14 million visitors during 7-day National Day holiday

Tony Wong

Macau recorded 1,142,974 visitor arrivals during the Chinese mainland's seven-day National Day Golden Week holiday period this year, representing a daily average of 163,282, according to data released by the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) yesterday.

This year's daily average represented an increase of 15.5

percent from the daily average of last year's National Day-cum-Mid-Autumn Festival holiday period in the Chinese mainland, which lasted eight days.

Last year's Mid-Autumn Festival fell on October 6, so the National Day holiday and the Mid-Autumn Festival holiday were combined in the mainland, lasting eight days in total.

This year, the seven-day National Day holiday period in the mainland began on Thursday last week and ended on Wednesday.

According to the MGTO data released yesterday, Macau recorded 169,635 visitor arrivals on the first day of this year's National Day holiday period, 179,253 on the second day, 191,661 on the third day, 210,276 on the fourth day, 169,631 on the fifth day, 131,185 on the sixth day, and 91,333 on the last day.

A follow-up MGTO statement released yesterday said that the daily average of some 163,000 was the highest ever recorded for the mainland's National Day holiday period.

The statement also said that the roughly 210,000 visitor arrivals on the fourth day (Sunday) was also the highest single-day number recorded for the mainland's National Day holiday period.

In annual terms, Macau recorded its highest single-day number of visitors, 248,000, on May 2 this year, the second day of the Chinese mainland's five-day Labour Day holiday period. ■



This photo taken during this year's National Day holiday and released by the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) yesterday shows locals and tourists thronging Rua do Cunha in Taipa Village.

Wu Ashun, Paul Casey confirmed for SJM Macao Open 2026

Khalel Vallo

Chinese mainland golfer Wu Ashun and the UK's 21-time professional tour champion Paul Casey have joined the field for the SJM Macao Open 2026, strengthening what organisers describe as "one of the tournament's strongest fields", according to a statement by SJM yesterday.

The event will take place next Thursday to Sunday at the Macau Golf & Country Club in Coloane, jointly organised by the Sports Bureau (ID), SJM Resorts and the International Management Group (IMG), and co-sanctioned by the Asian Tour and the Macau Golf Association, the statement said.

Wu, a seven-time tour winner, was the first Chinese golfer to win a European Tour event on home soil, a Japan Golf Tour event and a tournament in Africa, the statement noted.

"It is always nice to play at home and I am excited to be playing at the SJM Macao Open this year," Wu said, adding that "the support and cheers of local fans always help me compete better and I am looking forward to playing well at the Macau Golf & Country Club," the statement said.

Casey, who will make his Macao Open debut, has recorded top-10 finishes in all four Majors, including a tied-second finish at the 2020 PGA (Professional Golfers' Association) Championship, the statement underlined.

Meanwhile, the "American challenge" will include nine-time tour winner Kevin Sangwook Na, three-time Asian Tour winner Andy Ogletree and two-time Asian Tour winner Sihwan Kim, according to the statement.

Former Thai champions Rattanon Wannasrichan and Pavit Tangkamolprasert will also compete, seeking to become the fourth two-time champion, the statement said, adding that seven of the top 10 players in the 2026 Asian Tour Order of Merit are in the field.

Admission is free, with public registration for complimentary tickets now open at www.sjm-macaoopen.com. ■



This undated handout photo provided by SJM yesterday shows the Chinese mainland's Wu Ashun in action.

Biker, pillion hurt as lorry runs red light: PSP

Armindo Neves

A Public Security Police Force (PSP) spokesman confirmed to the *Post* yesterday evening that a scooter rider and his pillion were injured after a lorry ran a red light.

According to the spokesman, the rider is a 65-year-old local male resident, the pillion rider is a 62-year-old local female resident, and the lorry driver is a local male resident in his 70s.

A Fire Services Bureau (CB) spokesman confirmed to the *Post* that the rider suffered abrasions

to his elbows and knees, while the pillion suffered abrasions to her elbows and a head contusion. Both were rushed to the public Conde de São Januário Hospital Centre (CHSCJ) for treatment.

At around 12:59 p.m. yesterday, the Public Security Police Force issued a statement saying it had received a report of a traffic accident at the junction of Avenida 1º de Maio (勞動節大馬路) and Rua de Ma Kau Seak (馬交石街).

Upon arriving at the scene, PSP officers saw a scooter that

had been knocked onto the ground by a lorry, with both the rider and pillion thrown onto the road. An investigation revealed that the lorry had jumped a red light and struck the scooter, the spokesman said, adding that the lorry driver passed a breathalyser test.

According to the spokesman, the lorry driver has been fined for jumping a red light.

Under Article 99 of Macau's Road Traffic Law, running a red light carries a fine ranging between 1,000 patacas and 5,000 patacas. ■



This photo, downloaded from Facebook yesterday, shows a motorcycle rider and pillion lying on the ground after yesterday afternoon's crash in Areia Preta, as Public Security Police Force (PSP) officers investigate the cause of the incident. The Post cannot independently verify its authenticity.

Where the Long March began, China's new journey unfolds

Analysis

NANCHANG –The former ferry crossing is about half an hour's walk from the home of Sun Guanfa, 77, in Yudu, a hilly county in Jiangxi Province.

For his father, the journey from this riverbank more than nine decades ago was part of an epic military maneuver.

In October 1934, some 86,000 soldiers of the Red Army crossed the Yudu River to embark on what later came to be known as the Long March.

In a country beset by foreign invasion, social turmoil and destitution, the fledgling Red Army, led by the Communist Party of China (CPC), was fighting for national independence and the liberation of the Chinese people. But at the time, it was encircled by the overwhelming and much better-armed Kuomintang (KMT) forces.

What followed was an epic military maneuver: from Yudu, Red Army troops trekked roughly 12,500 kilometers across China, crossing snow-covered mountains and treacherous marshlands, all the while battling enemy forces. They eventually reached the country's northwest, where, in 1936, they were joined by several other Red Army branches, marking the victorious conclusion of the Long March.

This military maneuver preserved the Red Army. It also gave the CPC a new foothold in northwest China, from which it built up its strength, fought back against invading Japanese troops and eventually toppled the corrupt KMT regime, leading to the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC) in 1949.

In Yudu, the Long March is not simply a chapter in a history book. It is a family story.

More than 17,000 residents joined the departing army. Only 277 were recorded as eventually returning home, said Zhong Min, a guide at a museum built beside the river to commemorate the departure.

Her voice still catches when she says that number.

Her maternal great-grandfather died fighting the encirclement campaigns. Her husband's grandfather marched away with the

troops and was never heard from again. Sun's father fell in a battle that saw the forces of the Red Army reduced to just over 30,000.

"We are not telling other people's stories," Zhong said. "We are telling our own families'."

Here, the Long March is measured not only in kilometers and battles, but in the people who left home knowing they might never return.

For Sun, the legacy of that generation is deeply personal. Under a local tradition, Sun was adopted as the son of the soldier who left the riverbank and never returned, so that the soldier's family line could continue.

"People of my father's generation were willing to give their lives so ordinary people could be liberated," Sun said.

On the same riverbank in 2019, Chinese President Xi Jinping spoke of what had enabled the Party and the Red Army to come back from the brink of destruction time and again: firm ideals and convictions, and strong willpower.

"We must not forget our Party's original aspiration and founding mission," said Xi, also general secretary of the CPC Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission. The Party's long-stated mission, dating to its founding in 1921, is to seek happiness for the Chinese people and rejuvenation for the Chinese nation.

During the visit, Xi placed a flower basket at a monument commemorating the Red Army's departure and bowed in tribute. He then walked behind the monument to a railing overlooking the river and stood there for a long while.

The river remains. For Xi, it was also a place from which to look ahead to China's future.

"We came to this place to revisit what it was like when the Red Army set out," he told local people gathered nearby. "Today we are on a new journey – to build a modern socialist country. We must carry on the work of those who came before us, gear up anew, and set out once more."

That new journey was unfolding against a vastly changed backdrop. When Xi visited Yudu,



Visitors listen to a student guide at the Red Army Long March Memorial Hall in Hadapu Town, Gansu Province, on October 4. Hadapu was a strategic stop on the Long March; today, the town leverages its revolutionary history, ancient-town commerce, and local agriculture to preserve cultural heritage and boost resident incomes.

—Xinhua

the nationwide campaign he had launched to combat poverty was entering its final stage.

It would culminate in the elimination of absolute poverty in a nation of 1.4 billion. Nearly 100 million rural residents were lifted out of poverty under Xi's "targeted poverty alleviation" campaign, which mobilized the entire Party and the nation.

Xi announced the victory, as a key part of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects, in 2021 when the CPC marked its centenary.

During his 2019 visit, Xi saw for himself whether the former revolutionary base areas were on track to meet their poverty-reduction targets.

At Sun's home, he walked through the main hall to the backyard and checked the kitchen and the bedrooms. There was rice and cooking oil in the kitchen, and the bathroom was clean.

Xi asked about the family's income and how Sun's son and daughter-in-law made a living, where their children went to school, and what the school meals were like.

"By the time they grow up, we will have achieved the rejuvenation of our nation," Xi said, pointing to Sun's two grandchildren.

China aims to basically realize socialist modernization by 2035

and build a great modern socialist country in all respects by the middle of this century, according to the vision set by the Party.

Earlier, at the museum where Zhong served as a guide, Xi had stopped before a map of China made from straw sandals.

The display recalled how local people worked through the night to make straw sandals for the soldiers, many of whom fought barefoot. They also dismantled doors, bed boards, roof beams and even timber intended for coffins to build pontoon bridges, helping the soldiers cross the Yudu River.

"The country has developed and people's lives have improved, but we must remember where it all came from," Xi said. "We must not forget our revolutionary forefathers and those who died for the revolution, or the people of the old revolutionary base areas."

Nowadays, golden waves of selenium-rich rice ripple around the 700-year-old village, and rows of modern vegetable greenhouses stand nearby. In the residential area, white-walled houses with gray-tiled roofs sit amid trees, while pavilions nestle between them.

"Now we have wages from working, rent from our guesthouses and dividends from our shares," Sun said. "Our annual income has tripled to more than 200,000 yuan (around US\$29,000)."

The transformation extends well beyond Yudu.

Much of southern Jiangxi, once cut off from the outside world by rugged mountains, is far more connected. High-speed rail links it with the city of Shenzhen, the country's economic powerhouse close to Hong Kong. Expressways also reach every county, and paved roads now extend into villages.

For local business owners, it no longer means spending two days and two nights on the road to source a critical part. Now they can hop on a high-speed train, pick up what they need in the morning and return that afternoon, drastically speeding up the development of a prototype.

The change is not only about getting around. Industries such as non-ferrous metals and advanced materials, electronics and information technology, and textiles and apparel have taken root here. For ordinary people, the changes are closer to home. Housing has improved, drinking water is safer, and schools and medical care are more accessible.

More people can now earn a living without leaving their hometowns. In March, the Hong Kong Polytechnic University launched a facility dedicated to research into smart wearables and smart clothing in Xingguo, a county next to Yudu.

This summer, Yudu welcomed students from more than 170 universities across China who came to retrace the Long March at the places where it began. Many realized that the Red Army soldiers who set out were their age.

"Standing where those young soldiers began their journey gave me a deeper understanding of what they accomplished," said Liu Fanshuo, an undergraduate studying automation.

Today, five modern bridges span the Yudu River near the crossings where local people once built pontoon bridges to help the Red Army cross.

On the banks, Sun pours hot tea for tourists whose lives might have been very different had those soldiers never crossed.

—Xinhua

ICC says Duterte fit to be tried

THE HAGUE – Former Philippine president Rodrigo Duterte is fit to stand trial on charges of committing crimes against humanity during a crackdown on the drug trade, the International Criminal Court (ICC) said yesterday.

“The chamber was satisfied that the accused is able to effectively exercise his fair trial rights in the proceedings,” the court said of the 81-year-old, whose trial is due to start on 30 November.

The judges’ based their decision on the findings of an independent panel of experts and submissions

from other interested parties and participants, said the ruling.

Duterte had the capacity to “understand the charges, understand the purpose and consequences of the proceedings, follow the course of the proceedings,” said the experts, quoted in the court ruling.

He could also “understand the evidence, and instruct counsel in the preparation and conduct of his defence”, they said.

The former leader appeared in person at the court for the first time in mid-September, faces charges over his “war on drugs” that killed thousands.

Duterte, who ruled the Philippines between 2016 and 2022 and before that was mayor of the southern city of Davao, is the first Asian former head of state to face trial at the ICC.

The tribunal prosecutes individuals for the world’s worst crimes such as war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Duterte faces three counts of crimes against humanity, with prosecutors alleging his involvement in at least 76 murders during his offensive from between 2013 and 2018, during his time as mayor and president. – AFP



Myanmar's President Min Aung Hlaing (left) speaks as Malaysia's Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim listens during a joint press conference following their meeting in Putrajaya, Malaysia yesterday.

– AFP



A soot-stained police officer uses a walkie-talkie to communicate with his team after extinguishing a wildfire in Handil Bakti, Barito Kuala regency, South Kalimantan province, Indonesia yesterday. Toxic haze has shrouded parts of Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore for weeks as Jakarta struggles to contain fires that have scorched large tracts of Borneo and Sumatra, with the smoke drifting across the region.

– AFP

N Korea demands South show 'utmost respect' to restore relations

Hieun Shin

SEOUL – The powerful sister of North Korea’s leader said yesterday that Seoul must show the “utmost respect” to mend ties, after Pyongyang denied responsibility for a DMZ mine blast that wounded South Korean soldiers.

North Korea has rejected claims it was behind the explosion that injured three soldiers last month inside the Demilitarised Zone (DMZ), the heavily mined buffer area that has divided the two Koreas since their 1953 armistice.

A joint Seoul-United Nations Command investigation concluded the blast was caused by North Korean mines laid on the South Korean side of the border.

South Korea’s military demanded an official apology last week, accusing Pyongyang of “a clear violation of the Armistice Agreement”, while Seoul’s civilian leadership called for the North to return to dialogue.

“If they (Seoul) really want to reverse the relations between the DPRK and the ROK, they should be conscious of their rival’s feelings in every word and action and show their utmost respect, solicitude and sincerity before anything,” North Korea’s Kim Yo Jong said yesterday, using the two countries official acronyms.

On Wednesday, a government report revealed Seoul had secured a UN sanctions exemption to send medical equipment next month to North Korea, which has long suffered poor healthcare infrastructure.

Analysts say the move would allow Seoul to provide North Korea with humanitarian aid including ambulances and medical

sterilisation tools.

The North has long been criticised for prioritising the military over adequately providing for its people.

Elizabeth Salmon, UN special rapporteur on human rights in North Korea, said this year that food shortages remained a key humanitarian concern in the country.

Government sources said the aid programme is worth around 9.3 billion won (US\$6.95 million) in total.

But Kim Yo Jong, whose brother is North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, said the aid was Seoul’s attempt to pivot from what she called a “self-orchestrated farce” that had failed to get the response it was seeking.

“There are two doubts whether they are political immature guys or truly born idiots who can never be remodelled,” Kim said.

Unwelcome distraction

North Korea’s military has placed mines and built anti-tank barriers along the frontier as part of efforts to permanently seal it off following Kim Jong Un’s designation of South Korea as his country’s “principal enemy” in 2024.

The mines responsible for the blast last month were believed to have been laid over a year ago as part of Pyongyang’s border fortification work, according to South Korea’s defence minister Kang Shin-chul.

Kim Yo Jong previously ridiculed President Lee Jae Myung’s latest overture for dialogue as “the climax of the farce that everyone should watch”, while calling Seoul’s demand for an apology “quite ridiculous”.

Seoul’s Unification Minister Chung Dong-young has also

proposed to Pyongyang talks to address issues along the border.

But Kim Yo Jong said yesterday it was her country’s “unshakable” position that North Korea has “nothing to exchange or go with the ROK (South Korea) and no need to (meet) face to face with it.”

Any action by Seoul – whether driven by “evil intention or good faith” – will be “regarded as a challenge and grave provocation to the DPRK and a violation of its sovereignty,” she added.

Kim’s latest statement comes at a sensitive time, as US President Donald Trump’s recent overtures to Pyongyang have raised concerns that Seoul – an ally of Washington – could be sidelined in potential nuclear talks involving the North.

Analysts say Kim’s message could be read as a warning to Seoul to stay quiet on the landmine issue, with the North calculating that continued exchanges with the South could complicate its broader, global diplomatic agenda.

“Pyongyang’s priority is not inter-Korean engagement but the possibility of a larger deal with Washington, while maintaining its increasingly close relationship with Russia. South Korean interventions are therefore seen as an unwelcome distraction – or even an obstacle – to that strategy,” Ahn Chan-il, a researcher originally from North Korea, told AFP.

“At the same time, the warning could be interpreted as stopping short of completely foreclosing inter-Korean dialogue: essentially telling Seoul not to interfere unless it has something substantial to offer.”

– AFP

S Korea test-fires its first homegrown hypersonic weapon: presidency

Claire Lee

SEOUL – South Korea test-fired its first homegrown hypersonic weapon yesterday, the presidential office said, days after Pyongyang announced the AI-assisted launch of an intermediate-range hypersonic missile.

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung “observed the first test launch of a hypersonic glide vehicle (HGV) – currently under research and development using domestic technology,” the presidential Blue House said in a statement.

Hypersonic glide vehicles are sent into the upper atmosphere via rocket boosters or on ballistic missiles, then glide towards their target at five times the speed of sound or greater.

Hailing a “key strategic asset capable of changing the course of the battlefield”, the South Korean statement said that the missiles’ “unpredictable flight trajectories and overwhelming speed enable them to strike key strategic targets”.

The test was aimed at verifying “the performance of ultra-high-temperature heat-resistant materials – a core technology for glide vehicles – as well as guidance and control capabilities and the ability to fly irregularly at low altitudes under hypersonic flight conditions,” it added.

Analysts say North Korea, which is technically at war with the South, has stepped up testing of its own hypersonic weapons with

technological support from Russia.

In response, “South Korea has also been devoting considerable effort to developing the technology – and can be said to have achieved a successful test this time,” Hong Sung-pyo, senior researcher at the Seoul-based Korea Institute for Military Affairs, told AFP.

Moscow has used hypersonic missiles in combat since around 2024, according to analysts.

Pyongyang has said its Saturday launch involved the use of AI, claiming there was “no way to avoid” the missile that was “capable of changing its flight orbit at a low altitude”.

It also said that the missile’s “wave-like trajectory mode” left South Korea and Japan unable to track it effectively.

Both Seoul and Washington have said the missile could be “sufficiently detected and intercepted using the defensive assets possessed by the two allies”.

South Korea said that the hypersonic glide vehicle tested yesterday “descended to a low altitude after separation, freely altered its trajectory both vertically and horizontally, and ... accurately struck its designated target”.

The weapon offered “a new deterrence capability capable of striking key targets within the Korean Peninsula’s operational environment”, the Blue House said. – AFP

Indonesia arrests 3 ferry bosses over deadly sinking

JAKARTA – Indonesian police have arrested three executives of the company that owned a passenger ferry that sank in the Java Sea last month, killing dozens of people, a spokesman said yesterday.

The Virgo Transport 8 was carrying 213 passengers and 30 crew when it lost contact after departing from Surabaya, Indonesia’s second-largest city, on Java island, bound for Borneo.

The Indonesian suspects, who worked for the shipping company that owned and operated the ferry, stand accused of negligence, national police spokesperson Trunoyudo Wisnu Andiko said in a statement.

“The designation of suspect status is based on the results

of the investigation... which identified indications of negligence, complicity, as well as aiding and abetting in connection with the ship accident,” he said.

Police arrested the ferry’s captain last month.

Dozens remain officially missing in the search operation that has retrieved 108 survivors to date. More than 80 people have been confirmed dead.

Marine accidents regularly occur in Indonesia, a vast Southeast Asian archipelago of more than 17,000 islands that relies heavily on boat connections for daily transport and tourism.

Lax safety standards and unpredictable weather are often the cause. – AFP

Nearly 300,000 Nepalis at flood risk: study

NEW DELHI – More than 1,400 people were killed and 5,000 remain missing after catastrophic floods hit Nepal in August – and a new study yesterday warned nearly 300,000 people face similar risks.

A tsunami-like wall of water and debris triggered by a glacial and rock collapse on the Nepal-China border on August 26 cut a swathe of destruction across the nation.

The disaster raised fears that similar floods could strike elsewhere as glaciers retreat and development expands across fragile mountain terrain.

The study, published in *Scientific Reports*, examined areas up to 50 kilometres downstream of 1,361 Himalayan lakes in Nepal and neighbouring parts of China and India.

“Our results demonstrate rapidly increasing exposure in Himalayan catchments,” key study scientist C. Scott Watson, from Britain’s University of Leeds, told AFP.

Scientists say climate change played a key role in the August floods.

Nepal, a country of around 30 million people that contributes only a fraction of global greenhouse gas emissions, estimates reconstruction will cost US\$4.78 billion.

Prime Minister Balendra Shah told the United Nations last month that the flooding “was a warning to the world” about the rising dangers of climate change.

The study estimated 293,000 people live less than 50 metres above usual water flows, putting them potentially within reach of floodwaters.

And the area covered by buildings in potential flood zones increased by nearly 46 percent between 2016 and 2023, the study found.

In the Himalayas, where rivers drop rapidly in height, giving them staggering power, even small changes in temperature or rainfall can have “disproportionate impacts” downstream, it added.

“Hazards are increasing as glaciers retreat, glacial lakes form and mountain permafrost thaws,” Watson said.

“It was only last year that a smaller-scale glacial lake outburst flood, with associated fatalities and infrastructure damage, struck the same river channel as the recent August 26 disaster,” the scientist added.

“The next step is to develop detailed hazard maps that we hope can inform land-use planning, infrastructure development and early warning systems.” – AFP

The growing protests against India’s poll body - & Modi

NEW DELHI – India’s election commission is facing mounting pressure after a newspaper investigation alleged misconduct during a nationwide voter-roll revision.

The *Indian Express* alleged last month that key decisions linked to the large-scale revision exercise – which has seen millions of names removed from draft voter rolls – were likely taken without the approval of two of the three election commissioners.

The Election Commission of India (ECI), a constitutional body, has rejected the allegations. It says all its decisions were unanimous and legally valid.

Opposition parties say legitimate voters are being struck off to benefit Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s ruling party.

Protests demanding that commission chief Gyanesh Kumar step down have grown since the report, with a demonstration in the capital New Delhi tomorrow expected to draw large crowds.

The allegations are a fresh challenge for 76-year-old Modi, in his third term in office, following student protests in July that forced the education minister to resign.

Here is a rundown of the major issues at stake in the latest protest:

What’s the controversy?

The *Indian Express* reported that the poll body has been riven by internal disagreements since the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the voter lists began in 2025.

It said two of the ECI’s three commissioners formally lodged objections more than a dozen times in the last 10 months over key SIR decisions.

Decisions by the three-member poll body should be taken by consensus or a majority.

Why has it sparked anger?

The poll body says the exercise identifies fraudulently registered voters and aims to prevent “foreign illegal immigrants” from casting ballots.

Critics say the drive has disproportionately affected marginalised and minority communities.

Members of Modi’s Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party



Congress party supporters gather as India’s opposition alliance, the INDIA bloc (Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance), leaders leave in a bus to participate in a protest in New Delhi yesterday against the country’s Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar calling for his resignation over alleged irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. – AFP

(BJP) have long alleged that large numbers of undocumented Muslim migrants from neighbouring Bangladesh have fraudulently entered India’s electoral rolls.

How many are excluded?

According to election commission data cited by Indian media, more than 133 million names have been excluded from draft rolls.

That’s roughly the population of Mexico and, in the world’s most populous nation, adds up to about 15 percent of the electorate.

The exclusions include duplicate entries and people found to have died.

The final count of excluded voters, however, will only be clear after claims and objections are processed and final rolls are published.

How big are the protests?

Thousands have taken to the streets in protest, and the youth-led online Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) movement launched fresh demonstrations on October 2 in Mumbai.

The opposition Congress Party has rallied in New Delhi, with key leader Rahul Gandhi briefly detained on both Tuesday and Wednesday.

The CJP, which has millions of followers on social media, succeeded in its campaign to oust the education minister in July over irregularities in exam systems.

The movement has called for another “mass mobilisation”

tomorrow, supported by student groups aligned with left-wing parties.

“Last time when we got together, it was a cabinet minister who had to resign,” said Neha Bora, a student leader who has emerged as one of the faces of the latest protests.

“This time, we will see the CEC (chief election commissioner) being ousted.”

Who is Kumar?

Kumar, 62, is a retired civil servant from the elite Indian Administrative Service.

He took charge as election commission chief in February last year and is due to remain in office until January 2029.

Kumar’s civil services journey began in the southern state of Kerala, whose government launched a probe this month into corruption allegations involving him dating back to 2006.

What do the courts say?

The Supreme Court has ordered the government and election body to explain decisions linked to the voter-roll revision.

The legality of the revision exercise has also been examined by the court.

In May, it allowed the election commission to proceed with the nationwide exercise, while calling for safeguards to protect eligible voters.

Another hearing is due next week. – AFP

Thai opposition files no-confidence motion against PM, 17 ministers

BANGKOK – Thailand’s opposition parties filed a formal no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul and 17 cabinet ministers yesterday, accusing the administration of monopolizing state power and undermining democratic institutions.

Led by People’s Party leader and leader of the opposition, Natthaphong Ruengpanyawut, the bloc submitted the seven-page censure motion, signed by 145 opposition lawmakers, to House Speaker Sophon Zaram.

During a press briefing at parliament, Natthaphong said the primary objective of the censure debate is to expose the so-called “Blue Regime,” a direct reference to the political machinery associated with Anutin’s ruling faction.

“We are seeking a vote of

no confidence against the ‘Blue Regime’ that is currently devouring this country,” Natthaphong said.

The motion outlines several critical allegations against the targeted ministers, highlighted by alleged systemic collusion and manipulation in the recent Senate elections, widespread corruption in local administrative examinations, and gross mismanagement of the ongoing national flood crisis.

Representatives from the Democrat Party, speaking on behalf of the five-party opposition coalition, noted that they have requested five days for the debate due to the unprecedented number of ministers being censured.

The parliamentary session for the no-confidence debate is tentatively expected to be scheduled for late October. – Xinhua



Afghan boys selling carpets wait for customers at a shop in Mazar-i-Sharif on Wednesday. – AFP

India says satellite rules ‘fair’ after Musk claim

NEW DELHI – India yesterday hit back at claims by tech billionaire Elon Musk that unnamed “oligarchs” had blocked his Starlink entry to protect their monopolies, with officials saying government regulations were “fair”.

The potential launch of Starlink, which provides high-speed internet access to remote locations by low Earth orbit satellites, has seen fierce debate in India over issues ranging from predatory pricing to spectrum allocation.

In March 2025, Indian billionaire Mukesh Ambani’s Jio Platforms said it had signed a deal with Musk’s SpaceX to offer

Starlink’s satellite internet service to its customers.

But it has yet to launch and on Wednesday, Musk said in a post on X that it was being “blocked”.

“Unfortunately, we are being blocked by certain oligarchs in order to maintain their monopolistic chokehold on the Indian people,” Musk wrote.

“You can guess who they are... This is a crime against the people of India!”

India’s Ministry of Communications said yesterday that the government had a “fair and non-discriminatory authorisation framework for all telecommunication services”.

It made no mention of Musk, but only a post “being circulated in social media regarding the fairness of India’s regulatory framework for satellite communication services”.

It added telecom licences had been granted to satellite services “as part of its commitment to enable provision of satellite communication services in India”, without specifying the names of the companies.

“Security assessment as part of this process is currently under way in respect of all the three licensees,” it said.

“As and when this process is completed for a licensed entity, it may proceed to the next step”. – AFP

‘Fighting for our future’: France high school students vow no let-up



French police officers clash with protesters during a demonstration of high-school students at Place de la Bastille, in Paris, yesterday, as part of a nationwide protest movement over learning conditions. — AFP

Helen Roxburgh and Alice Hackman

PARIS — Tens of thousands of people thronged a Paris square yesterday demanding better education and less police brutality, as students protested nationwide despite government attempts to ease a crisis that has rocked the country for more than a week.

Students have blocked entrances to hundreds of high schools across the country, with squads of riot police deployed to control the situation — occasionally resulting in violent clashes.

A few fireworks streamed up into the sky as tens of thousands of students from schools and universities rallied in the French capital's Bastille Square yesterday afternoon (local time).

Crowds of students climbed the famous monument at its centre, some waving the French flag and singing the national anthem.

A student sat with his legs dangling on the top of a bus stop, clutching a sign reading: “Reason for absence: Too busy fighting for our future.”

Student demonstrators — many attending high schools called lycées for children aged between 15 and 18 years old — have complained of absent teachers, overloaded timetables, dilapidated classrooms and buildings that cannot cope with rising temperatures.

Jeanne, a 15-year-old student from a top Paris high school, said she wanted to show solidarity with pupils in less privileged areas outside the capital.

“Everyone has the right to be educated at the same level. There shouldn't be people who are more educated than others when we're all in the public education system,” she said.

Marianne, a 20-year-old university student who also did not want to give her second name, said she was also there to protest

excessive police force in recent days of protest.

“For me, that's just unacceptable,” she said.

‘We want action’

While the rallies have been largely peaceful, some demonstrators have started fires and vandalised bus shelters. In response, police have used tear gas, batons and blast balls, prompting rights groups and the children to accuse them of using disproportionate force.

A 15-year-old lost a hand on Monday after police fired a stun grenade, and the government has suspended the use of the weapons in response.

Police yesterday evening said they had used tear gas in Bastille to disperse some “high-risk profiles” who had come into contact with them.

Education Minister Edouard Geffray was set to announce “concrete measures” to address the crisis on yesterday's evening news, the prime minister's office said.

Geffray earlier in the day promised to present an “emergency plan” on teacher replacements within “a few hours or a few days”.

In a televised address on Wednesday evening, Prime Minister Sébastien Lecornu promised a plan to respond to the crisis by the end of October.

Although he denied security forces had been given “orders to confront” the young people, many were unconvinced.

“We don't want words, we want action,” 17-year-old Camille told AFP at a student march in the western city of Nantes.

Outside one high school in Rennes, 18-year-old Hanaa told AFP she was “disappointed and unconvinced” by Lecornu's remarks.

“We expected more from him,” agreed fellow student Salyna, 17.

‘Fundamental issues’

Assane Seck, father of a 15-year-old student in a Paris suburb, told AFP that at his son's school, “a teacher in one subject or another is missing” almost every day.

“There are genuine, fundamental issues that deserve reflection,” he said.

Economy Minister Roland Lescure said this week there was room to address demands for more school resources within the highly constrained 2027 budget, which is facing heated political debate.

In the current draft, education has the second largest increase in funding — after defence — with a boost of 1.4 percent to 90.9 billion euros.

France's spending picture on education is mixed.

A report from the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) found that France spends 24 percent more per student on upper secondary education than the OECD average — but it spends markedly less at earlier stages, particularly primary schools.

The country's recent PISA score — an annual survey which assesses the performance of education systems by measuring the skills of 15-year-old students — was France's worst since the rankings began in 2000.

Hundreds of students, police and teaching staff have been injured since the protests began, and more than 6,500 people — mostly children — have been arrested.

Police have opened 18 internal investigations into allegations of misconduct.

The unrest has erupted just months ahead of the 2027 election to choose a successor to centrist President Emmanuel Macron, with far-right veteran candidate Marine Le Pen riding high in the polls.

— AFP

Maduro, wife hit with new US torture charges

NEW YORK — The United States yesterday filed new torture charges against ousted Venezuelan president Nicolás Maduro and his wife Cilia Flores, bolstering a mounting criminal case against the pair held in US custody.

Maduro and Flores already face drug trafficking and firearms charges in the United States after they were snatched from their Caracas compound in an extraordinary US military raid in January.

A new court filing shows both are now additionally charged with conspiracy to commit torture, stating that they “inflicted severe physical and mental pain and suffering.”

The alleged goal was to “repress and punish political opposition, silence dissent and perceived dissent, preserve and protect the power and authority of the members of the conspiracy, and intimidate, harass, and neutralise their opponents, including through kidnappings.”

Prosecutors detailed apparent instances of unidentified victims, including US citizens, being shocked with electric wires, waterboarded and raped while in Venezuelan detention.

In a 2022 instance, Venezuelan authorities allegedly tortured an American who they accused of plotting to assassinate Maduro.

“That torture included electric shock to [the victim's] arms, legs, and genitals; asphyxiation; beatings; deprivation of food and water; and forced injections of a substance that caused [the victim] to experience seizures,” the filing states.

‘Prisoner of war’

Maduro and Flores are slated for a trial in New York next June and are currently being held in a Brooklyn jail.

US prosecutors claim that Maduro used state power to protect and promote illegal drug smuggling, and that he allied himself with cartels to ship tonnes of cocaine into the United States.

Maduro has denied the charges he originally faced: “narco-terrorism” conspiracy, cocaine importation conspiracy, possession of machine guns and destructive devices as well as conspiracy to possess machine guns and destructive devices.

He has described himself as a “prisoner of war” and said the US military kidnapped him.

Flores has similarly pleaded not guilty to cocaine importation conspiracy, possession of machine guns and destructive devices and conspiracy to possess machine guns and destructive devices.

She was additionally charged yesterday with “narco-terrorism” conspiracy, the court filing showed.

The pair have asked a US judge to dismiss the charges against them, claiming they have immunity as president and first lady of a sovereign country.

Since Maduro's capture, vice president Delcy Rodríguez has governed Venezuela as interim leader under intense pressure from US President Donald Trump's administration.

US energy firms have this year signed a raft of multi-billion-US-dollar deals with Venezuela, which has agreed to grant the United States control of a huge chunk of its vast oil reserves.

— AFP

US suspending Microsoft from visa programme: Vance

WASHINGTON, DC — US Vice President JD Vance said yesterday that software giant Microsoft was being suspended from a key visa programme as part of a fraud crackdown by President Donald Trump's administration.

Top US universities including Harvard that have long been in Trump's crosshairs over supposed left-wing bias also face an investigation over alleged visa fraud, said Vance.

Vance — who is widely considered to be the frontrunner for the Republican presidential nomination in 2028 — was named by Trump to head an anti-fraud task force earlier this year.

“Our message to Microsoft is: you're a great American company, but you've got to hire great American workers,” the vice president told a press conference at the White House.

Vance accused Microsoft of abusing the H-1B visa programme for highly-skilled foreign workers, saying they had “laid off 6,000 American workers while replacing them with 6,300 H-1Bs.”

Software firm Adobe was also being suspended from the visa program, he said.

Trump has compared Vance to legendary 1920s law enforcement agent Eliot Ness of the “Untouchables” after a series of fraud probes that have often targeted Democrat-run states and migrant communities.

Republicans hope the issue will resonate with voters ahead of midterm elections in November, in which the Iran war and the cost of living could cost the party its control of Congress.

Nine elite universities, also including Yale, Stanford and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) would also be probed over a separate visa programme for study exchanges, Vance said.

“Something weird is going on at these universities, they're using these visas way too much,” Vance said, accusing the institutions of using them to use cheaper foreign researchers.

The Trump administration has been pressing a campaign against a series of major US universities for alleged left-wing bias and antisemitism, moving to freeze billions of US dollars in federal funding for Harvard in particular.

— AFP

Canadian poet and classicist Anne Carson wins 'crazy' Nobel

Pia Ohlin

STOCKHOLM – The Nobel Prize in Literature was awarded yesterday to Canadian poet Anne Carson for her modern twists on Greek mythology and antiquity that have inspired new forms of writing.

The 76-year-old – who announced in 2024 that she has Parkinson's disease – was honoured "for her bold and inventive oeuvre that, in playful dialogue with the classical tradition, has created new forms for contemporary literature," the Swedish Academy said.

"They're all crazy," Carson said of Academy members' decision to honour her, in an interview with public broadcaster RUV in Iceland where she has lived part of the year since 2008 and has become a citizen.

The permanent secretary of the Academy, Ingrid Carlberg, earlier told reporters that she had spoken briefly with Carson to inform her of the prize.

"All she had time to tell me was that she is for the moment in Iceland, where she's listening to the wind."

Asked by RUV on a blustery roadside if she thought the Nobel would change her readership, Carson, holding tightly to her cap so it wouldn't blow away, replied: "I'll get a sticker on the front of my books."

Carson had at first ignored the Academy's repeated phone calls.

"There were all these phone calls which I kept turning off because... I just always turn off the phone when it rings," she said.

Her husband convinced her to call back, she told the Nobel Foundation.

A professor of classics with a background in dead languages, literature, anthropology and history, she was described by *The New York Times* in 2001 as "one of the great pasticheurs."*

Her unique contemporary poetry earned her several key literary prizes in the 1990s, including the 1996 Lannan Award and the 1997 Pushcart Prize.

A year later, "Autobiography of Red: A Novel in Verse" – loosely based on the Greek myth of the monster Geryon and Herakles but transformed into a modern tale of a gay love triangle – received widespread praise.

'Author for our time'

The Academy singled out her 2010 poem "Nox", printed on one continuous sheet of paper in homage to her brother who died in 2000, as "an unforgettable work".

"Palpable here is a deep sense of loss that works its way up from below. The result is a creation as sculptural as it is literary, an epitaph in the form of a box containing an accordion-fold-out of pictures, letters and other written texts



This picture taken on May 8, 2015 shows Canadian poet Anne Carson performing her work "Antigonick" at the Moderna Museet art gallery in Stockholm, Sweden. – AFP

dedicated to her dead brother."

It also highlighted her translations from Classical Greek, which "may be regarded as independent works in their own right".

Academy member Steve Sem-Samberg told the Nobel Foundation Carson was "an author for our time", connecting the contemporary with antiquity.

"She uses the myths, the characters, the stories, the fables from that time to put them into a modern context. And the mixture between those two gives an enormous energy to her writing," he said.

"When you're inside her work, you immediately recognise her voice and her themes. Nobody

writes like her," he told AFP.

In her own interview with the Nobel Foundation, Carson described her writing as "inadvertant", coming about while "always trying to do something else."

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney called the win "an extraordinary achievement and a proud moment for Canada."

Women under-represented

In the London Review of Books in 2024, Carson said Parkinson's had "disintegrated" her handwriting, a "particularly mortifying" symptom.

"I used to take pleasure in writing in notebooks, shelves of them, day

after day, year after year. Now the upright strokes bend or break or go in all directions, vowels shrink to blobs, slant loses its smooth smart angle, it all looks embarrassing."

Carson had been mentioned as a possible Nobel laureate for years, though some experts said the Academy was unlikely to honour another Canadian so soon after the 2013 prize to short story author Alice Munro.

Many literary critics had expected the award to go to a woman this year, given the frequent criticism directed at the Academy over the overrepresentation of Western white men among its picks.

There have been just 19 women laureates out of 122 since the Nobel literature prize was first awarded in 1901.

A 2018 sex assault scandal left the Academy in tatters and more than half of its 18 members were replaced.

Since then, every other literature laureate has been a woman.

Last year, the award went to Hungary's Laszlo Krasznahorkai, whose works explore themes of postmodern dystopia.

The Nobel Prize comes with a diploma, a gold medal and \$1.2 million.

*One who mimics the literary or artistic style of another. – Wiktionary

Anne Carson: modern takes on Greek classics

Michel Comte

OTTAWA – Canadian-born poet, essayist and translator Anne Carson, who was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature yesterday, brings a modern twist to mysticism and antiquity in her unclassifiable writings about love, desire and despair.

She is a professor of classics with a background in dead languages, literature, anthropology and history.

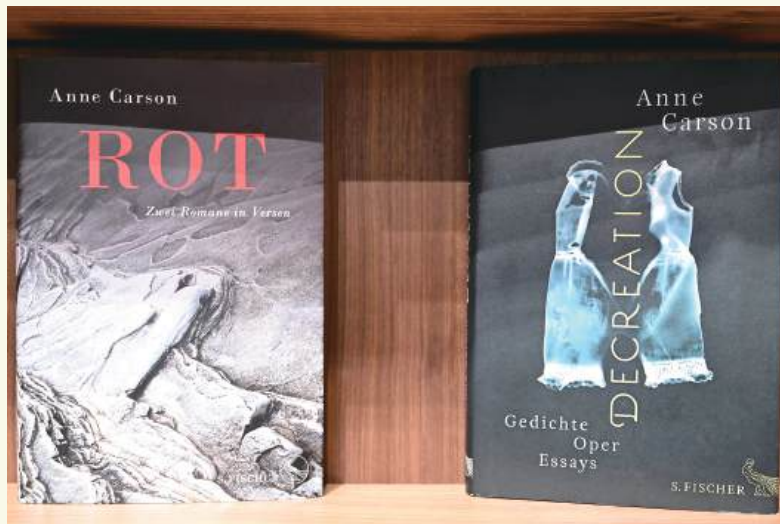
Her work, however, was ignored for years, until a series of recent critical and commercial hits – and awards including the Princess of Asturias Award for Letters in 2020 and now the Nobel Prize.

The 76-year-old Carson is notoriously private, preferring interviews by email from her home in Ann Arbor, Michigan, where she lives with her husband Robert Currie. The couple also spends time in Iceland, where they received citizenship in 2022.

Among her many admirers are literary luminaries Alice Munro, Michael Ondaatje, Harold Bloom and Susan Sontag.

"She is one of the few writers writing in English that I would read anything that she wrote," said Sontag, quoted in *The New York Times* in 2000.

"When you're reading her work, you're taking in a huge range of intellect and wit and emotion,



Books of 2026 Nobel Prize laureate Canadian writer Anne Carson are displayed at the S. Fischer publishing house booth during the 78th Frankfurt book fair, the world's biggest trade fair for books, in Frankfurt am Main, western Germany, yesterday. – AFP

which are not usually found in the same person," said Ondaatje, also quoted in the newspaper.

Inspired by the ancients

Born in Toronto on June 21, 1950, Carson is the second child of a banker and a housewife.

She was introduced to Hellenic literature, which deeply influenced her writings, by a Latin instructor in high school who agreed to tutor her during lunch hours.

Carson twice dropped out of university before returning to complete her doctorate. She went on to teach at several respected universities in Canada and the

United States, including the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

Her publishing career began in 1986 with "Eros the Bittersweet: An Essay," which charts the concept of "eros" in ancient Greek poetry and showcases her unique approach.

"In the abbreviated, free-associative mode that she instantly established as her trademark, any thought might set off any other thought, or even a demi-thought," said the *Times* in 2001.

Opposites attract

Carson's unique contemporary

poetry earned her several key literary prizes in the 1990s, including the 1996 Lannan Award and the 1997 Pushcart Prize.

A year later, "Autobiography of Red: A Novel in Verse" – loosely based on the Greek myth of the monster Geryon and Herakles but transformed into a modern tale of a gay love triangle – received widespread praise.

"She brings the ancient Greeks alive, and makes them speak in the 20th century without betraying what's been bequeathed to us from antiquity," said academic Emmet Robbins in the *Times* in 2001.

"Men in the Off Hours" (2001) is a collection of poetry and prose in which Carson characteristically mixes opposites – classical/modern, cinema/print, narrative/verse – and reimagines famous figures.

In 2001, Carson also became the first woman to receive the T.S. Eliot Prize for Poetry, and in 2010 she won the PEN Award for Poetry in Translation.

Timeless struggle

In 2014, Carson received a second Griffin Poetry Prize for her verse novel "Red Doc>," a kind of sequel to her acclaimed "Autobiography of Red."

"To engage so fluidly, so originally and compellingly, with a story first told more than 3,000

years ago, is astonishing: her ambition is one thing; the fact that it is so completely achieved is, frankly, something else," said *The Guardian* in 2013, the year the book was published.

Her spoken and sung performance piece "Norma Jeane Baker of Troy," released in 2019, was inspired by Euripides' "Helen." Carson superimposes Marilyn Monroe over the legendary character from Greek mythology.

And then in 2021, she released "The Trojan Women: A Comic" – a comic book reimagining of the Euripides classic.

Despite her exceptional writing skills, Carson says she struggles with language, its inaccuracy and clumsiness.

"We're talking about the struggle to drag a thought over from the mush of the unconscious into some kind of grammar, syntax, human sense," she told *The New York Times* in 2013.

"I feel I am blundering in concepts too fine for me."

In an essay published in the *London Review of Books* in 2024, Carson revealed that she had been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease.

"It is hard to live within the word 'degenerative,' which means that, however I strive, I do not win," she wrote.

– AFP

‘Stunned’ Madrid mourns pensioner who sparked housing protests

Robin Bjalón

MADRID – One of hundreds of housing protesters camping in central Madrid, Aitana López felt duty-bound to pay tribute to a pensioner whose eviction sparked a movement that culminated in early elections.

The death of 87-year-old Maricarmen Abascal on Wednesday drove a “stunned” López to lay a candle yesterday at an improvised shrine in the Spanish capital’s Puerta del Sol square, the epicentre of the protests.

“Thank you for everything, we will never forget you,” read a message on the candle, which accompanied flowers and a placard calling Abascal “the grandmother of an entire country”.

Abascal, who used a wheelchair, died in hospital two weeks after her eviction from the Madrid apartment where she had lived for 70 years.

Taken away on a stretcher after the real estate company that owned the flat drastically hiked the rent, she became the face of Spain’s long-running housing crisis and the catalyst for nationwide protests.

“She’s the one who started all of this,” López told AFP, referring to the camps and demonstrations that have placed housing at the heart of a snap general election on November 29.

“At the very least, I wanted to come down, lay a candle... to make an appearance,” said the 25-year-old, who studies fashion.

A small group of people huddled around the tribute in Puerta del Sol yesterday some visibly moved, while tourists tried to navigate an obstacle course of tents and candles.

On Wednesday night (local



A portrait of 87-year-old pensioner Maricarmen Abascal, whose eviction sparked protests over Spain's housing crisis, is displayed at a housing rights activists' camp in Valencia, eastern Spain, yesterday. Abascal passed away on Wednesday, aged 87.

time), protesters in the square wept and embraced each other after learning the news. Hundreds marched towards parliament, some calling the death a “murder”.

A deal had been reached with the real estate firm allowing Abascal to return home at a lower rent, but she ultimately spent her final days in hospital.

“She didn’t have to die this way. Maricarmen wanted to die in her house,” said Valeria Racu, a spokeswoman for the Madrid Tenants’ Union, which supported Abascal in her years-long legal battle against the company.

‘Another victim’

Luis Rodríguez, 64, said it was “outrageous” that an elderly woman was kicked out of her home, calling her “yet another victim” of Spain’s ruthless housing market.

“She represented the last straw”

of popular anger at unaffordable housing, said Rodríguez, who has lived in Madrid all his life, describing real estate prices in Spain as “crazy”.

Attempting to respond to the popular pressure, the left-wing government hastily agreed two decrees that included greater protections against evictions for vulnerable tenants and the automatic renewal of contracts.

But the minority coalition failed to pass the measures in parliament, prompting Socialist Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez to call the early vote on Monday.

For Juana Sotillos, a 68-year-old pensioner, Abascal “has been used as a political tool by one side and the other”, saying Sánchez “has done nothing” on housing during his eight years in power.

Tenants’ unions have called for a national minute’s silence at noon (local time) today.

– AFP

Guinea-Bissau moves towards postponement of Dec election

BISSAU – Guinea-Bissau’s electoral commission announced yesterday that conditions had not been met to organise its December 6 presidential and legislative vote, which was meant to restore civilian rule after a coup last November.

The perennially unstable west African nation has been gripped by significant political and security turmoil for several weeks, as the December deadline approaches.

Junta leader General Horta N’Tam summoned the National Electoral Commission (CNE) for a meeting, its vice president Felisberta Moura Vaz told reporters.

She said the body had informed him that the “conditions necessary to organise elections by December 6 will not be met”.

When asked by journalists about the possibility of delaying the vote, Vaz replied: “I will not say that the elections will be postponed. That is a matter for the transitional president”, another title held by N’Tam.

The army in Guinea-Bissau seized power last November just days after a presidential vote, overthrowing president Umaro Sissoco Embaló and suspending the electoral process.

The junta established under N’Tam, a close associate of Embaló, had set December 6 as the date for presidential and legislative elections meant to restore civilian rule.

Embaló had told AFP that he would return from exile in Morocco and stand in the elections, but the junta last week said that “security conditions” were not met for Embaló’s return.

N’Tam’s prime minister, Ilidio Vieira Te, said he as well had met with N’Tam yesterday and that “the conditions for holding credible elections do not exist”.

He said that “no political party is yet in an ideal position to contest the

elections” and that “the leadership of most of these parties is outdated. This calls for a renewal of the grassroots organisations”.

Embaló, junta ties

Many observers suspected Embaló of orchestrating the November 26 coup to halt an election process he appeared to be losing.

The coup occurred one day before provisional results were to be announced.

However, the junta has more recently taken several steps suggesting it is distancing itself from the former president.

Embaló’s barring from return last week came amid reports of discontent within the presidential guard, a unit seen as loyal to the former president.

Several members of the guard were subsequently disarmed and placed under supervision at military headquarters.

And speaking at a ceremony in the capital Bissau on Wednesday, N’Tam called on guard members still holding weapons to hand them over as soon as possible.

In August Guinea-Bissau’s leaders held a referendum in which voters ushered in a constitutional change that gives the president more powers.

The junta said the change would stabilise institutions before the elections, but the opposition urged citizens to boycott the process.

Guinea-Bissau, a Portuguese-speaking country wedged between Senegal and Guinea, has experienced five coups and numerous attempted putsches since independence from Portugal in 1974, after an over decade-long war of liberation.

The nation’s crippling poverty and political chaos have also made it a fertile ground for corruption and drug smuggling.

– AFP

Brazil, China not in statement on overproduction after G20 talks

WASHINGTON, DC – Thirteen countries involved in recent G20 trade talks have joined the United States in a statement against excess industrial capacity, Washington said yesterday, but the group excludes members like Brazil and China.

The joint statement, also supported by the European Union, expressed collective resolve to address excess capacity and production – a criticism commonly targeted at Beijing.

It said the countries would begin by focusing on sectors like autos and electric vehicles, as well as batteries, chips and solar panels.

Signatories included Argentina, Australia, Canada, France, Germany, India, and Japan. They also include Poland, which was invited to the table this year.

But G20 members Brazil, China, Indonesia, Russia and Saudi Arabia were not on the list.

For now, the US Trade Representative’s office said it has gathered officials from the supporting economies to begin work on the issue on the sidelines of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Trade Committee.

The move comes a week after trade ministers from the Group of 20 major economies gathered in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, for two days of meetings.

But there, officials failed to reach agreements on countering overcapacity, seen as driving costs down unfairly, and forced labour.

– AFP

exposição de fotografia 攝影展 photography exhibition

Põe-se o Sol, nasce a Lua...



展覽《日落月出》 Sunset, Moonrise...

António Duarte Mil-Homens 安千民

abertura
開幕
opening:

9/10
18h30

10/10 - 8/11/2026
10h - 22h

Casa de Vidro
塔石玻璃屋
Glass House

organização | 主辦單位 | organization



apoio | 支持 | support





A pitchside advertisement reading "Don't Change the Rules in the Middle of the Game" as part of a campaign organised by the betting companies' association is seen during the Brazilian Championship Serie A football match between Botafogo and Vasco da Gama at the Nilton Santos Stadium in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on Wednesday.

- AFP

Football shorts

Man City must 'stick together' during crisis, says Haaland

Premier League — MANCHESTER — Erling Haaland said Manchester City must "stick together" in uncertain times after being found guilty of over 100 charges of breaking Premier League financial rules.

City face a severe points penalty or even expulsion from the Premier League after an independent commission found they used "sham" commercial contracts to inflate revenue and cut costs by over £900 million (US\$1.2 billion) between 2009 and 2018.

Haaland did not join City until 2022 but it is the current squad that could bear the burden of any sanction.

Premier League leaders City return to action for the first time since the guilty verdict was revealed at Liverpool on Sunday.

"We have to stay positive, look ahead and try to win football games and try to enjoy the situation and win the game," Haaland told the club's website.

"We have to stick together, and we have to spread the love to each other.

"So yeah, stick together, enjoy the ride and smile."

Haaland signed a contract until 2034 last year, but his future is likely to depend on the severity of any sanction.

The Norwegian has scored 169 goals in 205 games for the club and also shone in spearheading his country's run to the World Cup quarter-finals.

Europe's top teams would be lining up for the 26-year-old should City face dropping out of the Premier League or even a prolonged spell without Champions League football.

"I care a lot about City, I have to say," added Haaland.

"I care a lot about the fans because I'm a fan myself - I feel with them as well."

- AFP

UEFA president Ceferin to stand for re-election in 2027

UEFA PARIS — UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin yesterday told the 55 member national associations of European football's governing body that he would stand for a final re-election next year.

The announcement reversed the Slovenian's previous decision that he would not seek re-election and came following "unanimous" support from the national associations, UEFA said in a statement.

The 58-year-old was first elected in 2016 to replace Michel Platini, who resigned after the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) banned him from football-related activities over a FIFA corruption case.

Ceferin will stand for a final four-year term at UEFA's congress in Kazakhstan next April.

"I want to thank the national associations for their trust," Ceferin said following yesterday's meeting in Berlin.

"We have faced extraordinary challenges over the past years, and we have faced them as one team.

"There is still important work ahead, and I have therefore accepted their request.

"My ambition remains the same: to keep European football united, make our game stronger and leave UEFA ready for the next generation."

In their statement, UEFA said that over the previous months the 55 national associations had "unanimously" asked Ceferin to reconsider his previous intention not to seek re-election.

"The meeting also focused on the future governance and leadership of FIFA," said UEFA, who have led opposition to Gianni Infantino's leadership of world football's governing body.

One of their proposals is that the FIFA president "leads, not manages".

- AFP

Argentina friendlies no fairy tale for African footballers

Football

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast - When Benin and Burkina Faso flew to Buenos Aires for friendlies against Argentina - including superstar Lionel Messi's swansong- it would have seemed like dreamland for players who rarely if ever rub shoulders with the aristocrats of the 'Beautiful Game'.

In reality, the organisation was a shambles, a member of the Benin delegation told AFP.

The flight to Buenos Aires took not hours but days. There was no hot water in the hotel. Training facilities were "not up to scratch".

And the African football associations invited didn't receive any of the profits from the match, which potentially generated millions of dollars in revenue and TV rights, he said.

Before the match, the state-owned daily *La Nation* in Cotonou looked forward breathlessly to the team "showcasing Benin to the whole world" and the national football association revelled in the "privilege" of being selected to play.

"I'm going to tell Messi, 'You are a god'," Benin defender Mohamed Tijani informed the Argentine press of the country's legendary No 10. "He's the best player in the world."

The Cheetahs lost 3-0.

Whilst there is no standard practice for organising international professional friendlies, smaller African teams generally rely on agencies to manage their away fixtures and don't necessarily make any profit from the games.

"African football associations

accept these deals because everything is taken care of. It saves them having to find opponents and organise friendlies," explained an expert on African football who asked not to be named.

"But it's true the travel and accommodation arrangements are substandard."

Airport chaos

The Burkina friendly turned into a farce.

On the eve of kick-off, the Stallions were still stranded in Morocco after their connecting flight to Buenos Aires was cancelled.

When organisers eventually found them a plane at the last minute, the senior squad was so annoyed it refused to board and Burkina ended up hastily despatching an under-23 team.

The young players arrived jet-lagged just a few hours before the match and were predictably thrashed 7-0 by this year's World Cup finalists.

Piqued, Burkina's military ruler Ibrahim Traore complained the country's football was "in a sorry state" and threatened "significant decisions" to "remedy it".

"The next international window in November is fast approaching," Burkinabe Football Federation official Ibrahim Dianda warned on Facebook.

"If the relationship between the stakeholders doesn't change, we risk a repeat of these difficulties and the consequences could be even more regrettable," he wrote.

Cashing in

Fans want to know who is to

blame for the humiliation.

Could it be the African federations that accept these one-sided deals?

Or the Argentine Football Association (AFA), which is accused by some of capitalising on its high profile and on appearances by Messi - the country's most famous living export - to maximise revenue?

Whatever the underlying motives, the AFA is in financial difficulty, faces a money laundering probe and has a president, Claudio Tapia, suspected of tax evasion.

In Argentina, some newspapers and social media channels pour scorn on what they sniffily refer to as "chatarra" (cheap, low-quality) fixtures.

Messi's side also played Mauritania (110th in the FIFA rankings) and Zambia (91st) in World Cup warm-ups this year, beating them 2-1 and 5-0 respectively.

His team also pocketed a hefty sum - several million dollars - for travelling to Luanda in November 2025 for a friendly marking Angola's 50th Independence Day celebrations.

An assist and a goal by the eight-time Ballon d'Or winner ensured a 2-0 victory over the African side.

In reaction to the uproar in Burkina over the national team's treatment, match organiser Eurodata Sport issued a terse statement shared online by the AFA that it had "honoured its contractual commitments".

They declined to respond to AFP's request for comment.

- AFP



Secretary general of the Senegalese Football Federation Abdoulaye Sow speaks to journalists at the end of a hearing at the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) on Senegal's appeal against Morocco following a chaotic Africa Cup of Nations football final, in Lausanne, Switzerland yesterday. Nearly ten months after a chaotic Africa Cup of Nations final, the dispute is set to reach its conclusion in Lausanne, where the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) will hear Senegal's appeal against Morocco being awarded the title. Senegal had initially won the January 18 final 1-0 after extra time, in a match marred by a lengthy walk-off over a controversial late penalty. - AFP

FIFA
For the Game. For the World.

Former Spurs defender Vega to stand for FIFA presidency

PARIS - Former Tottenham defender Ramon Vega has become the first person to announce he intends to run against incumbent Gianni Infantino in the FIFA presidential election next year.

The 55-year-old former Switzerland centre-back has been working in finance since he retired in 2004.

It is not the first time, though, that Vega has announced his intention to run for the top job at world football's governing body.

He had considered running

against Infantino following the resignation of Sepp Blatter in the wake of a corruption scandal in 2015.

And he tried to challenge his fellow Swiss in 2022, but failed to garner sufficient support to make it onto the ballot.

"The situation has evolved a lot since then," Vega told AFP, adding FIFA's member associations were "much more open to change" than when he previously sought to stand.

"I am standing because my life

has prepared me to serve the game," Vega added in an 11-page dossier announcing his candidacy.

"I believe I have a duty and a social responsibility to protect and defend football - its integrity, its people and its future."

Pressure has been building on Infantino, who has lost the support of numerous FIFA member associations, since his aborted plan to create a commercial subsidiary to run FIFA's biggest events, such as the

World Cup and Club World Cup.

Last week, the Swiss Football Association became the latest to withdraw its support for Infantino, citing concerns over his record on transparency, accountability and institutional responsibility.

"Faith and trust across the football family have been deeply damaged," said Vega in his dossier.

"We must rebuild both, restore FIFA's credibility and reunite the global football family."

It is not clear whether Vega would be able to stand.

He must first gain the backing of at least five of FIFA's 211 member federations, but also be proposed by one of those.

And the rules stipulate a candidate must have been involved in football for two of the previous five years, and pass an eligibility review.

Potential candidates have until November 18 to meet those criteria.

- AFP

'I love that challenge': Hamilton prays for rain in Singapore

F1

SINGAPORE – Lewis Hamilton said yesterday he would love a wet race at the Singapore Grand Prix this weekend after rain in Malaysia a week ago saw him drive masterfully to finish third despite starting on unsuitable dry tyres.

There was frustration at the Sepang circuit when the cars could not get going straight away on the wet track because of a software glitch.

Several drivers, including Hamilton, ground to a halt on the first formation lap, causing the start procedure to be aborted.

When the race eventually got going almost an hour later, the rain

had gone and within about nine laps the track had dried out.

Hamilton would like to see races start in treacherous conditions.

"Wet-weather races aren't the same as we used to have, for sure," lamented the seven-time world champion, 41, who began his F1 career with McLaren in 2007.

"I've had great races in 2008 in the rain. I love racing in the rain.

"I'm like 'let's get going' under extreme conditions, that's really where we get to test ourselves.

"And is it more risky? Absolutely. That's why when I was out on the slick tyre (in Malaysia) it was the trickiest conditions. It's wet and I'm on slicks.

"But I love that challenge and that's what racing is - where you have to drive by the seat of your pants."

Rain could play a part in both tomorrow's sprint race and Sunday's grand prix at the Marina Bay Street Circuit.

The additional sprint race this year means there is only one Friday practice session for the drivers and teams to get up to speed.

"It's exciting to come here, to Singapore, and you only have one session," said Hamilton.

"Everyone's in the same boat - (practice) could be good, it could be not good.

"We'll see how it goes tomorrow. [today]" – AFP



Red Bull's Dutch driver Max Verstappen walks in the paddock before the Formula One Singapore Grand Prix night race in Singapore yesterday. Verstappen said yesterday he was determined to settle his "unfinished business" at the Singapore Grand Prix, where he has never won.

The Red Bull driver took his first victory of 2026 at the Bahrain Grand Prix in Malaysia last weekend, the 72nd time that he has stood on the top step of the podium in a career that has brought him four world titles.

But none of those wins have come in Singapore where a bumpy track, slow corners and high humidity seem to favour other cars.

– AFP

Zhu Sibing, Zhou Qihao stun top seeds as Chinese paddlers surge at China Smash

Table tennis

BEIJING – Chinese qualifier Zhu Sibing continued her giant-killing run at the 2026 WTT China Smash here yesterday, upsetting fourth-seeded countrywoman Kuai Man in five games to reach her first WTT Grand Smash quarterfinal, while Zhou Qihao swept third seed Tomokazu Harimoto in straight games in the men's singles round of 16.

Zhu, ranked 134th in the world, defeated Kuai 5-11, 12-10, 9-11, 11-9, 11-7 to extend her winning streak to six matches since the qualifying rounds. The 26-year-old had already stunned 13th seed Joo Cheon-hui of South Korea in the round of 64 and edged Chinese Taipei's Chien Tung-Chuan in five games to reach the last 16.

"It was an internal match against Kuai Man, and we are quite familiar with each other because we train together a lot," Zhu said. "We know each other's tactics a bit. Today was indeed my first time beating her, and I had prepared well for the difficulties before the match."

Against Kuai, a two-time WTT Grand Smash finalist, Zhu dropped the opening game but saved two game points in the second to level. She fell behind again in the fourth before coming from 4-8 down to force a decider, which she controlled from start to finish, converting her second of four match points to become the fifth qualifier to reach a WTT Grand Smash women's singles quarterfinal.

Asked how she came back after falling behind, Zhu said: "I think I kept a very good mindset. I haven't beaten her much before, so I went into the match thinking of fighting her and bringing out my best."

Defending champion Wang Manyu also advanced, but was pushed to five games by teammate Shi Xunhao. Wang recovered from a game down to lead 2-1, then saved six game points in the fourth before missing her only match point. Six winners in a row at the start of the fifth gave Wang a perfect start, and



Shi Xunhao of China serves during the women's singles round of 16 match against Wang Manyu of China at 2026 World Table Tennis (WTT) China Smash in Beijing, yesterday.

– Xinhua

while Shi narrowed the gap to 8-7, it was just too little, too late for the challenger.

In other women's singles action, South Korea's Shin Yubin finally beat Japan's Hina Hayata after 10 previous international meetings, while Wang Yidi survived an all-Chinese encounter against Chen Yi and Chen Xingtong ousted another Japanese Satsuki Odo 3-0.

The win sets Shin up for a quarterfinal showdown against Wang Manyu, and Wang Yidi will next meet third seed Miwa Harimoto, the winner over another Chinese, He Zhuojia.

Orawan Paranang, a 101st-ranked Thai who produced the tournament's biggest shock on Wednesday by eliminating world No. 1 Sun Yingsha, failed to repeat her heroic feat, losing in straight games to Honoka Hashimoto.

In the men's singles, Zhou Qihao produced a flawless performance to defeat world No. 3 Harimoto 11-9, 11-8, 11-9, avenging two previous losses to the Japanese star. Zhou came back from 7-9 down to take the opener, a feat he repeated in the third game to seal the win.

"We had played twice before, and I lost both times. I worked on my technical and tactical plan specifically for this opponent before the match, and I executed it from

the outset. I think he failed to adapt effectively," Zhou said.

"The first game was crucial. Coming back from 7-9 down to win it had a big impact on the momentum of the match," he added. Zhou will face South Korea's ninth seed Jang Woo-jin in Friday's quarterfinals.

Wen Ruibo was the only other Chinese player left in the men's singles draw, but the 13th seed lost in five games to Sweden's Truls Moregard in the last match of the day.

Also yesterday, newly-crowned world No. 1 Sora Matsushima of Japan defeated Chinese Taipei's Kuo Guan-Hong 11-6, 5-11, 11-6, 11-4. Kuo had earlier eliminated China's Liang Jingkun in the previous round.

In doubles play, Wen Ruibo and Yuan Lichen saw off Singapore pair Izaak Quek and Koen Pang, coming out as the home team's sole representatives in men's doubles semifinals, while Wang Yidi and Jiang Yiyi swept Romania's Bernadette Szocs and Elizabeta Samara 3-0 to seal a women's doubles semifinal berth. Wang Manyu/Kuai Man and Chen Yi/Li Yihui also advanced.

Chinese Taipei's Lin Yun-ju and Cheng I-Ching will vie for the mixed doubles title against Lim Jong-hoon and Shin of South Korea today.

– Xinhua

Teenager Andreeva seals China Open semi-final with Bartunkova

Tennis

BEIJING – Russian teenager Mirra Andreeva pushed through two tie-breaks to beat her compatriot Ekaterina Alexandrova 7-6 (7/4), 7-6 (7/3) at the China Open yesterday, powering into a semi-final clash with Nikola Bartunkova.

Andreeva, the 19-year-old fourth seed, is the favourite for the tournament in Beijing now that a series of upsets have knocked out her more esteemed rivals.

The French Open champion dropped just three points to grab a two-game lead but still needed a tie-break to edge 28th-ranked Alexandrova in the first set.

Both players struggled to extend rallies in a sparsely populated stadium as they tumbled into another tie-break.

Andreeva found the breakthrough with a masterful forehand to go 3-2 ahead, then held her nerve, dropping just one more point before crossing the finish line.

"I am very happy that we finished this match, because I knew if it (went) to the third set it's going to be really tough for both of us," Andreeva said.

"She played unbelievable,"

the teenager said of her 31-year-old opponent. "What a match."

Earlier, world number 34 Bartunkova stunned her Czech compatriot Karolina Muchova 6-3, 6-0 as she sealed the win in just 66 minutes.

The 20-year-old won five consecutive games in 19 minutes in the first set as her seventh-seeded opponent struggled to respond.

Muchova saved five set points but it was not enough to hold back Bartunkova, who had already ousted second-seeded Aryna Sabalenka from the tournament in Beijing.

She raced into to another five-game lead in the second set and gave Muchova no chance of a reprieve, forcing her into firing long to seal a win she described as a "dream come true".

"Honestly I don't know. It was (an) unbelievable match," Bartunkova said on court.

"She's a great player and also a great human being.

"It was a really tough match today, but I was just trying to put my best tennis, and I did it."

Today, China's Zheng Qinwen plays Ukraine's Elina Svitolina, and Poland's Iga Swiatek faces Belgium's Elise Mertens, each gunning for a semi-final spot.

– AFP

Marc Marquez vows to 'attack' Martin's lead at Indonesian MotoGP

MotoGP

JAKARTA – Defending champion Marc Marquez vowed to go on the "attack" yesterday as he chases down compatriot Jorge Martin at the top of the MotoGP standings.

Marquez won in Japan last week to trim fellow Spaniard Martin's overall championship lead to two points with six events of the season remaining.

"I will try to attack every single circuit. This is the target," the Ducati rider said ahead of the Indonesian MotoGP in Lombok this weekend.

"I will try to do my best, and the most important thing is that... I feel a bit better.

"We've set up the bike in a different way, so let's see."

Marquez's win at Motegi on Sunday put the seven-time world champion back within touching distance of the championship lead after losing ground in the previous race in Austria.

Martin, on Aprilia, is top with 333 points, with Marquez on 331 and Italy's Marco Bezzecchi in third place on 284.

"I feel confident, not because of the results, but because of the feeling I'm getting with the bike," Martin said.

"I feel faster and faster, for sure. Now it seems like we have a solution to every problem that I feel." – AFP

Searing AIDS drama ‘Elsinore’ opens London film festival

LONDON – The searing drama “Elsinore” starring Olivia Colman and Andrew Scott in a true story about an actor dying with AIDS preparing to play Hamlet opened the London Film Festival on Wednesday.

Directed by Simon Stone (“The Dig”), it raises the curtain on the 2026 festival which showcases 251 films from 88 countries until October 18.

Set in the late 1980s as the AIDS epidemic is beginning to ravage London’s gay community, Scott plays actor Ian Charleson, who had been acclaimed for his role in the 1981 Oscar-winning “Chariots of Fire”, as he rehearses for “Hamlet” at London’s National Theatre.

He confides to the play’s director that he has been diagnosed with AIDS and has months to live, as he takes on the role of Shakespeare’s character haunted by his own mortality.

Despite his impending death, Charleson managed to carry out 24 three-hour performances, before dying seven weeks later in 1990 aged just 40.

“He was a real hero for doing it,” Scott told AFP on the red carpet before the screening.

“[It’s] a story that I think needs to be told about art and about this extraordinary man who was so courageous and talented and who was taken from us too quickly,” he added.

Scott’s performance, which has won him critical acclaim and whispers about a possible Oscar

nomination, was hailed by Stone as “incredibly moving”.

“More than once various crew members had to stifle sobs and tears. It happened to me a couple of times,” the director told AFP.

Colman plays pioneering doctor Margaret Johnson, who spearheaded work in treating HIV and AIDS, at a time when many patients, predominantly gay men, found themselves shunned and ostracised.

Other eagerly awaited films at this year’s festival include the biographical dark comedy “Artificial” from Luca Guadagnino, starring Andrew Garfield as the founder of OpenAI Sam Altman, chronicling the days when he was ousted from the company only to return later.

The film found itself without a distributor when Amazon MGM Studios withdrew this summer, before being taken up by the independent company Neon.

Other films include “Fjord” about a Romanian-Norwegian couple who move to remote Norwegian village; “Bola Negra” which traces the lives of three gay men in Spain; and “Minotaur” a wealthy Russian CEO whose life collapses amid the Ukraine war.

The annual event was a chance “to experience worlds outside ourselves,” said festival director Kristy Matheson.

It was also an opportunity to uncover “tumults of the era ... cinematic thrills, moral conundrums and a reoccurring exploration of care and community”.

– AFP



Irish actor Andrew Scott (right) and British actress Olivia Colman pose on the red carpet upon arrival to attend the premiere of the film “Elsinore” at the Royal Festival Hall in London on Wednesday, during the BFI London Film Festival.

– AFP

‘Mad dream’: New showcase for African film opens in London

LONDON – Nigerian producer and media mogul Mo Abudu has realised a “mad dream” by opening a unique cultural centre in London complete with a cinema dedicated to African film and black culture.

Close to the Houses of Parliament and its Big Ben clock, a massive concrete façade conceals the venue, which opens to the public this weekend – the first of its kind in Britain and Europe.

A small sign reads “EbonyLife Place London”.

While the name may mean little to many passers-by, film lovers will recognise the reference to EbonyLife, a leading African production company and a major player in Nollywood, Nigeria’s film industry.

Mosunmola “Mo” Abudu, 62, heads a media empire that stretches far beyond Nigeria’s borders.

In 2025, Forbes ranked her among the world’s 100 most influential women.

“It’s time to tell our own stories,” she told AFP. “I want to showcase the best of who we are, celebrate who we are. Let them see us at our very best.”

Abudu, who was born in London, is pursuing that ambition in the British capital through the cultural centre, which she describes as both “literally a blank canvas” and “a bit of a mad dream”.

“We have to make the journey because the thing is that we have consumed so much of the world. How much of the world has consumed us?” she asked.

She recalled that growing up in England: “I could never go anywhere during my youth and watch a black movie.”

So she decided to act. “I’m not waiting anymore for anyone to take a six-hour trip from London to understand what it is to watch a Nigerian film or to see Nigerian fashion and so on and so forth. It’s right here in London.”

‘Open to everyone’

The two-storey venue includes



Nigerian film director and media mogul Mo Abudu poses in London last Thursday, ahead of the opening the UK’s first cinema dedicated exclusively to African and Black films.

– AFP

a bar, a lounge called “Fehinti” – a Yoruba word meaning to lean back and rest – a restaurant and a boutique showcasing designers from Africa and its diaspora. Paintings by artists from across the continent line the walls.

Its centrepiece, however, is the new cinema, fitted with red seats, wood panelling and soft lighting. It has been named “Amani”, meaning peace and harmony in Swahili.

The project, financed almost entirely by Abudu’s media group, mirrors the upscale lifestyle complex she launched in Lagos in 2019.

Abudu, who is widely credited with helping usher in the era of Nollywood blockbusters, said African creatives should stop asking others to make room for them and instead “take responsibility for creating our own spaces”.

Describing the centre as a “safe space”, she said it would be a place where “you can shop our fashion, you can view our art, you can listen to our music, and we can tell our stories”.

Access will be through a membership scheme, details of which have yet to be announced. Such systems are common in Britain, particularly

among cultural institutions.

There will be no ethnic or nationality restrictions. “Membership is open to everyone,” she insisted.

The cinema’s programme is still being finalised. But here too, the objective is clear.

“We will have films from all parts of Africa. Everything should be on the table. We would show movies that celebrate black actors, black storytelling; that is why we are here,” Abudu said.

Will audiences be able to see films by Senegalese director Ousmane Sembene or by Algerian filmmaker Mohammed Lakhdar-Hamina, the only African director ever to win the Cannes Palme d’Or? Her answer was an emphatic “yes”.

The centre will also showcase its own productions and films with black actors, including the next in the “Black Panther” series. Opening week will feature Nigerian filmmakers including Nwani Orire and Ifeyinwa Arinze.

And after London?

“I would love to do the same thing in Paris, perhaps through a partnership. I’m always open to collaborating with others,” Abudu said.

– AFP

Andrea Bocelli faces Jordan gig boycott calls over Israel ties

AMMAN – Pro-Palestinian groups called on Wednesday for a boycott of Italian tenor Andrea Bocelli’s concert next month in the ancient Jordanian city of Petra over his public support of Israel.

Bocelli, who has been blind since age 12, performed in 2022 at a stadium in Tel Aviv before an audience that included Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, with the tenor ignoring pro-Palestinian activists’ longstanding calls for a boycott of Israel.

Bocelli, 68, also sang in Los Angeles at a fundraiser for a group supporting the Israeli military in 2010. In recent years, Bocelli has also been a rare internationally

known musician to perform for US President Donald Trump.

“We call on you to boycott Andrea Bocelli’s concert because of his long-standing public support for the Israeli enemy... Do not buy tickets! Demand... the cancellation of the concert,” said the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement in Jordan, one of the joint signatories.

“It is unacceptable for Petra – one of the most iconic sites in Jordan and the Arab world – to become a platform for someone who has raised funds for the occupation army,” BDS Jordan added.

The November 27 concert

is part of Bocelli’s “Romanza” world tour celebrating his 30-year career.

Souha Bawab, the executive director of the association organising the concert, said it was a chance to “showcase Jordan to the world”, as quoted by corporate news site Travel News Group.

She added that the concert would help to “reinforce its status as a destination that combines heritage and cultural experiences”.

A UNESCO World Heritage site, the ancient city of Petra is a top destination for foreign tourists in Jordan, and is renowned for its monumental temples carved into rose-coloured rock.

– AFP

World Weather

CHINA	ASIA-PACIFIC	WORLD	LUSOPHONE
Beijing 14°C~27°C	Manila 24°C~33°C	New York 12°C~23°C	Lisbon 15°C~28°C
Shanghai 17°C~26°C	Bangkok 24°C~35°C	London 9°C~19°C	Rio de Janeiro 21°C~29°C
Hong Kong 22°C~29°C	Tokyo 14°C~25°C	Frankfurt 10°C~13°C	Luanda 22°C~25°C
Taipei 22°C~29°C	Singapore 25°C~33°C	Vancouver 8°C~14°C	Maputo 20°C~34°C
Guangzhou 19°C~31°C	Kuala Lumpur 24°C~34°C	Paris 12°C~16°C	Dili 21°C~32°C
Nanjing 14°C~26°C	Jakarta 24°C~34°C	Moscow 7°C~17°C	São Tomé 24°C~31°C
Guilin 15°C~31°C	Seoul 12°C~25°C	Las Vegas 21°C~35°C	Praia 24°C~30°C
Xi'an 14°C~25°C	Sydney 15°C~23°C	Monte Carlo 16°C~21°C	Bissau 23°C~30°C



1. Welcoming back lost souls

Skulls made using a traditional papier-mâché technique are seen at the Jamaica Market in Mexico City on Wednesday. – AFP

2. Giant Easter egg!

Art handlers pose with an artwork entitled 'Baroque Egg with Bow Blue/Turquoise', by US artist Jeff Koons, during a photocall ahead of the Monsoon: The Peter Simon Collection Sale, at Christie's auctioneers in London yesterday. – AFP



3. Early risers

Tourists watch the sunrise at the scenic area of Mount Tai in Tai'an, Shandong Province, yesterday. – Xinhua

4. Elephant & castle

People visit Dubai Miracle Garden in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates, yesterday. Dubai Miracle Garden opened yesterday to the public for its 15th season. Featuring colorful floral displays and large-scale installations, the garden is a popular tourist attraction in Dubai. – Xinhua

5. Looking mighty fine

Libyan men in traditional costumes ride horses during an equestrian festival dubbed "Lammat Watan" (A Nation's Gathering) in Sog Al-Khmies Emsihel, approximately 53 kilometres south of Libya's capital Tripoli on Wednesday. – AFP

6. Going underground

This photograph taken last Thursday shows tourists visiting an artificial underground lake in Wieliczka Salt Mine outside Krakow. One of the world's oldest salt mines, Wieliczka is recognised by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. It is a tourist attraction, but also a health resort that has been offering salt therapy to patients with pulmonary issues for nearly 200 years. – AFP

