

# Sam urges new legislature to enhance role in exercising political leadership

Tony Wong

Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai has urged all members of the new, eighth term of the Macau Special Administrative Region's (MSAR) Legislative Assembly (AL), which started on Thursday, to further enhance the legislature's three major roles, namely exercising political leadership, carrying out legislative and oversight duties, and serving as a crucial bridge between the government and the public.

Sam made the remarks during a meeting with the lawmakers on Thursday evening after the new legislative term's first plenary session in the afternoon that day. The Macau Government Information Bureau (GCS) announced Sam's meeting in a statement on Thursday night.

The statement did not mention where the meeting was held.

During Thursday's plenary session, André Cheong Weng Chon, a newcomer to the Legislative Assembly after serving as the MSAR's 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.

Cheong, 59, is one of the seven members whom Sam appointed to the 33-member Legislative Assembly, which comprises



Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai addresses Thursday evening's meeting with all members of the new-term Legislative Assembly (AL).

— Photo: GCS

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.

During Thursday's plenary session in the hemicycle, indirectly-

elected lawmaker Alan Ho Ion Sang was elected, also unanimously, as the legislature's vice-president.

Alan 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.

Delivering a speech during the meeting, according to the GCS statement, Sam underlined that the MSAR government attaches great importance to further strengthening its communication and coordination with the legislature, consolidating the MSAR's constitutional order and its executive-led system,

and enhancing its governance capabilities and efficiency.

Sam noted that last month's direct and indirect elections of the MSAR's 8<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly were the first held after last year's amendments to the Legislative Assembly Election Law, which has further consolidated the implementation of the "patriots governing Macau" principle through improvements in the legal system.

Sam said that last month's legislative elections were also an important political event since his government took office in December last year. He said that the elections were held in a fair, impartial, open and clean manner, vividly demonstrating high-quality democracy under the "One Country, Two Systems" principle, and having profound significance for Macau's future development.

Sam noted that the new term of the legislature has been joined by "energetic" and young newcomers, apart from having long-serving legislators with extensive experience. Consequently, he said, the legislature now features a "more rational" composition, with its members from more diverse backgrounds, fully demonstrating the legislature's broader representation, and higher comprehensive quality of its members.

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## Revolutionary Chinese chip to pioneer search for dark matter, black holes

BEIJING – A Chinese research team from Tsinghua University has unveiled a revolutionary spectroscopic imaging chip, RAFAEL, that could transform how humanity observes the universe.

Published in *Nature* this week, the breakthrough resolves the long-standing trade-off between spectral resolution and throughput/efficiency, enabling high-performance yet easily integrable snapshot spectroscopy.

Spectroscopy is a fundamental tool for revealing the physical structures and chemical compositions of matter,

underpinning discoveries across physics, chemistry, astronomy and life sciences.

However, traditional instruments have long faced an inherent challenge in achieving both ultra-high resolution and high throughput. Enhancing one typically requires compromising the other, creating a seemingly insurmountable barrier to achieving both simultaneously.

RAFAEL, with its Chinese name "Yuheng," breaks this limitation through integrated and reconfigurable lithium-niobate photonics, enabling each pixel in the sensor to capture complete spectral data

with ultra-high optical transmittance.

The chip achieves snapshot spectroscopy with a 10-megapixel spatial resolution and a spectral precision of 0.05 nanometers across visible to near-infrared wavelengths.

In an on-sky demonstration, RAFAEL captured spectra in that precision of up to 5,600 stars in a single exposure, representing more than a hundredfold improvement in observational efficiency over world-class astronomical spectrometers.

Compact yet powerful, the chip could unlock new insights into the most enigmatic phenomena in the cosmos while

advancing research from materials science to astrophysics, said Fang Lu, a professor at Tsinghua and corresponding author of the paper.

"Yuheng" derives its name from the fifth star of the Big Dipper, once used by ancient Chinese astronomers to calibrate celestial movements, embodying precision and balance.

Building on this legacy, the chip aims to establish a new stable benchmark for human astronomical observation of light and the universe, Fang said.

— Xinhua

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The Macau Post Daily

### Xi congratulates Cheng Li-wun on election as KMT chairperson

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, yesterday congratulated Cheng Li-wun on being elected chairperson of the Chinese Kuomintang (KMT).

— Story on p. 7

### Renewed violence in Gaza threatens ceasefire

Israel launched deadly strikes in the Gaza Strip yesterday, saying they were in response to attacks by Hamas militants, as the nine-day-old ceasefire in the Palestinian territory came under heavy strain.

— Story on p. 10

### Alleged victim's family hails removal of Prince Andrew's royal title

The removal of Prince Andrew's royal title "vindicates" his alleged sexual assault victim, her family has said, as King Charles III apparently seeks to draw a line under the damaging scandal.

— Story on p. 12



# Legislators need to keep their eye on the ball



Macau's post-election legislature was sworn in last week, and the first thing that came to my mind was that our 33 lawmakers need to keep their eye on the ball by focusing on their core duty: creating legislation that serves the public and benefits the common good.

Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai, Macau's former chief justice, expressed three expectations regarding the deputies' four-year term in a meeting shortly after their oath-taking ceremony: to enhance the leadership role of the Legislative Assembly in political terms; to strengthen the legislature's role in drafting legislation and overseeing the government; and to bolster the legislative body's role as a key interlocutor, leveraging its broad representativity to reinforce the collection, compilation, and expression of public opinion.

For the first time in the legislature's nearly five-decade-long history, a senior ex-official of the government, former secretary for Administration and Justice, André Cheong Weng Chon, not only became one of its lawmakers but also its speaker. Additionally, Cheong is one of the legislature's seven government-appointed legislators. It is also the first time that a lawmaker chosen by the chief executive has become the president of the legislature. Since the establishment of the Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR) in 1999, he is the first newcomer to the legislative hemicycle to chair the body right away.

Speaking to reporters after he was unanimously elected speaker of the lawmaking body, Cheong emphasised that, in future analyses of legislative projects, he will always consider the real situation of society and present constructive suggestions.

Cheong, 59, who first headed Macau's Legal Affairs Bureau (DSAJ) and then the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) before becoming one of Macau's policy secretaries in 2019 as head of the Public Administration and Justice portfolio, also stated that the focus of his upcoming work at the helm of the legislature will be to promote positive interaction between the

executive and legislative powers. He expressed his desire to encourage his fellow lawmakers to strengthen communication with the public in order to gather more opinions from the population.

Cheong pledged that he will leverage his extensive experience in public administration and legal matters to fulfil the three expectations outlined by the chief executive.

The Legislative Assembly was created by the "Estatuto Orgânico de Macau" (Organic Statute of Macau) by the territory's then Portuguese administrators in 1976. The statute was the result of Portugal's anti-fascist Carnation Revolution of April 1974, which forsook colonialism. Afterwards, Lisbon changed Macau's status from an overseas "province" to a territory under temporary Portuguese administration.

Initially, the legislature had 23 deputies: eight directly elected by universal suffrage, eight indirectly elected by business, labour, and community association representatives, and seven appointed by the Lisbon-appointed governor. While the elected lawmakers made up 69.56 percent of the total number of deputies, 30.44 percent were appointed legislators.

At its inception, only Portuguese nationals in Macau had the right to vote. Due to Macau's unique status at that time, lawmakers were exempt from Portugal's conscription and had the right to a "special passport."

While the tripartite composition of the legislature – comprising directly and indirectly elected as well as appointed lawmakers – has remained intact, the total number of deputies has gradually increased. This includes the number of directly and indirectly elected deputies, which now stands at 14 and 12 respectively, while the number of appointed lawmakers has remained unchanged at seven since the legislative body's inception.

The legislature's three-segment membership structure was also recognised by the China-Portugal Joint Declaration on the Question of Macau, signed by both countries in Beijing in April 1987. Its Annex I states that the legislature of the MSAR shall be composed of local inhabitants, with a majority of its members chosen by election.

The Joint Declaration, a historic document that facilitated Macau's smooth return to Chinese administration, also states that the

local legislature "may on its own authority enact laws in accordance with the provisions of the Basic Law and legal procedures."

The Basic Law, enacted in March 1993, devotes 14 of its 145 articles to the Legislative Assembly, stating that it shall be composed of permanent residents. This grants also Macau's permanent residents holding foreign nationality (like myself) the right to vote and stand as candidates. That's a generous regulation, indeed.

The Basic Law also lists the legislature's eight powers and functions, such as "to debate any issue concerning public interests," apart from the fact that it "may pass a motion of impeachment [of the chief executive] by a two-thirds majority of all its members and report it to the Central People's Government for decision."

However, within this context, I need to underline a crucial issue regarding Macau's political system: the Basic Law's Article 61 is crystal clear that "the Government of the Macau Special Administrative Region shall be the executive authorities of the Region." This is one of the Basic Law's pivotal points, as it formally defines Macau's political system as "executive-led."

Moreover, the Western concepts of the three "co-equal" branches of government and separation of powers do not apply to Macau.

In the past four decades as a journalist working in Macau, I have read copious media and academic reports and heard scholars and experts referring to our legislature as a parliament. Nothing could be further from the truth.

While all parliaments are legislatures, not all legislatures are parliaments—it's as simple as that. Parliaments, as I remember from my political science courses in Munich and Hong Kong, are specific to (Western-style) parliamentary systems, while legislatures exist in various forms of government, including presidential and hybrid systems.

While both terms relate to law-making bodies, "parliament" refers to a specific type of legislature,

typically found in parliamentary systems.

Incidentally, the West's system of separation of powers is increasingly facing fundamental challenges, such as overlapping powers, as the boundaries between the three "branches of government" often blur, leading to conflicts over authority and responsibilities. For instance, executive orders can "conveniently" bypass legislative approval. Judicial activism is another problem in the West, where judges may overreach by making policy decisions rather than simply interpreting the law. The judicialisation of politics, i.e., the transfer of contentious issues of an outright political nature and importance to courts, as well as judicial politicisation, such as by certain countries' highly politicised supreme courts, shows that the West's once-sacrosanct principle is increasingly diluted.

As its name clearly indicates, the main task of the local legislature is to make laws. In the local context, this means that our lawmakers should cooperate interactively with government officials in crafting laws that will benefit Macau's population as a whole and create the right framework for the appropriate diversification and modernisation of its economy.

Based on President Xi Jinping's principle of people-centred development, Macau's lawmakers ought to assist the government (that's their clear role in an executive-led political system) in creating new laws and amending old ones to achieve the best possible outcomes for all of us.

To achieve this goal, they must carefully read all bills before voting on them. Over the past four decades, several lawmakers have told me privately that they have passed laws without scrutinising them in detail. They admitted that after the bills became law, they were shocked to discover provisions they had been completely unaware of.

Lawmakers' hard work takes place behind closed doors when they are debating, reviewing, and

revising government-initiated bills, often with government officials and others invited to attend the committee-level meetings. The advantage of closed-door meetings is that participants talk much more freely than when talking into cameras. As a journalist, I know from long experience that people speak differently when talking off the record or on the record.

However, the committee presidents' post-committee press briefings could certainly be further improved.

A completely different matter is lawmakers' off-agenda speeches in the legislature's hemicycle before the public gallery and in the presence of the print and broadcasting media. These speeches are useful for raising public issues and transmitting concerns from the electorate. However, this could also be optimised by avoiding "soapbox" style rhetoric that does not help solve pressing issues but serves as a means of occasional self-promotion.

I hope that the current lawmakers will keep their eye on the ball—by that I mean to concentrate on modernising Macau's legal system by endowing it with well-crafted laws.

Just one more point regarding some voices' criticism that the Legislative Assembly's new president is a government-appointed lawmaker. I recall one of my first conversations in the mid-1980s with Macau's then speaker of the legislature, Carlos d'Assumpção, who served as its president from 1976 until his premature passing after a severe illness in 1992. We discussed whether the three segments of lawmakers (directly elected, indirectly elected, government appointed) are differently ranked. His answer was unambiguously clear: "We are equals among equals." I may add that he was a directly elected deputy and later also a member of the Macau Basic Law Drafting Committee. Besides, he was one of the most erudite persons I have met in my life. I still miss him.

—Harald Brüning

## Winds set to strengthen as 'Fengshen' nears

**Khalel Vallo**

According to the Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG), under the influence of the northeast monsoon, Macau is expected to experience stronger winds and cooler temperatures beginning tonight, as Tropical Cyclone "Fengshen" continued to intensify near the Philippines.

The combined effects of the northeast monsoon and "Fengshen" will bring significant winds reaching Force 6 to 7 with gusts, prompting the issuance of a strong monsoon signal, the observatory said last night, adding that the tropical cyclone was forecast to come within 800 kilometres of Macau between last night and early this morning, and later pass about 400 kilometres south of the city tomorrow, further increasing its impact.

Depending on Fengshen's development and changes in local wind conditions, SMG said it would consider issuing the Strong Wind Signal No.3 tonight.

The local observatory added that rain was expected

from today to Wednesday, with temperatures forecast to drop as low as 18 degrees Celsius. The weather station urged the public to stay updated on the latest weather information and take precautions against the cooler, windy, and rainy conditions in the coming days. ■



### Published since Aug 2004

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### Macau Weather

**TEMPERATURE FALLING. CLOUDY APART FROM SUNNY INTERVALS. A FEW RAIN PATCHES LATER. FORCE 5 TO 6 NORTHERLY WINDS, OCCASIONALLY FORCE 7 WITH GUSTS. RELATIVE HUMIDITY WILL RANGE BETWEEN 50% AND 90%.**



**22°C~29°C**

Source: SMG



## hush! provides platform for local musicians: IC chief

Ida Cheong

Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) President Deland Leong Wai Man told reporters yesterday that the “hush! Beach Concert x Urban Sports Festival 2025” aimed to provide a platform for Macau’s young original musicians and bands to showcase their talent and foster development, thereby supporting the growth of local homegrown music scene.

The two-day concert held over the weekend, at Hac Sa Beach and the adjacent Temporary Green and Leisure Area, featured over 30 fitness and yoga instructors from Asia and nearly 60 local and visiting bands, musicians and artistes.

The music-fest ended yesterday.

Leong made the remarks on the sidelines of yesterday’s award ceremony for the “hush! 300 Seconds” short video competition at Hac Sa Beach.

Leong noted that over the past three years, the event has invited groups from countries and regions such as Hong Kong, the Chinese mainland, Thailand, and South Korea to engage in cultural exchanges with local Cantonese Opera troupes, with the objective of strengthening industry exchanges, promote future partnerships, and creating performance opportunities abroad for outstanding local groups.

Leong pointed out that this time the event adhered to the “Music + Sports” concept, resonating with local public health initiatives that encourage residents to focus on physical and mental well-being through active lifestyles, thereby establishing a model for healthy outdoor activities.

hush! has been held at Hac Sa Beach since 2016, leveraging its high-quality natural environment, such as grassy areas and a sandy shore, in order to create

a dedicated and self-contained event space, Leong said.

Senior Vice President of Brand Marketing of MGM, Catarina Lio Weng Kei said that enthusiasm for sport is growing across all age groups in Macau, with mass participation in physical activities becoming a major trend, adding that the sport formats are also increasingly diversifying. MGM was the event’s co-organiser.

Within this context, Lio said, Urban Sport (outdoor urban sports) has been launched, catering to the full age spectrum including children, adults, and the elderly. She pointed out that many residents and tourists attended the event, adding that the area at and around the venue saw huge crowds.

Moreover, building upon regular yoga sessions, new elements like Pilates and other mixed-format activities were introduced this year, as well as a trial play mechanism launched for the first time, which satisfied public interest in experiencing globally popular sports, Lio concluded. ■



Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) President Deland Leong Wai Man poses after yesterday's award ceremony for the “hush! 300 Seconds” short video competition at Hac Sa Beach.

— Photo: Ida Cheong

## First local artificial heart surgery carried out

Ida Cheong

The Health Bureau (SSM) announced in a statement on Thursday that the first local artificial heart implant surgery was successfully completed through a collaboration arrangement between the cardiothoracic (CT) surgery teams of the public Conde de São Januário Hospital Centre and the First Affiliated Hospital of Jinan University, which marked a new breakthrough in cardiac surgery in Macau, and was also the first local application of a fully magnetically levitated artificial heart\* independently developed in the mainland.

The statement noted that a 68-year-old local female patient with end-stage heart failure\*\*, presented complex conditions and high surgical difficulty.

According to the statement, prior to the surgery, the medical teams from both hospitals conducted multidisciplinary joint consultations, comprehensively assessed her condition. The operation was conducted under general anaesthesia and with the assistance of a cardiopulmonary bypass, the statement said, adding that the patient underwent left ventricular drilling to implant the fully magnetically levitated artificial heart, and the power cable was connected to an external device.

Once activated, the artificial heart used magnetic levitation drive technology to pump blood into the ascending aorta\*\*\*, creating a parallel circulatory state with the patient’s own heart. Following the surgery, the patient recovered well, with symptoms of heart failure resolved and physical activity capacity returning to normal. Due to the device’s compact and lightweight design, it has minimal impact on daily life, the statement said.

The statement pointed out that the surgery used a fully magnetically levitated artificial heart, which was



This updated and pixelated handset photo provided by the Health Bureau(SSM) on Thursday shows the 68-year-old local female patient (centre), the public Conde de São Januário Hospital Centre’s Dr Fan Sai Hou (left) and the First Affiliated Hospital of Jinan University’s Dr Zhang Xiaoshen posing for a photo.

independently developed in the mainland, featuring characteristics such as low haemolysis\*\*\*\* and high durability, with its technical performance reaching international standards. According to the statement, it also effectively reduces blood damage and blood clot formation, thereby improving the patient’s survival rate and quality of life.

The statement pointed out that while end-stage heart failure patients previously had to rely solely on heart transplants as a treatment, the implantation of left ventricular assist devices (artificial hearts) has now become the most effective treatment option aside from transplantation, and this method is suitable for end-stage heart failure patients who have not responded to drug therapy and have been evaluated by a multidisciplinary team as eligible for the implant surgery. It can effectively improve heart failure symptoms and extend life expectancy. ■

\* A Fully Magnetically Levitated Artificial Heart is an advanced mechanical device that uses magnetic levitation technology to replace or support the function of a failing human heart. A key feature is a frictionless rotor suspended entirely within a magnetic field, which helps reduce damage to blood cells and prevent clotting. - DeepSeek

\*\*End-stage heart failure, also known as Stage D heart failure, is the most severe and advanced form of heart failure. It is characterised by significant and debilitating symptoms that persist even at rest, despite receiving maximum medical therapy. - DeepSeek

\*\*\* The ascending aorta is the first section of the aorta, carrying oxygen-rich blood from the heart’s left ventricle up toward the body. - Google AI

\*\*\*\* Haemolysis is the process by which red blood cells break down, leading to the release of hemoglobin into the surrounding fluid. - Poe

## Coffee & Creative Culture Market aims to build momentum in lead-up to National Games

Armindo Neves

A coffee and creative culture market held by the Industry and Commerce Association of Macau, which will conclude this coming Sunday, aims to build momentum in the lead-up to the National Games, the group’s executive chairman, Ng Wah Wai, said in a speech at the event’s opening ceremony on October 5.

The Chinese name of the event “全運風尚•咖啡文創匯福隆”, translated through DeepSeek, is “National Games Style • Coffee & Creative Cultural Fair in [Rua da] Felicidade.”

The event is taking place at Rua da Felicidade (福隆新街) and in the plaza between Rua dos Mercadores (營地大街) and Travessa do Aterro

Novo (新填巷) at weekends.

According to the event signage, the market brings together nearly 20 cultural and creative coffee brands and collaborates with 40 businesses, allowing consumers to enjoy coffee while exploring the creative market, discovering Macau’s “new charm”.

Ng said during the opening ceremony on October 5 that the event aims to involve small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the Rua da Felicidade neighbourhood. Additionally, the event incorporates live-action role playing games to enhance engagement, Ng said.

According to Ng, these games combine AI technology with local Macau performing arts teams, allowing participants to learn about the history of Rua da Felicidade

(“Street of Bliss”) and the stories of its shops.

Chi Fong, his nickname, founder of MELOFII, told the Post at the open-air market yesterday that his participation in the market aims to promote his brand and local specialty products. He said that the main products include four varieties of healthily seasoned thinly-sliced pork jerky, suitable to pair with beer, as well as cold-brew tea and coffee that blend Eastern and Western cultures. He said the tea bottle packaging features Chinese characteristics, using gourd-shaped bottles to hold the tea. He recommends products based on customer preferences and hopes to use the event to promote small businesses and local culture. ■



Fairgoers attend the “National Games Style • Coffee & Creative Cultural Fair in Felicidade” coffee & cultural market in the plaza between Rua dos Mercadores (營地大街) and Travessa do Aterro Novo (新填巷) yesterday. - Photo by Armindo Neves



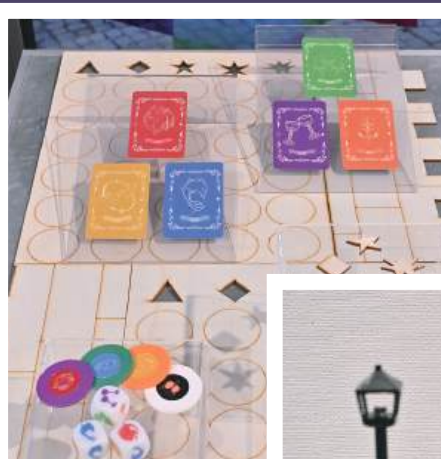
## ABOUT The Young Post

The Macau Post Daily's The Young Post will be published every Monday to present and discuss topical issues that may interest not only the younger but also all the other generations.

## MPU students showcase their works at Creative Macau exhibition



Guests, representatives and students pose during the opening ceremony of the "Prototype" exhibition at the CREATIVE MACAU – Centre for Creative Industries gallery in Nape. – Photos taken on Thursday by Rui Pastorin



### Rui Pastorin

Students from the Macao Polytechnic University's (MPU) Bachelor of Arts in Media Arts programme are presenting a raft of works in an exhibition titled "Prototype" at the CREATIVE MACAU – Centre for Creative Industries gallery in Nape until November 8.

Having opened on Thursday, the works by students comprising those studying in their first, second and third years showcase their creativity through game design, 3D modelling, animation, and interactive art.

"Through hands-on assignments across various courses, students have gained proficiency in a wide array of design tools and production techniques, transforming abstract ideas into fully realised works", according to a statement on the Creative Macau website, adding that the exhibition "marks an important milestone" in the students' academic journeys.

Through sharing their art with members of the public, the exhibition aims to inspire dialogue and exchange on media arts, emerging technologies, and their cultural impact.

Moreover, during the exhibition's opening ceremony on Thursday, Institute of European Studies of Macau (IEEM) President Paulo Canelas de Castro remarked that the purpose of CREATIVE MACAU is to give a platform for the different communities to interact and get

to know each other, as well as promote young artists' values. He noted that the centre looks forward to seeing more works from the public university.

MPU's Faculty of Arts and Design Dean Lai Mei Kei said in her speech that aside from the exhibits showing aspects such as how students see Macau as their hometown and their reflections on the virtual world, the works are also representative of what youngsters think about the city, hoping that exhibitiongoers will enjoy looking at the works.

Exhibitiongoers may admire the works from Mondays through Saturdays from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. The gallery is closed on Sundays.





## Oxfam TowerRun draws over 400 contestants



This handout photo provided by Oxfam shows Oxfam Hong Kong Director General Henry Tang Chi Fai addressing the 12th Oxfam TowerRun opening ceremony yesterday at the Macau Tower Convention and Entertainment Centre in Nam Van

### Khalel Vallo

The 12th Oxfam TowerRun took place yesterday at Macau Tower in Nam Van, drawing more than 400 athletes and volunteers to one of Macau's iconic landmarks in support of Oxfam's poverty alleviation initiatives for left-behind children in the Chinese mainland.

According to a statement from Oxfam yesterday, the annual charity race featured a full race (61 floors), half race (31 floors), and a team relay challenge, which attracted over 40 local and visiting athletes, including the world's top-ranked towerrunners.

Oxfam Hong Kong Director General Henry Tang Chi-fai thanked the contestants and partners, and noted that this year's theme, "Every Mind Counts, Every Step Transformed Lives," aimed to highlight the transformative power of each participant's contribution.

Japan's Ryoji Watanabe won the 61-floor Elite Individual Full Race, while Team PUMA won the team relay challenge.

Moreover, the statement added that Oxfam Ambassadors – Towerrunning World No.1, Malaysia's Soh Wai Ching, and local trail runner Vivi Cheung – also took part in the races, while celebrity runner James Ng made his debut, urging continued public support for the cause.

Recognised by both the Towerrunning World Association (TWA) and the Asia-Pacific Vertical Marathon Association, the Oxfam TowerRun remains a signature charity sporting event in Macau, the statement said, adding that the event combined athletic challenge, community engagement, and compassion through the spirit of "spreading love through sports." ■

## Gongbei Customs seizes 96 hermit crabs

### Armando Neves

Zhuhai's Gongbei Customs announced in a statement on Friday that its officers seized 96 hermit crabs from a mainland.

According to the statement, at 6 p.m. on August 19, customs officers at the Gongbei border checkpoint noticed the smuggler entering the Chinese mainland from Macau through the "Green Channel" in the passenger inspection hall. As his shopping bag had not been X-rayed, they decided to intercept him for inspection.

The inspection revealed 96 live hermit crabs in mesh bags concealed within the smuggler's shopping bag.

According to the identification results from the Technical Centre of Gongbei Customs, all the live hermit crabs were *Coenobita rugosus* (commonly known as Rugose Land Hermit Crabs or Strawberry Hermit Crabs).

In the statement, Gongbei Customs reminded the public that, in accordance with laws and regulations, bringing live animals and plants into the Chinese mainland without approval is prohibited.



This undated and pixelated handout photo provided by Zhuhai Gongbei Customs on Friday shows 96 hermit crabs seized from a Chinese mainland smuggler on August 19.

Those who violate these provisions will be held legally responsible by Customs. ■

## Germany's Dominic Foos wins SJM Macao Open 2025



2025 SJM Macao Open winner Dominic Foos from Germany poses with his trophy during the prize-giving ceremony at the Macau Golf & Country Club yesterday evening. – Photos: Rui Pastorin

### Rui Pastorin

Germany's Dominic Foos was crowned champion of the SJM Macao Open 2025 at the Macau Golf & Country Club yesterday, finishing at 17 under par and having a total score of 263 points.

Taking home a cheque of US\$180,000 (1.44 million patacas) alongside the tournament trophy, Foos is the first German to win on the Asian Tour since Bernhard Langer in 1996.

The 28-year-old emerged victorious after winning the sudden-death play-off on the par-five 18 against Wang Wei-hsuan from China's Taiwan region, with whom he was tied for the top spot.

Foos shot a seven-under-par 63, while Wang closed with a 62. The Chinese mainland's Ding Wenyi finished third while Thailand's Sarit Suwannarut, who maintained the lead on the second and third days of the tournament, finished fourth.

During the post-game press conference, Foos noted that he hadn't really looked at the leaderboard all day and that he did not know what was going on with the scores. "But then as I walked up to the 18th, after hitting the second shot, I saw that I had to make birdies\* to force a playoff. Luckily, I did that", he said.

Moreover, when asked about how he felt to be the first German winner of the Asian Tour in nearly 30 years, Foos told the media that it was "definitely special" and that he really looked up to Langer.

Remarking on playing in Macau, Foos said that he looked forward to coming back, having first played the course earlier this year and really liked the experience. "The course suits me really well, I guess. With me, kind of as long as I keep it in play and hit a lot of fairways\*\*, I know I'm always going to have a good chance. And yeah, I drove it



Foos addresses yesterday's post-tournament press conference at Grand Coloane Resort.

really well this week".

The four-day tournament, which marked its 22nd edition and is a highlight on the Asian Tour schedule, this year had 144 players and a prize pool of US\$1 million. The partnership between SJM Resorts and the Macao Open started in 2023, according to emcee remarks during yesterday's prize-giving ceremony, with a two-year extension through 2027. ■

\*A "birdie" refers to a score of one stroke under par on a particular hole. For example, if a hole is a par 4 and a golfer completes it in 3 strokes, they have made a birdie. -Source: Poe

\*\*In golf, the fairway refers to the area of well-maintained grass that lies between the tee box and the green. It is the optimal path for players to hit their shots, as it provides a smooth surface for better ball contact, according to AI chatbot Poe.

## Switzerland's Team Lugano wins FIBA 3x3 World Tour Macau 2025

### Rui Pastorin

The final day of the FIBA 3x3 World Tour Macau 2025 took place yesterday on the Wynn Palace South Lawn in Cotai, with Team Lugano from Switzerland emerging as champions.

FIBA 3x3 World Tour Macau 2025 gathered 16 top 3x3 basketball teams from around the world and had a total prize pool of up to US\$185,000, according to a statement from the Sports Bureau (ID) yesterday, adding that the International Basketball Federation (FIBA) sanctioned event's qualification and group stage matches were held on Saturday.

Yesterday's games kicked off with Ub (Serbia), Miami (USA), Lugano (Switzerland) and Ulaanbaatar MMC Energy (Mongolia) respectively winning their quarter-final matches against Riffa (Bahrain), Chongming (China), Bordeaux (France), and Kandava Turība (Latvia).

During the semi-finals, Miami

beat Ub 22-16, while Lugano defeated Ulaanbaatar 21-18. The final fast-paced match between Lugano and Miami then saw the former winning 21-20, with Lugano's player Adris De León chosen as Most Valuable Player, according to the statement.

Meanwhile, the statement said that the Shoot-Out Contest

and a Dunk Contest were held at the event, which were won by Team Miami's Mitch Hahn and Poland's Piotr Grabowski respectively.

More information can be found by visiting [worldtour.fiba3x3.com/2025/macau](http://worldtour.fiba3x3.com/2025/macau) or the Sports Bureau website at [www.sport.gov.mo](http://www.sport.gov.mo). ■



Team Lugano (in red) from Switzerland defeat Team Miami from the US at Wynn Palace in Cotai last night. – Photo: Sports Bureau (ID)



# Police nab 4 mainlanders for fraud in 2 cases

Armindo Neves

The Judiciary Police (PJ) have nabbed three mainlanders for fraud, PJ spokesman Chong Kam Leong said during a special press conference on Friday.

Chong said the three suspects, aged between 34 and 54, are surnamed Meng, Luo and Du. Meng told police that she was a saleswoman, while Luo and Du said were unemployed.

According to Chong, on Thursday afternoon, while PJ officers patrolled a casino in the peninsula, they noticed the trio organising a “crossroading” scam, in which they were pretending to assist gamblers to place bets while using their bodies to block the gamblers’ view, thereby stealing their gambling chips.

Chong said after gaining the victims’ trust, the trio offered to

“help” them place baccarat bets. When the victim won, according to Chong, they pocketed the winnings, claiming they would continue betting on the victim’s behalf. When the victim placed a large bet, they took the victim’s bets on the table and falsely claimed that the entire amount had been lost. In the scam, one the victims suffered a total loss of HK\$8,000, Chong said.

According to Chong, as the gang was attempting to use the same method to deceive the victim again, PJ officers immediately moved in and arrested them. A total of three smart phones and chips worth HK\$77,300 were seized from the trio, Chong said.

A follow-up investigation revealed that the gang had used the same method at least three times since last month, earning about HK\$15,000.

The trio were transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) on Friday, facing charge of fraud.

## Police arrest a mainlander using fake chips

Meanwhile, PJ officers arrested a mainlander on Thursday for using fake gambling chips, PJ spokesman Chong Kam Leong said during the special press conference on Friday.

Chong identified the suspect as a 26-year-old male surnamed Wang, who told police that he’s jobless.

According to Chong, on Thursday morning at a casino in Zape, Wang attempted to defraud a female gambler by using six fake gambling chips, each with a face value of HK\$10,000.

After the woman transferred 55,200 yuan to Wang, she noticed something unusual when handling the chips. A dispute ensued, alerting casino security, who subsequently reported the incident to the police, Chong said.

According to Chong, PJ officers arrived at the scene and arrested Wang. Under questioning, he claimed that the counterfeit chips were given to him by an accomplice who instructed him to find gamblers to defraud them with a “success reward” of HK\$5,000. As other suspects still remained at large during Friday’s press conference, the Judiciary Police were continuing their investigation.

Wang was transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) on Friday, facing a fraud charge. ■



Judiciary Police (PJ) officers escort the three hooded suspects to a PJ van outside the PJ headquarters in Zape on Friday. — Photo: Armindo Neves

## Sam urges new legislature to enhance role in exercising political leadership

Continued from p.1

Sam also underlined that with the aim of better enabling his government to meet the changes in Macau’s development needs, he chose the seven appointed legislators for the new term of the legislature, representing a significant reform aiming to better leverage the institutional advantages brought about by the MSAR’s executive-led system and deepen positive interaction between the executive, legislative and judicial organs.

According to the statement, Sam also quoted President Xi Jinping as pointing out that the implementation of the “One Country, Two Systems” principle has entered a new phase. Sam said that both the Central People’s Government and Macau residents have high expectations for the new-term Legislative Assembly.

The chief executive pledged that his government will work closely with the legislature to put special emphasis on Macau’s economic development, improvements in residents’ well-being, and the promotion of social harmony, while jointly providing stronger legal guarantees for promoting Macau’s high-quality development and the Macau-Hengqin development.

### Sam’s 3 hopes for legislature

According to the statement, Sam raised three hopes for the members of the new-term legislature.

**First**, Sam said, the legislature should further enhance its role in exercising political leadership.

The legislature, Sam said, should comprehensively, accurately and unswervingly implement the principles of “One Country, Two Systems”, “Macau people governing Macau”, and a high degree of autonomy, while resolutely safeguarding the nation’s sovereignty, security and development interests.

The legislature should also fulfil its duties with dedication and demonstrate a sense of shouldering responsibilities, while promoting the spirit of patriotism and love for Macau, upholding the tradition of inclusiveness and harmony, and maintaining Macau’s long-term prosperity and stability in collaboration with the government, the chief executive said.

**Second**, Sam said, the legislature should further enhance its role in carrying out legislative and oversight duties.

Sam said that the legislature should be committed to fulfilling its

legislative functions and duties and those to monitor the government’s work conferred by the nation’s Constitution and the MSAR Basic Law. The legislature should leverage its professionalism in order to collaborate with the executive organ in advancing legal reforms aligned with Macau’s important development goals, including appropriate economic diversification and public administration reform.

**Third**, Sam said, the legislature should further enhance its role in serving as a crucial bridge between the government and the public.

Sam said that the legislature should leverage its broad representativeness in order to better gather, sort out and express public opinion, with the aim of fostering rational, objective and constructive public sentiment.

The legislature should propose sound policies and effective measures to improve the city’s social welfare grounded in its long-term sustainable development, while also building the broadest consensus in civil society to support the government in implementing major initiatives, thereby laying a solid foundation for Macau’s socioeconomic development in the long term. ■



Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai lifts a boy visiting Government Headquarters with his family on Saturday, the first day of its two-day Open Day event. According to a notice issued by the Government Information Bureau (GCS) yesterday evening, the first day of the Open Day recorded 6,226 visits, while the event recorded 9,815 visits yesterday, its second and last day. Consequently, the two-day Open Day drew 16,041 in total. The event was held between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. on the two days. This year’s floral arrangements for the two-day event were themed 15<sup>th</sup> National Games, which will be held in Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau between November 9 and 21. Sam told reporters during the Open Day on Saturday that the government had received 3,548 opinions from the public during a one-month period, which ended on Friday, gathering opinions and suggestions for his 2026 Policy Address, which he is scheduled to deliver to the legislature next month. — Photo: GCS

## HK-based diplomats, business leaders explore Xinjiang’s beauty, eye collaboration

Analysis by Xinhua writer Wang Xinyi

HONG KONG – A delegation of consular corps and business communities based in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) have recently wrapped up a visit to northwest China’s Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, a visit organized by the Commissioner’s Office of the Chinese Foreign Ministry in the HKSAR to boost exchanges between Hong Kong and Xinjiang.

For many in the group, the first-hand experience of Xinjiang deepened their understandings. “Seeing is believing,” several delegates said, describing the region as more vibrant than they had anticipated. Their goal now, they added, was to find ways to enhance cooperation between Xinjiang and Hong Kong.

Each of Xinjiang’s cities visited has its own character – Urumqi’s modern ease, Kashgar’s special charm, Yining’s diverse spirit – like colorful ethnic costumes, consuls, chamber of commerce leaders and multinational company executives told Xinhua.

The trip, they said, gave them a tangible sense of the region’s vastness, richness and energy – insights they hope to use to connect Hong Kong’s resources to Xinjiang’s growth.

In October, Xinjiang is draped in autumn colors, and the delegation’s stops highlighted the region’s natural and cultural appeal. At Tianchi Lake, a glacial basin in Changji Hui Autonomous Prefecture ringed by snow-capped mountains, delegates captured the view with cameras.

“Xinjiang lives up to its

reputation for beauty,” said Nur’Amirah Mohamad, a consul of the Consulate General of Malaysia in Hong Kong, visiting Xinjiang for the first time. She snapped photos of the lake’s sparkling waters and distant peaks.

In Kashgar’s ancient city, a historic district of narrow lanes and traditional architecture, the night brought a lively buzz. David Whitwam, chairman of the New Zealand Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong, paused to watch a vendor preparing handmade yogurt shaved ice. “This is fascinating,” he said, noting that visiting each city of Xinjiang was a new discovery, full of surprises.

Benjamin Sigg, co-chairman at the Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong, focused on more modern sights: solar panels and wind turbines lining the roads. “Swiss companies should come and visit, and be more involved here,” he said, citing opportunities in eco-tourism and clean energy that could benefit both Switzerland and China.

The delegates also spoke of the people they met. “Locals greet you with smiles, they sing, they dance, they’re as sweet as Hami melons,” said Joji Lopez Hui, a member of the Philippines Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong.

For Shah Mohammad Tanvir Monsur, Bangladeshi consul general in Hong Kong, Kashgar’s ancient streets evoked imaginations of the Silk Road. Walking past textile stalls and food vendors, he said, “This is what the old Silk Road’s trade must have felt like. The way people of different ethnicities and religions live harmoniously together – this is the real Xinjiang.” — Xinhua



## China unveils initiative to promote international green shipping corridors

SHANGHAI – The Ministry of Transport (MOT) launched the Initiative for International Cooperation on Green Shipping Corridor yesterday during the 2025 North Bund Forum in Shanghai, calling for joint efforts to build a safer, more efficient, and greener global shipping ecosystem.

The initiative outlines seven key measures to promote international cooperation on green shipping corridors.

The measures include expanding green shipping corridors in phases, accelerating the development of green and low-carbon vessels, developing (near) zero-carbon ports, enhancing green fuel supply capacity, leveraging government-market collaboration, sharing best practices, and supporting innovation.

Several cooperative achievements in building green shipping corridors were announced at the forum, including the joint

establishment of a green shipping corridor between Qingdao Port in east China and the Port of Hamburg, Germany.

According to the ministry, China has maintained its top global ranking in maritime connectivity for several consecutive years, with steadily expanding openness and international cooperation in the sector. As of April this year, China had signed bilateral or multilateral maritime agreements with 70 countries and regions.

Major ports across China, including Shanghai Port and Ningbo-Zhoushan Port, have accelerated the development of green fuel supply infrastructure.

The 2025 North Bund Forum, the fifth edition of the event, is co-hosted by the Ministry of Transport and the Shanghai Municipal People's Government. It will run through October 21.

—Xinhua

## Xi congratulates Cheng Li-wun on election as KMT chairperson

BEIJING – Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, yesterday congratulated Cheng Li-wun on being elected chairperson of the Chinese Kuomintang (KMT).

Cheng won the election in Taiwan on Saturday with 50.15 percent of the vote.

Xi expressed his expectations for the two political parties to strengthen their common political foundation and unite the vast majority of people in Taiwan to deepen exchanges and cooperation, boost common

development, and advance national reunification.

He also called on both parties to firmly safeguard the shared home of the Chinese nation and the fundamental interests of people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait, and to work together for a brighter future of the Chinese nation.

Xi said that over the years, the two parties – based on the common political foundation of upholding the 1992 Consensus and opposing “Taiwan independence” – have promoted cross-Strait exchanges and cooperation, worked to safeguard

peace and stability across the Strait, and enhanced the affinity and well-being of people across the Strait, achieving positive results.

Cheng expressed gratitude in her reply to Xi's congratulations.

Echoing Xi's views, Cheng said people across the Strait are members of the same Chinese nation and that the two political parties should strengthen exchanges and cooperation to promote peace and stability of the Strait and strive for the greatest benefits of people on both sides.

—Xinhua



A buyer poses for a photo with a motorcycle at the motorcycle exhibition area of the 138<sup>th</sup> edition of the China Import and Export Fair in Guangzhou yesterday. The first phase of the 138<sup>th</sup> edition of the China Import and Export Fair, also known as the Canton Fair, concluded yesterday. According to statistics from the China Foreign Trade Center, about 157,900 overseas buyers from 222 countries and regions attended the event offline.

—Xinhua

## How China fosters growth, innovation amidst global uncertainties through past 5-Year Plan

### Analysis

BEIJING – This year marks the conclusion of China's 14<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan (2021-2025), which has steered the country through global uncertainties while maintaining growth and electrifying innovation over the past five years.

Despite global challenges such as recurring geopolitical conflicts, soaring global inflation and rising trade protectionism, China's economy is projected to expand by over 35 trillion yuan during the 14<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan period, accounting for around 30 percent of global growth on average each year.

With the fourth plenary session of the 20<sup>th</sup> Communist Party of China Central Committee scheduled on Monday to review proposals for the 15<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan (2026-2030), it's an opportune moment to reflect on how the country has navigated its development path while continuing to inject new momentum into the world through its Five-Year Plans.

### PILLARS OF RESILIENCE

Over the past five years and across a longer historical arc, China's ability to navigate uncertainties has been strengthened by the steady progress made along the path outlined in its Five-Year Plans.

Rooted in the evolving economic and social realities, these plans set objectives, strategic priorities and actionable paths for each stage of China's modernization, guiding the country through continual, adaptive adjustments.

Poverty alleviation, for instance, has featured prominently in China's

Five-Year Plans since the 1980s.

Organized, large-scale efforts achieved remarkable results: the number of rural poor fell from 770 million at the end of 1978 to 98.99 million by 2012, while the rural poverty rate dropped from 97.5 percent to 10.2 percent.

Building on these achievements, China centered on “targeted poverty alleviation” during the 13<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan period, historically eradicating extreme poverty in the plan's final year 2020, meeting the poverty reduction target of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development well ahead of schedule.

Under the 14<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan, efforts have been shifted toward consolidating and expanding these gains. Employment among people lifted out of poverty has consistently stayed above 30 million, while targeted support had been provided to over 6 million people at risk of slipping back into poverty by July this year.

“These valuable experiences are worth learning by Global South countries,” said Hector Villagran-Cepeda, former commercial counselor of Ecuador to China. He expressed hopes that China will share more of its experience in poverty governance and show how modern development approaches can drive rural revitalization and poverty reduction.

By combining long-term vision with well-timed adjustments, the Five-Year Plans have anchored China's development and fostered resilience, allowing the country to maintain steady growth even amid dramatic shifts in the international

environment and external shocks.

### SUSTAINED COOPERATION AMID UNCERTAINTIES

As another key focus of the 14<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan, China's commitment to high-standard opening up enables it to sustain international cooperation despite rising protectionism and its adverse effects on the global economy.

Under the pretext of “de-risking” and “supply chain security,” some Western countries raised tariffs, tightened export controls, and curbed high-tech trade – moves that unsettled global markets and squeezed growth opportunities for developing countries. These actions underscore the need for new forms of international cooperation.

A key player in South-South cooperation, China has promoted development across the Global South through the Belt and Road cooperation and other multilateral mechanisms, delivering tangible benefits for both itself and its partners.

According to the Ministry of Commerce (MOC), the revenue from projects contracted by Chinese enterprises in Belt and Road (B&R) partner countries reached US\$37.99 billion in the first four months of 2025, up 5.2 percent year-on-year. At the same time, the value of newly signed contracts reached US\$64.54 billion, up by 17.4 percent year-on-year, effectively consolidating the country's foreign trade.

Meanwhile, China has extended development aid to over 160 countries, helping build economic corridors, railways, power grids and hospitals that have created

thousands of jobs and improved livelihoods in local communities.

China has also actively participated in multilateral platforms such as the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) that facilitate smoother global trade flows and stimulate economic growth across participating countries.

“In an era of rising protectionism and geopolitical uncertainties, the RCEP has emerged as a beacon of multilateral cooperation,” said Thong Mengdavid, a lecturer at the Institute for International Studies and Public Policy of the Royal University of Phnom Penh in Cambodia.

Its success lies in reducing trade barriers and creating a seamless economic zone, where tariffs on over 90 percent of goods have been cut or removed in the past three years, he said.

“With China's continued firm support and the unwavering commitment of all members, the RCEP is well-positioned to drive regional growth and set a benchmark for global trade partnerships in the years to come,” he added.

### DARING INNOVATION DRIVES PROGRESS

The careful, methodical planning of the Five-Year Plans is paired with a commitment to bold innovation.

During the 14<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan period, China has placed innovation at the heart of its modernization drive, building one of the world's most advanced AI ecosystems, empowering sectors ranging from manufacturing and healthcare to transportation and finance.

According to the China

Academy of Information and Communications Technology, the country's core AI industry reached 578.7 billion yuan in 2023.

In the latter half of the 14<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan, the AI model DeepSeek made a spectacular debut, achieving performance levels comparable to, if not exceeding, those of its global counterparts, while consuming significantly fewer computing resources.

Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella acknowledged DeepSeek's “genuine innovations,” noting that it is “super impressive in terms of both how they have really effectively done an open-source model that does this inference-time compute, and is super-compute efficient.”

Alongside Deepseek, China has achieved a series of landmark technological feats: bringing the world's first fourth-generation nuclear power plant into commercial operation, completing the Tiangong space station, and successfully returning the first-ever lunar soil from the far side of the moon.

In a world still searching for certainty, China's Five-Year Plans have offered a sense of direction – one that marries systematic planning with bold innovations, new quality productive forces, green transformation, and domestic progress with global cooperation.

China's remarkable progress over the past five years has “a significant impact on the global order, promoting global economic growth, technological innovation and sustainable development,” said former Kyrgyz Ambassador to China Kanaiym Baktygulova.

—Xinhua