

# André Cheong unanimously elected president of legislature



Newly-elected Legislative Assembly (AL) President André Cheong Weng Chon chairs yesterday afternoon's plenary session during the elections of the legislature's vice-president, first secretary and second secretary, following his election as the hemicycle's speaker and oath-taking ceremony. – Photo: Tony Wong

## Tony Wong

André Cheong Weng Chon, a newcomer to the Legislative Assembly (AL) after serving as the Macau Special Administrative Region's (MSAR) secretary for administration and justice between December 20, 2019 and Wednesday,

October 15, 2025, was elected by his peers as the legislature's president unanimously yesterday.

Since the establishment of the MSAR on December 20, 1999, it is the first time that a newcomer to the legislature and an appointed lawmaker has been chosen by their

peers as the hemicycle's speaker. Previously, all presidents of the MSAR's legislature were indirectly-elected legislators.

Cheong, 59, is one of the seven members whom Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai has appointed to the 33-member Legislative Assembly,

which 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 new, eighth term of the MSAR's Legislative Assembly



Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai (second from right), as well as newly-appointed Secretary for Administration and Justice Wong Sio Chak (second from left), Secretary for Security Chan Tsz King (right), and Prosecutor-General Tong Hio Fong pose for a group photo after Wong, Chan and Tong were sworn in by Sam at Government Headquarters yesterday morning. – Photo: GCS



Remove stagnant water regularly to prevent dengue and chikungunya fever

澳門特別行政區政府衛生局  
Serviços de Saúde do Governo da Região Administrativa Especial de Macau

started yesterday, October 16, 2025.

After the 2025 direct and indirect legislative elections took place on September 14, the government announced the list of the seven appointed legislators, including Cheong, on September 29. Since the establishment of the MSAR, it was the first time that a chief executive decided to appoint an incumbent policy secretary of the government to the Legislative Assembly.

It is also the first time that a lawmaker who is a former government official has been elected as the legislature's president.

Cheong was elected as the hemicycle's speaker during a plenary session yesterday afternoon. He garnered all of the 33 votes cast.

Continued on p.5

## Trump says to meet Putin in Budapest after 'great progress' in call

WASHINGTON – US President Donald Trump said he would meet Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin in Budapest after making "great progress" in a call yesterday, just a day before Ukraine's leader is due at the White House to push for US-made Tomahawk missiles.

Trump did not give a date for the meeting in the Hungarian capital, which would be his second with Putin since returning

to office. The pair met in Alaska in August without a breakthrough on ending Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

"I believe great progress was made with today's telephone conversation," Trump said on his Truth Social network.

Trump said he and Putin would "meet in an agreed upon location, Budapest, Hungary, to see if we can bring this 'inglorious' War, between Russia

and Ukraine, to an end."

Top US and Russian officials including US Secretary of State Marco Rubio would hold "initial meetings" next week in an as yet to be decided location, Trump added.

Trump's comments represented the latest wild swing in his relations with Putin, after he recently expressed growing frustration with the Kremlin leader over his refusal to reach a peace deal.

– AFP



A robot plays the drums at the 10<sup>th</sup> China International Copyright Expo in Qingdao, Shandong Province, yesterday. Themed "Digital Intelligence Leads the Future, Copyright Promotes Innovative Development," the 10<sup>th</sup> China International Copyright Expo and 2025 International Copyright Forum opened yesterday in the port city. – Xinhua

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## China to optimize rare earth export controls, facilitate legitimate trade: MOC

China will continuously optimize licensing procedures and decrease review time in the implementation of its latest rare earth export controls, a Ministry of Commerce (MOC) spokesperson said yesterday.

– Story on p. 7

## Crowds flock to meet with Madagascar's new military leader

A disparate crowd of politicians, businessmen, activists and citizens gathered at a Madagascar military barracks yesterday in hopes of an audience with the island's new strongman, Colonel Michael Randrianirina. – Story on p. 11

## Uruguay legalises euthanasia

Uruguay on Wednesday legalised euthanasia, becoming one of the first countries in Latin America and among a dozen worldwide to allow assisted suicide. – Story on p. 12



# NK's bottled water exceeds bacterial standards again: IAM

Ida Cheong

The Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) announced in statement yesterday that an abnormal sample of 18.9-litre potable water from the local "NK Drinking Water Factory" company, was found to exceed official bacteria standards, after the bureau strengthened inspection of local water bottling plants.

It was the second time NK brand's 18.9-litre potable water containers were found to exceed official bacterial standards and recalled this year.

According to the IAM statement, the bottler has been ordered to recall and remove the affected batch from the market and suspend all production activities, as well as conduct comprehensive cleaning and disinfection of its entire production line. Furthermore, the company's other batches of bottled water have also been sealed for further testing.

Investigations confirmed that the contaminated batch was not supplied to any local hospitals, schools, or social welfare

institutions, the statement said.

The statement noted that the problematic sample was collected from the "NK Drinking Water Factory," located at Keck Seng Industrial Centre II at 157 Avenida de Venceslau de Morais (慕拉士大馬路), the statement said, adding that the product in question is sold under the name of "NK Purified Drinking Water," in 18.9-litre containers with a bottling date of October 13 this year, and test results showed the *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*\* content exceeded the microbial limits set in local food safety guidelines, so it is at a "substandard level".

The Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) has notified the Economic and Technological Development Bureau (DSED) of the findings, the statement said.

The statement noted that is not the NK Drinking Water Factory's first violation, as it was previously ordered to halt production and sales on July 1 this year due to similar bacterial contamination in its bottled water. After implementing corrective measures and

passing re-inspection, the factory resumed operations on August 22, and its third-party water quality inspection report, submitted in accordance with the guidelines for a batch inspected on September 15 this year, showed no abnormalities at that time.

The statement underscored that all local manufacturers must strictly adhere to all guidelines concerning factory hygiene, source water treatment, product testing, packaging, storage, and transportation, and the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) urged local enterprises to fully implement effective internal food safety management systems to safeguard consumer health.

Consumers with enquiries about bottled water from NK may contact the Food Safety Hotline on 2833 8181. ■

*\*Pseudomonas aeruginosa is a Gram-negative, opportunistic pathogen commonly found in soil, water, and moist environments, causing infections in immunocompromised individuals.*  
— DeepSeek



This undated handout photo provided by the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) yesterday shows an 18.9-litre container of the locally bottled water brand NK.

## Customs seizes 'frozen' beef worth 250,000 patacas

Armindo Neves

The Macau Customs Service announced in a statement on Wednesday that its officers raided a parallel-trading den in the peninsula's northern district on Wednesday where they seized one tonne of supposedly frozen beef worth around 250,000 patacas in total.

According to the statement, on Wednesday night the officers caught a 52-year-old female mainlander who ran the business and had hired parallel traders to smuggle frozen beef from Macau to the Chinese mainland.

According to the statement, the woman is suspected of illegal self-

employment in Macau, because of which the case has been transferred to the Labour Affairs Bureau for follow-up. Her case has also been transferred to the Immigration Department of the Public Security Police (PSP), the statement said.

Moreover, the statement added, the woman also violated the Food Safety Law as the supposedly frozen beef was stored merely at room temperature, adding that the Customs Service has meanwhile also transferred the case to the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) for follow-up action.

Consequently, she faces possible penalties from three different authorities. ■



This undated handout photo released by the Macau Customs Service on Wednesday shows the seized, supposedly frozen beef stored at room temperature at a parallel trading den in the northern district.

## Police nab 4 fake building leakage prevention 'experts'

Armindo Neves

Judiciary Police (PJ) officers arrested four mainlanders masquerading as building leakage prevention "experts" for suspected organised crime and fraud on Wednesday, PJ spokesman Leng Kam Lon during a special press conference yesterday.

Leng said all the four suspects are surnamed Sheng, aged 38, 35, 28 and 20, respectively, who told police that they were drivers (the ones aged 35 and 28), unemployed (the one aged 20) and a worker (the one aged 38).

Leng said that while the quartet are from the same place in the Chinese mainland, they are not related.

According to Leng, the Judiciary Police received a report from a local woman on October 4, claiming that she had been defrauded by a group of building leakage prevention "experts".

Leng said the victim, who was affected by water leakage at home, found a company on Facebook claiming to be a local repair service. After contact via WhatsApp, the first two suspects went to her home for a purported on-site inspection, Leng said.

According to Leng, the suspects claimed the issue could be resolved by injecting waterproof glue into a "small hole", quoting a price of 980 patacas per kilogramme.

Without revealing the total cost in advance, Leng said the two worked for about an hour and then claimed that "dozens" of kilogrammes of the glue had been



Judiciary Police (PJ) officers escort the four suspects to a PJ van outside the PJ headquarters in Zape yesterday.  
— Photo: Armindo Neves

used, demanding 58,000 patacas in cash.

Based on the price of 980 patacas per kilogramme quoted by the duo, and considering the final price of 58,000 patacas, they would have used 59.18 kilogrammes of the glue in filling the "small hole".

Put under pressure by the two men, the victim paid up. Afterwards, she realised that the leakage problem had not improved at all, leading her to report the case to the Judiciary Police, Leng said.

According to Leng, a follow-up investigation confirmed that at least two more victims had been defrauded by the same gang. The investigating officers identified a gang composed of four mainlanders as the bogus "experts". Leng pointed out that the

38-year-old suspect was the leader of the gang, tasked with recruiting clients online and arranging for his fellow gang members to carry out the fraud, i.e., the three other suspects travelled to Macau in batches to perform the purported repair work, Leng said.

PJ officers arrested the first three suspects at the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB) Macau Port (border checkpoint) on Wednesday, while the fourth suspect was arrested on the same day in Zape.

Further investigation showed that the fourth suspect had been arrested in a similar case in 2023 for which he is still awaiting trial.

The gang of four were transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) yesterday facing organised crime and fraud charges. ■

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### Macau Weather

**VERY HOT.**  
**FINE APART FROM CLOUDY PERIODS.**  
**FORCE 3 TO 4 EAST TO NORTHEASTERLY WINDS.**  
**RELATIVE HUMIDITY WILL RANGE BETWEEN 60% AND 90%.**



26°C~33°C

Source: SMG

## Correction and Apology

This is to apologise for an unfortunate error in our P.4 story on Wednesday about young local artist Padric Lei's solo exhibition at the Pavilion of Exhibitions and Artistic Show for Young People in Praça do Tap Siac. Regrettably, the article referred to him by the incorrect surname, "Chan". We sincerely regret this mistake.

We would also like to take this opportunity to wish Padric all the best in his artistic career.

— HB



## ‘We Care, We Share’ Mental Health Youth Ambassador Programme kicks off

**『愛·分享 WeCare, WeShare』**  
**2025 心理健康青年推廣大使計劃暨**  
**全澳中學生心理健康演講比賽**  
**開幕典禮及心理健康座談會**

**活動目的**  
 全面提升中學生心理素質、溝通技巧及演講口才，傳播積極正面的心理知識，以社會上最受關注的心理健康主題為切入點，積極回應社會需求。

**報名日期**  
 即日起至  
 2025年10月10日

**活動日期**  
 開幕典禮及心理健康講座  
 2025年10月15日  
 兩日一夜學習營  
 2025年11月1日 - 2025年11月2日  
 心理健康演講比賽（初賽）  
 2025年11月22日  
 心理健康演講比賽（決賽）及嘉許典禮  
 2025年12月15日

**活動形式**  
 心理健康講座、兩日一夜學習營、小組指導、演講比賽

**活動報名熱線：**  
 張麗凝小姐 28302600  
**Email 聯絡：**  
 wecareweshare2023@gmail.com

**學校報名**  
 [QR Code]

**活動章程**  
 [QR Code]

**主辦單位**  
 Rotary Club of Macau, YMCA of Macau, Macau Speaker Association

**贊助單位
 [Logos of various sponsors]**

*This photo downloaded yesterday from the Rotary Club of Macau's Facebook page promotes the 2025 "We Care, We Share" Mental Health Youth Ambassador Programme and Macao Secondary School Mental Health Public Speaking Contest, which will take place until the end of the year.*

### Khalel Vallo

According to a statement received from the Rotary Club of Macau yesterday, the 2025 "We Care, We Share" Mental Health Youth Ambassador Programme and Macao Secondary School Mental Health Public Speaking Contest commenced on Wednesday at Wynn Macau, drawing nearly 200 participants including students, educators, and social organisation representatives.

Jointly organised by the Macau Speaker Association, Rotary Club of Macau, and YMCA of Macau, this year's programme builds on the success of last year's initiative to continue promoting mental wellness among young people, the statement noted.

In his opening remarks, Ken So Io Kuong, president of the Macau Speaker Association, was quoted in the statement as saying that "last year's initiative successfully helped many secondary students deepen their understanding of mental health issues and express themselves confidently through public speaking. This year, we're proud to build on that foundation with an expanded programme that reaches even more young people across Macau."

According to the statement, with participation from over 20 secondary schools and 80 students, the programme features a series of activities such as training camps, mental health and public speaking workshops, coaching sessions, and competitions aimed at enhancing students' communication skills, confidence, and psychological well-being.

Elvo Sou Kuai Long, former president of the Rotary Club of Macau, announced that this year's contest champion and best participant will be invited to attend the Asia-Pacific Regional Rotaract Conference (APRRC) in Chiang Mai, northern Thailand, next year, the statement said.

The opening ceremony also included a talk by Lo On Ting, assistant professor of Psychology at Lingnan University in Hong Kong, who discussed youth awareness of social media addiction.

The programme aims to continue to serve as a platform for nurturing youth leadership and promoting mental health awareness across Macau's education sector.

According to the Rotary Club's Facebook page, the programme will take place until the end of the year. ■

## 60 pct of students prefer to maintain interpersonal relationships via online chat: AECM



General Association of Chinese Students of Macao (AECM) Vice President Chu On Kio (left) and AECM Current Affairs Analyst Lin Qiqiang pose with the survey's findings during yesterday's press conference at its headquarters on Rua de Manuel de Arriaga. – Photo courtesy of TDM

### Armindo Neves

A survey conducted by the General Association of Chinese Students of Macao (AECM) found that 60 percent of local secondary school students prefer to maintain their interpersonal relationships via online chat.

The association held a press conference at its headquarters on Rua de Manuel de Arriaga (亞利鴉架街) yesterday. AECM Vice President Chu On Kio and AECM Current Affairs Analyst Lin Qiqiang presented the research findings.

The survey was funded by the public Macau Foundation (FM) and conducted in collaboration with the Macau Development Strategy Research Centre.

According to the press conference, the survey aimed to understand local adolescents' social media usage habits, their practices in shaping online personas and the patterns of online versus offline interactions with different social groups. The survey was carried out from May 15 to June 13, targeting full-time secondary school students in Macau, with a total of 1,094 valid questionnaires collected, according to the press conference.

The findings of the survey indicate that over 60 percent of secondary school students project a more positive "online persona" in digital environments, such as being more expressive and outgoing; about 60 percent prefer online communication as their primary mode of interpersonal interaction; and around 40 percent experience significant emotional fluctuations based on the quality of their online interactions.

In terms of trust, the findings of the survey indicate that around 63 percent of the students covered by the survey place

greater confidence in offline friends than their online friends, with over half choosing them as their primary confidants, while less than 10 percent express higher trust in online friends than their "real-life" friends.

The statement said that due to the maturation of social media, secondary schoolers heavily rely on online chat to maintain relationships which shows that compared to face-to-face communication, nearly 60 percent prefer using digital platforms for this purpose. Secondary students' social interaction patterns are increasingly characterised by information gathering, life updates, and instant communication through online chat, the statement said.

The findings of the survey reveal that around 10 to 20 percent of middle school students describe their online personas as being more expressive, more humorous, more outgoing, more reserved, more confident, and more image-conscious. However, a small proportion of the students admit to adopting more extreme/radical or pessimistic/negative personas in the online world than in the real world.

According to the press conference, all this reflects the complex impact of the internet on adolescents' self-perception and behaviour – while it provides a positive platform for self-expression, confidence-building, and social expansion, it also carries the risk of triggering negative emotions and behaviours.

During the press conference, the AECM representatives recommended that relevant institutions focus on cultivating critical thinking and information filtering skills among middle school students, fostering healthy online habits and behaviours. ■

## ‘Artletics’ exhibition opens at COD

### Khalel Vallo

"Artletics", an exhibition by French artist Laurent Perbos\*, was inaugurated yesterday at integrated resort City of Dreams (COD) in Cotai, aiming to transform the space into a dynamic encounter between contemporary art and athleticism while echoing the spirit of the upcoming 15<sup>th</sup> National Games in the Greater Bay Area (GBA).

Drawing inspiration from the classical ideals of ancient Greece where art and sport were inseparable, the exhibition reinterprets modern athletic competition through Perbos' signature humour and creativity, according to an information board at the exhibition entrance.

The artist reconfigures familiar sports elements – from tennis courts and basketball structures to ping-pong tables – into interactive installations that aims to persuade exhibitiongoers to engage with both playfulness and performance.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Perbos expressed his gratitude for being able to bring his vision to Macau, calling it "a promise, like opening a door to another world." He added, "Art itself knows no borders... it is a family that speaks not only with words, but with materials, form, and emotion."

Presented within the setting of City of Dreams, the exhibition aims to bridge French imagination and Chinese creativity, offering exhibitiongoers an immersive experience where the beauty of movement and the energy of sport meet artistic expression, according to the message.

The exhibition is open daily for exhibitiongoers from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. next to LAN Bar at COD. With free

admission, the exhibition is open until January 4, 2026. ■

*N.B. More details and photos of the exhibition will appear on our P.4 next week.*

*\*Perbos, born 1971 in Bordeaux, southwestern France, is a contemporary French artist known for his playful, poetic, and often humorous transformations of everyday objects. He lives and works in Marseille. His work, which spans sculpture, installation, and site-specific projects, reconfigures common, mass-produced items into unexpected and vibrant forms that challenge our perceptions of function, material, and art itself. – DeepSeek*



French artist Laurent Perbos addresses yesterday's "Artletics" exhibition opening ceremony at City of Dreams (COD) in Cotai.

– Photo: Khalel Vallo



## The Londoner Hotel's 'Suites by David Beckham' receives leading hotel prize at World Travel Awards

Rui Pastorin

The Londoner Hotel's "Suites by David Beckham" garnered the "Macau's Leading Hotel Suite 2025" prize at the recent World Travel Awards 2025.

The awards "acknowledge travel, tourism and hospitality businesses that are at the forefront of trends, and are considered by the organiser as the ultimate hallmark of industry excellence", according to a statement by The Londoner Macao yesterday.



This photo provided by The Londoner Macao yesterday shows a part of The Londoner Hotel's Suites by David Beckham.

The statement said that the 14 award-winning suites are the first celebrity-designed suites in Macau and are located on the top two floors of The Londoner Hotel. Football legend and Sands Global Ambassador David Beckham designed them in conjunction with leading London interior design firm David Collins Studio.

The suites range from one to three bedrooms and reflect "the best of the British star's discerning style and sophistication" and feature "all the elevated comforts Beckham enjoys when travelling", the statement said.

The statement quoted The Londoner Macao Vice President of Hotel Operations Reza Jafari as saying: "We are truly honoured that Suites by David Beckham has been recognised as the finest in Macau. This accolade affirms not only the exceptional quality of the suites themselves, but also our unwavering pursuit of excellence. It is also a testament to the dedication, talent, and professionalism of our team, whose commitment continues to elevate the guest experience and earn such distinguished recognition."

One can find more information on <https://www.londonermacao.com/hotels/londoner-hotel/david-beckham-suite.html>

## Galaxy Macau Presents Tatler Off Menu to take place from Nov 14-15

Rui Pastorin

"Galaxy Macau Presents Tatler Off Menu" will be held in Cabana at Galaxy Macau in Cotai from November 14 to 15, with the event to feature award-winning chefs recognised by distinguished lists, along with entertainment, according to a Wednesday statement from the integrated resort operator.

The statement said that the event will feature three sessions, with dinner on the first day and lunch and dinner on the second, with the menu inspired by Ocean, Sky, and Land elements.

The "Ocean" category will be led by Chef Masaaki Miyakawa from three-Michelin-starred Sushi Miyakawa (Hokkaido); Chef Jingye Xu from two-Michelin-starred 102 House (Shanghai); and Chef Aditya Muskita from ESA (Jakarta), a Tatler Best Indonesia winner.

"Sky" features Chef Chek Keong Chan from two Michelin-starred Feng Wei Ju (StarWorld Hotel, Macau); Chef Varun Totlani from Masque (Mumbai), ranked No. 19 on Asia's 50 Best Restaurants; and Chef Min-Chul Kang from one-Michelin-starred KANG MINCHUL Restaurant (Seoul).

"Land" includes Chef Hiroyasu Kawate from two-Michelin-starred Florilège (Tokyo); Chef Vicky Cheng from one-Michelin-starred VEA (Hong Kong); and Chef Marino D'Antonio from one-Michelin-starred 8½ Otto e Mezzo BOMBANA at Galaxy Macau (Macau).

Moreover, the statement said that the Pastry showcase will be led by Chef Fabrizio Fiorani of Zuccherio X Fabrizio Fiorani (Rome), recognised as "Asia's Best Pastry Chef" by The World's 50 Best, and Chef Lok Hin Yam of StarWorld Hotel, Galaxy Macau and Broadway Macau (Macau), awarded "Best Pastry Chef" by Tatler Best Hong Kong & Macau.

Pony & Plume, Galaxy Macau, head bartender Billy Choi and guest mixologist Ajit Gurung from The Savoury Project (Hong Kong), ranked number 32 on the Asia's 50 Best Bars list, will helm the cocktail counter. The event is also set to feature DJs and live entertainers.

More details are available on <https://www.galaxymacau.com/WOcvYHhsOw/>



This poster provided by Galaxy Macau on Wednesday promotes the upcoming Galaxy Macau Presents Tatler Off Menu.

## Melco celebrates 'Foundation Acceleration Programme (Culinary)' graduates



Guests and representatives pose with attendees of the event celebrating the achievements of "Foundation Acceleration Programme (Culinary)" graduates on Wednesday.

— Photo: Melco Resorts & Entertainment

Rui Pastorin

Melco Resorts & Entertainment commemorated the achievements of its "Foundation Acceleration Programme (Culinary)" graduates and welcomed its new batch of participants on Wednesday, according to a statement on the same day.

The event also "recognised colleagues for their contributions and commitment towards culinary excellence and sustainable culinary practices".

The statement noted that Culinary FAP was launched by the integrated resort operator in 2021 with support from the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) and the Macao University of Tourism (UTM).

"Through the programme, Melco aims to discover and nurture local culinary talent while reinforcing Macau's position as a UNESCO designated 'Creative City of Gastronomy'", the statement said, and nurtures culinary talent through structured on-the-job training, cross-functional exposure, and formal and informal education in collaboration

with local government and universities, according to the statement.

Participants also get opportunities for skill development through job rotations, hands-on experience, management training, mentorship and career planning.

Melco Chairman and CEO Lawrence Ho Yau-lung was quoted by the statement as saying: "This programme reflects our commitment to supporting Macau government's economic diversification goals by integrating it as part of Melco's 'Whole Person Development' initiatives, with the aim of nurturing local culinary talent and providing enhanced and diverse career opportunities".

Fifty-two local talents have graduated from the programme since it was launched in 2021, representing 90 percent of all participants with over 60 percent of graduates receiving promotions in their new roles, the statement said.

The Wednesday event celebrated 10 more graduates and the welcoming of the latest batch of 16 enrollees.

## MGM Chef Nic Gastronomusic Fest 2025 to take place from Nov 29-30

Rui Pastorin

The fourth edition of the "MGM Chef Nic Gastronomusic Fest 2025" will take place from November 29 to 30 at the Roof Terrace of MGM COTAI, integrating gourmet experiences and musical performances.

The two-day event will feature Nicholas "Chef Nic" Tse Ting-fung and his team of top international chefs and MGM's elite culinary talents at the Roof Terrace, a recent MGM statement noted.

The statement said that Chef Nic's team includes two female chefs, Rain Qu and Kobe Cheng Tsz Yan, from the popular mainland Chinese cooking competition TV show "The Divine Dish"; Danyi Gao, the sole female head chef and champion from the Chef Nic "Feng Wei" culinary competitions; and Beichuan Yang, one of the top four finalists. They are also joined by Singaporean chef Edward Voon, known for his French culinary cuisine, and dessert chef Amanda S., who specialises in French-inspired sweets.

From MGM's award-winning chefs are Yang Dengquan, Executive Sous Chef of the Michelin-starred and "Black Pearl One-Diamond Restaurant" Five Foot Road; Homan Tsui, Executive Chef of Chinese Cuisine at MGM MACAU and head chef of the "Black Pearl One-Diamond Restaurant" Imperial Court; Pan Sihui, Executive Sous Chef of Aji, recently awarded one Michelin star for his "Asian Bistronomy" concept; and Executive Chef -Pastry Bruno Le Francois, master of French desserts, according to the statement.

Moreover, the line up of performers headlined by Tse include Hong Kong singers Hins Cheung Kin Hin, Janice Vidal and Kiri T, as well as special guest Hacken Lee (李克勤). Other highlights include bands Dear Jane and Supper Moment, Asian pop artist Janice Yan, The Landlord's Cat, and Daze In White from Macau.

Ticket prices start from 788 patacas, with more details on: <https://www.mgm.mo/en/cotai/entertainment/chefnic2025>.



This poster recently provided by MGM shows the lineup of chefs and performers for the upcoming "MGM Chef Nic Gastronomusic Fest 2025".



## 6 religious communities to present 'Silent Radiance of Unity' exhibition in Nov

Rui Pastorin

The “Silent Radiance of Unity – Macao in Harmony” exhibition will be presented by six religious communities in Macau, being slated to kick off on November 5 and run through December 5 at Kun Iam Temple.

Details of the upcoming exhibition were given in a press conference at the venue yesterday afternoon, which was attended by representatives of each religious community.

The religions jointly presenting the exhibition comprise Buddhism, Catholicism, Taoism, Protestantism, the Bahá'í Faith, and Islam. It will be co-organised with the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC).

In addition to presenting related exhibits, there will also be “deep communication and collaboration”

with local artists, the youth and intangible cultural inheritors. There will also be art discussion sessions and workshops held during the weekend throughout its run.

Once open, members of the public can visit the free-admission exhibition from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily throughout its 30-day run.

A statement provided at yesterday's press conference highlighted that the six religions in the city, each coming from different cultural backgrounds, have developed harmoniously together, cooperating and assisting one another. Moreover, the exhibition also aims to “initiate a dialogue that goes beyond language, race, and colour through visual experience”, a separate statement noted. ■



Representatives of the six religious communities involved in the upcoming ecumenical event pose for a group photo during a press conference at Kun Iam Temple. – Photo: Rui Pastorin

## Kiang Wu TCM programme aims to deepen ties with Yushan Medical School



Kiang Wu Charitable Association President Lau Veng Seng (fifth from right) and others pose for a group photo on the sidelines of yesterday's launch ceremony of the “Yushan Medical School and Kiang Wu Hospital Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) Academic Exchange Programme” at the private Kiang Wu Hospital's Dr Henry Y.T. Fok Specialist Medical Centre. – Photo: Ida Cheong

Ida Cheong

The private Kiang Wu Hospital yesterday launched its “Yushan Medical School\* and Kiang Wu Hospital Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) Academic Exchange Programme”, aimed at establishing a regular exchange mechanism to foster in-depth collaboration in areas such as TCM theory innovation, clinical application, and research transformation, jointly exploring new pathways for the modernisation of TCM.

The launch for the TCM programme was held at the Kiang Wu Hospital Dr Henry Y.T. Fok Specialist Medical Centre.

Kiang Wu Charitable

Association President Lau Veng Seng said in a speech that the collaboration between Yushan Medical School and Kiang Wu Hospital has continuously deepened in recent years, adding that the first exclusive exchange session in Macau with Yushan Medical School was held in 2023, followed by the mutual learning initiative on the traditional characteristic TCM therapies last year and the establishment of the “Chinese Medicine Culture Construction Promotion Alliance,” all the way to the academic exchange programme reflecting the firm belief and pragmatic cooperation between both sides in advancing the development of TCM.

Lau noted that Kiang Wu Hospital was established back in 1871, when it got off the ground with TCM services, adding that over its 154-year-long history, the hospital's TCM services have grown to become the largest TCM department among medical institutions in Macau. ■

*\*The Yushan Medical School refers to a historical collective of physicians from Changshu who shared a medical philosophy, particularly emphasising the care of the digestive system and the use of gentle, balanced treatments. The school is named after Yushan, which is the name of a famous mountain in Changshu, a city in Jiangsu Province. – DeepSeek*

## André Cheong unanimously elected president of legislature

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### VP, first & second secretaries also elected unanimously

During yesterday's plenary session in the hemicycle, indirectly-elected lawmaker Alan Ho Ion Sang was elected, also unanimously, as the legislature's vice-president.

Indirectly-elected legislator Si Ka Lon was elected as the first secretary of the legislature's executive board, while directly-elected lawmaker Ella Lei Cheng I was elected as its second secretary. Both were also elected unanimously.

The four-member executive board – the legislature's top management body – consists of the legislature's president (speaker), vice-president, first secretary and second secretary.

The fact that Cheong, Ho, Si and Lei all garnered all of the 33 votes cast meant that all of them voted for themselves.

Cheong, born in Beijing, had been the director of the Legal Affairs Bureau (DSAJ) since 2000 until December 2014 when he became the commissioner against corruption for then chief executive Fernando Chui Sai On's second-term administration. He was appointed as the secretary for administration and justice in December 2019 for then chief executive Ho Iat Seng's first-term administration, and was reappointed in December last year

for Sam's current administration.

Ho, who had been a directly-elected lawmaker since 2009, became an indirectly-elected legislator four years ago representing the social services and educational sector. He was re-elected last month.

Alan Ho became the second secretary of the legislature's executive board in August 2019 after the post had been left vacant, following Ho Iat Seng's resignation from the hemicycle when he was the legislature's president.

Alan Ho was the first secretary of the legislature's executive board in the 2021-2025 term.

Cheong succeeds Kou Hoi In who has retired from the legislature, while Alan Ho succeeds Chui Sai Cheong who has also retired from the hemicycle.

Si had been a directly-elected lawmaker since 2013, but has become an indirectly-elected legislator representing the business sector in the current legislative term, which started yesterday.

Si was the second secretary of the legislature's executive board in the 2021-2025 term.

Lei first became a lawmaker in 2013 through the indirect election representing the labour sector, before taking part in the direct election in 2017.

After Cheong's election as the legislature's president, he took his oath at the nearby Services Platform Complex for Commercial and Trade

Cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries (aka Forum Macao Complex), overseen by Sam. The oath-taking ceremony for Cheong was attended by all of his fellow lawmakers, and government officials. Edmund Ho Hau Wah, Macau's first chief executive and now a vice-chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), also attended the ceremony.

Liaison Office Director Zheng Xincong and Foreign Ministry Commissioner Liu Xianfa – the highest ranking central government officials posted to Macau – were also present.

After Cheong's oath-taking ceremony, he and his fellow legislators returned to the legislature's hemicycle for the new legislative term's first plenary session. The elections of the vice-president, the first secretary and the second secretary of the legislature's executive board took place after Cheong's oath-taking ceremony.

Before Cheong was elected as the legislature's president, the plenary session was chaired by the oldest member in the hemicycle, veteran lawmaker José Maria Pereira Coutinho.

Before the 33 members of the legislature attended yesterday afternoon's plenary session in the hemicycle, they took their oaths overseen by Sam in the morning at the Forum Macao Complex.

Speaking to reporters after yesterday's plenary session, Cheong pledged to strengthen positive interaction and communication between the executive and legislative organs.

Cheong also said that he aims to further improve the legislature's work on legislation as well as on monitoring the government's administration, pledging to ensure that bills to be passed by the legislature will better meet the needs, desires and expectations of Macau's civil society.

Also speaking to the media, Alan Ho said that he expects the legislature, under Cheong's leadership, to carry out its functions and duties better with the aim of making greater contributions to promoting Macau's socioeconomic development and better integrating the city into the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA).

Also speaking to reporters, both Si and Lei pledged their full commitment to assisting Cheong and Ho to carry out the executive board's duties.

### Wong, Chan, Tong's oath-taking

Meanwhile, Wong Sio Chak, Chan Tsz King, and Tong Hio Fong were sworn in by Sam yesterday as the secretary for administration and justice, the secretary for security, and the prosecutor-general (chief public prosecutor) of the Public Prosecutions

Office (MP) respectively.

Their oath-taking ceremony was held at Government Headquarters in the morning.

Speaking to the media, Wong outlined four key tasks under his new role, namely continuing public administration reform and building efficient, service-orientated government; advancing a legal framework that aligns with the “One Country, Two Systems” principle and improving legislative coordination and quality; optimising municipal services and fostering a clean, more liveable urban environment; and advancing regional integration.

Speaking to reporters, Chan pledged full commitment to steadfastly safeguarding national security through implementing the holistic view of national security.

Chan said that the security team will pursue excellence through innovative approaches, ensuring that Macau remains a secure, stable, and law-governed city. He also said the government would continue to improve the legal system for safeguarding national security.

Also speaking to journalists, Tong said the Public Prosecutions Office will steadfastly adhere to the principle of the rule of law, enforce laws in a strictly impartial way, and further strengthen oversight of judicial processes, while enhancing judicial efficiency, with the aim of upholding the fairness and the authority of the law. ■



## Orbis Macau's Action for Sight Charity Street Events start tomorrow



This photo provided by Orbis Macau yesterday shows volunteers gathering and sporting the non-profit organisation's blue vests.

Rui Pastorin

Orbis Macau will be hosting its Charity Street Events starting tomorrow at the entrance to Pui Ching Middle School on Avenida Horta e Costa (高士德大馬路), with two more events in November.

The Charity Street Events are part of Orbis Macau's annual near-two month-long Action for Sight (AFS), which kicked off on World Sight Day\*, and this year takes on the theme "Discover a Different Kind of Cuteness".

According to a statement yesterday, the street events bring the campaign into the community to promote eye health and care, as well as raise invaluable funds to support Orbis' global sight-saving programmes and sustainable training.

The statement said that the

following events will be on November 8 at the entrance to the Luso-Chinese Vocational and Technical School and on November 22 at the entrance to The Affiliated School of the University of Macau.

The booths will be set up at their respective locations, while volunteers wearing Orbis' signature blue vests and carrying donation bags bearing the non-profit's logo will be in the surrounding area to assist with fundraising activities on the day, the statement noted.

"The public is warmly invited to support these events and learn more about Orbis' sight-saving work", the statement said. Each donation will come with an AFS-themed sheet of stickers, while those donating 100 patacas or more can also receive a commemorative badge. For more

details, one can call 2830 0787.

Meanwhile, one can also take Orbis' "Myopia and Eye Health" online quiz at <https://myopia-mo.orbis.org/>, which tackles the growing global health concern of myopia (aka nearsightedness).

The quiz is part of the advocacy initiative of Orbis Action for Sight. The statement highlighted that around 30 percent of the world's population is myopic, with studies showing that this will grow to half the population by 2050, pointing out the rapid rise of young myopic patients. The statement said that the non-profit aims to raise public awareness on myopia and its related risks and encourage people to participate in the quiz. ■

\*World Sight Day is observed on the second Thursday of October.

## China, Tanzania unveil landmark Ngorongoro-Lengai Geopark

DARES SALAAM – Tanzanian Vice President Philip Mpango yesterday officially inaugurated the Ngorongoro-Lengai Geopark, a modern facility built with Chinese assistance to promote geological research, heritage conservation, and tourism development.

Speaking on behalf of President Samia Suluhu Hassan, Mpango expressed appreciation to the Chinese government for its continued support in developing Tanzania's infrastructure, including the new museum located within the UNESCO-listed Ngorongoro Conservation Area.

Mpango noted that the Ngorongoro-Lengai Geopark, designated by UNESCO in 2018, is the only geopark south of the Sahara and the second on the African continent.

He described the construction, which received both technical assistance from the Tianjin Center, China Geological Survey, and physical infrastructure from the

China Railway 25<sup>th</sup> Bureau Group, as a national treasure and a symbol of enduring Tanzania-China friendship.

Chinese Ambassador to Tanzania Chen Mingjian noted that the facility is designed to enhance heritage preservation, geological research, and sustainable tourism in the globally renowned conservation area.

Chen said the 32-billion-Tanzanian-shilling (US\$13 million) project marks China's first overseas culture and tourism aid initiative, signed in Beijing by the presidents of both countries.

"It aims to strengthen the conservation and management of the Ngorongoro-Lengai Geopark, advance geological research, and support Tanzania's rapidly growing tourism sector," Chen said.

The new complex features modern exhibition halls, a theater, a cultural square, and scientific learning spaces, said Chen, adding that the initiative provides a platform for research, education,

and cultural exchange, while promoting sustainable tourism.

She noted that China remains a committed partner in Tanzania's economic and social development.

In 2024, Chinese tourist arrivals in Tanzania rose by 56.5 percent to 71,000, with destinations such as the Serengeti, Ngorongoro, and Tarangire gaining popularity among Chinese travelers, said the Chinese envoy.

Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism Pindi Chana said the project opens new opportunities, including the development of geotourism and the promotion of science and environment-based tourism.

"We believe this museum will increase both domestic and international tourist numbers, serve as a hub for national and international research, provide geological and historical education, and stand as a model for education and conservation-driven tourism," Chana said. – Xinhua

## China's energy cooperation with Russia legitimate, lawful: FM spokesperson

BEIJING – China's normal trade and energy cooperation with other countries, including Russia, is legitimate and lawful, foreign ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said yesterday.

Lin made the comment at a regular press briefing in response to US President Donald Trump's remarks that it's time to get China to do the same thing as he had received an assurance from India to stop buying oil from Russia.

Lin said what the United States has done is typical unilateral bullying and economic coercion, which will severely disrupt international economic and trade rules and threaten safety and stability of global industrial and supply chains.

Noting that China's position on the Ukraine crisis is objective, just and aboveboard, Lin said China firmly opposes the US directing the issue to China and imposing illicit unilateral sanctions and long-arm jurisdiction on China.

He said if China's legitimate rights and interests are harmed, China will take countermeasures to firmly defend its sovereignty, security and development interests.

In response to the move that Britain added Chinese energy companies and port operators to a list of entities sanctioned for supporting the Russian energy sector, Lin said China deplores Britain's decision and has protested to the country.

China opposes unilateral sanctions that have no basis in international law or authorization of the UN Security Council, the spokesperson said.

While China is committed to promoting talks for peace on the Ukraine crisis, the normal exchanges and cooperation between Chinese and Russian companies should not be disrupted or affected, Lin said.

China will do what is necessary to firmly defend its legitimate and lawful rights and interests, he added.

– Xinhua



Helicopters of the Fenglei aerobatic team of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) perform during the opening ceremony of the 7<sup>th</sup> China Helicopter Exposition in Tianjin Municipality yesterday. Spanning an exhibition area of approximately 160,000 square meters, the exposition kicked off yesterday and ends this Sunday. – Xinhua

## Sino-German Center for Research Promotion funds over 1,000 joint projects

BEIJING – Scientific collaboration between China and Germany has been intensifying steadily, with a key Sino-German research platform yielding significant achievements, according to the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) yesterday.

Over the past 25 years, the Sino-German Center for Research Promotion has invested approximately 830 million yuan, supported more than 1,370 high-quality collaborative projects, generated over 4,800 high-level academic publications, and cultivated a talent pool with global vision for the field of science.

The data was released at a conference marking the center's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Beijing. Over 130 representatives from the two

countries, including university presidents and researchers, attended the two-day conference.

The center was established in Beijing in 2000, co-founded by the NSFC and the German Research Foundation, each of which covers half of the center's budget. It aims to promote cooperation between scientists in China and in Germany, focusing on research in the natural, life, management and engineering sciences. The center has built a collaborative network of more than 20,000 scientists.

NSFC Director Dou Xiankang said that NSFC will expand the scope of this cooperation, establish the center as a strategic hub for basic research cooperation, and promote in-depth exchange and collaborative innovation between scientists from the two countries. – Xinhua



# China to optimize rare earth export controls, facilitate legitimate trade: MOC

BEIJING – China will continuously optimize licensing procedures and decrease review time in the implementation of its latest rare earth export controls, and will actively consider facilitation measures to promote legitimate trade effectively, a Ministry of Commerce (MOC) spokesperson said at a press conference yesterday.

The recent export control measures are a normal effort the Chinese government has made to improve China's export control system in accordance with laws and regulations, and are not targeted at any specific country or region, according to ministry spokesperson He Yongqian.

"All applications for compliant exports intended for civil use will be approved," she said.

She noted that the controls constitute

a legitimate practice designed to prevent the illegal use of rare earths, such as use in weapons of mass destruction, thereby safeguarding China's national security and global common security.

China had notified relevant countries and regions prior to announcing these export control measures, and is now in communication with relevant parties on their facilitation, according to the spokesperson.

She said that China expresses its strong dissatisfaction with and firm opposition to a series of restrictive measures that the United States has taken, including its recent announcement of a new rule that expands its "entity-list" export restrictions, as well as a measure to impose additional port fees on Chinese ships following a Section 301 investigation. China urges the US

to immediately correct its erroneous practices, she added.

She noted that the Section 301 investigation and restrictive measures targeting China's shipbuilding sector, among other industries, are textbook examples of unilateralist and protectionist practices. These actions will not only undermine the interests of China's relevant industries, but also drive up domestic inflation in the United States, undermining the competitiveness of US ports and harming US employment.

Such measures have disrupted global supply chain stability and brought chaos to the international shipping industry, He said, stressing that China's corresponding countermeasures are defensive actions taken out of necessity and aimed at safeguarding a level playing field in the

global shipping and shipbuilding markets.

She said that after the Madrid economic and trade talks between China and the United States, the US side, disregarding China's repeated dissuasion, introduced 20 measures to suppress China in just over 20 days, seriously damaging China's interests and disrupting the atmosphere of the economic and trade talks between the two sides.

She pointed out that China is strongly dissatisfied with the series of measures taken by the US side and firmly opposes them. It is hoped that the US side will cherish the achievements of the economic and trade talks and immediately correct its wrong practices. China is willing to properly address each other's concerns through equal dialogue on the basis of mutual respect with the US side.

– Xinhua



Alumni pose for photos in front of the library on the campus of China Agricultural University in Beijing yesterday. The China Agricultural University yesterday hosted a series of events to mark the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding. – AFP

## Expanded visa-free access fuels surge in foreign entries

BEIJING – The strong growth momentum in foreign arrivals to China has extended to the third quarter of 2025, driven largely by the country's continued expansion of its visa-free access policies.

From July to September, foreign nationals made 7.246 million visits to China under its visa-free policies, marking a 48.3 percent year-on-year increase, the National Immigration Administration (NIA) said yesterday.

Visa-free entries accounted for 72.2 percent of all entries made by foreign nationals, the NIA said.

In recent years, China has been continually expanding its visa-free travel policies for foreigners arriving in the country. Tourists from 76 countries are now able to benefit from unilateral or mutual visa-free entry, while citizens of 55 further countries can visit China visa-free in transit for up to 10 days, before traveling on to a third destination.

The latest country added to China's visa-free arrivals list is Russia. Since the policy took effect on September 15, the number of Russians entering China has risen notably.

Arriving at the Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport, Russian traveler Anna Ivanova expressed her surprise at the swift entry process. "It only took me about 20 minutes from getting off the plane to completing the entry process. Traveling to China has become very convenient under the visa-free policy," she said.

During China's eight-day National Day and Mid-Autumn Festival holiday in early October, visa-free travel policies and improved travel facilitation measures fueled a rise in inbound tourism, with countries such as the Republic of Korea (ROK), the United States, Russia, Japan and Malaysia among the top sources of overseas visitors, according to a report from travel platform Trip.com.

As the Korean Chuseok holiday

overlapped with China's eight-day holiday this year, bookings for travel from the ROK to China for the period saw a 200 percent spike, and the "flying to China right after work on Friday" tag began trending on social media platforms in the ROK.

Moon Chung-in, a professor emeritus at Seoul's Yonsei University, said that under China's visa-free travel policies, young Koreans are being offered more opportunities to understand China, the Chinese people and Chinese culture.

"I hope the Korean side can also relax restrictions, so that the Chinese people can also better understand Korean culture and its people," he added.

According to the NIA, cross-border trips made by foreigners surged 21.6 percent to 1.43 million during the holiday. A total of 751,000 foreigners entered China, including 535,000 who entered under visa-free travel policies – year-on-year increases of 19.8 percent and 46.8 percent.

Many foreign visitors celebrated the Mid-Autumn Festival by immersing themselves in Chinese traditions such as mooncake preparation, lantern-making and moonlit walks in traditional attire, experiencing the vibrant local atmosphere to the fullest possible extent.

"When China opens its doors to foreign tourists, it sends a clear message: Come, see and experience," said Biljana Vankovskais, a professor of international relations and peace studies at the Institute for Security, Defense, and Peace at Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in North Macedonia.

In the future, China will build on its efforts to facilitate entry by adding more countries to its visa-free arrivals list, and provide high-quality products, diverse options and convenient services for more of its international friends, said a Chinese government official.

– Xinhua

## Chinese, British business leaders see collaborative growth in green energy

### Analysis

LONDON – Chinese and British business leaders met in London on Wednesday to explore fresh opportunities for cooperation, as both sides look to navigate global economic uncertainty.

Gathered for a UK-China trade forum hosted by professional services firm Moore Kingston Smith, participants from local governments, trade bodies and companies discussed ways to deepen ties through regional partnerships and low-carbon projects that reflect their shared interest in long-term economic resilience. Topics of concern included green energy, industrial innovation and sustainable growth.

As China's economic structure continues to optimize, the country's regional industrial layouts have become increasingly clear, each showcasing distinctive strengths. At the meeting, representatives from China's Jiangsu Province, Qingdao in Shandong Province, Shanghai and Shenzhen in Guangdong Province highlighted their respective advantages and cooperation opportunities – spanning new energy, intelligent manufacturing, the digital economy and marine engineering – reflecting the diversity and dynamism of China's economy.

With China's economy continuing to show resilience and transformation, bilateral economic links are deepening across multiple fronts. Britain, meanwhile, is seeking to revitalize its own industrial and regional growth and attract more Chinese investment.

Rebecca Bekkenutte, managing director of Gateley Global, said Britain's regulatory transparency, time-zone advantage and innovation ecosystem provide a solid base for joint work in net-zero technologies, AI and cybersecurity.

Bekkenutte noted that Britain's regulatory "sandboxes" allow firms to test green and digital projects under real conditions, a model that could be expanded with Chinese partners.

Ian Pease, Business Development Manager at Suffolk County Council, stated that Britain aims to source 95 percent of its electricity from clean energy by 2030. "We have the frameworks in place," he said. "But we cannot do it alone. International collaboration is essential."

John McLean, chairman of the China UK Business Development Centre, said Chinese investment in electric vehicles and supply chains is already creating jobs and technological spillovers in Britain. McLean, who has worked in China for over two decades, sees growing sources of collaboration in advanced engineering, environmental infrastructure, software and financial services.

Business leaders reached a consensus that green transformation, technological innovation and open cooperation will remain the foundation of future China-Britain economic ties.

Tim Skeet, Chief Institutional Relationship Officer at the Bank of China London Branch, noted that both countries are exploring "nature and biodiversity finance" under new frameworks, such as the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures, which promotes measurable ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) standards.

Lynn Lin, head of China and Asia-Pacific at Moore Kingston Smith, said: "From clean energy to finance and advanced manufacturing, both sides have complementary strengths."

"The real progress lies not in abstract dialogue, but in building practical, sustainable partnerships, and those partnerships are already taking shape," Lin said.

– Xinhua



A Long March-8A carrier rocket carrying the 12<sup>th</sup> group of low-orbit internet satellites blasts off from a commercial spacecraft launch site in Hainan Province yesterday. The rocket lifted off at 9:33 a.m. yesterday. It successfully placed the payloads into preset orbit. – Xinhua