

2 key services aim to build mental health protection network: SSM

Armando Neves

Conde de S. Januário Hospital Centre (CHCSJ) Director Tai Wa Hou announced yesterday that two key services established by the Interdepartmental Working Group for Physical and Mental Health aim to build a comprehensive mental health protection network.

The working group held a press conference at the Health Bureau's conference hall, adjacent to the public Conde de São Januário Hospital Centre.

The working group is coordinated by the Secretariat for Social Affairs and Culture and comprises the Health Bureau (SSM), the Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ), the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS), the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), the Sports Bureau (ID), and the Pharmaceutical Administration Bureau (ISAF).

According to Dr Tai, who is also one of the three deputy directors of the Health Bureau, the working group targets three major difficulties in psychological support cases: "difficulty in case intake, difficulty in resource allocation, and difficulty in service coordination". The working group has been operating on a

trial basis since July this year and has received over 600 cases to date, Dr Tai said, adding that while some cases are still being followed up, the remainder have completed their service. He emphasised that the new measures do not replace existing services, but rather integrate, connect, and optimise them.

Dr Tai also noted that the working group has already provided two key services to help build the network:

- **First**, the "Hotline for Emotional Support" (2871 2355), which provides 24-hour registration and service triage for all Macau residents without replacing existing help channels;

- **Second**, the expansion of the former "Community Psychiatric Service Team" into the group's outreach team, with the addition of personnel from the Education and Youth Development Bureau. Depending on the needs of each case, support from social work, education, and family services is incorporated, and the team proactively enters the community to reach hidden cases. During the trial period, the team conducted nine home visits within two days.

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Health Bureau (SSM) Deputy Director-cum-Conde de S. Januário Hospital Centre (CHCSJ) Director Tai Wa Hou (centre), Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) Department of Social Solidarity Chief U Ka Wai (second from left), the Education and Youth Development Bureau's (DSEDJ) Department of Non-tertiary Education Acting Chief U Hon Sang (second from right), CHCSJ Psychiatry Department Chief Lam Mei Fong (left) and Macau Youth Development Service Centre (YDS) Hotline for Emotional Support Coordinator Wong Kuok Hou pose yesterday in front of a health and wellness promotion information board at the SSM's conference hall adjacent to the public CHCSJ. – Photo: Armando Neves



Cinemasgoers take pictures of elephant-shaped installations during a premiere in Beijing yesterday. The premiere of the documentary film "The Elephant Odyssey", which follows the improbable journey of the wandering Asian elephants in Yunnan Province that captivated viewers around the world, was held in the national capital yesterday. In March 2020, the elephants left a forest nature reserve in Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture, Yunnan, and trekked about 500 km northward to the provincial capital, Kunming, arriving in June 2021. They have since headed south again, arriving safely back at the nature reserve. The film is a collaborative effort between film institutions from China, Canada and Singapore, representing a valuable attempt to tell the story of China's ecological conservation. – Xinhua

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The Macau Post Daily

Li Qiang says China, Russia serve as valuable force for stability in turbulent world

Premier Li Qiang said yesterday that against the backdrop of a continuously evolving and complex international situation, China and Russia have maintained close coordination, serving as a valuable force for stability in a world marked by turbulence and transformation.

– Story on p. 7

Australian lawmaker loses both legs after 'targeted' attack

Australian lawmaker Helen Haines has had both legs amputated after being hit by a car, her husband said yesterday, hailing her as a "fighter" despite critical injuries sustained in what police described as a targeted attack.

– Story on p. 11

Thousands rally in Portugal after police clear housing protest camps

Thousands rallied in Lisbon and other Portuguese cities on Tuesday evening, hours after police dismantled housing protest camps at dawn and arrested 55 people.

– Story on p. 12

Police arrest Filipina maid for stealing 75,000 patacas in gold, cash from employer

Sherwin Hng

The Judiciary Police (PJ) arrested a domestic helper from the Philippines on Tuesday for stealing four gold bars, gold jewellery, and cash totalling 75,000 patacas from her elderly employer's flat, PJ spokesman Cheong Siu Keong said during a regular press conference yesterday.

Cheong identified the suspect as a 34-year-old female surnamed Domingo, who had worked as a live-in domestic helper at the victim's flat since mid-2023. The victim is a local elderly woman.

According to Cheong, the victim discovered on Monday that four gold bars and 10,000 patacas in cash kept in a wooden box in her storeroom, along with gold jewellery kept in a wardrobe, had gone missing. Suspecting her domestic helper, she reported the case to the police, estimating her total loss at 75,000 patacas.

PJ officers conducted a crime scene investigation at the flat and found no signs of forced entry. Officers proceeded to the flat at noon on Tuesday and arrested Domingo while she was working, Cheong said.

The investigation revealed that on October 10, the suspect took advantage of a moment when her employer was not paying attention to steal the key to the wooden box. She then stole the gold bars, cash, and wardrobe jewellery, subsequently pawning a portion of the stolen items.

Cheong added that Domingo remitted 4,000 patacas of the pawn proceeds to the Philippines. Officers seized 2,500 patacas in suspected crime proceeds from Domingo and successfully recovered a five-gram gold bar valued at 5,350 patacas from a local pawnshop.

The Judiciary Police are continuing their investigation to trace the remaining missing gold



Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Cheong Siu Keong looks on during yesterday's regular press conference.

— Photo: Sherwin Hng

bars and jewellery, Cheong noted.

Domingo has been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) for follow-up prosecution, facing an aggravated theft charge. ■

Police arrest trio for HK\$39,000 casino loansharking



This undated handout photo provided by the Judiciary Police (PJ) yesterday shows the chips and smartphones seized from the casino loansharking trio.

Sherwin Hng

The Judiciary Police (PJ) arrested three men from the Chinese mainland for engaging in illegal loansharking and collecting HK\$39,000 in "interest" from a gambler without providing their promised share of the gambling capital, Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Cheong Siu Keong said during a regular press conference yesterday.

Cheong identified the suspects as a 40-year-old man surnamed Wei, a 38-year-old man surnamed Li, and a 42-year-old man surnamed Fang. All three claimed that they were unemployed.

According to Cheong, the case came to light after casino security personnel reported an argument between the suspects and a mainland male gambler at a casino in Cotai.

The investigation found that the gambler had met two of the suspects at the casino in the early hours of Tuesday. They allegedly agreed that each party would contribute HK\$150,000 as

gambling capital for baccarat, with the suspects taking 20 percent of the gambler's winnings on each winning round as "interest".

However, the gambler initially used his own HK\$150,000 to place bets, while the suspects failed to provide their promised contribution. Li was responsible for managing the chips and collecting the "interest" before passing the chips to Wei and Fang, according to Cheong.

The dispute arose when the gambler was unable to obtain the HK\$150,000 that the suspects had agreed to contribute. The ensuing argument alerted casino security, which reported the incident to the police.

The Judiciary Police investigation found that the gambler had paid a total of HK\$39,000 in "interest", and officers seized HK\$9,000 in gaming chips and three mobile phones from the suspects.

The trio face usury charges. They have been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) for follow-up investigation. ■

Gongbei Customs nabs over 210,000 foreign coins worth 1.62 million yuan at Wanzai Port

Sherwin Hng

Customs officers at Wanzai Port (border checkpoint) intercepted 211,799 undeclared foreign coins with an estimated value of approximately 1.62 million yuan (HK\$1.77 million) at an outbound cross-border e-commerce freight channel recently, Gongbei Customs announced in a statement yesterday.

According to the statement, customs officers at Wanzai Port conducted an inspection on a batch of outbound e-commerce freight after detecting anomalies in the cargo vehicle's weight and transport trajectory.

Upon a detailed search, officers discovered two large wooden crates concealed at the rear of the vehicle's cargo compartment containing a massive quantity of euro and Swiss franc coins.

The statement noted that a detailed count confirmed 88,601-euro coins with a total face value of 44,300.50 euros, and 123,198 Swiss franc coins with a total face value of 159,898 francs. On October 8, the Guangdong Branch of the People's Bank of China (PBOC) authenticated the coins as genuine currency, valuing the combined total at approximately

1.62 million yuan based on prevailing exchange rates.

Gongbei Customs reminded the public that foreign banknotes and coins are classified as restricted items for import and export. Only institutions that have obtained statutory qualifications to transport foreign currency banknotes and coins across the border may do so in accordance with the law.

Transporting, carrying, or mailing foreign currency out of the Chinese mainland in violation of relevant laws and regulations will result in legal liability, the statement added. ■



This undated handout photo provided by Zhuhai's Gongbei Customs yesterday shows a portion of the 211,799 foreign coins seized from an outbound e-commerce freight truck at Wanzai Port.

Gongbei Customs seizes 20 kg of silver granules from e-scooter tyre

Armindo Neves

The General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) announced in a statement yesterday that Zhuhai's Gongbei Customs officers seized 20 kg of silver granules from the tyre of an e-scooter at Gongbei Port (checkpoint) last Tuesday.

In the statement, GACC identified the smuggler as a male traveller from Hong Kong surnamed Wong.

According to the statement, on that day, Wong, riding an electric scooter, entered the mainland through the checkpoint's "green channel" in the passenger inspection hall.

Customs officers noticed that he appeared nervous and that his scooter was moving unusually slowly, so they stopped him for inspection, the statement said, adding that upon further examination, officers discovered



This undated handout photo provided by the General Administration of Customs (GACC) yesterday shows Zhuhai's Gongbei Customs seizing 20 kg of silver granules from an e-scooter at Gongbei Port (checkpoint) last Tuesday.

16 packets of silver granules, totalling 20 kg, wrapped in black rubber sheeting and concealed inside the scooter's rear tyre.

In the statement, the GACC reminded the public that concealing

goods to evade duties constitutes smuggling. Under Chinese mainland regulations, individuals found guilty of such acts face strict penalties, and serious cases will result in criminal prosecution. ■

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Macau Weather

DRY.

FINE APART FROM CLOUDY PERIODS. FORCE 3 TO 4 NORTHERLY WINDS, OCCASIONALLY FORCE 5 WITH GUSTS.

RELATIVE HUMIDITY WILL RANGE BETWEEN 45% AND 80%.



23°C~31°C

Source: SMG

Job fair for people with disabilities to offer 97 vacancies

Khalel Vallo

The Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) announced in a statement yesterday that it will hold a job-matching fair for people with disabilities (PWDs) on December 3, offering 97 vacancies across 15 companies, with online applications opening tomorrow through November 10.

The “Ability & Opportunity” Employment Matching Fair for Persons with Disabilities (“喜見・樂聘”殘疾人士就業配對會) aims to help PWDs who are able to work find suitable positions while encouraging employers to provide more inclusive employment opportunities, the statement said.

The 15 participating companies represent sectors including integrated tourism and leisure, hotels, food and beverage, laundry, cleaning and security services, the statement added, while the 97 vacancies include office assistants, finance specialists, data processing and analysis staff, IT support specialists, guest relations officers, food and beverage service staff, room attendants, housekeep-

ing attendants, uniform room attendants, florists, stewards, security guards and cleaners.

Eligible PWDs who are seeking open employment* can visit the bureau’s dedicated webpage for the job-matching fair from tomorrow through November 10 to review vacancies and submit their applications online.

The event will take place at the Vocational Training Centre of the bureau Tai Peng Office, on the ground floor of Tai Peng Industrial Building Phase I at 101-105A Istmo de Ferreira do Amaral, according to the statement.

For enquiries, applicants can contact the bureau’s Ability Development Team on 2870 0277 or 6632 9329 during office hours. ■

* *Open employment (also referred to as competitive integrated employment or open-market employment) refers to a setup where persons with disabilities work in the general labour market alongside non-disabled employees, under the same terms, conditions, and remuneration standards.* – Gemini



This poster provided by the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) yesterday promotes the upcoming “Ability & Opportunity” Employment Matching Fair for Persons with Disabilities.

2 key services aim to build mental health protection network: SSM

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CHCSJ Psychiatry Department Chief Lam Mei Fong noted that the group’s mental health self-assessment tools maintain around 1,000 users per month, while the hotline has recorded nearly 8,000 calls since October last year. Demand for psychological therapy has been rising year-on-year, reflecting initial progress in changing public attitudes, Dr Lam said, adding that the cross-departmental physical and mental health service centre is expected to come into operation in the second quarter of 2027.

Wong Kuok Hou, coordinator of the hotline, said that over its first year of operation, the hotline served about 8,000 people in total. He added that the service volume in the second half of the past year was 9.3 times higher than in the first half, with the online platform accounting for around 70 percent of cases.

The peak period for seeking help was between 9:00 p.m. and 1:00 a.m. Regarding reasons for seeking assistance, 41.1 percent involved emotional and psychological distress, while 52.9 percent related to general life circumstances, Wong said.

He noted that the hotline has referred 41 cases to offline psychological therapy services subsidised by the Health Bureau, and that preparations are currently under way for a new offline psychological counselling service.

Dr Tai emphasised that the working group will continue to improve its services and strengthen cross-departmental collaboration. Through more professional, considerate, and comprehensive services, the group aims to safeguard the physical and mental health of Macau residents and build a more stable, warmer, and safer community support network, he said. ■

DSEDJ urges organisations to strengthen intern management

Armindo Neves

The Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ) responded to a statement issued by the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) yesterday, reaffirming that it has urged participating organisations to strengthen their intern management.

The CCAC announced in a statement yesterday that an organisation participating in the “Youth Summer Internship Programme 2025” had failed to strictly supervise and verify students’ attendance records, thereby failing to assist students in developing a positive life and work attitude.

According to the statement, the CCAC received a complaint from an organisation alleging that an intern participating in the programme was repeatedly late for work and left work early, while failing to fill in the “Internship Attendance Sheet” in accordance with his actual working hours. The complaint questioned whether there was a lack of adequate supervision and verification of the relevant records.

The statement identified the student as a local male.

Following an investigation, the statement pointed out that during the internship period, the student was indeed repeatedly late for work

and failed to record his attendance in accordance with his actual arrival and departure times

Instead, the student logged the organisation’s standard working hours. However, the statement added that after arriving late, the student had, on his own initiative, returned to work early in the afternoon to make up for the lost time.

On the other hand, the CCAC noted that the student failed to declare the arrangement in advance, obtain approval from his department head, or reflect the compensatory time in his attendance records

The CCAC reaffirmed in its statement that the purpose of the Youth Summer Internship Programme is to encourage young students to actively integrate into society, learn by doing, and develop a positive attitude towards life and learning.

Therefore, public and private organisations participating in the programme should assist students in building a proper work ethic through clear instructions and appropriate supervision, the statement said, adding that institutions must strictly verify attendance records to ensure the programme is clearly understood and runs smoothly.

Moreover, as the number of completed internship hours is a

crucial factor in determining the granting of subsidies and confirming whether students have successfully completed their training, attendance records must be genuine, accurate, and verifiable, the statement noted.

The bureau’s response to the CCAC statement underlined that, after taking into account the views of the latter, it agreed that there is a need to strengthen interns’ attendance management in both public and private institutions.

The bureau also said that it has immediately optimised its guidelines for entities and the related work checklist within its existing mechanism. The bureau added that it will issue the updated Instructions on the Handling of Interns’ Attendance by Entities Offering Internship to the more than 70 participating entities before the launch of next year’s programme. The bureau added that it will reinforce these requirements through a raft of briefing sessions, clarifying the attendance management mechanism and instructing participating entities to strictly enforce and verify interns’ attendance.

Meanwhile, the statement noted that the bureau will also strengthen pre-placement training for interns to help them better adapt to the workplace environment. ■

Melco donates 1 million patacas to UTM Development Foundation

Khalel Vallo

Melco Resorts & Entertainment donated one million patacas to the public Macao University of Tourism (UTM) Development Foundation on Tuesday to support the university’s academic development, improve teaching and research quality, and expand international cooperation, according to a statement by UTM yesterday.

The donation agreement was signed at the Forward Building on its Taipa campus by Lawrence Ho Yau Lung, Melco’s chairman and chief executive, and Cheung Kin Chung, chair of the executive committee of the foundation, the statement said.

The ceremony was also attended by Cen Jiayi, director of the Department of Education and Youth Affairs of the Liaison Office of the Central People’s Government in the Macao SAR; Wong Chio In, head of the Department of Educational Research and Planning of the Education and Youth Development Bureau; UTM Rector Fanny Vong Chuk Kwan; and Akiko Takahashi, Melco’s executive vice president and chief of staff to its chairman and chief executive, the statement underlined.

Cheung thanked Melco for the donation, saying that the tourism sector’s transition towards high-quality and sustainable development had increased demand for interdisciplinary professionals with academic knowledge, industry experience and innovative thinking, the statement noted.



This handout photo provided by the Macao University of Tourism (UTM) yesterday shows Lawrence Ho Yau Lung (left), Melco’s chairman and chief executive, and Cheung Kin Chung, chair of the executive committee of the UTM Development Foundation, posing with a symbolic cheque of the 1.0 million pataca donation on UTM’s Taipa campus on Tuesday.

Cheung noted that the donation would strengthen cooperation between the university and the integrated resort operator, facilitate the use of industry resources in teaching, and help apply academic research to industry practices, the statement said, adding that these efforts would support the development of cultural and tourism professionals suited to Macau’s needs.

Ho said that talent was a key driver of the city’s tourism industry and reaffirmed Melco’s commitment to supporting the local government’s “1+4” strategy for economic diversification, the statement noted. He also expressed

the company’s intention to continue working with UTM on talent development and contribute to Macau’s economic diversification, the statement said.

The donation marked the third in a series of ceremonies involving integrated tourism and leisure enterprises in support of UTM’s development, the statement noted, adding that it would organise further donation events with other operators to mobilise broader community support, strengthen its talent base and contribute to high-quality cultural tourism development in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA). ■

Macau's fishing community remembered in photos: an IIM exhibition

Rui Pastorin

Prior to the modern metropolis known for its entertainment, tourism, and large-scale integrated resorts that we know today, have you ever wondered what Macau was like?

An exhibition at the Maritime Museum near A-Ma Temple explores that thought, particularly by harkening back to the city's former fishing community through photos coupled with trilingual texts and tools of the trade.

The exhibition, titled "People and the Sea: The Fishermen's Community in Macao", is organised by the International Institute of Macau (IIM), with venue support and exhibits from the museum. Now in its final five-day run until Monday, visitors can see the city as it was decades ago captured in colour and black and white.

Alongside the life, traditions and customs of the community at the ongoing showcase, the findings by IIM researcher Mariana Pereira and doctoral student Jack Wang Deyi are presented as well, according to a previous IIM statement.

Pereira is also a researcher at the Heritage for Global Challenges Research Centre of the University of York in the UK, the statement pointed out.

The exhibition, however, goes beyond its exhibits, directing visitors to the importance of what it means to safeguard the local fishing culture and the memories it holds. With this in mind, exhibitiongoers are therefore left with a message at the venue that urges them not to look past or forget the city's fishing roots, and why it matters.

The venue statement reads: "Safeguarding fishing culture means valuing more than surviving boats and objects. It also entails remembering the knowledge, stories, and practices connected to them. As Macau's relationship with fishing changes, these accounts invite us to consider what maritime knowledge can still contribute to how future generations understand and live with the waters of the Pearl River Delta".

The statement added: "Today, younger generations may no longer make their living from fishing. Yet leaving the occupation does not necessarily mean leaving every connection to the water behind".

Locals and tourists alike can view the exhibits from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. until this Monday. Admission is free.

Photos taken yesterday at the Maritime Museum near A-Ma Temple by Rui Pastorin



MIF, MFE & PLPEX kick off 4-day run

Rui Pastorin

The jointly held 31st Macao International Trade & Investment Fair (31st MIF), 2026 Portuguese-Speaking Countries Products and Services Exhibition (Macao) (2026PLPEX), and Macao Franchise Expo 2026 (2026MFE) all kicked off yesterday morning with an opening ceremony at The Venetian Macao, altogether providing a combined 30,000 square metres of space for exhibitors to showcase their products throughout the events' four-day run.

All themed "Macao: The Global Hub of Business Convergence", the events feature around 1,000 exhibitors while showcasing a diverse mix of products including cutting-edge technology to specialty coffee.

Among the officials attending yesterday's opening ceremony were Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai and Liaison Office Director Zheng Xincong and Foreign Ministry Commissioner Bian Lixin.

Addressing yesterday morning's ceremony, Secretary for Economy and Finance Dora Ng Wai Han pointed out that the event has drawn buyers and exhibitors from over 50 countries and regions, with the concurrent exhibitions "demonstrating Macau's role as a bridge connecting markets at home and abroad through its MICE platform".

Ng also pointed out the new highlights in the exhibition aimed at "strengthening global connectivity and business matching", such as establishing the new "Spanish-Speaking Countries Industry Pavilion", which, according to a previous Commerce and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) statement, comprises nearly 30 enterprises and institutions from 11 Spanish-speaking countries and regions, for the first time.

Moreover, Ng said that the government, building on Macau's established role as a Commercial and Trade Cooperation Service Platform between China and Portuguese-



This photo taken and provided by the Government Information Bureau (GCS) yesterday shows Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai (centre), Liaison Office Director Zheng Xincong (seventh from left), Foreign Ministry Commissioner Bian Lixin (seventh from right), Secretary for Economy and Finance Dora Ng Wai Han (fourth from right) and other senior representatives posing for a group photo during yesterday's joint opening ceremony for the 31st Macao International Trade & Investment Fair (31st MIF), 2026 Portuguese Speaking Countries Products and Services Exhibition (Macao) (2026PLPEX) and the Macao Franchise Expo 2026 (2026MFE) at The Venetian Macao in Cotai.

speaking Countries, continues to extend "the reach of its business and trade cooperation network to encompass Spanish-speaking countries, Southeast Asia and other overseas markets, thereby making use of Macau's unique advantage of 'Internal Connectivity and External Access' as a platform".

"Since the beginning of this year, the SAR Government has continued to promote an innovative model combining government-enterprise collaboration, Macao-Hengqin synergy and the 'shared voyage' approach to collaborative overseas expansion. Under this model, enterprises from the Chinese mainland, Macau and Hengqin have joined delegations led by the chief executive of the Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR) to Portugal, Spain, Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia to explore overseas markets, achieving tangible results", she said.

"The three exhibitions will carry forward and enhance these valuable outcomes by

creating more opportunities for exchanges and business matching among enterprises from home and abroad, reinforcing existing trade and business co-operation networks, and forging closer international economic and trade partnerships", Ng noted.

Moreover, Ng added that the three exhibitions will also continue to "strengthen co-ordination between Macau and Hengqin", and, in concluding her remarks, Ng also pointed out the government's commitments to Macau's development.

She noted: "This year marks the beginning of both the country's 15th Five-Year Plan and Macau's Third Five-Year Plan. Looking ahead, the SAR Government will build on Macau's strategic positioning as "One Centre, One Platform, One Base" and "One Highland"* to make steady progress in advancing appropriate economic diversification. With the four major infrastructure projects, including the Macao Technology Research Industrial

Park, and the Government Guidance Fund as key drivers, we will continue to optimise the complementary advantages and co-ordinated development of the region, upgrade our industrial development framework, and strive to establish a new development landscape for trade in services and diversified industries". ■

The triple fair concludes on Saturday. Admission is free. The fair is held annually.

*In the context of Macao's current policy, the "Highland" (高地) concept most specifically refers to building Macao into a "Highland for Gathering International High-end Talents" (国际高端人才集聚高地). This is a new strategic positioning granted to Macao by the Central People's Government, aiming to leverage Macao's unique advantages under "One Country, Two Systems" to attract and retain top-tier talent globally, thereby supporting Macao's economic diversification and the country's talent strategy. – DeepSeek

Exhibitors use MFE as connection platform

Interviews by Rui Pastorin

The Macao Franchise Expo 2026 (2026MFE) is gathering a variety of brands from Macau and elsewhere to showcase their products over the next few days.

Ranging from a selection of items featuring original IPs to lifestyle brands, and even coffee and bread via two signature sections: the "Macao International Coffee Festival" and "Macao Bread Festival", the four-section area altogether spans around 6,000 square metres, with brands from Macau, the Chinese mainland, Southeast Asia and elsewhere.

Speaking with the *Post* yesterday, several exhibitors said that they see the platform as an opportunity to branch out and connect with different markets, hoping to share their specialties as well as learn over the next few days.

Joining the event for the first time is Thailand-based company Luang Phi Dam (T-Go Solution), which is all about Thai culture and living, according to its CEO Phimwilai Thammanurak. The brand sells a variety of products from inhalers that smell like Thai delicacies such as mango sticky rice, phat kaphrao, and tom yum, to flavoured balms, clothing, and mosquito repellents, all bearing an original character that highlights what they stand for.

While yesterday marked the first day of the event's four-day run, Thammanurak said that as a whole, she could already tell that it was different to other events she had joined before, most notably for having three

concurrent fairs. Over the next few days, Thammanurak hopes to find investors and distributors to take the two-year-old brand's products to other countries, wanting to show the beauty of her country through their original character, products and philosophy, with Macau also among the places she hopes to bring it to.

From the arts perspective, Jessica Leong (楊沅喬) is showcasing products featuring her original IP "Mr. Bubbles", hoping to introduce it to a wider audience, as well as highlight its Macau roots to locals, some of whom may not know that it was made in Macau. On the latter point, Leong said that they are selling products that feature both her IP's character and local elements, culture and architecture, hoping to promote them even more.

"We're just hoping to meet more people so they can know more about our brand, and also, since we normally do events in the Chinese mainland, this is a good opportunity for us to reach some Macau fans as well", as well as the international market. She added that that the MFE is a "good platform for us to introduce it [the brand] to other people", most notably for the variety as it contains a mixture of exhibitors from different fields.

Sharing the power of tea and bread

Macau local Rosanna Leng has had her online business "Carbsiology" selling bread for about a year, having taken up breadmaking because of her love of bread. With a brand that is still growing, Leng said

that she hopes the platform can promote her business, particularly the local market.

"This exhibition can let me promote my branding and let people learn about my brand first", allowing others to taste her bread or at least get to know the brand. Leng said that this would also allow her to learn about the consumer tastes and demands

Jamie, who works for Guangzhou-based company UMA song, which showcases bagels with a variety of flavours, noted that she hopes to sell their products to just about everyone at the event, wanting to introduce it to as many people possible and get to know various markets. Beyond sales, she hopes to highlight it as a product from Guangzhou, as well as the KOL behind its founding.

Lastly, among the exhibitors is a Sichuan-based specialty tea company Xiao Sanyue, which is committed to natural brewing, i.e., no pesticides. Representing the group, Gigi said that over the four-day period, she hopes to connect with others and explore markets outside of the Chinese mainland. "We want to use this [platform] as an opportunity expand our business overseas".

Gigi particularly pointed out the MFE as being a good opportunity for brands from mainland China to get in contact with international or overseas businesses. "We think it's like a [Chinese] door to working outside of China", wanting to share taste and culture of Chinese tea to Western or European markets as well. ■



This photo taken yesterday shows exhibitiongoers exploring some of the booths set up for the Macao Franchise Expo 2026 (2026MFE). – Photo: Rui Pastorin

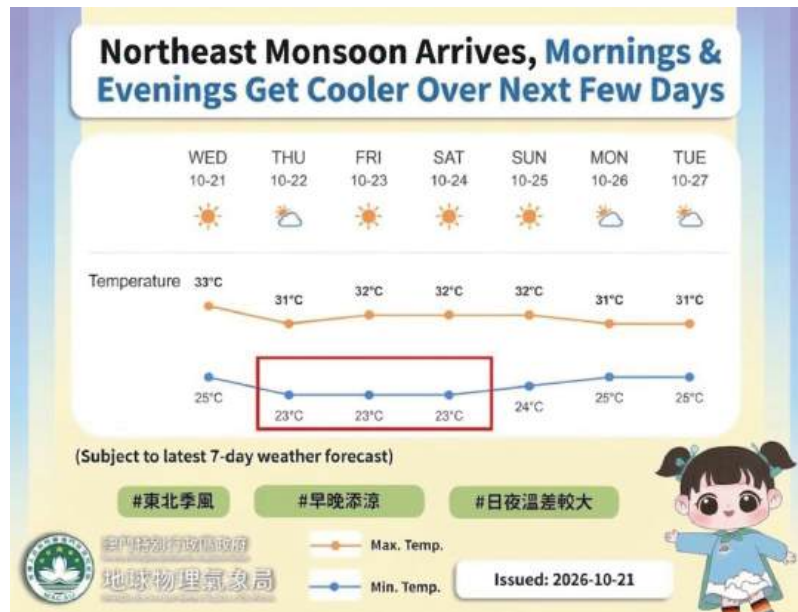
Super Typhoon Champi to bring weekend heat despite cooler mornings

Khalel Vallo

Macau is expected to experience hot and dry weather from the weekend into early next week as Super Typhoon Champi's subsiding air affects the Guangdong coast, with maximum temperatures in some areas reaching 33 degrees Celsius or above, according to a statement by the Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) yesterday.

While daytime weather will remain sunny and hot, mornings and evenings will feel slightly cooler, resulting in a larger difference between day and night temperatures, the statement said.

The local observatory advised residents to wear light jackets when going out early or returning late, particularly older people, young children and those in poor health, who should take precautions against catching a chill, the statement noted, adding that Champi, currently over the northwestern Pacific Ocean, is expected to move towards waters east of China's Taiwan region over the next day or the day after before



This infographic provided by the local observatory (SMG) yesterday shows its 7-day weather forecast. The translation from Chinese was arranged by the Post.

likely turning northward.

However, its peripheral subsiding air is forecast to affect the Guangdong coast over the weekend, the statement underlined, pointing out that combined with the dry air brought by the northeast monsoon, the conditions are expected to

bring sunny, dry and extremely hot weather to Macau from the weekend into early next week.

The observatory advised residents engaging in outdoor activities to take precautions against heatstroke, stay hydrated and apply adequate sun protection. ■

Coloane property prices plummet 40 pct: DSF

Staff Reporter

Residential property prices in Macau fell to their lowest level in 14 years in the third quarter, with weak demand and low buyer confidence outweighing the authorities' efforts to revive the property market. Average housing prices fell again last month.

According to data from the Financial Services Bureau (DSF), the price per square metre fell by 5.9 percent year-on-year to 75,655 patacas.

The decline was mainly driven by real estate market

developments in Coloane, where prices plummeted by 40.4 percent to 72,180 patacas per square metre.

In contrast, price increases were recorded in the Macau Peninsula and Taipa. In the Peninsula, prices rose by 8.7 percent, while in Taipa they advanced by 14.5 percent.

Despite the price drop, the number of transactions increased. In September, 247 housing purchase and sale transactions were carried out, representing a 28 percent increase compared to the same month last year, according to DSF data. ■



Cars parked in front of a residential high-rise in Nam Van last night.

— Photo: Carl Leong

Jiangsu steps up integration of AI, IP protection

BEIJING — East China's economic powerhouse Jiangsu Province yesterday outlined efforts to integrate artificial intelligence (AI) and intellectual property (IP) protection, aiming to foster innovation and improve efficiency.

According to provincial IP authorities, Jiangsu has 68,000 invention patents in the AI sector. By 2025, the province had 292,000 high-value invention patents, accounting for 12.7 percent of China's national total.

Jiangsu has strengthened IP protection for AI research and businesses. IP protection centers across the province have established

expedited pre-examination procedures for AI patent applications, reducing the average approval time from 22 months to just three months. It has also issued guidelines to help AI companies operated by one person, or OPCs, comply with IP-related requirements.

Meanwhile, Jiangsu is applying AI to improve IP services. It has developed AI infrastructure, such as a digital innovation laboratory, and created AI models and application scenarios to boost the efficiency of IP-related work.

"We should both make good use of AI as a powerful tool and provide institutional support for the development of the AI industry,"

said Zhang Chuanbo, a senior provincial IP official, at a press conference held by the China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA) in Beijing.

Jiangsu has long been a major manufacturing and foreign trade hub in China, while several of its cities have emerged as centers of technological innovation. Suzhou, Nanjing and Zhenjiang were included in the World Intellectual Property Organization's ranking of the top 100 innovation clusters this year.

The 15th China International Patent Fair will be held in Jiangsu's Wuxi in November, according to the CNIPA. — Xinhua

China upgrades digital yuan system to expand payment, smart contract services

BEIJING — China has upgraded its digital yuan infrastructure to integrate a wider range of payment and financial services, unveiling an upgraded central bank system for the digital yuan and a framework for smart contract services aimed at lowering operating costs and expanding the currency's use.

The E-CNY Operation Management Center, established by the People's Bank of China (PBOC), announced the two developments yesterday at a parallel session on the digital yuan of the Annual Conference of Financial Street Forum 2026 in Beijing.

The upgrade follows the digital yuan's transition to a new operating

framework on Jan. 1, 2026, moving it beyond a cash-like digital payment instrument toward a form of digital deposit money, according to the PBOC.

The upgraded system integrates issuance management, retail and wholesale payments, blockchain and smart contract services. It is designed to lower system integration and liquidity management costs, and support applications ranging from everyday payments to trade financing and financial settlements, a PBOC digital currency research official said.

The smart contract service framework is designed to promote the sharing and reuse of services and resources, and enable financial institutions to flexibly combine

services to meet customer needs.

By the end of September this year, cumulative digital yuan transactions had reached 4.3 billion, with a total value of about 31 trillion yuan (about 4.61 trillion U.S. dollars), according to the latest figures.

In September, the number of transactions totaled 99.67 million, worth about 1.87 trillion yuan, up 12 percent and 123 percent year on year, respectively.

The PBOC began researching digital currency in 2014 and launched pilot programs in late 2019. The digital yuan has since been tested in areas including retail payments, public services and cross-border settlements. — Xinhua

APEC Finance Ministers' Meeting closes with practical outcomes

HONG KONG — The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Finance Ministers' Meeting closed in Hong Kong yesterday, with a series of practical outcomes delivered, according to China's Ministry of Finance.

The meeting reviewed and adopted the 2026 APEC Finance Ministers' Joint Statement and the Policy Statement on Digital Infrastructure Financing across the Asia-Pacific Region, providing guidance for deepening financial cooperation among APEC economies, the ministry said in an online statement.

The meeting also produced other deliverables, including a report on fiscal policy considerations for sustaining economic growth in APEC and the compendium on financial access and opportunity for all.

Member economies have also agreed to advance capacity building and exchanges for young financial professionals in the Asia-Pacific region.

Finance Minister Lan Fo'an, who chaired the meeting, has underscored APEC's role as a premier platform for strengthening macroeconomic policy coordination and advancing regional economic integration.

All members should remain committed to implementing the consensus of the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting, uphold

multilateralism, and deepen pragmatic fiscal and financial cooperation, thereby contributing to regional economic and financial stability and long-term sustainable growth, Lan said.

The meeting, held on Tuesday and yesterday, drew more than 300 delegates from APEC member economies, APEC observers, and relevant international organizations.

During the meeting, participants discussed topics including the global and regional economic and financial outlook, fiscal policies supporting households, digital infrastructure financing, financial access and opportunity for all, as well as the APEC young financial talents dialogue.

Lan introduced the continued positive momentum of China's economy, characterized by stronger innovation, improved quality of growth and steady progress, emphasizing that China will remain firmly committed to pursuing high-quality development, accelerating the cultivation of new growth drivers, and intensifying efforts to expand domestic demand.

China will continue to advance high-standard opening up and create new opportunities for the Asia-Pacific region and beyond through further progress in Chinese modernization, Lan added. — Xinhua

China, Russia see destructive external interference as main source of instability across Eurasia: joint communiqué

ST. PETERSBURG — China and Russia view destructive external interference as the main source of instability across Eurasia and strongly condemn any acts of external coercion through the use of force, according to a joint communiqué released yesterday.

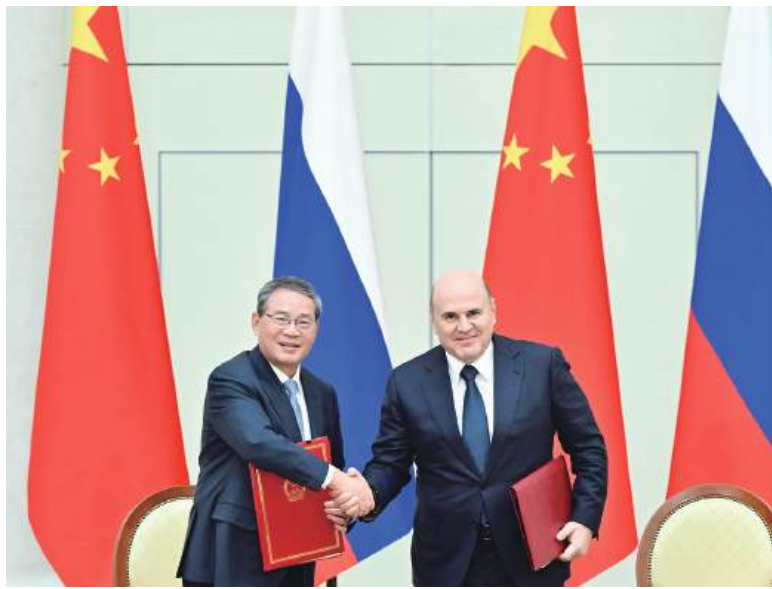
Both sides firmly uphold the United Nations-centered international system and the international order based on international law, said the communiqué issued after

the 31st regular meeting between Chinese and Russian heads of government in St. Petersburg.

They also support consolidating fair international relations on the basis of mutually beneficial cooperation among sovereign states and oppose dividing the world into rival regions or blocs, it said.

Premier Li Qiang co-chaired the meeting with Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin yesterday.

— Xinhua



Premier Li Qiang (left) and Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin shake hands after signing a joint communiqué after the 31st regular meeting between the Chinese and Russian heads of government in St. Petersburg yesterday. — Xinhua

Wang Yi meets Djibouti counterpart

BEIJING — Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with Abdoukader Houssein Omar, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Djibouti, in Beijing yesterday.

Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, said that under the strategic guidance of the two heads of state, China-Djibouti relations have maintained a healthy and stable momentum of development. He noted that political mutual trust has deepened and that cooperation across various fields has brought benefits to the people of Djibouti.

China appreciates Djibouti's adherence to the one-China principle and hopes that Djibouti will continue to firmly support China on issues concerning its core interests, Wang said.

Wang said that China values the comprehensive strategic partnership between China and Djibouti and is willing to further deepen pragmatic cooperation with Djibouti, adding that both sides should give full play to China's zero-tariff policy and Djibouti's geographical advantages.

China encourages its enterprises to invest and operate in Djibouti, Wang added.

Since the beginning of this year, Wang said, China has proposed four principles on the

constructive participation of relevant parties in the resolution of African hotspot issues, and proposed a series of initiatives on promoting peace and security in the Middle East. These efforts, he noted, demonstrate China's role as a responsible major country and align with people's aspirations for peace in the region.

China is willing to work with Djibouti and other countries to enhance communication and cooperation, strive to ease tensions, and earnestly maintain peace and stability in the region, Wang said.

Omar said that since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, Djibouti has been developing relations with China based on the principles of mutual trust and mutual respect for each other's core interests, adding that Djibouti is willing to further enrich the connotation of the comprehensive strategic partnership between the two countries.

Omar expressed the appreciation of Djibouti for China's contributions to promoting lasting world peace, adding that the two countries share broad consensus on abiding by the purposes of the UN Charter and peacefully resolving disputes, and Djibouti stands ready to enhance communication and dialogue with China on international issues.

— Xinhua

Li Qiang says China, Russia serve as valuable force for stability in turbulent world

ST. PETERSBURG — Premier Li Qiang said yesterday that against the backdrop of a continuously evolving and complex international situation, China and Russia have maintained close coordination, serving as a valuable force for stability in a world marked by turbulence and transformation.

Li made the remarks when meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in St. Petersburg.

Li first conveyed cordial greetings and best wishes from Chinese President Xi Jinping to Putin, noting that since the beginning of this year, the two heads of state have met twice and made further plans for deepening China-Russia relations and cooperation.

China is willing to work with Russia to strengthen strategic communication, consolidate political mutual trust, expand all-round mutually beneficial cooperation, and continuously enhance the well-being of the two peoples, he said.

Li noted that China is ready to work with Russia to better leverage their economic complementarity, maintain the sound momentum of bilateral cooperation, strengthen practical cooperation in energy and resources, trade and investment, transportation and other areas, deliver more positive outcomes and promote common prosperity in both countries.

The two sides should ensure the success of the China-Russia Years of Education, continuously deepen exchanges and cooperation in culture, tourism, sports and youth, and further enhance mutual understanding and friendship between the two peoples, Li said.

Noting that unilateralism and hegemonism are rampant in today's world, Li said China is ready to



Premier Li Qiang (left) shakes hands with Russian President Vladimir Putin in St. Petersburg yesterday. — Xinhua

strengthen communication and coordination with Russia on major issues, enhance coordination within multilateral platforms such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and BRICS, unite more forces of the Global South to safeguard common interests and uphold fairness and justice.

For his part, Putin asked Li to convey his sincere greetings to Xi and wished the upcoming fifth plenary session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China a success.

Putin said that he and Xi had met several times this year and reached new important consensus on advancing the Russia-China comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination for a new era.

Since the establishment of the Russia-China prime ministers' regular meeting mechanism 30 years ago, it has earnestly implemented the achievements of head-of-state diplomacy and promoted the deepening and substantive cooperation

between the two sides, Putin said.

Russia-China relations are built on the basis of equality and mutual respect, mutual benefit and win-win results, and accommodation of each other's concerns, he said, noting that bilateral relations are not affected by changes in the international landscape and not subject to interference from any third party.

China has been and will always be Russia's closest and most reliable partner, Putin noted.

Russia is ready to deepen practical cooperation with China in such areas as energy, agriculture, space, civilian nuclear energy, information technology, artificial intelligence and transportation, jointly ensure the success of the Russia-China Years of Education, and expand people-to-people and cultural exchanges, he said.

Putin added that Russia supports China in hosting the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting this year and in assuming the BRICS chairmanship next year. — Xinhua

China, Russia to strengthen cooperation in Arctic: joint communiqué

ST. PETERSBURG — China and Russia vowed to promote steady growth in freight traffic along the Arctic shipping routes and increase the number of shipping services between Chinese and Russian ports, enhancing the routes' competitiveness, according to a joint

communiqué released yesterday.

The two countries agreed to broaden cooperation within the framework of the subcommittee on Arctic shipping routes cooperation under the committee for regular meetings between Chinese and Russian heads of government, said

the communiqué issued after the 31st regular meeting in St. Petersburg.

They also agreed to promote mutually beneficial cooperation on building polar vessels and assist enterprises from both countries engaged in Arctic cooperation, it said.

— Xinhua

China, Russia agree to advance high-quality bilateral trade: joint communiqué

ST. PETERSBURG — China and Russia agreed yesterday to continuously promote high-quality development of bilateral trade, according to a joint communiqué issued after the 31st regular meeting between Chinese and Russian heads of government.

The two sides noted that bilateral trade and economic cooperation has maintained steady and healthy growth despite external headwinds,

said the communiqué released at the conclusion of the meeting co-chaired by Premier Li Qiang and Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin in St. Petersburg.

The two sides pledged to work together to further strengthen trade and economic cooperation, ensuring its steady and comprehensive improvement in quality and level.

The two sides agreed to

consolidate and expand trade, further optimize the structure of goods and foster new growth drivers in areas such as cross-border e-commerce, the digital economy, and green and low-carbon development.

The two countries would also strengthen cooperation in services trade and elevate the level of trade facilitation, the communiqué said.

— Xinhua

Prabowo berates countries that ‘insult’ Indonesia over wildfires

JAKARTA – Indonesia’s President Prabowo Subianto railed yesterday against “countries that like to insult” his nation over wildfires that have razed vast areas, spewing toxic haze into neighbouring countries.

The Southeast Asian giant has for months struggled to contain fires that Nusantara Atlas, an independent monitor analysing satellite data, said have consumed more than 1.9 million hectares in the nine months to September.

The haze has sent air pollution levels surging to dangerous levels not only at home, but also in Malaysia, Singapore and East Timor, prompting the ASEAN regional bloc to call a meeting over the crisis.

“As for certain countries that like to insult the Indonesian nation, when the time comes, we will reveal the companies involved” Prabowo told a cabinet meeting yesterday,

claiming that “many corporations bear responsibility” for the crisis.

He did not name names or nationalities.

The leaders of Indonesia’s neighbours have offered help while steering clear of overt criticism at the highest diplomatic level.

With public anger growing, however, a Malaysian MP last week called for Indonesia to be treated as an “outcast” in the region.

“Indonesia is a polite and patient nation. Our country is often insulted, but believe me, our nation does not want to be insulted all the time,” Prabowo said.

The president said he had asked for investigations into the cause of the fires which he insisted was “not purely natural”.

Experts say Indonesia’s wildfires can be blamed in large part on slash-and-burn land-clearing practices that result in the destruction of fire-

resistant forest cover and drained peatlands.

This year, the blazes were intensified by a severe drought fuelled by the El Niño weather phenomenon.

“I am asking the police, the Attorney General’s Office, the Ministry of Forestry, with the support of the Armed Forces and intelligence services, to investigate,” said Prabowo.

“The people have also caught various individuals who deliberately set fires - this is something we can regard as environmental terrorism.”

The president, who marked two years in office on Tuesday with record-low approval levels, said deliberate fire-setting amounted to “a crime against humanity, because what they have done endangers the health of millions of our citizens”.

Once the evidence is in, he added, “we will revoke all licences of companies that violate the law”.

– AFP

Malaysia’s coral reefs at risk over climate change, says official

KUALA LUMPUR – Rising sea temperatures of up to 35 degrees Celsius have caused increased coral deaths and bleaching at six popular island destinations in Malaysia, a Malaysian official said on Tuesday.

Monitoring by the Fisheries Department at 32 islands in Malaysia’s marine parks found serious environmental pressure and worsening reef health at six islands, Agriculture and Food Security Minister Mohamad Sabu told parliament.

“Monitoring found a drop in live coral cover and a higher rate of coral deaths after bleaching, caused by sea-surface temperatures reaching between 32 degrees Celsius and 35 degrees Celsius,” he said.

Mohamad said coral reefs are important marine habitats,

providing shelter and breeding grounds for sea life, while supporting the country’s fisheries resources.

He said the ministry is carrying out a climate action plan for the fisheries sector for 2024 to 2030, which includes efforts to reduce the effects of climate change on coral reefs, adding that 4 million ringgit (US\$980,000) has been allocated toward rehabilitation programs.

The government is also strengthening enforcement under the Fisheries Act 1985 against activities that damage coral reefs.

These include taking corals, dumping pollutants, destroying marine habitats and anchoring vessels in prohibited ways within marine parks and marine reserves without written permission.

– Xinhua



Students hold posters reading “All eyes on Kalimantan” against a backdrop of burning forests and another showing a photo of West Kalimantan Vice Governor Ria Norsan with his eyes blotted out during a demonstration protesting forest and land fires as well as various national issues, in Pontianak, West Kalimantan, Indonesia yesterday. – AFP

Malaysia bans civil servants from using Waze over Israel links

KUALA LUMPUR – Malaysia banned civil servants from using the navigation app Waze, Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim’s office said yesterday, citing data security concerns over its links to Israel.

Kuala Lumpur is a longstanding and vocal critic of Israel and maintains no diplomatic relations with it.

Waze, which is owned by Google LLC, was founded in Israel and remains incorporated there.

Anwar “has decided to prohibit the use of the navigation application Waze among all civil servants,” his office said.

“This measure is intended to safeguard government information and users’ personal data against the threat of misuse by the Israeli regime,” it added in a statement posted on Facebook.

The decision was made at a National Cyber Security Committee meeting chaired by Anwar on Tuesday, local media reports said.

The Malaysian government did not give further details on why civil servants were prohibited from using Waze, which uses data from drivers to provide real-time traffic information.

It did not say how the ban would be enforced or monitored.

But the government said that “sensitive government information and the personal data of citizens must be protected from being exploited by the Israeli regime in a manner that could compromise national security and sovereignty”.

Anwar suggested users switch to platforms such as TuJu, a locally developed Malaysian road navigation app.

Waze is widely used in Malaysia, including as a back-up navigation aid by drivers for its Grab online cab hailing service.

“We will close any avenues that the Israeli regime could exploit to threaten the security of the nation and its people,” the Malaysian government said.

– AFP

Philippines sees agriculture loss of US\$136 million due to El Niño

MANILA – The Philippines’ agricultural sector has incurred 8.57 billion pesos (about US\$136 million U) in damage and losses from El Niño this year, the country’s agriculture department said yesterday.

Over 288,000 farmers have been affected, and more than 291,100 hectares of agricultural land have been destroyed, figures from the department showed.

Of the total damage and losses, corn accounted for the biggest

share at 5 billion pesos, while rice suffered losses of 2.95 billion pesos.

Livestock, including swine, carabao, duck, chicken, goat, cattle, turkey and goose, suffered losses of 37.75 million pesos.

– Xinhua

Tokyo, Osaka record latest-ever day above 30C

TOKYO – Tokyo and Osaka topped 30C yesterday, the latest in the year both cities have ever recorded such temperatures, a Japan weather official said.

Warm, humid air from the south swept across Japan, particularly areas along the Pacific coast, sending temperatures unusually high for late October.

Tokyo climbed above 30C by early afternoon, the threshold the Japan Meteorological Agency classifies as a “midsummer day”, JMA data science

official Kazuhiro Shirono told AFP.

It marked the latest 30C-plus day recorded in the Japanese capital since observations began in 1875, he said.

Prior to this, the latest midsummer day record was October 19, 2024, Shirono said.

Temperatures also rose above 30C in Japan’s second city Osaka, breaking the city’s previous record for the latest midsummer day, set on October 20, 1933.

Osaka began recording weather observations in 1883, according to

the JMA.

Scientists say human-induced climate change is increasing the frequency and intensity of extreme heat events around the world.

Japan saw its hottest summer on record in 2025, with warmer days on the rise globally due to climate change.

This year, the weather office began using a new word – “kokushobi” or “cruelly hot day” – when temperatures hit 40C, urging the public to treat extreme heat like a natural disaster.

– AFP

Philippine peso hits fresh record low

MANILA – The Philippine peso closed at 63.361 pesos per US dollar yesterday, hitting a record low for the 29th time this year, according to data from the Bankers Association of the Philippines.

The Philippine peso hit an intraday low of 63.373 pesos to US\$1.

John Paolo Rivera, a senior research fellow from the Philippine Institute for Development Studies, said the peso’s weakness reflects

persistent dollar demand, global financial uncertainty, elevated oil prices, and growing concerns over the country’s widening balance of payments deficit.

Rivera warned that continued depreciation of the peso could raise import costs and add to inflationary pressures, especially for fuel, food and transportation.

He said prolonged weakness could erode household purchasing power and increase business costs.

– Xinhua

S Korea guides crowd-pulling shark out of canal

Claire Lee

SEOUL – A shark that has become a viral sensation in South Korea was coaxed out of a canal in which it was stuck, authorities said yesterday, as falling temperatures raised concerns for its survival.

The shark – nicknamed “Bukhanggi” by fans – was spotted in an artificial waterway in the southeastern port city of Busan last month, with climate activists linking its appearance to climate change.

“The shark was guided to the southern entrance of the North Port Waterfront Park, where a net barrier was installed to prevent it from re-entering,” the oceans ministry said in a statement.

“The shark is now swimming outside the artificial channel, where the water is deeper ... making it less vulnerable to temperature changes as the weather cools and less likely to become trapped.”

The canal where it had been stranded was about three metres deep.

The three-metre “dusky” shark, a species typically found in tropical climates, amassed a huge following, drawing more than 1.6 million



Visitors look at a 3.5-metre shark during a rescue operation to guide the shark back to the sea after it became trapped in an artificial waterway in the southeastern port city of Busan, South Korea yesterday. – AFP

people to the Busan canal for a glimpse and bringing an unexpected boon to the local economy.

Authorities had twice tried unsuccessfully to steer Bukhanggi back to sea, using water jets and then nets, before launching a third attempt yesterday morning as the water grew colder.

Officials initially opted to wait for the shark to leave on its own, but growing concerns for its well-being prompted a third attempt, a spokesperson said.

The operation was livestreamed by the city as curious onlookers gathered along the canal for a glimpse of the shark.

Busan authorities fixed nets to floating pontoons that were moved gradually as the shark headed towards the open sea.

The nets were intended to block its return to the waterway once it passed, they said.

An ocean ministry official told AFP that experts had raised concerns about the shark’s

health because it “had not been seen eating and appeared to have difficulty maintaining its balance while swimming”.

“These were not normal signs, and the experts believed its condition appeared to be deteriorating,” the official said.

The shark has been celebrated for its unexpected boost to the local economy, with Busan Mayor Chun Jae-soo thanking it for generating publicity he said would otherwise have cost “trillions”.

However, environmental groups say the shark’s appearance should be seen as a warning of the climate crisis, rather than a spectacle or an economic boost.

They link its arrival to warming seas, saying that rising temperatures are pushing warm-water fish northwards, with subtropical sharks in pursuit.

Sharks venturing into South Korean waters is “not common at all”, Kim Jin-koo, a professor of global fisheries at Pukyong National University, told AFP last month.

“As water temperatures around South Korea have risen, it appears to have moved closer to the country’s coast,” Kim said. – AFP

N Korea says ‘new firepower units’ in place, loudspeakers to return

SEOUL – North Korea plans to begin once again blasting loudspeakers across its border with South Korea, the powerful sister of leader Kim Jong Un said yesterday, after warning Pyongyang had moved new troop units into “firing position”.

Tensions between Seoul and Pyongyang have soared since the South last month blamed an explosion inside the heavily fortified Demilitarised Zone (DMZ) separating the two countries on landmines laid by North Korea, an accusation it has rejected.

“Our tactical hunting teams are taking new positions, and within October, the loudspeakers for psychological warfare against the ROK will be in operation along the whole border,” Kim Yo Jong said, using the acronym for South Korea’s official name.

The planned resumption of loudspeaker tactics was revealed following an inspection of border positions yesterday by Kim and the armed forces’ Marshal Pak Jong Chon.

“Our military leadership underlined the need to make those rogues aware that our new firepower units have taken their firing positions,” Kim said in a statement carried earlier in the day by the official Korean Central News Agency.

Pak, meanwhile, told troops it was “time to organise the firepower strong enough to strike terror into the enemy’s heart”.

“If the enemy troops make a provocation actually threatening the safety of our service personnel... The border forces of (North Korea) must take very proficient, specialised and overwhelming military action,” he said.

On Tuesday, Seoul’s military warned of a “firm” response to further North Korean provocations.

Serious development

Hong Sung-pyo, senior researcher at the Korea Institute for Military Affairs, told AFP yesterday that the claimed troop movements should be taken seriously.

“These are small military positions – essentially guard posts or fighting positions for units armed with individual firearms – and it looks like North Korea has been moving them forward,” he said.

“Of the developments we have seen so far, this appears to be among the most serious. North Korea has conducted various demonstrations of its firepower, but this now appears to be about operational deployment.”

North Korea has separately tested a slew of weapons recently, including a “new-type” precision-guided torpedo system and an intermediate-range hypersonic missile, both of which were said to use AI technology.

Seoul’s military on Tuesday accused Pyongyang of attempting to shift the blame for escalating military tensions, while confirming the use of loudspeakers and warning shots as “legitimate defensive measures to prevent North Korean troops from crossing the MDL (Military Demarcation Line) and to drive back troops that have crossed it”.

Jin Yong-sung, chairman of South Korea’s Joint Chiefs of Staff, also ordered the military to “respond with firm resolve” should North Korea use Seoul’s actions as a pretext for aggressive action.

Loudspeaker legacy

Both sides have previously employed loudspeaker broadcasts – a tactic that dates back to the Korean War – and other attempts at psychological warfare.

In 2024, North Korea sent thousands of trash-carrying balloons southwards, saying they were retaliation for anti-North propaganda balloons floated by South Korean activists.

Later, South Korea turned on border loudspeaker broadcasts for the first time in six years – including K-pop tunes and international news – and the North started transmitting strange sounds along the frontier, unsettling South Korean residents.

The broadcasts have previously prompted Pyongyang to threaten artillery strikes on Seoul’s speaker units.

South Korea’s President Lee Jae Myung has vowed to reach out to the nuclear-armed North and pursue dialogue without preconditions – a reversal from his hawkish predecessor.

Last year the South’s defence ministry removed loudspeakers from its side of the border as “a practical measure aimed at helping ease tensions with the North”. – AFP

India orders release of top ‘cockroach’ movement leaders

NEW DELHI – A New Delhi magistrate ordered the release of two leaders of India’s youth-led Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) movement yesterday, a week after they were detained.

CJP activists and opposition parties have defied a security crackdown to demand the resignation of India’s chief election commissioner, accusing the poll body of manipulating voter rolls to benefit Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s ruling party.

The commission, which oversees voting in the world’s most populous nation, has denied any wrongdoing.

The release of Saurav Das, 27, and Ashutosh Ranka, 30, was ordered by the special executive magistrate in Delhi, according to an official order.

Das and Ranka were taken into custody on October 14 for their “alleged repeated attempts to disturb public peace and violate the law”, the police said in a statement at the time.

They appeared before the magistrate on Monday, when their detention was extended for another two days.

The pair had jumped security barricades to wave the national flag at Jantar Mantar, a decades-old protest site that police have barred people from using.

Jantar Mantar, in the heart of the capital, has been sealed off with yellow metal barricades for more than a week and guarded by security personnel.

Delhi Police said they had removed the site from the list of designated protest venues. – AFP



People gather to watch a ‘Ramleela’ performance sit near a cockroach effigy, due to be burnt alongside an effigy of the mythic demon king Ravana on the occasion of the Hindu festival of Dussehra in New Delhi on Tuesday, amid youth-led Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) protests demanding the resignation of India’s Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over alleged voter roll irregularities linked to the “special intensive revision” (SIR). – AFP

Vietnam proposes allowing minors to donate tissues, organs after death

HANOI – The Vietnamese government has proposed allowing people under 18 to donate tissues, organs or their bodies after brain or circulatory death, local daily *Nhan Dan* reported yesterday.

Under the proposal, they must register as donors or express their wish to donate before death, with consent from their legal representatives.

The proposal was put forward by Minister of Health Dao Hong Lan yesterday as she presented to the National Assembly (NA) a draft law on human tissue and organ donation,

removal and transplantation, and the donation and recovery of human cadavers.

The draft law aims to expand the pool of donors and increase patients’ access to organ transplants, the minister said.

The NA’s Committee for Cultural and Social Affairs called for a thorough assessment of the potential psychological, social and ethical implications, as well as the risk of dependent relationships being exploited to pressure or coerce individuals into donating tissues or organs, the report said.

– Xinhua

Kremlin sees little 'substance' in Ukraine peace ideas

SAINT PETERSBURG – Russia is open to resuming trilateral talks with Washington and Kyiv towards ending the Ukraine war, the Kremlin said after Vladimir Putin met US special envoy Steve Witkoff yesterday, but decried little “substance” in new Ukrainian and European approaches.

Moscow also said a summit between Putin, US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping was being prepared in Shenzhen for next month, calling it “the first such meeting in history.”

Putin held over three hours of talks with Witkoff in his home city of Saint Petersburg, a day after what the US official called a “productive” meeting with Ukraine’s Volodymyr Zelensky in Norway.

As Witkoff touched down in Russia, Moscow freed a US citizen – Stephen Hubbard – and said it would soon begin diesel shipments to the US.

Trump’s son-in-law Jared Kushner also took part in the talks with Putin remotely.

Over a year of US-led talks to end the Ukraine war – which started in 2022 – have not yet led to a breakthrough, with tens of thousands killed.

Kremlin aide Yuri Ushakov told reporters, including AFP, that

Witkoff briefed Putin on “some new aspects in the approaches of the Europeans and Kyiv” from the Oslo meeting, adding though that “there wasn’t really much substance in them”.

Putin has consistently rejected face-to-face talks with Zelensky.

‘Ideas’ towards a peace deal

Ushakov said a “first ever” China-US-Russia meeting was “being prepared” in Shenzhen, without saying what the leaders would discuss.

Kyiv and its European allies have voiced fears that the White House could strike a deal over their heads.

“I always said that we are open to negotiate in any format, any topics. But don’t speak about us without us, please,” Zelensky told US media Fox News yesterday.

Witkoff held his ninth meeting with Putin as Russia continued to pound Ukrainian targets and amid a bitter feud between Trump and Zelensky.

“We’ve brought some papers. It’s really some ideas, some sort of peace deal between Russia and Ukraine, and you’ll read that at your leisure,” Witkoff told Putin in Saint Petersburg’s Konstantinovskiy



Russian President Vladimir Putin (right) greets US special envoy Steve Witkoff prior to their working meeting in Saint Petersburg yesterday. – AFP

Palace ahead of the talks.

The US envoy said he wanted trilateral talks to resume, something the Kremlin later said it agreed to.

Ushakov said the talks would re-open in mid-November and that the Kremlin wanted them to focus on post-war security.

‘Momentum’ in talks

Witkoff told Putin he saw “some degree of momentum” in the US-led talks after meeting Zelensky.

Zelensky who remained in

Norway yesterday, meeting with the Nordic country’s political leaders, said he was waiting to hear “whether the American side manages to hear something new from Russia today”.

The Witkoff-Zelensky meeting on Tuesday followed days of friction between Washington and Kyiv, and calls from Trump for the Ukrainian leader to be replaced.

Witkoff also told Putin that Washington was “grateful” for a diesel deal, which saw US sanctions on Moscow eased to allow Russian

fuel to flow to the US, sparking outrage in Kyiv and across Europe.

The deal has been seen as a way to try to lower fuel prices for US consumers, as Trump’s Republican Party heads towards tough midterm elections next month.

Washington was interested in further “business and economic cooperation” with Russia when the war ends, Witkoff said.

“We even talk about it now openly with the Ukrainians to give them some sort of sense about what the possibilities will be when this whole conflict is over,” he said.

Kyiv has pleaded with Western countries to put more pressure on Moscow and not to lift sanctions.

Ahead of the talks, Putin announced that Stephen Hubbard, an American taken captive by Russian forces in 2022 and later sentenced to almost seven years in prison, had been freed.

Trump had asked the Russian leader to free Hubbard, a retired English teacher in his 70s who had always denied the charges he was a “mercenary” fighting for Ukraine.

Witkoff described Putin a “humanitarian”.

Trump later said that Hubbard was on his way to the United States and that the release had not been part of a swap deal. – AFP, MPD

Netanyahu says ‘toppling’ Iranian govt only way to end threat

DIMONA – Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said yesterday that the only way to remove the threat posed by Iran was to topple its government.

“Iran wanted to destroy us; we stopped them. They wanted to produce nuclear bombs; we stopped them... Yet they persist,” he said during an election rally in the southern town of Dimona. “Therefore, there is only one way to end this: by toppling this regime.”

“This is the directive I have issued to the Israel Defence Forces, to the Mossad, and to all our security branches,” he added, without specifying when or how that directive would be executed.

The sabre-rattling came as the premier headed into the last week of a tight race for re-election.

Netanyahu had instructed the Israeli military to plan for resumed strikes against Iran earlier this month, according to sources cited by the *Financial Times* yesterday, but US President Donald Trump reportedly objected to the idea.

Trump has publicly said that he does not intend to restart the war, which Washington started in February alongside Israel, before the US mid-term elections early next month.

This week, Netanyahu thanked Trump in a video for his endorsement in the Israeli election, and said that the two leaders have “a job to finish” in Iran.

Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz also warned against a potential threat from Iran.

Speaking at an officers’ graduation ceremony in southern Israel yesterday, he said that “the Iranian regime is at its weakest point ever, and we recognise that this weakness could lead it to take the most extreme steps”.

“If Iran attacks Israel, Iran will burn!” he said.

Katz also warned against unspecified attempts by Israel’s enemies to disrupt the upcoming vote.

“In recent days, we have identified attempts by our enemies – led by Iran and its proxies – to advance attacks that could affect the outcome of Israel’s elections,” he said. – AFP



Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (centre) interacts with supporters during a Likud Party meet-and-greet organised as part of the ongoing campaign ahead of Israel's legislative election, at a café inside a mall in Dimona yesterday. – AFP

Guinea Bissau police seize vaccines affiliated with contentious US study

BISSAU – Police in Guinea-Bissau have seized a batch of vaccines from a facility affiliated with a stalled, US-funded hepatitis B immunisation trial on newborn babies that the WHO has slammed as “unethical”.

The study, which would randomise whether or not 14,000 newborns in the highly impoverished west African nation receive a hepatitis B vaccine birth dose, was suspended pending further technical review, the WHO said in February.

The Guinea-Bissau judicial police said that on Monday they carried out a “seizure of a batch of hepatitis B vaccines intended for the immunisation of children in the country”.

The vaccines were confiscated at the Bandim Health Project, which is led by Danish researchers in charge of the hepatitis B testing.

The Danish researchers’ previous work has looked into alleged vaccine harms, and their methods have come under scrutiny by the scientific community.

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which falls under the leadership of US health chief Robert Kennedy Jr, a vaccine sceptic, had awarded a US\$1.6 million grant for the Guinea-Bissau testing.

Junta-run Guinea-Bissau has a high prevalence of hepatitis B and “withholding a birth dose could actually expose infants to a high chance of infection, and that means including a significant proportion of deaths”, WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in February.

Vaccine safety ‘proven’

The study was to take place after Kennedy recommended ending the practice

of immunising all US newborns against hepatitis B.

Kennedy’s department had said the Guinea-Bissau study sought to “answer questions about the broader health effects” of the vaccine and “fill existing evidence gaps”.

But testing a vaccine already proven effective stirred controversy in public health and scientific circles.

The WHO has reported that the vaccine has a “proven safety record across decades of use”.

Guinea-Bissau’s judiciary police said in a statement that the seizure “is part of an ongoing investigation aimed at shedding light on the circumstances surrounding this specific batch of vaccines”.

The investigation, it added, is aimed at “safeguarding the public interest and protecting children’s health”.

According to the WHO, the hepatitis B vaccine is “effective in preventing 70–95 percent of cases of mother-to-child transmission” of the disease, which can be acquired at birth.

More than 12 percent of adults in Guinea-Bissau are estimated to have chronic hepatitis B, the WHO says.

And approximately two percent of children under five have the disease, which is well above the global target.

Hepatitis B can lead to chronic infection, cirrhosis and liver cancer and causes hundreds of thousands of deaths globally each year.

The seizure of the vaccines did “not, in itself, lead to the conclusion that there are any irregularities regarding the quality, safety, or efficacy of the vaccines”, the police statement said. – AFP

Australian lawmaker loses both legs after 'targeted' attack

William West

MELBOURNE — Australian lawmaker Helen Haines has had both legs amputated after being hit by a car, her husband said yesterday, hailing her as a “fighter” despite critical injuries sustained in what police described as a targeted attack.

Haines is now in a stable condition at a Melbourne hospital days after being struck by a car on Monday near her office in the town of Wangaratta, just over 200 kilometres northeast of the Victoria state capital.

The incident has prompted soul-searching in a country where political violence is rare but where police have documented a steady rise in threats and abuse towards elected officials in recent years.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has led tributes to Haines, an independent member of parliament and a passionate campaigner for transparency and against corruption.

And he has acknowledged the need for Australians to turn down the temperature and embrace respectful disagreement over polarisation.

Speaking at the hospital yesterday, Haines's husband of almost 40 years, Phil, said that after days in intensive care, surgeons had been forced to amputate both her legs.

“But the good news in all this is Helen is alive and she's stable. That is the most important thing for our family,” he said.

“The two most important parts of Helen for us as a family are her heart and her mind.

“Her heart is huge. She is a very compassionate, caring, loving person.



Floral tributes are placed outside the offices of Australian lawmaker Helen Haines who was critically wounded in a “targeted” attack on Monday, in Wangaratta yesterday.

— AFP

“Helen's road to recovery will be long and difficult, but we know she is a fighter.”

‘Extremist views’

The man alleged to have wounded Haines in what police have called a “targeted” attack faced court for the first time earlier yesterday.

Forty-three-year-old Brendan Nugent has been charged with dangerous driving causing serious injury and intentionally causing serious injury, as well as the federal crime of harming a public official, which carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison.

He has also been charged with

cultivating a cannabis plant and possession of the drug, according to court documents shared with AFP.

Nugent appeared at a courthouse in Wangaratta.

He did not speak in court or apply for bail and his next hearing is scheduled for February 4.

Governor-General Sam Mostyn — King Charles III's official representative in Australia — said the nation was crying out for “decency”.

“Australians are yearning for kindness and care, and they're asking us why we've lost the great skill of disagreeing well,” Mostyn said alongside Phil Haines.

The motive remains unknown

and authorities will not speculate while the investigation is ongoing.

But police said yesterday they were examining all possible leads, including that Nugent may have held radical anti-government views.

“We're examining social media associations, talking to witnesses, friends and colleagues,” Victoria police commissioner Mike Bush told journalists.

Bush said authorities held no intelligence on the suspect and had seen nothing to suggest he posed an immediate threat.

Australian Federal Police Commissioner Krissy Barrett pointed to a growing and concerning level of

“extremist views” online.

She said the incident was “what many had been dreading for some time”.

World ‘more dangerous’

Helen Haines entered parliament in 2019 after working as a nurse and midwife, becoming known for stances such as supporting stronger climate action.

The independent lawmaker, 65, was standing near the boot of her car when she was struck by a Toyota Land Cruiser on Monday afternoon.

Witnesses told national broadcaster ABC they saw her pinned between the two vehicles.

Threats against Australian lawmakers and electorate offices doubled between 2021 and 2025, with 1,067 incidents reported to police last year.

Highlighting the tense climate, police in Western Australia charged a man yesterday after he made threats and swung nunchucks* at the office of state lawmaker Hannah Beazley, media said.

The incident has drawn comparisons to other acts of violence against elected officials elsewhere, most notably the killing of British lawmaker Jo Cox outside her office in 2016.

“It's a reminder that the world is a more dangerous and divided place than it was a generation ago,” Prime Minister Albanese told ABC Melbourne radio.

— AFP

*Nunchucks” (more formally nunchaku) are a traditional martial arts weapon consisting of two sticks connected by a short chain or rope. — DeepSeek

Sisi says Egypt to ‘defend Saudi territory’ but won’t attack Yemen

CAIRO — Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi said yesterday that Cairo's proposed military support for Riyadh was to “defend Saudi territory, and does not include an attack on Yemen,” according to a statement from his office.

At a government event titled Egypt Forum 2026, Sisi said the “objective is to defend the kingdom's lands and borders, as well as those of any other Arab state, should it be requested of Egypt,” his spokesman said in a statement.

“Egyptian military operations do not extend beyond the borders of Egypt or those of any sisterly nation,” he added.

Sisi on Saturday asked parliament to authorise support for Saudi Arabia in its war with the Houthis, “if requested”.

He said it was “inconceivable” for Cairo to stand by as Riyadh's security and stability were threatened.

Egypt's parliament, which is stacked with supporters of the president, has since held two rare secret sessions, and postponed deliberations until next week.

The Houthis seized Yemen's Red Sea coastline in September and have since launched attacks on Saudi Arabia, including state oil giant Aramco and Riyadh's international airport.

Potential military involvement would constitute a break from Egypt's conservative foreign policy of recent decades, which has prioritised protecting its own national security.

For years Cairo has positioned itself as a regional mediator with channels open across conflict lines, including with Hamas, Israel and Iran.

This week again Egypt's Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty has been in contact with Iran's top diplomat Abbas Araghchi, who has said that Egypt's potential involvement would make the situation “more difficult”.

“Egypt has sufficient experience to avoid entangling itself in such a highly complex conflict,” Araghchi said in an interview with Iraqi state broadcaster Al-Iraqiya aired on Tuesday.

He added that Egypt has said it “will not enter Yemen or engage in a war against Yemen”. — AFP

EU probes Booking.com over online fraud risks

Raziye Akkoc

BRUSSELS — The European Union opened an investigation into online travel agent Booking.com yesterday over alleged failures to tackle fake listings and phishing scams.

The EU fears Booking.com has underestimated the impact of fraud and unlicensed accommodation, and is not sufficiently protecting users' data from being misused for scams.

The probe is the first into Booking.com under the Digital Services Act (DSA), a mammoth online content law that covers a wide array of platforms including social media and digital marketplaces.

“Europeans should be able to book their holidays without fear of being scammed,” EU tech chief Henna Virkkunen said in a statement.

The EU said it was also looking into whether the Netherlands-based firm breached rules “because it did not clearly label as ads those listings whose providers paid for a higher ranking in search results shown to users”.

The DSA “sets clear responsibilities” and “we must ensure that the leading booking platform in Europe takes those responsibilities seriously”, Virkkunen added.

Booking.com said that it was

“cooperating fully” and that “security, trust and the protection of personal information are top priorities”.

“We remain committed to working with relevant governments, regulators, law enforcement and industry partners to combat cyber-crime and online fraud and protect travellers and partners,” it added.

Booking.com is among over 20 very large online platforms that must comply with the DSA's stricter rules or risk fines that could go as high as six percent of their global turnover, or even a ban for serious and repeated breaches.

There is no legal deadline for the completion of the probe but the targeted company can offer commitments to address the European Commission's concerns.

Suspicious over data

A senior EU official was critical of Booking.com and its risk assessment efforts since 2023.

“We feel that what they have done is absolutely substandard,” the official said on condition of anonymity.

The commission — the EU's digital watchdog — said it would assess whether the online platform “properly identified” risks linked to the spread of illegal content

such as non-existent properties and fraudsters portraying themselves as the owner of a property and putting it up for rent.

In some cases, customers discover on arrival that the property they thought they had booked does not exist, or more often, photographs or property descriptions do not accurately reflect reality.

The EU will also investigate whether Booking.com is doing enough to address the risks that phishing scams pose to European consumers.

Phishing is broadly defined as the practice of tricking people into sharing sensitive information through deceptive messages.

The EU said it would look at how reservation and guest data is shared with accommodation providers, and whether Booking.com has put in place “sufficient safeguards to prevent data from being misused”.

“We suspect that Booking is not sufficiently protecting the data of... private users and business users, and [this] makes the system vulnerable for this kind of phishing,” the senior official said.

Meta is also under investigation over potentially fraudulent advertising on its platforms in a probe that began in 2024. — AFP

Thousands rally in Portugal after police clear housing protest camps

LISBON – Thousands rallied in Lisbon and other Portuguese cities on Tuesday evening, hours after police dismantled housing protest camps at dawn and arrested 55 people.

Demonstrators in Portugal are protesting soaring housing costs, seeking to align themselves with similar actions in neighbouring Spain, where tents have been set up in central Madrid for weeks.

The weekend violence that flared in France on the sidelines of peaceful cost-of-living protests has raised alarm that the mayhem could spread to other countries with similar grievances.

In Lisbon, thousands gathered in the central Rossio square, where protesters voted by a show of hands to re-establish their tent camp.

“They forced me onto the streets to shout”, read one placard. Others declared: “Lisbon is not for sale”.

Earlier Tuesday, law enforcement authorities cleared tent camps in Lisbon and Porto, seizing 228 camping structures.

As officers moved in, protesters formed a human chain before clashes broke out, according to footage broadcast by local television stations.

Police arrested 55 people during the operation and said the camps



Police officers prevent protesters from climbing up the statue of King Pedro IV as they take part in a demonstration against Portugal's severe housing shortage, soaring rents and low wages at Rossio square in Lisbon yesterday. – AFP

were no longer legal.

“The individuals taken into custody were brought to police facilities and will be brought before the competent judicial authority as soon as possible,” the police said in a statement.

The protesters accuse the government of failing to act to tackle Portugal’s housing crisis, and trying to push through rental market reforms that will make eviction easier.

Demonstrations were also held

on Tuesday evening in Porto and several other cities.

In Porto, where the movement began earlier this month, demonstrators dismantled their camp themselves in the face of threats of a police intervention.

The nearly four weeks of protests in Spain that erupted after the eviction of an 87-year-old woman from her lifelong home led to the calling of a snap general election for November 29. – AFP

Ronaldo let Man Utd down: Ten Hag

LONDON – Former Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag has accused Cristiano Ronaldo of letting the team down during his time in charge.

Portugal star Ronaldo was in his second spell at United when Ten Hag was hired in 2022.

Ten Hag’s relationship with Ronaldo quickly became tense and the striker refused to come on as a substitute in a win over Tottenham in the October 2022.

Ronaldo was dropped for a subsequent match against Chelsea, prompting him to give an explosive television interview in which he said he felt betrayed by United and did not respect Ten Hag.

The former Real Madrid forward’s contract at United was mutually terminated the following month.

“He let the team down, and he let me down, because we planned with him,” Ten Hag said in an interview with *The Athletic*.

“Obviously, he’s one of the best in football history. I respected him a lot. But at that time, as a manager, I had to make a rational decision and keep the players I admire in.”

Ten Hag said Ronaldo pulled out of training sessions and did not

complete the full run that players were set after they were beaten 4-0 by Brentford early in his reign.

“I confronted him with this. Many times I say, ‘Ronnie, everyone wants to work for you to bring you in the right position, but if you can’t bring yourself in the box, you can’t score’. He was not capable to do this,” Ten Hag said.

“It’s the wrong idea to put this to me that I expected him to do the pressing, that he’s exhausted. But he couldn’t.

“He ran neither in possession nor out of possession. The reason was because he didn’t prepare himself.”

Ten Hag also claimed promises made by United’s owners went unfulfilled before he was sacked in 2024, shortly after signing a new contract.

Although United won the FA Cup just months earlier with a surprise final victory against Manchester City, Ten Hag was axed with the team languishing in 14th place in the Premier League.

The Dutchman blamed the United hierarchy of some of his problems, saying he was left humiliated when Scotland midfielder Scott McTominay was sold to Napoli without his consent.

– AFP

Brazil’s presidential candidates seek to disqualify each other

Facundo Fernández Barrio and Juan Sebastián Serrano

BRASÍLIA – In the latest showdown from Brazil’s increasingly rancorous presidential race on Tuesday, both candidates called for the disqualification of their rivals over allegations of social media malfeasance, according to court filings and campaign officials.

President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva’s campaign said on Tuesday they will request the disqualification of rightwing rival Flávio Bolsonaro over alleged election interference by tech giant Meta.

Later Tuesday, Bolsonaro’s team struck back with its own court filing, seen by AFP, accusing leftist Lula of “abuse of power” in the mass dissemination of government postings on WhatsApp during the campaign.

Lula is seeking a fourth non-consecutive term in office but is facing stiff competition from his challenger, the son of jailed ex-leader Jair Bolsonaro.

Flávio Bolsonaro received 47 percent of the vote over the incumbent’s 45 percent in the first round earlier this month, and polls show a technical tie ahead of Sunday’s runoff.

Lula’s petition was initially expected to be submitted on Tuesday to Brazil’s top electoral court concerning alleged “algorithmic manipulation” by Meta aimed at harming Lula’s chances of winning, the campaign source said.

But Lula’s campaign coordina-

tor, Senator Camilo Santana, later told reporters the filing would occur later.

The information was first revealed on Monday by Brazilian newspaper *Folha de S. Paulo*.

Meta and lawyers from both campaigns met at the Superior Electoral Court (TSE) on Tuesday, a court source said.

The court on Monday gave Meta 24 hours to prove it was complying with an order to treat both campaigns equally, threatening a daily fine of around US\$200,000 if it didn’t.

The order came after Lula’s campaign alleged that Meta, which owns Facebook, WhatsApp and Instagram, was suppressing his online content to boost Bolsonaro.

“We have completed the implementation of the measures to comply with the Superior Electoral Court’s decision,” the company stated on Tuesday.

Lula seeks fightback

Lula’s campaign also alleged inconsistencies in WhatsApp’s AI tool, saying Lula-related election content was limited while Bolsonaro content was untouched.

Meta had denied taking any actions to favour one side in the election, but previously said that some of Lula’s campaign ads had been mistakenly deactivated due to technical errors.

Among measures the tech giant adopted, Meta said that now only candidates and parties registered

with the electoral court can place ads on its networks.

The company also said it removed 720 posts containing AI-generated content that lacked proper labelling. Meta’s London-based oversight board also said it had identified recurring failures with content about Brazil’s presidential elections and the US congressional elections.

Dozens of Lula supporters protested outside the company’s São Paulo offices on Monday, bearing placards and chanting slogans like “Meta out of Brazil.”

Lula, 80, has also accused the American government of meddling in the elections in favor of Flavio Bolsonaro.

US President Donald Trump has not yet explicitly endorsed Bolsonaro, 45, but called his surprise first-round finish a “very, very big victory.”

The runoff victor will either preserve the vast country of 214 million people as a left-wing stronghold in Latin America, or usher it into the ranks of right-wing administrations loyal to Trump.

The shock result of the first round appears to have invigorated the left, with Lula’s camp staging massive rallies ever since and seeking to up its social media game.

Flavio’s father Jair Bolsonaro is serving a 27-year prison sentence under house arrest for attempting a coup following his electoral defeat to Lula in 2022.

Flavio Bolsonaro has sworn to liberate his father if elected. – AFP

Mexico suspends imports of Brazilian chicken

MEXICO CITY – Mexican agricultural officials on Monday suspended imports of chicken meat, live birds and hatching eggs from Brazil due to an outbreak of Newcastle disease.

“The measure was taken with the purpose of protecting domestic poultry production,” the Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development said.

Brazilian authorities detected the outbreak on Sunday at a commercial farm in the south of the country and shut it down, national media reported.

The highly contagious

respiratory virus poses no threat to humans, but among chickens it can cause neurological disorders, reduced egg production and increased mortality, animal health officials said.

This is the second time in a year and a half that Mexico has suspended poultry products from Brazil, which exports 30 percent of its poultry products.

In 2025, Mexico, China, the European Union and other Latin American countries halted imports of Brazilian chicken during May and June because of an avian flu outbreak.

– AFP



Argentine’s ultra-neoliberal President Javier Milei gestures as he addresses a conference of Fórum Europa in Madrid yesterday. – AFP

PSG winger Kvaratskhelia's season in doubt after torn ACL

LIGUE 1 PARIS – Paris Saint-Germain could be without star winger Khvicha Kvaratskhelia for the rest of the season after he tore his ACL in the Champions League win against Barcelona while Ousmane Dembele also faces weeks out of action, the European champions said yesterday.

PSG said Kvaratskhelia “is set to undergo surgery in the coming days” after he suffered the injury in the 4-2 league phase win against Barcelona at the Parc des Princes on Tuesday.

Kvaratskhelia slumped to the turf without any apparent contact and left the pitch just before the hour mark.

The club gave no timeline for his return to action but recovery from anterior cruciate ligament surgery typically takes between six and nine months, meaning the Georgia

international can at best hope to be back for the closing stages of the season.

“Why me? I’ve never left anything to chance. I’d probably prepared for this match better than I ever have before. I thought I was ready for anything, but not for this,” Kvaratskhelia posted in Georgian on Instagram.

The 25-year-old added that he was “ready to spend these next months in work, pain and tears”.

The former Napoli winger has established himself as one of Europe’s most exciting attacking players and played a leading role in helping PSG to win back-to-back Champions League titles in the last two seasons.

Like Dembele, he is one of the contenders for the Ballon d’Or, which will be awarded on Monday.

The club said Dembele, the current Ballon d’Or holder, as well as PSG’s captain and central

defender Marquinhos will both be sidelined for “several weeks” with thigh injuries they suffered in the win against Barcelona.

Dembele, 29, had to be substituted after 20 minutes due to his injury while Brazil international Marquinhos was withdrawn after an hour.

France international Dembele, who scored six goals at this year’s World Cup, struggled with injuries last season and PSG coach Luis Enrique used him sparingly in Ligue 1, preferring to keep him for Champions League games.

Dembele was also beset by injuries at his previous club, Barcelona.

In the absence of two of their attacking stars, PSG will need to rely on summer signings Maghnes Akliouche, Mika Godts and Ferran Torres, the Spain international who scored the winning goal in the World Cup final in July.



PSG's Georgian forward Khvicha Kvaratskhelia (on the ground) eyes the ball as he falls during the UEFA Champions League first round day 3 match against FC Barcelona at the Parc des Princes stadium in Paris on Tuesday. – AFP

PSG host Ligue 1 leaders Lyon on Sunday in their next domestic match and they are next in action

in the Champions League on November 3, with a trip to Spanish side Villarreal. – AFP



Vasco da Gama's Uruguayan defender Jose Luis Rodriguez (second left) argues with Boca Juniors' defender Lautaro Blanco (second right) and Boca Juniors' defender Dylan Gorosito at the end of the Copa Sudamericana semifinal second leg football match between Brazil's Vasco da Gama and Argentina's Boca Juniors at the Maracana stadium in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on Tuesday. Boca juniors won the game 3-1. – AFP

Regulator has 'power' to force Man City sale

Premier League LONDON – English football’s Independent Regulator (IFR) will have “absolute power” to force Manchester City’s owners to sell if they are ultimately found to have run the club improperly, the watchdog’s chair has said.

Premier League leaders City have been found guilty on over 100 charges of breaking Premier League financial rules by an independent commission between 2009 and 2018.

The club have appealed and deny any wrongdoing, but face a severe sanction unless they overturn the verdict.

Owned by Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed al-Nahyan, vice-president and deputy prime minister of the United Arab Emirates, City have blossomed into the dominant force in English football since a 2008 takeover.

“We have the power to ask an owner to step away from a club if we believe that they run a club in a way that is neither fit, fair or done with propriety,” the IFR’s chair David Kogan

told “The Rest is Football” podcast.

Asked if an owner could refuse to divest, Kogan added: “No. We’ve got absolute power to do so.”

Kogan also said last week he would resign if there is any political interference in any investigation the IFR may undertake into City.

British Prime Minister Andy Burnham has come under criticism for his initial comments on City’s guilty verdict, saying he would be “really concerned” if the club’s Abu Dhabi owners left the club following the verdict.

Downing Street subsequently had to backtrack, insisting no one was “above the rules”.

Burnham, who was mayor of Greater Manchester from 2017 to June 2026, has since published all of his dealings with the City hierarchy.

But the case poses a delicate balancing act for the UK government in preserving its longstanding ties with the Emirates without interfering in the independence of the disciplinary action against City.

– AFP



Rose salutes Bournemouth's past heroes ahead of AC Milan clash

LONDON – Bournemouth manager Marco Rose paid tribute yesterday to the team that helped preserve the club’s English Football League status as they prepare to face Italian giants AC Milan in a landmark European fixture.

The Cherries opened their inaugural Europa League campaign with victory at Real Sociedad and then won 3-0 at home to Sturm Graz last week.

A match at home to AC Milan, one of Europe’s leading clubs, was the last thing on Bournemouth fans’ minds when the side were on the brink of dropping out of the Football League following a 17-point deduction ahead of the 2008/09 season as a result of failing to meet their terms for exiting administration.

But Steve Fletcher’s memorable goal against Grimsby eventually

secured survival in Bournemouth’s final home game of the season at Dean Court, which was followed by a mass pitch invasion after the final whistle by joyous Cherries fans.

Rose only succeeded Andoni Iraola as Bournemouth boss before the start of this season but the German is well aware of a pivotal moment in the club’s history as his side bid to maintain their perfect start to the Europa League.

“We are looking forward to playing it, but I think many years ago the club had a much bigger game after the points reduction,” Rose told a pre-match press conference.

“They needed to win the last game at home and Fletch scored a goal - but it is not about Fletch, it is about the whole team. This is a foundation to be here, to have these kind of games and we are looking forward to play this game.

“It is a huge club of Europe which is coming here, but we feel prepared. We love to play this kind of games and now we are going to go for it.”

The Cherries beat Sunderland on Sunday for a first Premier League win under Rose.

Now he wants to use that result as a springboard for continued success against an AC Milan side coached by former Manchester United boss Ruben Amorim.

“We feel in a good spot,” added Rose. “As I said days ago, we had other topics, and now we won two games back to back and we are confident.

“But even before the two games we won, I always told you that I feel confidence in my team. Now we have created a good momentum for us and we should use it.” – AFP

Football shorts

Barca's Olmo injured for a month, misses Clasico

BARCELONA – Barcelona midfielder Dani Olmo will miss Sunday’s Clasico in La Liga against Real Madrid after being ruled out for around a month through injury yesterday.

“Tests have confirmed that Dani Olmo is suffering an injury to his left thigh,” said Spanish champions Barcelona in a statement, confirming he will be sidelined for “approximately one month”.

The Spain international went off hurt during Barca’s 4-2 Champions League defeat by Paris Saint-Germain on Tuesday in the French capital.

As well as the visit of Real Madrid to Camp Nou, Olmo is set to miss league games against Alaves and Atletico Madrid, as well as facing Aston Villa in the Champions League.

Olmo will also likely be unable to play for World Cup winners

Spain in Nations League games against the Czech Republic and England on November 12 and 15 respectively.

The 28-year-old, who joined Barca from RB Leipzig in 2024, has suffered frequently with injuries through his career. – AFP

Real Betis midfielder Bernal handed 4-match ban for Yamal headbutt

MADRID – Real Betis midfielder Facundo Bernal has been handed a four-match suspension for headbutting Barcelona winger Lamine Yamal during his team’s 5-2 home defeat in La Liga on Saturday.

The Spanish Football Federation’s (RFEF) Disciplinary Committee imposed the ban after Bernal was sent off following a confrontation with Yamal shortly after Betis had equalized at 2-2.

“In the 54th minute, the player (6) Facundo Bernal Cruz was sent off for the following reason:

During a confrontation, this player grabbed an opponent by the neck and delivered two consecutive headbutts to his face, while the ball was not in play.”

“The opposing player did not require medical attention and was able to continue in the match,” referee Ricardo de Burgos Bengoechea wrote in his post-match report.

Bernal was punished under Article 103 of the RFEF’s Disciplinary Code, which provides for suspensions of between four and 12 matches for assaulting another person without causing injury when the incident occurs while play is stopped or away from the ball.

The Uruguayan received the minimum suspension under the regulation, but Betis has announced it will appeal the decision.

If the ban is upheld, Bernal will miss La Liga matches against Celta Vigo, Malaga and Elche, as well as a Copa del Rey tie away to fourth-tier Navalmorcar. – Xinhua

Sooryavanshi told to be patient by captain Iyer ahead of NZ series

Cricket

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand – Vaibhav Sooryavanshi “can’t just walk straight into the team”, India captain Shreyas Iyer said yesterday, after calls for the teenage sensation to be unleashed for the T20 series against New Zealand starting in Christchurch this week.

The 15-year-old Sooryavanshi made his international debut for India in July but has been used sparingly against top opponents despite his glittering Indian Premier League form.

India landed in New Zealand on Tuesday, two days before they begin their 40-day tour including five T20s, five one-day internationals and two Test matches.

It marks 100 years of sporting ties between the two nations.

“He has many more years ahead to get opportunities,” Iyer said when asked about the teenager’s role in the squad.

“It’s not as if he can just walk straight into the team right now because our openers have been scoring consistently and also won us the World Cup.”

Sooryavanshi has taken the cricketing world by storm after making his IPL debut aged 14 years and 23 days in 2025.

Nine days later he scored his first IPL century.

In eight T20 internationals Sooryavanshi is averaging just over 30 at a strike rate of 186, below his IPL average of 44 and strike rate of nearly 229.

Since July Sooryavanshi’s rivals for India’s opening spot, Sanju Samson and Abhishek Sharma, have



Captains New Zealand's Mitchell Santner (right) and India's Shreyas Iyer pose with the trophy ahead of the first Twenty20 international cricket match at Hagley Oval in Christchurch, New Zealand yesterday. – AFP

averaged 25 and 30 respectively, at strike rates of 172 and 200.

Iyer said Sooryavanshi would learn plenty from the tour, with or without game time.

“Look at it this way: coming overseas like this will give him a fair idea of how the game plays on these particular wickets, so next time when he comes he will be very well prepared for these conditions.”

New Zealand captain Mitchell Santner said he was aware of Sooryavanshi’s talents from playing in the IPL but pointed to the power of India’s whole lineup.

“I think he has a huge part to play for India, whether it’s in this series or in the future,” Santner said.

“If he does get a crack guys have found it quite hard to stop him, but we’ve got some plans for him.”

Santner said conditions would be seam friendly in the opening

match at Hagley Oval.

India would have to get used to some unfamiliar conditions as they start the series, he said.

“Temperature-wise, you know, we’ve always when we’ve gone to India, it’s hot, it’s humid,” Santner said.

“Here tomorrow night could be the flip side for India, could be a little bit cold, maybe windy, some cold hands.”

New Zealand are without Will O’Rourke, Mark Chapman and Zak Foulkes for the T20 series but will be able to lean on the power hitting of Finn Allen and Tim Seifert at the top of the order.

India recalled seamer Bhuvneshwar Kumar after a four-year absence while Jasprit Bumrah was rested as part of workload management after he played a key part in the team’s recent Asian Games gold medal in Japan. – AFP



#	DELEGATION				TOTAL
1	CHN	107	62	57	226
2	JPN	29	36	35	100
3	UZB	29	30	30	89
4	KOR	15	14	17	46
5	IND	14	22	26	62
6	THA	14	19	29	62
7	IRI	14	18	26	58
8	KAZ	10	11	16	37
9	INA	8	8	22	38
10	IRQ	5	4	3	12
11	KSA	4	6	1	11
12	MAS	4	4	7	15
13	MGL	3	2	1	6
14	JOR	3	0	0	3
15	TPE	2	4	4	10
16	PHI	2	1	2	5
17	HKG	1	8	12	21

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Japan win men’s team gold at world gymnastics championships

Gymnastics

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands – Japan won the men’s team title at the Artistic Gymnastics World Championships in Rotterdam on Tuesday, with Daiki Hashimoto producing a standout display as he helped his country finish ahead of Russia and China.

The battle for gold went down to the final of six rotations, with Japan and China separated by a mere one-tenth of a point, while

Russia remained in contention, a further half point back.

Japan prevailed under pressure, thanks in large part to an excellent routine from Hashimoto on the horizontal bar. China’s hopes were damaged when Yang Haonan made two costly mistakes in the floor exercise, stepping out of bounds before landing on his hands.

The errors opened the door for Russia to snatch silver, led by the consistency of Daniel Marinov across the parallel bars, vault and floor.

The top three teams secured the first qualification places for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

Britain missed out on the podium after finishing in fourth place.

The team final also offered a glimpse of today’s individual all-around competition, where a much-anticipated duel is expected between defending world champion Hashimoto and his Japanese teammate Shinnosuke Oka, the Olympic champion.

With China’s Zhang Boheng, who beat both Japanese gymnasts at last month’s Asian Games, sidelined by injury, the Russians could emerge as the main challengers.

Marinov and 18-year-old Arsenii Dukhno, who finished third in qualification behind the two Japanese gymnasts on his senior world championship debut, both delivered solid performances in Rotterdam’s Ahoy Arena.

The competition continued yesterday with the women’s team final, where China and the United States start as the favourites. The USA are bidding to extend a team winning streak that began at the 2011 world championships. – AFP



Hashimoto Daiki of Japan competes during the men’s team final at Artistic Gymnastics World Championships 2026 in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, on Tuesday. – Xinhua

Rublev promotes sporting inclusion at Almaty Open

Tennis

ALMATY, Kazakhstan – Russian tennis star Andrey Rublev joined 10 children with autism for a tennis session in Kazakhstan on Monday, as organizers of the ATP Almaty Open sought to promote inclusion through sport.

The event, organized by the Kazakhstan Tennis Federation in partnership with the Bulat Utemuratov Foundation, brought together Rublev and children from the foundation’s Asyl Miras Autism Center at Almaty’s Alatau Tennis Center.

Held on the sidelines of the ATP 250 tournament, the session featured adapted ball-and-racket exercises, accuracy drills and other activities designed to introduce the children to tennis in a relaxed environment.

“It was a great experience. First of all, it’s always a pleasure to spend time with children. They teach you so much, and there’s always something special about being part of that playful atmosphere,” Rublev said.

The Russian, whose mother is a tennis coach, said he had grown up watching how coaches worked with young children.

“Every charitable initiative is

incredibly meaningful, and everyone connects with it in their own way. But the most important thing is simply to do something good,” he added.

The initiative forms part of the Kazakhstan Tennis Federation’s efforts to encourage wider participation in the sport, which has undergone significant development in the country under federation president Bulat Utemuratov.

Ainur Karbozova, CEO of the Bulat Utemuratov Foundation, said sporting activities could help create a more inclusive environment for children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

“It is particularly important to us that children with ASD have the opportunity to participate in all aspects of life, including sports,” she said.

“Meetings like these help broaden the understanding of inclusion not only among children but also throughout society.”

The initiative has previously attracted leading players including Novak Djokovic, Carlos Alcaraz, Elena Rybakina and Daniil Medvedev.

The Almaty Open, which runs through Sunday, is one of Kazakhstan’s leading international tennis tournaments. – Xinhua

Nick Paley channels childhood fears in new thriller ‘Phony’

Paula Ramon

LOS ANGELES – A teenager wakes up after a traffic crash convinced his mother has been replaced by an imposter – but almost no one believes him. The plot of “Phony,” the show that debuted this week on Hulu, stems from a childhood fear long held by creator and writer Nick Paley.

“I had this core fear when I was a kid of losing my mom,” he told AFP. “I just was obsessed with things, bad things happening to her, and just getting separated from her.” “That was sort of an emotional thing that I wanted to explore.” “Phony” stars Sam Nivola as Sonny, a teenager with a close bond to his single mother, Ellen (Connie Britton).

When he regains consciousness following the accident, Sonny doesn’t recognise the woman claiming to be Ellen – in terms of looks, but also because she no longer has a grasp on the insider codes of their relationship. And Paley – who co-wrote the Oscar-nominated “Marcel the Shell with Shoes On” – lets “Phony” bleed across genre.

“It’s like a thriller that feels real to life, and to me, like real to life is things are funny, things are scary, things are dramatic, and they kind of all work together,” he said. The US writer, director, editor and producer noted that Britton was instrumental in heightening the suspense and horror elements, portraying the alleged imposter with a warmth that confuses both Sonny and the audience.

He said he spoke frequently about “how to play both sides of this.”

“How can it seem like she’s a possibly, a worried mom who’s helping her son who’s losing his mind, or an imposter who is something really dark and is doing something that’s like, you know, scary,” he continued. “Like, she’s not a person to be trusted.”

Alternate realities

For Paley, Britton – who starred in series including “Friday Night Lights” and “The White Lotus” – was an obvious casting choice. “She’s like, very much an America’s mom in a certain way,” he said. The series is set in a small, fictional community in Oregon, in the Pacific Northwest of the United States.

The area is characterised by its dramatic mountains and forested landscapes, which, for Paley, complemented the storytelling: “There’s such drama to the mountains and the fog, and it just gives you this feeling that magic and strangeness is afoot.” The show touches, if tangentially, on conspiracy theories and alternative versions of the truth that can spring up on social media.

“We’re living in a world that looks a lot like the world we know, but it’s actually quite different,” Paley said. “And often, like based on our algorithms – our individual information feeds – we are seeing things slightly different than other people, and it’s difficult to identify the mechanisms that are separating us,” the show’s creator continued. “So there is a really good, you know, allegory in the main character’s experience.” – AFP, MPD



English actress Naomi Ackie (left) and Welsh actor Tom Rhys Harries pose on the red carpet upon arrival to attend the European Premiere of “Clayface” at Curzon Mayfair in London on Tuesday. “Clayface” is an American body horror-psychological thriller film based on the eponymous character from DC Comics. – AFP

World Weather			
CHINA	ASIA-PACIFIC	WORLD	LUSOPHONE
Beijing 6°C~17°C	Manila 25°C~33°C	New York 8°C~21°C	Lisbon 14°C~22°C
Shanghai 16°C~22°C	Bangkok 24°C~35°C	London 11°C~15°C	Rio de Janeiro 20°C~23°C
Hong Kong 22°C~31°C	Tokyo 13°C~23°C	Frankfurt 7°C~14°C	Luanda 23°C~27°C
Taipei 22°C~24°C	Singapore 25°C~34°C	Vancouver 5°C~13°C	Maputo 21°C~32°C
Guangzhou 20°C~31°C	Kuala Lumpur 23°C~33°C	Paris 11°C~15°C	Dili 22°C~33°C
Nanjing 12°C~21°C	Jakarta 25°C~35°C	Moscow 5°C~10°C	São Tomé 25°C~32°C
Guilin 16°C~29°C	Seoul 6°C~15°C	Las Vegas 10°C~22°C	Praia 24°C~30°C
Xi'an 6°C~16°C	Sydney 17°C~22°C	Monte Carlo 14°C~21°C	Bissau 24°C~34°C



British-American actor Sam Nivola (left) and US actress Connie Britton pose on the sidelines of the Los Angeles Premiere of Hulu’s “Phony” at Pacific Design Center last Tuesday in West Hollywood, California. – AFP



US director Nick Paley poses on the sidelines of the Los Angeles Premiere of Hulu’s “Phony” at Pacific Design Center last Tuesday in West Hollywood. – AFP

Netflix shares drop on slowing engagement, revenue growth

Sara Bloomberg

SAN FRANCISCO – Netflix stock dropped more than five percent on Tuesday* after its quarterly earnings release failed to assuage investor concerns about a slowdown in viewer engagement and revenue growth.

“We know there’s some investor concern about our view hours growth,” the company said in a letter to investors, referring to how the company measures engagement, and added that it was “confident” it could accelerate that growth.

The California-based streaming giant has struggled to meet investor expectations for several quarters as it faces competition from other streamers, gaming and sports. Netflix “has underperformed significantly over the last 6-12 months” and investors are concerned “about soft engagement trends, decelerating revenue growth, a slower margin expansion outlook, and most recently content executive leadership changes,” John Belton, a portfolio manager at Gabelli Funds, told AFP in a statement.

In its third quarter ending in September, Netflix recorded US\$12.87 billion in revenue and US\$3.7 billion in net income, above investor expectations, according to FactSet.

It did not provide overall figures for subscriber view hours in the quarter, but noted that in India the metric increased 24 percent compared to the same period last year.

In July, Netflix said subscribers spent 97 billion hours watching content in the first half of the year, a 2.0 percent increase over the first half of 2025.

It stopped reporting subscriber numbers in the first half of 2025. But the company touted growth

outside the US while acknowledging challenges stateside.

“We do need better execution in the US. Our content around the world is largely working,” co-CEO Ted Sarandos told investors on an analyst call on Tuesday, highlighting engagement, subscribers, revenue and profits across Latin America, Europe and Asia.

“The US is also working. It’s just not growing as fast as it could or as fast as we’d like,” Sarandos continued.

Job cuts

The company will also reportedly cut around 6 percent of its workforce, or 1,000 jobs, according to media reports.

Among them were seven high-level employees in charge of television deals and content, the *Hollywood Reporter* reported last week.

The company also recently replaced chief content officer Bela Bajaria, who oversaw popular shows including “Stranger Things,” “Bridgerton,” and “Squid Game,” in addition to pushing the company’s live entertainment strategy, according to CNBC.

Netflix appointed former Disney executive Peter Rice to be its new content chief.

“Peter Rice understands talent relations, and in a competitive market, creative talent have choices of where they want to work,” Sarandos said on the call on Tuesday.

Diverse formats

Competition from other streamers has forced Netflix to work harder to attract and retain both paid and ad-supported members.

The company has increasingly

dipped into live sports – with agreements to stream major events like the Olympics and World Cup – in addition to gaming and shorter-form content. The US National Football League (NFL) and Connecticut-based World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) are also on board to stream live events.

In the US, it reached 7.8 percent of streaming television viewers in July compared to YouTube’s 14.2 percent, a record for the Google-owned site, according to media analytics firm Nielsen.

The World Cup lifted overall television viewership in July, according to Nielsen.

“It’s really important to remember, roughly 95 percent of our spend and nearly all of our revenue is focused on that core, where we see a long runway for future growth,” Sarandos said on Tuesday’s call, emphasising its commitment to traditional television and film content.

The company also missed expectations on advertising revenue growth.

“We are currently a bit behind our aggressive target for the year. We’re still growing” on advertising, nonetheless, co-CEO Greg Peters said on the call.

“We see the benefits when we continue to roll out other products like new ad formats, which help with our growth,” Peters added.

– AFP
*Netflix Inc. (NFLX) shares dropped sharply yesterday (as of 6 p.m. Macau time), trading at approximately US\$64.60 in pre-market action – a decline of about 7.52 percent from its previous close of US\$69.85. – Google Finance



Gold medalist Mona Agarwal (centre) of India, silver medalist Avani Lekhara (left) of India, and bronze medalist Lee Yunri of South Korea pose for photos during the awarding ceremony for para shooting R2 Women's 10m air rifle standing SH1 at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Para Games in Toyota of Aichi Prefecture, Japan, on Monday. – Xinhua



Gold medalist Ruza Kuzieva of Uzbekistan celebrates during the awarding ceremony of the women's up to 73kg finals of Para Powerlifting at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Para Games in Nagoya, Japan, yesterday. – Xinhua



↑ Players of gold medalist team China (centre), silver medalist team Thailand (left) and bronze medalist team South Korea interact during the awarding ceremony for foil mixed team final of Fencing at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Para Games in Nagoya, Japan, on Tuesday. – Xinhua

→ Ruza Kuzieva of Uzbekistan reacts after breaking the world record during the women's up to 73kg finals of Para Powerlifting at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Para Games in Nagoya, Japan, yesterday. – Xinhua



↑ Rasool Mohsin of Iraq celebrates during the Men's 80kg of Para Powerlifting Finals at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Para Games in Nagoya, Japan, yesterday. – Xinhua

→ Bekzod Jamilov of Uzbekistan celebrates winning the Men's 80kg of Para Powerlifting Finals at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Para Games in Nagoya, Japan, yesterday. – Xinhua

