

WORLD

Briefly

UNITED STATES  
Trump unable to post \$464m bond: lawyers

Former US president Donald Trump faced having assets seized in a humiliating blow to his carefully cultivated image as a self-made tycoon as his lawyers acknowledged on Monday he does not have the cash to appeal a \$464 million fine for fraudulently inflating his wealth. Trump must either pay the sum out of his own pocket or post a bond to stave off the state's seizure while he appeals. Justice Arthur Engoron's Feb 16 judgment against him for misstating property values to dupe lenders and insurers. His cash crunch raises the possibility that the state of New York could begin seizing his property as soon as next Monday unless the court agrees to a delay.

HAITI  
12 killed as gangs go on rampage

Gangs attacked two upscale neighborhoods in Haiti's capital Port-au-Prince early on Monday in a rampage that left at least a dozen people dead in surrounding areas. Gunmen looted homes in the communities of Laboule and Thomassin before sunrise, forcing residents to flee as some called radio stations pleading for police help. Authorities have not commented on the events surrounding the deaths.

EAST EUROPE  
Russia says captured frontline village

Russia said on Tuesday its forces had taken control of Orliyka, a frontline village about 4 kilometers west of the strategic stronghold Avdiivka in the Donetsk region. Moscow has made a number of gains in recent months, pressing its advantage on the battlefield as Kyiv struggles with shortages of ammunition and troops. "On the Avdiivka front, units of the 'Center' grouping of troops liberated the village of Orliyka," the Defense Ministry said.

AGENCIES VIA XINHUA



Three-year-old Yanis Vasques (center) sits next to her mother who sells food outside a migrant shelter on the Lower West Side in Chicago on Feb 15. ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ VIA NEWSCOM

Chicago evicts migrants from shelters

By MAY ZHOU in Houston  
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Citing limited resources, the city of Chicago announced it has started to evict migrants based on a 60-day limit policy in a bid to make room for new arrivals. The city said 34 migrants would be the first group to be evicted on Sunday, but as of Monday, only three were turned away. The other 31 were given temporary extensions. The 60-day limit policy has been held off because of the cold winter, and it will be applied to healthy adults first, the city said. Some exceptions are applied as pregnant women, people with health issues or in the process of securing a place to live can apply for an extension of another 30 days. Families with children in school can stay until June, when schools break for holiday. Around 11,000 migrants are housed in 23 shelters throughout Chicago, The New York Times reported. The city has received more than 37,000 migrants since August 2022. By the end of this month, 250

migrants will be evicted, Chicago officials said, and by the end of next month more than 2,000. The city anticipates that more than 2,000 new migrants could stay in shelters through next month. "I don't believe the city should be in the business of evicting people," Andre Vasquez, Chicago's 40th Ward Alderman, told ABC television. "Especially those that don't have shelter, don't have work authorization, don't have rental assistance." On Monday, the Progressive Reform Caucus of 19 members on the Chicago City Council issued a statement urging Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson to immediately end the evictions policy. "It risks contributing to the city's unhoused population and exacerbating social and racial tension at a time when we need to unite," it said. Legal disputes In recent years, the Democratic and Republican parties have been at odds over migrants crossing over the US-Mexico border. After Democrat Joe Biden became president,

Texas Governor Greg Abbott and other Republicans frequently accused his administration of inaction. According to official data, border police registered 176,000 interceptions of migrants coming from Mexico in January. The battle over a Texas law to arrest migrants who cross the US-Mexico border illegally is one of multiple legal disputes between Texas officials and the Biden administration over how far the state can go to patrol the border and prevent illegal crossings. On Monday, the Supreme Court continued to block, for now, the Texas plan that would give police broad powers to arrest migrants suspected of illegally entering the US. The court put the law on pause over a lawsuit led by the Justice Department, which argues that Texas is overstepping the federal government's immigration authority. The court battle is unfolding as immigration emerges as a key issue in the 2024 presidential race. Agencies contributed to this story.

Airlines in China increase flights to US

Companies ramp up plane numbers in anticipation of surge in summer travel

By MINGMEI LI in New York  
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Chinese passenger airlines are increasing their weekly round-trip flights to the United States to handle higher travel demand expected during the summer. Both countries are making efforts to gradually restore air travel by increasing the frequency of direct passenger flights, which were interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Starting March 31, flights will increase to 50 weekly from the current 35, the US Department of Transportation said on Monday, bringing the market back to nearly one-third of its pre-pandemic levels. This is "a significant step forward in further normalization of the US-China market in anticipation of the summer 2024 traffic season", the DOT said in a statement. However, despite it being the fifth time that the US regulator has increased the quota granted to Chinese carriers since China's post-pandemic reopening, it amounts to only a fraction of the more than 150 weekly round trips permitted by each side before the pandemic. The DOT said it was in talks with the Civil Aviation Administration of China about a "gradual" reopening of bilateral air services. Several Chinese passenger airlines have announced adding more round-trip flights between major cities starting March 31. New flights between China and the US operated by Chinese airlines are still mostly concentrated in Los Angeles and San Francisco. China Eastern Airlines will add two weekly flights from Shanghai to Los Angeles and one weekly flight from Shanghai to San Francisco. China Southern Airlines will introduce one new weekly flight from Guangzhou to Los Angeles, followed by the addition of two new weekly flights from Guangzhou to San Francisco on April 2. Air China is adding one additional weekly flight between Beijing and Los Angeles, as well as two extra weekly flights on the East Coast between New York and Beijing. "The flights from the East Coast of the US to China are very limited, totaling only six flights altogether," Air China New York office General Manager Wang Zhiyong told China Daily. "On average, there is less than one flight per day, making it very inconvenient for many passengers from the East Coast to travel to China, as they often have to rely on connecting flights. "With the addition of these two new flights, our airline will now

As cultural and tourism exchanges between China and the US increase, tourists are eagerly anticipating the addition of more flights, especially direct flights." Wang Zhiyong, general manager of Air China New York office

operate five flights per week, making travel between the two regions more convenient. "Currently, there is a severe shortage of seats, and we hope that the addition of these extra flights will effectively alleviate this situation," he said, adding each one-way flight operated by Air China has 322 seats. "As cultural and tourism exchanges between China and the US increase, tourists are eagerly anticipating the addition of more flights, especially direct flights. The youth exchange program agreed upon by China and the US is also progressing positively, but the current lack of flights restricts its potential. Increasing the number of flights can provide more resources for this program."

Greater convenience US students will begin their summer vacations in May, while Chinese students will have their vacations in July and August, he said. More flights can provide more seats and greater convenience for travelers from both nations during the summer vacation. Zeek Mesa, 16, said, "I think it's pretty cool, and there is the chance for me to visit China." She said she was excited about the increase in flights. "I'm very into China's art culture; I think that is traditional, and there's so much history behind the country." Her mother, Jodi, said, "I think one of the big challenges is the geopolitical climate. "We're hoping that there's going to be a little bit more 'combined agreements', and for people like us, we can still go visit. We can still exchange ideas and everything like that. "Always wanted to see the Great Wall of China. I know that's one of the most touristy things, but hopefully in the near future."

Global educator calls for further bilateral exchanges

By YIFAN XU in Washington  
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The head of an international association of educators has said her organization fully supports more educational exchanges and cooperation between the United States and China. "There is no substitute for people-to-people exchanges, and China-US relations are very, very important," Fanta Aw, CEO of NAFSA: Association of International Educators, said. "The world needs those relationships to be strong. The students, faculty and scholars — we all benefit when we have those kinds of exchanges." There is a long history of a "very robust" relationship between the two nations, though in recent times it has experienced some bumps, Aw said. "I'm one who believes that given the long history of exchanges, there will

be goodwill on both sides and that we both realize — all sides realize — that it is in everyone's interest. It is in the interest of the world, the US and China to maintain strong and good relationships. Healthy relationships and exchanges are very important." Aw was named executive director and CEO this year of the nonprofit dedicated to international education and exchange. NAFSA's 10,000 members are from more than 3,500 higher education institutions in more than 150 countries. The original name of the organization was National Association of Foreign Students. In 1990, it was formally renamed NAFSA: Association of International Educators. Aw said international education exchange "is vitally important." "Education abroad is one of the ways that we can ensure a deeper appreciation of each other's culture,"



she said, emphasizing the significance of exchanges in the area of education, especially for young people, to see the whole picture of China-US relations. She praised China for "having done quite a lot" to encourage Chinese students to learn English. She noted the trend of more bilingual education programs in US primary and secondary schools, including English-Mandarin ones. "I think that's wonderful because those students in primary and secondary school may have picked up Mandarin, and then chances are that when they go to college, they will want to continue. Chances are that they're going to be the students most likely to say, 'I want to go to China and study,'" Aw said. "When

they are working, they will be wonderful cultural translators. They will be wonderful ambassadors because they will be able to speak about issues with much more understanding of the culture and appreciation of the nuances of the culture." Aw related the concept of "people-to-people exchange" to "education." "A lot of what I find as barriers have to do with education and ignorance. When people are ignorant, you always fear what you don't know. The more you're educated about it, the more you realize that we have so much in common," she said. "So, for us at NAFSA, part of the way we want to be helpful is to ensure that universities are very aware of this. We want to ensure that we all work with the embassies, the different stakeholders, the universities, and all our partners to understand what will help facilitate that."

International Education Column

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