

# Election campaign starts, 71 candidates from 6 direct election groups vying for 14 seats

**Tony Wong**

The two-week official election campaign period for the 2025 direct and indirect Legislative Assembly (AL) elections has started, where a total of 71 candidates fielded by six direct election candidacy groups are now vying for the 14 directly-elected seats at stake, equivalent to 5.1 candidates per seat up for grabs.

Each direct election group must field at least four and no more than 14 candidates.

There are a total of 14 candidates vying for the 12 indirectly-elected seats at stake as two indirect election candidacy groups comprising four candidates are competing for the labour sector's two seats, while only one candidacy group is running for each of all other sectors.

In the run-up to polling day on September 14, the ongoing 14-day official election campaign period, which started at 00:00 on Saturday, is running until 11:59 p.m. on Friday, September 12. No electioneering is allowed on the eve of polling day and on polling day.



Candidates or representatives of direct and indirect election groups paste their campaign posters on a board in Praça do Tap Seac at around 00:00 on Saturday when the 14-day election campaign period started. – Photo: MPDG

Macau's legislative elections are based on the proportional representation system. There are no political parties in Macau. Customarily, community organisations set up ad hoc candidacy groups in the

run-up to the elections that are held every four years.

The 33-member Legislative Assembly (AL) currently comprises 14 deputies directly elected by universal suffrage, 12 deputies

indirectly elected by association representatives and seven deputies appointed by the chief executive after the direct and indirect elections.

The legislature's 12 indirectly-elected seats comprise four seats

representing the city's industrial, commercial and financial sector, three seats from the professional sector, two seats from the labour sector, two seats from the cultural and sports sector, and one seat from the social services and educational sector.

The new, eighth term of the Macau Special Administrative Region's (MSAR) Legislative Assembly will start on October 16.

Initially, eight candidacy groups had submitted their respective lists of candidates and political platforms for the 2025 direct legislative election, but only six of them were finally accepted to run after the Legislative Assembly Electoral Affairs Commission (CAEAL) decided in July to disqualify all candidates fielded by two candidacy groups, based on the conclusion by the MSAR's Committee for Safeguarding National Security that all of them had not upheld the MSAR Basic Law or had been disloyal to the MSAR.

*Continued on p.5*



President Xi Jinping (center) and his wife, Peng Liyuan (11<sup>th</sup> from right), pose for a group photo with foreign guests before a welcoming banquet at the Meijiang Convention and Exhibition Center in Tianjin yesterday. Xi and Peng yesterday hosted the banquet to welcome foreign guests who are attending the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit 2025. The two-day summit ends today. –Xinhua (More on page 6 & 7)

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## Israel says 'eliminated' spokesman for Hamas armed wing

Israel said yesterday its forces had killed the spokesman of Hamas's armed wing in a strike on Gaza a day earlier, the latest fatality in the group's senior ranks in the nearly two-year war.

– Story on p. 10

## French PM says 'fate of France' at stake in confidence vote

French Prime Minister François Bayrou said yesterday the destiny of France was at stake in a forthcoming confidence vote, which he called to resolve a budget standoff but is expected to lose.

– Story on p. 11

## Brazilian judge orders searches of vehicles leaving Bolsonaro residence

A Brazilian judge on Saturday ordered yet more surveillance around the home of former president Jair Bolsonaro, days ahead of the verdict phase of his trial for allegedly planning a coup.

– Story on p. 12



## Police nab 4 local illegal currency exchange dealers



Evidence seized from Wong's two pawnshops is displayed during Friday's special press conference at the Judiciary Police (PJ) headquarters in Zape.

— Photos: Armindo Neves

Armindo Neves

The Judiciary Police (PJ), in conjunction with the Chinese mainland's Public Security Bureau (PSB), have busted an illegal currency exchange case, PJ spokesman Chao Teng Hin and Organised Crime Division Section Chief Ho Wai Lok said during a special press conference on Friday.

Chao identified the four illegal currency exchange dealers as aged between 29 and 55, surnamed Wong, Sou, Chan and Lam. Three of them worked for Wong.

According to Ho, on July 8, through a notification and liaison mechanism with the mainland's PSB and intelligence sharing, the Judiciary Police identified two pawnshops owned by Wong, in Zape and Nam Van respectively. Both shops are suspected of long-term illegal currency exchange services specifically catering to gambling activities, with financial ties to an underground banking operation in Zhuhai. The case involves at least 80 clients and a cumulative transaction volume of HK\$ 253,000 (totalling 260,650 patacas). The Judiciary Police have verified the identities of multiple gamblers who engaged in illegal currency exchange at the two implicated shops.

In a synchronised operation with mainland police on Thursday, Ho said, the Judiciary Police deployed over 20 investigators to raid the two pawnshops. During the operation, they seized HK\$516,000 in cash, 216,000 patacas in cash, two POS terminals, two ledgers used to record illegal currency exchanges, and multiple mobile phones used for transfers. Subsequently, at Wong's home in Patane district, an additional HK\$280,000 in suspected backup cash for illicit exchanges was confiscated.

During the investigation, according to Ho, Wong refused to cooperate. However, Sou, Chan and Lam confessed that Wong provided the capital, while they were tasked with conducting currency exchanges with clients and required to record the daily exchange amounts to report to Wong. Through the illegal exchange services related to gambling offered by his shops, Wong was involved in a total amount of at least HK\$7.26 million, with an estimated illegal profit of no less than HK\$363,000, according to Ho.

The quartet were transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) on Friday facing illegal currency exchange charges. ■

## Police nab local man for domestic violence, seize cleaver

Armindo Neves

A local construction worker was arrested on Thursday for domestic violence, Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Chao Teng Hin said during a special press conference on Friday.

Chao identified the suspect as a 35-year-old man surnamed Chang who married the victim in 2021. The couple have a young son. The family live in the peninsula's northern district.

Chao said that the victim told police that Chang, at around 4 p.m. on Wednesday, was dissatisfied with home arrangements, demanding that she return home at once. Upon her arrival, Chang suddenly grabbed her by the neck and dragged her into a room. During the struggle, the victim

sustained injuries to both knees and arms. Subsequently, Chang threatened the victim with a cleaver, forced her to eat the food given to her, and demanded to check her smartphone. When Chang's temper slightly subsided, she seized the opportunity to escape their home and temporarily sought refuge with relatives. After careful consideration, she reported the incident to the Judiciary Police on Thursday morning, Chao said.

At 4 p.m. on Thursday, according to Chao, PJ officers intercepted Chang at the family home and seized the cleaver with a blade length of 17.5 centimetre as evidence in the case. A forensic examination confirmed that the victim's injuries were consistent with ordinary assault causing

bodily harm, Chao said.

Questioned by police, the victim said domestic violence triggered by trivial matters occurred frequently after marrying Chang, to the extent that she could no longer recall the exact number of incidents. At the time of the offences, only the suspect and the victim were at home, with their young son elsewhere. In the past, the victim endured the abuse out of fear and a desire to protect the family. Following this latest incident, she fled to a relative's home for temporary shelter, Chao said.

Chang was transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) on Friday, facing charges of domestic violence, use of a prohibited weapon, and severe coercion. ■



Judiciary (PJ) officers escort the hooded domestic violence suspect surnamed Chang to a PJ van outside the PJ headquarters in Zape on Friday.

— Photos: Armindo Neves



A cleaver seized from Chang's home is displayed during Friday's special press conference at the Judiciary Police (PJ) headquarters in Zape.

— Photos: Armindo Neves

## Police bust local man & Filipino for drug-trafficking & drug-taking

Armindo Neves

The Judiciary Police (PJ) separately arrested a local man and a Filipino for drug-trafficking and drug-taking on Thursday, PJ spokesman Chao Teng Hin and Narcotics Division Supervisor Angel Lei Hon Nei said during a special press conference on Friday.

Chao identified the suspects as a 20-year-old local hairdresser surnamed Tam and a 37-year-old non-resident-worker (NRW) from the Philippines surnamed Caparas.

According to Lei, in order to strengthen the ongoing crackdown on drug trafficking in local neighbourhoods and prevent youth drug abuse, PJ officers have intensified patrols in local communities. An investigation revealed that since the beginning of this year, Tam had targeted outdoor sports grounds in the city centre at night to "befriend" teenagers.

After gaining their trust, Lei said that Tam lured at least two minors to the hair salon where he works under the pretext of giving them a haircut. There, he provided them with free e-cigarettes laced with drugs. Once the victims became addicted, he began selling

them drugs for profit, Lei said.

Lei said that PJ officers arrested Tam at his workplace at around 5 p.m. on Thursday. During a subsequent search of his home, PJ officers discovered a plastic bottle with traces of vape juice, which Tam admitted buying from Caparas. At 9 p.m. the same day, Caparas was arrested in the city centre.

According to Lei, PJ officers seized 16 plastic bottles containing vape juice from Caparas and from his home, which were later confirmed to contain synthetic cannabinoids. The total weight exceeded 270 grams, with an estimated street value of approximately 40,000 patacas.

Following further investigation, according to Lei, Tam confessed to purchasing the drugs from Caparas at a price of 1,500 patacas per bottle. Apart from using a portion himself, he would repackage the remainder into e-cigarette cartridges and resell them to adolescents at 500 patacas per e-cigarette.

Lei said that each bottle of vape juice, also known as e-liquid, could fill five cartridges, with one cartridge sufficient for a day's use. Police believe that Tam began

drug trafficking early this year and made multiple purchases from Caparas, according to Lei.

At the time of the press conference, PJ officers were still investigating the source of the drugs and identifying other potential targets of the trafficking network.

Both have been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) for further investigation, both facing drug-trafficking and drug-taking charges. ■



Evidence seized from the two drug suspects, surnamed Tam and Caparas, is displayed during Friday's special press conference at the Judiciary Police (PJ) headquarters in Zape.

— Photo: Armindo Neves

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WILL RANGE BETWEEN  
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25°C~31°C

Source: SMG



## ‘Barra Mart 2’ showcases 29 local brands



Booths run by local brands showcase their products at “Barra Mart 2” at Barra Kitchen on Saturday.  
– Photos: Armindo Neves



Akiyu Soap owner, surnamed Chan, poses with his cat “媽閣” (A-Má) at his booth on Saturday.

Armindo Neves

“Barra Mart 2” began on Saturday, and will be held every weekend through September 21. Featuring 29 diverse stalls offering daily necessities, fresh produce, other kinds of food, pet supplies and cultural creative products, the market curator promised a lifestyle-orientated atmosphere with a vibrant local vibe, intentionally avoiding excessive commercialisation.

“Barra” is Portuguese for harbour entrance. “Barra Mart 2” is located at the southern tip of the Macau Peninsula.

Located at Barra Kitchen, which is just a few steps away from A-Ma Temple, William Koi (瞿偉剛), the curator of the market, said that it not only features a range of different stalls but also includes a family entertainment zone. The market has invited musicians from Macau, Hong Kong, and Brazil

to perform there, supporting the development of local cultural and creative businesses.

Koi told journalists at the market on Saturday that they have launched a board game themed around Matsu (a tutelary deity of Chinese seafarers, including fisherfolks and sailors) culture and marine conservation to promote environmental awareness and cultural heritage, enhancing the market’s educational significance.

Meanwhile, according to a statement by the organisers, in order to align with the unique environment of the Barra Dog Park, the market has also launched pet-themed events for yesterday, this Sunday, and September 21, such as “Furry Catwalk,” where pets can strut their stuff on the runway to “showcase their cutest charm”, and the “Obstacle Dash,” creating a fun and interactive sports field complete with “funny moments”

for pets and their owners.

A stall owner surnamed Chan told reporters that his local brand, “Akiyu Soap,” produces handmade soaps using natural ingredients, including self-cultivated pomelo leaves grown for over 20 years and mud collected from the Dead Sea. He emphasised its purely natural characteristics.

Chan also said that his participation in the market aims to promote the brand. As most customers are visitors from Hong Kong, the proportion of local residents remains relatively low, said Chan, who suggested enhanced efforts to attract more local visitors. Chan said he believes that the government’s consumption promotion programme could help boost business. He also said he hopes that the market will expand in scale to increase brand exposure.

The market is open at weekends from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. ■

## 21<sup>st</sup> Macau Comic Festival displays fan culture

Khalel Vallo

The two-day 21<sup>st</sup> Macau Comic Festival (MCF21) officially opened on Saturday on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Exhibition Hall of the Macau Tower Convention and Entertainment Centre, featuring its largest edition yet with more than 130 groups and 200 booths.

The event was held over the weekend and transformed 1,853 square metres of space into a celebration of creativity, cosplay\*, music, and independent comics, welcoming fans from Macau, Hong Kong, the Chinese mainland, and elsewhere.

The opening ceremony was held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, with guests including officials from the Cultural Development Fund (FDC), Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO), Cultural Development Consultative Committee, local media, and leaders of the participating animation and comic associations.

This year’s programme included a fan creations fair,

live performances, and cosplay competitions. Special highlights featured Japanese anime singer Haruna Luna, known for her vocals on *Fate/Zero* and *Sword Art Online*, as well as lectures and workshops with local creators.

Among the booths, “The Little Wish” – jointly operated by a local cosplay group – stood out for its charitable aims. The group ran a raffle during the event to raise funds for Anima-Society for the Protection of Animals, offering anime- and cosplay-themed photo opportunities.

As one of the city’s most enduring cultural events, the annual festival aims to strengthen Macau’s role as a hub for fan-driven creativity and exchange. ■

\*Cosplay is a portmanteau of the words “costume” and “role-play”. It is a performance art and hobby where participants, called *cosplayers*, wear costumes and fashion accessories to represent a specific character from a work of fiction. – DeepSeek



Festivalgoers and cosplayers engage with vendors during the 21<sup>st</sup> Macau Comic Festival (MCF21), as comic art pictures are displayed on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Macau Tower Convention and Entertainment Centre yesterday.  
– Photos: Khalel Vallo

## 2<sup>nd</sup> round of ticket sales for WTT Champions Macao 2025 underway

Khalel Vallo

The Sports Bureau (ID) announced in a statement on Thursday that the World Table Tennis (WTT) Champions Macao 2025 will be staged at the Macao East Asian Games Dome from September 9 to 14, and the second round of ticket sales started on Friday, following strong demand in the first round.

Organised by the bureau, WTT, and integrated resort operator Galaxy Entertainment

Group (GEG), as well as being co-organised by the Macau Table Tennis General Association, the tournament will feature world-class matches across six days.

The statement noted that tickets for the event are priced between 210 and 1,300 patacas, available via multiple platforms including Maoyan, UUTIX, Galaxy Ticketing, Mpay’s mCoin and mPass, and [MacauTicket.com](http://MacauTicket.com). Each person may purchase up to four tickets per transaction. Children aged three and

below may enter free of charge if not occupying a seat and accompanied by a paying adult.

Discounted tickets are on offer for various segments, including Macau full-time students, residents aged 65 and above, and holders of Disability Assessment Registration Cards, when purchasing sessions S1-S7 (CAT1-4) between September 9 and 12 via [MacauTicket.com](http://MacauTicket.com). To assist senior residents of 65 and over, care services are available at Kong Seng outlets for those who have difficulty purchasing tickets online, according to the statement.

The statement urged the public to purchase only through authorised channels to protect consumer rights, noting that unauthorised resale is prohibited. Full details can be found on [wtmacao.sport.gov.mo](http://wtmacao.sport.gov.mo) or [worldtabletennis.com](http://worldtabletennis.com), or by following “Macao Major Sporting Events” on Facebook, “澳門體育” (Macao Sports) on WeChat, and “澳門特區體育局” (Macao SAR Sports Bureau) on WeChat. ■



This poster provided by the Sports Bureau (ID) on Thursday promotes the upcoming WTT Champions Macao 2025 competition at the East Asian Games Dome in Cotai.





# ‘The Composer’ – honouring Macau’s most famous son and marking the nation’s WWII victory



On Friday afternoon, at the local Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I had the honour of attending a screening of one of the most emotionally resonant historical films I have ever seen. I must admit I was on the verge of tears several times during the feature-length film – a rare occurrence in my life.

The screening of “The Composer”, held in conjunction with a photo exhibition marking the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Victory in the Chinese People’s War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War, was hosted by Commissioner Liu Xianfa. It was attended by foreign trade representatives posted to Macau, local journalists, and academics, among others.

The 2019 China-Kazakhstan co-production – the first between the neighbouring countries – depicts the true life story of one of the nation’s greatest composers, Macau-born Xian Xinghai, between 1941 and 1945. In June 1941, at the start of the Soviet Union’s Great Patriotic War against Nazi Germany, Xian was in Moscow composing the score for the documentary film “Yan’an and the Eighth Route Army”. The outbreak of war made it impossible for him to return to his beloved motherland, which was fighting a war of survival against Japanese aggression. He became stranded in Alma-Ata, the capital of the then Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic (as Soviet film production companies from Leningrad, Kyiv, and Moscow were being relocated there), suffering abject poverty, hunger, sickness and, last but not least, a painful separation from the motherland and his wife and daughter, who had remained at the Communist Party of China’s headquarters in Yan’an.

In Alma-Ata, the Kazakh composer Bakhytzhan Baikadamov befriended Xian, providing him with shelter, inviting him to join the local orchestra, and urging him to continue composing. It was in Alma-Ata (now known as Almaty) that Xian composed the patriotic symphonies “Liberation of the Nation” and “Sacred War”, the orchestral suite “Red All Over the River”, and the “Chinese Rhapsody” for orchestra.

In Alma-Ata, Xian developed pulmonary tuberculosis due to overwork and malnutrition. After the war, he returned to Moscow for medical treatment but died of pulmonary disease on October 30, 1945 at the age of 40.

As Commissioner Liu pointed out in his introduction to the film, Xian is one of the few national figures born in Macau.

Xian was born into a Tanka (boat dweller) family in Macau on June 13, 1905. His father died before he was born. His name in Cantonese transliteration is Sin Sing Hoi. He moved frequently with his mother, growing up in Singapore and Guangzhou. In 1938, he moved to the CPC headquarters in Yan’an, where he became dean of the Music Department at the Lu Xun Institute of Arts. It was there that he composed the stirring, large-scale choral work “Yellow River Cantata”, for which he is best known.

All in all, Xian composed two symphonies, a violin concerto, four large-scale choral works, nearly 300 songs, and an opera.



▲ Theatrical release poster for “The Composer” – Image courtesy of Sino-Cinema

◀ 1944 copy of the original score of “Yellow River” Cantata by Xiang Xinghai – Image courtesy of moj.gov.cn/Wikimedia Commons

The film’s overriding themes are Xian’s burning desire to return to his war-torn homeland, his deep friendship with Baikadamov, and his warm but platonic relationship with a Kazakh widow – who, initially only reluctantly, provides him shelter – and her young daughter, who quickly comes to treat him as a real uncle.

Without giving away too much of the plot, I highly recommend this film to anyone interested in Chinese history, as well as that of the former Soviet Union and the present-day Republic of Kazakhstan. The nearest I have ever been to the Central Asian country was its border with China’s Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, which I visited with a local media delegation organised by the Macau-based Foreign Ministry Commissioner’s Office a few years ago. After watching the film, my long-standing desire to visit Kazakhstan has been revived.

Jun Hu, a well-known Beijing-born actor and producer, plays the title role in an impressively poignant way. The performances of the Kazakh actors – actresses Aruzhan Jazilbekova and Dilnaz Nurseit as the widow and her daughter, respectively, and Berik Aitzhanov as Baikadamov – are also stupendous.

Since my university years, I have been an admirer of Soviet and Russian cinematography, namely for its emotional depth and superb camera work. As Vladimir Lenin famously said, “Of all the arts, for us the most important is cinema.”

I believe the film should be shown periodically in all local schools and universities, as well as by community associations. It demonstrates that there are Macau natives who played an important role in their nation’s successful fight against Japanese militarism, and fascism in general. As the film explains, music is an effective way to rally war-weary citizens. Macau’s public broadcaster TDM should also screen the film at regular intervals with Chinese, Portuguese, and English subtitles, as it features dialogue in Chinese, Russian, and Kazakh.

Visual media is particularly powerful in promoting patriotism.

Considering that China this week celebrates the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its hard-won victory over Japan, the film has regained its topicality. It also shows that while Macau’s Portuguese rulers remained neutral during WWII, virtually all its Chinese residents – and not only them – backed the arduous struggle of the Chinese United Front Against Japanese Aggression. This is what many locals have told me for decades.

So far, Macau has honoured its most famous son in three ways: an avenue has been named after him, a bronze statue has been erected in his honour (both located in Nape), and the Xian Xinghai Memorial Museum opened in November 2019.

Last month, the museum received historical materials related to the composer, such as sheet music, documents, and photos, donated by Baldyrgan Baikadamova, the daughter of Xian’s cherished friend Bakhytzhan. She travelled to Macau to hand the materials to Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) Vice President Choi Kin Long during a ceremony held at the museum on 23 August.

We should all be grateful for her donation. However, I also think the local authorities could – and should – do more to honour Xian. His memory deserves it, as do all the victims of that awful war.

– Harald Brüning



Foreign Ministry Commissioner Liu Xianfa gives a brief introduction to “The Composer” before its screening at the Office of the Commission on Friday afternoon. – Photo: Maria Cheang Ut Meng



# Election campaign starts, 71 candidates from 6 direct election groups vying for 14 seats

*Continued from p.1*

The number of candidacy groups running in the 2025 direct election will be the smallest since the first direct legislative election was held in 2001 after the establishment of the MSAR on December 20, 1999.

The number of candidacy groups running in the direct election was 15 in 2001, 18 in 2005, 16 in 2009, 20 in 2013, 24 in 2017, and 14 in 2021.

None of the six candidacy groups currently vying for the 14 directly-elected seats at stake is running in the direct legislative election for the first time.

For the 2025 indirect legislative election, the labour sector is the only sector where more than one group is running.

The number of candidates fielded by each indirect election group must be the same as the respective sector's number of seats.

Consequently, while the four candidates from the two groups for the labour sector are competing for the sector's two indirectly-elected seats, all candidates of the other four sectors' electoral groups are

slated to be elected uncontested.

The government has set up campaign poster boards at 25 public venues, including Praça do Tap Seac, for candidacy groups to display their respective campaign posters during the ongoing electioneering period.

The order on the ballot papers for the upcoming direct legislative election is: 1) Macau United Citizens Association (ACUM), 2) New Hope, 3) Progress Promotion Union (UPP), 4) Macau-Guangdong Union (UMG), 5) Union for Development (UPD), and 6) Alliance for a Happy Home.

Candidates of three of the six direct election groups, namely New Hope, Macau-Guangdong Union, and Alliance for a Happy Home, pasted their respective campaign posters on the board provided by the government in Praça do Tap Seac when the election campaign period started at 00:00 on Saturday, while the other three direct election groups sent their respective campaign workers to Praça do Tap Seac to paste campaign posters there at that time.

Instead, candidates of the other three direct election groups, namely Macau United

Citizens Association, Progress Promotion Union, and Union for Development, chose to paste their respective campaign posters on a board in Iao Hon Market Park, a board in Praça dos Lótus in Ilha Verde district, and a board near the Barrier Gate checkpoint respectively right after the election campaign period started at 00:00 on Saturday.

Candidates of the indirect election groups running for the industrial, commercial and financial sector, the professional sector, the labour sector, and the cultural and sports sector also pasted their respective campaign posters on the board in Praça do Tap Seac when the election campaign period started at 00:00 on Saturday, while the sole candidate running

for the social services and educational sector, sitting lawmaker Alan Ho Ion Sang, chose to paste his campaign poster on the board in Praça dos Lótus in Ilha Verde at that time.

During the ongoing election campaign period, the six direct election groups are now organising and holding various types of activities aiming to draw support from voters, by delivering their respective political platforms and pledging their commitment to the legislature's work.

Meanwhile, the Legislative Assembly Electoral Affairs Commission held a ceremony in Praça do Tap Seac on Saturday morning marking the official start of the election campaign period. ■



Legislative Assembly Electoral Affairs Commission (CAEAL) President Seng Ioi Man (4<sup>th</sup> from left) and his fellow commission members, as well as Commissioner Against Corruption Ao Ieong Seong (4<sup>th</sup> from right) and Post and Telecommunications Bureau (CTT) Director Derby Lau Wai Meng (left) symbolically launch the election campaign period for the upcoming direct and indirect legislative elections, during a ceremony in Praça do Tap Seac on Saturday morning. – Photo: Tony Wong

## Winners crowned at inaugural Macau National Jeunes Chefs Rôtisseurs Competition



This photo taken and released on Saturday by Chaîne des Rôtisseurs – Bailliage National de Macau shows guests and representatives, along with chefs and judges, posing after the “Macau National Jeunes Chefs Rôtisseurs Competition 2025” and award ceremony held on the same day. It is not stated where the photo was taken.

**Rui Pastorin**

The inaugural Macau National Jeunes Chefs Rôtisseurs\* Competition 2025 and its award ceremony took place on Saturday at the private Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST), with local chef Lo Lei Pak emerging as champion followed by Damon Jiang Zhenxi and Wang Qiufu in second and third places.

The one-day event, venue-sponsored by MUST's Faculty of Hospitality and Tourism Management, saw 10 chefs aged 26 and under vying for prizes, according to a statement released on Saturday by organiser Chaîne des Rôtisseurs – Bailliage National de Macau, adding that the competition was divided into morning and afternoon sessions.

The statement said that each contestant undertook a four-hour “Mystery Basket Challenge”, requiring them to design and craft a “three-course Western or International menu, comprising appetiser, main course, and dessert, using surprise ingredients revealed on-site”.

Each dish was evaluated by a panel of distinguished culinary professionals that looked at “technique, presentation, flavour, hygiene, time management, and overall performance”, the statement said.

The statement noted that Lo, who won

the championship title, is slated to represent Macau at “International Jeunes Chefs Rôtisseurs Competition” in Istanbul in April.

During the award ceremony, the statement said that MUST Faculty of Hospitality and Tourism Management Programme Director Brenda Yang Chieh Yun emphasised in her speech “the importance of nurturing young culinary talent and enhancing Macau's global reputation as a gastronomic destination”.

Moreover, the statement quoted Bailli Délégué, Chaîne des Rôtisseurs – Bailliage National de Macau, Ada Chio de la Cruz as saying: “Chaîne des Rôtisseurs is devoted to the global elevation of culinary excellence, uniting professionals and enthusiasts in a shared pursuit of artistry, tradition, and innovation. In Macau, our Bailliage stands as a proud steward of this legacy – committed to cultivating the next generation of gastronomic talent, enriching the city's culinary heritage, and amplifying its voice on the world stage”.

Paris-based Chaîne des Rôtisseurs, according to its website, is an International Association of Gastronomy. It is established in over 80 countries and has close to 25,000 members. ■

\*French for “young chef roasters”

**Congratulations on  
the 21<sup>th</sup> anniversary of  
The Macau Post Daily**

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# Xi, Modi agree China, India are partners instead of rivals

TIANJIN – President Xi Jinping and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi met here yesterday, agreeing that China and India are partners, not rivals.

The meeting of the leaders of the world's two most populous countries took place ahead of a summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) to be held in north China's port city of Tianjin from yesterday to today.

Xi told Modi that China and India are each other's development opportunities rather than threats.

As long as the two countries keep to this overarching direction, specific matters in the bilateral relations will fall into place and there will be steady and sustained progress in bilateral ties, Xi said.

He said China and India are important members of the Global South, and shoulder the crucial responsibility of improving the well-being of the two peoples, promoting the solidarity and rejuvenation of developing countries, and advancing the progress of human society.

They should become good-neighborly friends and partners that help each other succeed. A "cooperative pas de deux of the dragon and the elephant" should be the right choice for the two countries, he added.

Noting that this year marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of China-India diplomatic ties, Xi said the two countries need to view and



**President Xi Jinping (right) shakes hands with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Tianjin yesterday. Modi is in China to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit 2025. – Xinhua**

handle the relationship from a strategic and long-term perspective.

While the successful meeting between Xi and Modi in Kazan last year enabled the China-India relations to have a reset and start anew, the two sides should pursue a further improvement of ties from the Tianjin meeting onward, according to the Chinese president.

Xi called on the two countries to strengthen strategic communication and deepen mutual trust,

expand exchanges and cooperation to achieve mutual benefit and win-win, accommodate each other's concerns and get along in peace and harmony, and strengthen multilateral coordination to safeguard shared interests.

The two Asian neighbors should combine their strength to maintain peace and tranquility in their border regions, and should not allow the boundary question to define the overall China-India relations, Xi said.

Xi called on the two countries to work together for a multi-polar world and greater democracy in international relations, and to make due contributions to peace and prosperity in Asia and the wider world.

Modi said since his meeting with Xi in Kazan last year, the bilateral relationship has been back on a positive trajectory, peace and stability in the border regions have been maintained, and direct flights are about to be resumed.

Noting that India and China are partners, not rivals, and the consensus between the two countries far outweighs their disagreement, Modi said India is ready to view and develop bilateral ties from a long-term perspective.

Given the great uncertainties in the world economy, it is vital for India and China to strengthen cooperation as important economies of the world, Modi said.

India is prepared to seek a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary question with China, he said.

Both countries pursue strategic autonomy and an independent foreign policy, and their bilateral relationship is not subject to the influence of any third party, said the Indian prime minister, adding that India-China cooperation will make the 21<sup>st</sup> century a genuine "Asian century."

Senior Chinese officials Cai Qi, Wang Yi, and Chen Min'er were present at the meeting.

– Xinhua

## China, Armenia establish strategic partnership

TIANJIN – President Xi Jinping and Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan yesterday announced the establishment of a strategic partnership between the two countries during their meeting in the port city of Tianjin ahead of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit 2025.

Pashinyan is in China to attend the summit, as well as activities to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War.

Xi said since the two countries forged diplomatic relations 33 years ago, they have maintained healthy and steady development of the ties, and the establishment of the strategic partnership marks a significant milestone.

China supports Armenia in joining the SCO and is willing to work with Armenia

to practice true multilateralism and promote the building of a community with a shared future for humanity, he added.

Armenia is currently a dialogue partner of the SCO.

Pashinyan said Armenia firmly adheres to the one-China principle, and looks forward to expanding economic and trade cooperation with China, maintaining close coordination in international and regional affairs, and promoting greater development of bilateral relations.

The two sides issued a joint statement on the establishment of the strategic partnership and signed multiple bilateral cooperation documents.

Senior Chinese officials Cai Qi, Wang Yi and Chen Min'er were present at the meeting.

– Xinhua

## Xi says China ready to stand with Belarus in practicing true multilateralism

TIANJIN – China is willing to work with Belarus to practice true multilateralism and jointly contribute to world peace, development and win-win cooperation as humanity once again comes to a crossroads, President Xi Jinping said yesterday.

Xi made the remarks when meeting with Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko in the northern Chinese city of Tianjin. Lukashenko is in China to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit 2025, as well as commemorations marking the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War.

Xi said the Chinese and Belarusian people once fought shoulder to shoulder, made major contributions to crushing militarism and fascism, and forged a profound friendship.

He said the two countries should continue to support each other firmly on issues

involving their respective core interests and major concerns, promote high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, and further align development strategies to foster new cooperation growth engines.

Lukashenko praised China's just position on international and regional affairs, saying that China has made major contributions to peace and stability on the Eurasian continent and in the world.

He said Belarus is China's all-weather partner who can always be trusted, expressing the hope to deepen exchanges with China on national governance and enhance cooperation in various fields.

The meeting also saw the inking of cooperation documents covering fields including technology, finance, media, transportation and customs inspection and quarantine.

Senior officials including Cai Qi, Wang Yi and Chen Min'er attended the meeting. – Xinhua

## Xi says China supports Azerbaijan in joining SCO

TIANJIN – President Xi Jinping yesterday said China supports Azerbaijan in joining the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

Xi made the remarks when meeting with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev in the port city of Tianjin ahead of the SCO Summit 2025.

Aliyev is in China to attend the summit, as well as commemorations marking the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War.

Azerbaijan is currently a dialogue partner of the SCO.

Xi stressed the need to continuously improve the efficiency of the Trans-Caspian International Transport Corridor, expand cooperation in traditional fields such as

infrastructure, agriculture and energy, and foster new growth drivers in emerging sectors including the digital economy, green development and artificial intelligence.

Aliyev said Azerbaijan is ready to enhance cooperation with China in economy and trade, science and technology, connectivity, and tourism, to deliver more benefits to the two peoples.

He added that Azerbaijan is willing to work more closely with China within the SCO framework to jointly promote regional and global peace and development.

The two sides signed several bilateral cooperation agreements covering artificial intelligence, innovation in science and technology, finance, and media.

Senior Chinese officials including Cai Qi and Wang Yi attended the meeting.

– Xinhua



**President Xi Jinping (right) shakes hands with Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko in Tianjin yesterday. Lukashenko is in China to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit 2025, as well as commemorations marking the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War. – Xinhua**



# Toast by President Xi Jinping at welcoming banquet of SCO Tianjin Summit

TIANJIN – President Xi Jinping and his wife, Peng Liyuan, yesterday hosted a banquet in China's port city of Tianjin to welcome international guests who are here to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit 2025.

The following is the full text of Xi's toast at the banquet:

Toast by H.E. Xi Jinping  
President of the People's Republic of China

At the Welcoming Banquet of the SCO Summit

Tianjin, August 31, 2025

Dear Colleagues,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Friends,

Good evening. Tonight, we are gathered here by the glittering banks of the Haihe River in Tianjin, a city defined by its embrace of waters from all corners. On behalf of the Chinese government and people, I welcome all our distinguished guests to Tianjin.

Today is a joyful day for leaders of SCO member states to have this happy gathering with old and new friends. It is also the Independence Day of Kyrgyzstan and the National

Day of Malaysia. I wish to take this opportunity to offer our heartfelt congratulations to President Sadyr Japarov, Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, and the friendly peoples of Kyrgyzstan and Malaysia.

Tianjin is an open and inclusive metropolis. It has served as a strategic guardian city for our nation's capital throughout history, and pioneered China's reform and opening up as a pilot zone. In recent years, Tianjin has implemented the national strategy of Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei coordinated development, and written its new and dynamic chapter in advancing Chinese modernization. We believe that as the host of this Summit, Tianjin will give fresh impetus to the sustainable development of our Organization.

Since its founding, the SCO has stayed committed to the Shanghai Spirit, strengthening solidarity and mutual trust, deepening practical cooperation, and taking an active part in international and regional affairs. The SCO has grown into a significant force in promoting a new type of international relations and building a community with a shared future for humanity.

At present, the century-defining



President Xi Jinping addresses a banquet to welcome international guests at the Meijiang Convention and Exhibition Center in Tianjin yesterday. – Xinhua

transformation is accelerating across the world, with a marked increase in factors of instability, uncertainty, and unpredictability. The SCO thus bears an even greater responsibility for maintaining regional peace and stability and promoting development and prosperity of all countries.

At this Summit, we are tasked with an important mission: to

build consensus among all parties, ignite momentum for cooperation, and draw up a blueprint for development. Tomorrow, I will join our colleagues at the Meeting of the Council of Heads of Member States. We will also convene the "SCO Plus" Meeting with leaders of non-SCO members and international organizations. We will focus on how to strengthen cooperation, promote

development, and improve global governance.

I am confident that with the collective efforts of all parties, this Summit will be a complete success and the SCO will play an even greater role, achieve greater development, and make greater contribution to strengthening solidarity and cooperation among the member states, pooling the strength of the Global South, and promoting the cause of human advancement.

As a Chinese saying goes, "In a race of a hundred boats, those who row the hardest will lead." Let us uphold the Shanghai Spirit and set out from Tianjin on a new voyage filled with hope toward an even brighter future.

Now, please join me in a toast:

To a productive and fruitful Summit;

To the advancement of the SCO's goals and tasks;

To the development and prosperity of all countries and the well-being of our people; and

To the health of all distinguished guests and your families.

Cheers!

– Xinhua

## Xi says SCO bears greater responsibilities for peace, development

TIANJIN – President Xi Jinping yesterday said the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is shouldering greater responsibilities for safeguarding regional peace and stability, and for boosting development of various countries in a world of increasing uncertainties and accelerated changes.

Xi made the remarks at a banquet to welcome international guests who are in China's port city of Tianjin to attend the SCO Summit 2025 from yesterday to today.

Before the banquet, Xi and his wife Peng Liyuan welcomed the guests when they arrived.

Addressing the banquet, Xi expressed confidence that with concerted efforts of all parties, the summit will be a complete success, and that the SCO is certain to play an even bigger role and achieve more progress, making greater contribution to boosting the unity and cooperation among member states, pooling the strength of the Global South and pushing for more progress of human civilization.

Founded in Shanghai in June 2001, the SCO has expanded from six founding members into a 26-nation family of 10 members, two observers and 14 dialogue partners spanning Asia, Europe and Africa.

With major emerging markets and developing countries such as China, Russia and India among its members, the SCO represents nearly half of the world's population and a quarter of the global economy.

The Tianjin summit is the largest-ever annual summit of the group.

Member states are expected to adopt key documents, including the organization's development strategy for the next decade.

It is also President Xi's second time hosting the event, with the participation of leaders from more than 20 countries and 10 international organizations. Prior to the summit, Xi held more than a dozen bilateral meetings with arriving leaders in Tianjin.

Xi told the guests at the banquet that as an open and inclusive city, Tianjin serves as a pioneering zone for China's reform and opening-up, and hosting the summit here will undoubtedly inject new vitality into the sustainable development of the SCO.

The SCO has become an important force in building a new type of international relations and a community with a shared future for humanity, he added.

The summit includes the 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the SCO as well as the "SCO Plus" Meeting, both of which will be held on Monday.

Participants at the meetings will discuss plans for cooperation and development, and work to improve global governance, Xi said.

He expressed the hope that the SCO will, under the guidance of Shanghai Spirit, set sail once again from Tianjin toward an even brighter future.

After the banquet, Xi and Peng joined the guests in watching an art performance.

Senior Chinese officials including Cai Qi, Wang Yi, Chen Min'er, and Wang Xiaohong were present at the event.

– Xinhua

## Xi meets Turkish president

TIANJIN – President Xi Jinping yesterday met with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who is in the northern port city of Tianjin to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit 2025.

China and Türkiye are both emerging major countries with a spirit of independence, Xi said, adding that the high-level development of bilateral relations serves the fundamental interests of both countries as well as the common interests of the Global South.

Xi called on both countries to grasp the global trend of peace, development, and win-win cooperation, and work together to build a global governance system that is more just and equitable.

Noting that next year marks the 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Türkiye, Xi said the two sides should take the opportunity to enhance bilateral ties. They should cement political mutual trust, support each other on issues involving their respective core interests and major concerns, and

strengthen cooperation in the area of counter-terrorism and security.

The two countries should deepen practical cooperation and seek new cooperation opportunities in new energy, 5G technology and biomedicine, Xi said. He also called on both sides to strengthen coordination within multilateral frameworks to safeguard international fairness and justice.

Erdogan said Türkiye is ready to maintain close high-level exchanges with China, advance high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, and strengthen cooperation in areas such as infrastructure and new energy to drive the robust growth of bilateral relations.

The Turkish side is willing to enhance cooperation with China within the framework of the SCO to contribute to the development and prosperity of the region and the world, Erdogan said, speaking highly of China's just stance on the Middle East issue.

Senior Chinese officials including Cai Qi, Wang Yi, and Chen Min'er attended the meeting. – Xinhua



President Xi Jinping (right) shakes hands with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Tianjin yesterday. Erdogan is in China to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit 2025. – Xinhua