



“West coast sports” added to 2028 Los Angeles Olympics

BEIJING (AP) — Skateboarding, surfing, and sports climbing have officially been added to the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. The decision by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) was expected after its executive board agreed to an initial list of 28 sports in December. Los Angeles organizers have welcomed the “three iconic west coast sports” that made their debuts at last year’s Tokyo Olympics. The IOC is promoting urban sports to attract younger viewers. Boxing, modern pentathlon, and weightlifting have not yet been included. They can be added next year by meeting targets set by the IOC board. Space can also be made for sports suggested by Los Angeles organizers. Those could include breakdancing or baseball and softball. Breakdancing will debut at the 2024 Olympics at the request of the Paris organizers.

Election fraud trial of Myanmar’s Suu Kyi set for Feb. 14

BANGKOK (AP) — The trial of Myanmar’s ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi for election fraud will begin on February 14, a legal official said, one among a raft of charges the former politician is facing under the country’s military rulers. Suu Kyi was arrested by Myanmar’s army when it seized power in February of 2021, alleging widespread voter fraud in the country’s last election — an allegation that independent election observers have said they’ve seen no serious evidence for. The former civilian leader has already been sentenced to six years in prison on separate charges. The legal official — who is acquainted with the charges facing Suu Kyi but spoke on condition of anonymity because he is not authorized to release information — said the former leader was accused of influencing the Union Election Commission in connection with the November 2020 election, which her National League for Democracy won by a landslide.

WHO says it’s probing alleged racism, abuse by top official

GENEVA (AP) — The head of the World Health Organization (WHO) says an investigation is underway into alleged reports that the U.N. health agency’s top official in the Western Pacific engaged in racist, unethical, and abusive behavior, following a report by The Associated Press. At a meeting of WHO’s executive board, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the agency was first made aware of staff complaints about the reported misconduct of Dr. Takeshi Kasai in late 2021. “We take these allegations seriously and we have acted with urgency,” said Tedros. He said WHO headquarters was told of the claims in late 2021 and was now “following due process with the cooperation of the staff member,” without specifying Kasai.

Japanese snowboarder Yoshika injured in crash

BEIJING (AP) — Japanese snowboarder Rina Yoshika injured her back in a training crash and will not be able to compete in the Olympic slopestyle contest. Yoshika, ranked 12th in the world, fell hard on a jump during a practice session last week. Medical staff rushed to help her, and took about 20 minutes to stabilize her and put her in a sled to take her down the hill. Japanese Olympic officials said the 22-year-old suffered a spinal injury but was not paralyzed. They said she will return home after receiving treatment for her injuries.

Honduras will maintain its relations with Taiwan

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP) — Honduras will continue strengthening ties with Taiwan and establishing a diplomatic relationship with China is not a priority for Honduran President Xiomara Castro, the country’s new foreign affairs minister said. Eduardo Enrique Reina said maintaining relationships with Honduras’ historical partners is important. The message from Reina at a news conference runs counter to some comments by Castro, who has spoken of establishing a relationship with mainland China. Honduras is one of the few remaining Central American allies of Taiwan. China has moved to isolate Taiwan and most recently Nicaragua swapped Taiwan for China, even turning over Taiwan’s embassy.

Cambodia launches 4th round of COVID-19 vaccinations

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) — Cambodia last month began a fourth round of vaccinations against the coronavirus in response to the omicron variant, with high-risk groups among the first to receive the additional boosters. Frontline medical staff and members of the armed forces were among those lining up at hospitals and clinics. Government ministers, including Prime Minister Hun Sen, also received booster doses. Hun Sen has appealed to all Cambodian people to get fully vaccinated, including a booster, saying on his Facebook page that it is the only way to keep their families and communities safe from COVID-19. A campaign to have people get their third jabs is still ongoing. Almost 90% of Cambodia’s 16 million people have had at least one dose, over 85% have had a second shot, and more than 27% have had a third, according to the government. Thanks largely to donations from close ally China, Cambodia has had enough vaccine supplies to send on to other Asian nations in need. But the Chinese Sinovac and Sinopharm vaccines have been found to have less efficacy than others against the highly transmissible omicron variant, especially with the passage of time, so the fourth round of high-priority vaccinations is using Cambodia’s more limited supply of Pfizer vaccines. Neighboring Thailand, which like Cambodia was largely reliant on the Chinese vaccines during the early stages of its inoculation program last year, has announced that fourth doses will be given to medical personnel whose third shot was at least three months ago.



IDENTITY MAP. Li Jingwei points to details on a map he drew from memory of his childhood village, while sitting in Lankao in central China’s Henan province on January 5, 2022. Abducted by child traffickers when he was 4 years old, Li was able to find his mother decades later after a meticulous drawing of his village landscape helped police locate his family. (Li Jingwei via AP)

Map helps Chinese man reunite with his family after decades

By Emily Wang Fujiyama
The Associated Press

BEIJING — Since he was a child, Li Jingwei did not know his real name. He did not know where he was born, or for certain how old he was — until he found his biological family in December with the help of a long-remembered map.

Li was a victim of child trafficking. In 1989, when he was 4 years old, a bald neighbor lured him away by saying they would go look at cars, which were rare in rural villages.

That was the last time he saw his home, Li said. The neighbor took him behind a hill to a road where three bicycles and four other kidnapers were waiting. He cried, but they put him on a bike and rode away.

“I wanted to go home but they didn’t allow that,” Li said in an interview with The Associated Press. “Two hours later, I knew I wouldn’t be going back home and I must have met bad people.”

He remembers being taken on a train. Eventually he was sold to a family in another province, Henan.

“Because I was too young, only 4, and I hadn’t gone to school yet, I couldn’t remember anything, including the names” of his parents and hometown, he said.

Etched in his memory, however, was the landscape of his village in the southwestern city of Zhaotong, Yunnan province. He remembered the mountains, bamboo forest, a pond next to his home — all the places he used to play.

After his abduction, Li said he drew maps of his village every day until he was 13 so he wouldn’t forget. Before he reached school age,

he would draw them on the ground, and after entering school he drew them in notebooks. It became an obsession, he said. More than 30 years after his abduction, a meticulous drawing of his village landscape helped police locate it and track down his biological mother and siblings.

He was inspired to look for his biological family after two reunions made headlines last year. In July, a Chinese father, Guo Gangtang, was united with his son after searching for 24 years, and in December, Sun Haiyang was reunited with his kidnapped son after 14 years.

Reports of child abductions occur regularly in China, though how often they happen is unclear. The problem is aggravated by restrictions that until 2015 allowed most urban couples only one child.

Li decided to speak with his adoptive parents for clues and consulted DNA databases, but nothing turned up. Then he found volunteers who suggested he post a video of himself on Douyin, a social-media platform, along with the map he drew from memory.

It took him only 10 minutes to redraw what he had drawn hundreds, perhaps thousands of times as a child, he said.

That post received tens of thousands of views. By then, Li said police had already narrowed down locations based on his DNA sample, and his hand-drawn map helped villagers identify a family.

Li finally connected with his mother over the telephone. She asked about a scar on his chin which she said was caused by a fall from a ladder.

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Asian Currency Exchange Rates

Units per U.S. dollar as of 2/04

Bangladesh Taka	85.79
Cambodian Riel	4066.1
China Renminbi	6.3605
Fijian Dollar	2.1022
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7893
Indian Rupee	74.645
Indonesian Rupiah	14345
Iranian Rial	42188
Japanese Yen	115.22
Laos New Kip	11333
Malaysian Ringgit	4.178
Nepal Rupee	119.46
Pakistani Rupee	174.3
Papua N.G. Kina	3.49
Philippine Peso	51.264
Russian Ruble	76.141
Saudi Riyal	3.7516
Singapore Dollar	1.3452
South Korean Won	1200.0
Sri Lankan Rupee	202.5
Taiwan Dollar	27.814
Thai Baht	33.03
Vietnam Dong	22579