

15th National Games torch relay to take place Sunday

Ida Cheong

The torch relay for the 15th National Games will kick off at 9 a.m. on Sunday from Lotus Hill Park in Shenzhen. Hong Kong, Macau and Guangzhou will then respectively hold their starting ceremonies at 9:30 a.m., marking the simultaneous launch of the torch relay.

The relay in Macau will be restricted to the peninsula, i.e., excluding Taipa and Coloane, covering a route of approximately 2.6 kilometres, Pun Weng Kun, who heads the preparatory office for the upcoming National Games, announced during a special press conference yesterday.

The press conference about the torch relay for the 15th National Games was held at Athletes Training and Development Centre in Taipa.

Pun said in a speech that the starting ceremony for the torch relay in Macau will be held at the Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR) Government Headquarters in Nam Van, and travel along Avenida da Praia Grande (南灣大馬路), Avenida D. João IV (約翰四世大馬路), Largo da Sé (澳門大堂前地), Rua de S. Domingos (板樟堂街), Rua do Campo (水坑尾街), Estrada do Cemitério (西墳馬路), and Calçada de S. Paulo (大三巴斜巷), as well as 10 other streets, ending at the Ruins of St Paul's, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The whole torch relay is expected to be



Pun Weng Kun, who heads the preparatory office for the upcoming 15th National Games poses with a torch during yesterday's press conference about Sunday's torch relay for the 15th National Games, at the Athletes Training and Development Centre in Taipa. – Photo: Ida Cheong

completed within two hours, Pun predicted.

Pun added that a total of 50 torchbearers comprising representatives from the sports sector, as well as sponsors, youth representatives and well-known public figures will cover 50-100 metres each, eight of whom

were selected by the organising committee of the 15th National Games.

Regarding reporters' questions about the names of the torchbearers, Pun said that the list will be released by the organiser.

Asked by reporters whether Chief

Executive Sam Hou Fai will be one of the torchbearers, Pun declined to reply, merely saying that the final list would be released later.

According to a statement released by the preparatory office yesterday, 20 bus routes will be affected by detours, and notices will be posted at affected bus stops and inside buses, and bus companies' staff will be on-site to assist passengers.

The statement added that the Pak Kai and Pak Wu car parks, along the route will be affected as vehicles' entry and exit will be temporarily restricted during the relay.

Moreover, street parking spaces in the surrounding areas will be suspended from Saturday and reopen after the event concludes, the statement said.

Relevant information can be accessed through the dedicated webpage on the organising committee's website (https://www.dsat.gov.mo/dsat/subpage.aspx?a_id=1761534451) or via the "Macao Smart Go" mobile application. The statement urged residents to plan their journeys in advance on Sunday.

The 15th National Games will be held between November 9 and November 21. For the first time, they will be held not just in one province, autonomous region or municipality but in three separate areas – Guangdong, Hong Kong, and Macau. ■

Monster Hurricane Melissa makes landfall in Jamaica

KINGSTON, Jamaica – Ferocious winds and torrential rain tore into Jamaica yesterday as Hurricane Melissa made landfall, the worst storm ever to strike the island nation and one of the most powerful hurricanes on record.

The extremely violent Category 5 system was still crawling across the Caribbean, promising catastrophic floods and life-threatening conditions as maximum sustained winds reached a staggering 185 miles per hour (295 kilometers per hour).

"This is an extremely dangerous and life-threatening situation!" warned the US National Hurricane Center, urging residents to stay sheltered and as far from windows as possible, including during the brief calm offered by the storm's eye.

Melissa's sustained wind speed was even more potent than most of recent history's big storms, including 2005's Katrina, which ravaged the US city of New Orleans.

"For Jamaica it will be the storm of the century so far," said Anne-Claire Fontan of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO).

Seven deaths – three in Jamaica, three in Haiti and one in the Dominican Republic – have already been blamed on the deteriorating conditions, but officials were concerned that many people were ignoring pleas to get to safety.

"Jamaica this is not the time to be brave," local government minister Desmond McKenzie told a briefing.

He lamented that many of the country's approximately 880 shelters were still in large part empty.

Surges in seawater combined with rainfall – which will likely be measured in feet, not inches – could trigger deadly floods and landslides.

"Keep Safe Jamaica," posted Olympian sprinter Usain Bolt, one of Jamaica's most famous figures, on X.



A man watches the waves crash into the coastal defence walls at the Kingston Waterfront in Jamaica's capital on Monday. – AFP

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The Macau Post Daily

Wang Yi urges China, Japan to build constructive, stable bilateral ties fit for new era

Foreign Minister Wang yesterday called on China and Japan to jointly advance the strategic relationship of mutual benefit and build constructive and stable bilateral ties fit for the new era.

– Story on p. 7

Musk launches Grokipedia to rival 'left-biased' Wikipedia

Elon Musk's company xAI has launched a website called Grokipedia to compete with online encyclopedia Wikipedia, which he and others on the American right wing have accused of ideological bias.

– Story on p. 11

Portuguese govt agrees with far right to toughen nationality rules

Portugal's minority government yesterday secured an accord with a far-right party to propose a new law toughening the rules for foreigners to get Portuguese nationality, officials said.

– Story on p. 12

Health Bureau aims to improve Stroke Green Channel process & assessment

Ida Cheong

The Health Bureau (SSM) announced in a statement yesterday that it continues to improve its Stroke Green Channel* process in the emergency department of the public Conde de São Januário Hospital Centre (CHCSJ) and is planning to collaborate with the Fire Services Bureau (CB) to establish a “pre-hospital stroke assessment and notification mechanism.”

According to the statement, this mechanism will allow pre-notification to the hospital while a suspected stroke patient is on the way in an ambulance, enabling medical staff to allocate resources and prepare necessary treatments before the patient’s arrival, which facilitates prompt intravenous

thrombolysis (clot-busting)** or interventional thrombectomy*** for acute ischemic**** stroke patients, effectively reducing treatment waiting times and improving the success rate of rescue efforts.

The statement added that the public Conde de São Januário Hospital Centre established a stroke prevention team and a green channel for stroke emergencies in 2016, and aims to shorten waiting times for treatment and provide round-the-clock intravenous thrombolysis and interventional thrombectomy for patients.

Over the past year, the green channel has been activated more than 300 times, successfully performing clot-busting 100 times and completing interventional

thrombectomy approximately 40 times. Furthermore, the proportion of hospitalised stroke patients receiving intravenous thrombolysis has increased from 1.9 percent in 2016 to over 30 percent today, a rate that surpasses that of neighbouring regions, the statement said.

Stroke is one of the leading causes of death and disability worldwide, and cardiovascular diseases currently rank as the second largest cause of death in Macau, the statement said.

The statement noted that today is World Stroke Day, which has been designated by the World Stroke Organisation (WSO) for October 29 annually, and this year is themed “Recognise Symptoms Early, Seek Immediate Medical Attention”, emphasising the importance of promptly identifying early stroke symptoms and seeking immediate treatment. ■

**The Stroke Green Channel is a pre-established, hospital-wide protocol that prioritises stroke patients, allowing them to “bypass” typical emergency department queues and procedures. It’s an express pathway designed to get*



This undated and unlocated handset photo provided by the Health Bureau (SSM) shows SSM doctors conducting a training session for Fire Services Bureau (CB) paramedics a “pre-hospital stroke assessment and notification mechanism”.

a patient from the ambulance to diagnosis and treatment in the shortest possible time.

***Intravenous thrombolysis (often called “clot-busting”) is a medical emergency treatment that uses powerful medication, delivered through an IV drip in a vein, to dissolve dangerous blood clots that are blocking blood vessels. -DeepSeek*

**** Interventional thrombectomy (also known as mechanical thrombectomy) is a minimally invasive surgical procedure where a physical blood clot is mechanically removed from a blocked artery in the brain. -DeepSeek*

*****Acute ischemic describes a condition where a part of the body suddenly loses its blood supply, and therefore its oxygen supply. -DeepSeek*

Police probe suspected arson, 4 motorbikes burnt

Ada Lei

A suspected arson case occurred outside a residential building on Beco da Ostra (蠔里) in the Laahn Gwai Lau neighbourhood yesterday morning, resulting in the burning of four motorcycles and damage to the building’s exterior wall and air conditioning units, according to a statement from the Judiciary Police (PJ).

The statement noted that the Judiciary Police (PJ) received a notification from the Fire Services Bureau (CB) at 6:09 a.m. yesterday about a fire outside a building on Beco da Ostra (“Oyster Alley”). After firefighters extinguished the

blaze, a preliminary assessment found that the cause of the fire was suspicious.

The police discovered that four motorcycles parked alongside the building were severely burned, leaving only the frames behind. The fire also spread to two other nearby motorcycles and three outdoor air conditioning units mounted on the exterior wall, with the nearby walls blackened by smoke.

The statement added that no one was injured or reported feeling unwell during the incident, pointing out that the case has been classified as suspected arson. ■



This photo taken yesterday shows the four motorcycles (front, left) burnt in a suspected arson attack. – Photo courtesy of TDM

UM, Tongji University hold symposium to strengthen research ties

Khalel Vallo

The Ministry of Education Frontiers Science Center for Precision Oncology (FSCPO), the Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS) of the University of Macau (UM) and the Frontier Science Center for Stem Cell Research of Tongji University co-hosted an academic symposium on Monday, bringing together top scientists and scholars from the two cities to explore breakthroughs in stem cell research, ageing, and tumorigenesis*, according to a UM statement on Monday.

The one-day symposium was held on the UM campus in Hengqin.

The symposium aimed to promote the integration of basic research and clinical translation, striving to advance the goals of the Healthy China 2030 initiative, the statement said.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Xu Xuejun, vice president of Shanghai-based Tongji University, highlighted the complementary strengths of the two centres – Tongji’s breakthroughs in cell fate regulation and ageing research, and UM’s progress in cancer prevention and personalised treatment, the statement noted, adding that the collaboration “represents an important move in response to the national health strategy.”

Meanwhile, academician Gao Shaorong of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and Deng Chuxia, dean of UM’s Faculty of Health Sciences, introduced the research layouts and talent development of their respective centres, noting that



This handset photo provided by the University of Macau (UM) on Monday shows academician Gao Shaorong of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) delivering his speech during Monday’s on-campus academic symposium at the public university.

the symposium marked the second academic exchange between the two this year, according to the statement, which pointed out that Gao emphasised that combining stem cell fate regulation** and precision oncology “will become a powerful driving force for transformative development in life sciences.”

Oncology is the branch of medicine that specialises in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer.

With four thematic sessions and presentations from 20 scholars, the statement underlined that the symposium aimed to deepen scientific collaboration between both public universities, setting the stage for continued interdisciplinary research that bridges innovation and clinical application in pursuit of a healthier future. ■

**Tumorigenesis, also called oncogenesis or carcinogenesis, is the process by which normal cells transform into cancer cells and form a tumour. – DeepSeek*

*** Stem cell fate regulation is the control of what a stem cell will become and when it will become it. It determines whether a stem cell will self-renew, i.e., make a copy of itself, or differentiate, i.e., specialise into a specific cell type, like a nerve, skin, or muscle cell. – DeepSeek*

Tongji University is a public university affiliated with the Ministry of Education. It was established in 1907 by German physicians in Shanghai. “Tongji” means “Sailing together through mutual aid” or “Crossing the river together in the same boat”, according to DeepSeek.

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MACAU POST

Macau Weather

CLOUDY APART FROM SUNNY INTERVALS.

LIGHT RAIN AT FIRST. FORCE 3 TO 4 EAST TO NORTHEASTERLY WINDS, OCCASIONALLY FORCE 5 WITH GUSTS.

RELATIVE HUMIDITY WILL RANGE BETWEEN 60% AND 95%.



21°C~27°C

Source: SMG

Grand Coloane Resort to host pet carnival next week

Khalel Vallo

Macau's first-ever large-scale pet carnival, "Friends Fest," is slated to take place at Grand Coloane Resort next week, aiming to offer two days of family-friendly fun celebrating the theme of "Love and Care," according to a statement by the organiser, Conde Group, yesterday.

The carnival aims to invite pet owners and animal lovers to enjoy interactive activities, workshops, and contests while supporting local animal charities, the statement said, adding that the carnival strives to promote responsible pet ownership and co-create a pet-friendly city.

The statement noted that the event will feature a special charity, with all proceeds to be donated to Anima Macau and the Macau Association for Stray Dogs and Animal Welfare (MASDAW), with the objective of helping fund animal sterilisation, medical care, and animal welfare programmes.

According to the statement,

the event will offer four major experiences – the Market Place, Workshops, Paws & Picnic, and Contests – where festivalgoers can buy local crafts and pet products, join creative sessions like DIY (do-it-yourself) dog leashes and healthy dog macarons, and learn through training workshops such as Dining Etiquette and Stress-Free Walking.

The picnic area will feature snacks prepared by Grand Coloane Resort's culinary team using dog-safe ingredients, while contests like the Pup Talent and Best Dressed Pup competitions promise entertainment and prizes, the statement said.

By combining charity, education, and entertainment, Friends Fest aims to strengthen Macau's pet-loving community and create a positive environment where animals and people thrive together, the statement noted.

With free admission, Friends Fest will run from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on the weekend of November 8 and 9 at Grand Coloane Resort. ■

Govt celebrates 90th anniversary of 'March of the Volunteers'



DSEDJ Director Kong Chi Meng (from left to right), Deputy Director of the Department of Publicity and Culture of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Macao SAR, Yin Rutao; Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Wallis O Lam; IC President Deland Leong Wai Man, and Secretary-General of the Tianhan Foundation of China Wei Ouyang pose before cutting the ribbon at yesterday's launch ceremony at the Macau Cultural Centre (CCM). – Photos of the ceremony and performances taken by Rui Pastorin



Rui Pastorin

A launch ceremony was held at the Macau Cultural Centre (CCM) yesterday for the Commemorative Activities of the 90th anniversary of the "March of the Volunteers".

Featuring a themed lecture, cultural performances and a photo exhibition, the activities are co-organised by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) and the Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ) and supported by the Tianhan Foundation of China.

Officiating at yesterday's ceremony were Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Wallis O Lam, Deputy Director of the Department of Publicity and Culture of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Macao SAR, Yin Rutao; DSEDJ Director Kong Chi Meng, IC President Deland Leong Wai Man, and Secretary-General of the Tianhan Foundation of China Wei Ouyang.

In her speech, Leong highlighted the "March of the Volunteers" history and significance.

Born during a turbulent period,

its lyrics were penned by playwright, novelist and poet Tian Han (1898–1968), while the 46-second melody was created by composer Nie Er (1912–1935). It was played for the first time as the national anthem during the ceremony that marked the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC) in Beijing on October 1, 1949.

Leong pointed out that the commemorative activities organised were all "designed to promote the great spirit of the War of Resistance, foster patriotism among young people, and strengthen national pride. These activities infuse Chinese culture with enduring spiritual strength. More importantly, they provide a platform for Macau's youth to reflect on history and envision the future".

Leong added: "Going forward, the Macau SAR Government will continue to enhance patriotic

education, encouraging our young people to play an active role in developing our nation and Macau, and to contribute to the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation".

Regarding the activities, the lecture about the 90th anniversary was held on Monday. The cultural performance "Melodies of War, Spirit of the Nation", meanwhile, was presented after yesterday's ceremony by the Macao Conservatory of the Cultural Affairs Bureau, Sheng Kung Hui Choi Kou School Macau, and local arts groups. It featured an audience of around 300 people, the majority being students, organisers told reporters yesterday.

Moreover, the "Call for Progress Across Eras: Tian Han and the National Anthem" is displayed at the Xian Xinghai Memorial Museum from today through December 1, with around 100 photos on display. ■

This poster provided by Conde Group yesterday promotes the "Friends Fest" pet carnival slated to take place at the Grand Coloane Resort next weekend (Nov 8-9).

'KB Kookmin Travelers Check Card - Macao Edition' to launch in S Korea

Rui Pastorin

The Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO), in conjunction with KB Kookmin Card and Mastercard Korea, will this week unveil the first "KB Kookmin Travelers Check Card - Macao Edition" debit card enabling discounts in travel bookings and activities in Macau, according to a statement yesterday.

MGTO noted that users of the card will be able to access "exclusive privileges for Macau tourism related products" in addition to the standard KB Kookmin Travelers Check Card benefits.

"Through collaboration with major

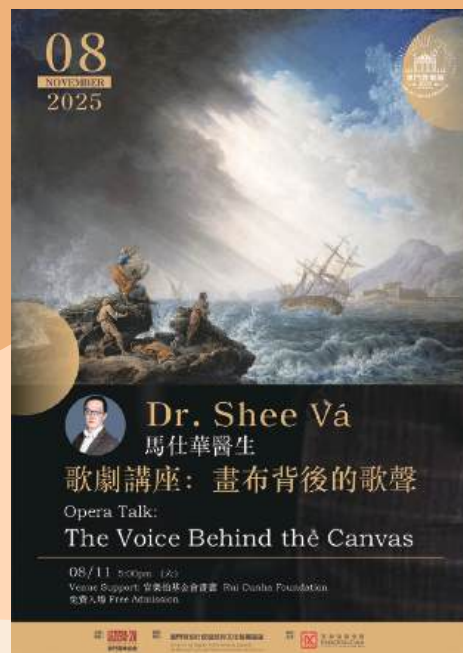
Macau tourism enterprises and merchants, the card gives access to discounts on designated bookings online for air tickets and hotels, as well as benefits while in the city such as dining and entertainment activities like residency shows", the statement said, with more related travel discounts to be added.

A lifestyle video produced by MGTO, Mastercard Korea and Marie Claire Korea magazine featuring South Korean actor Chase Jong-hyeop in Macau has also been launched to celebrate and promote the card, which can be viewed on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vdDkbNgMlgo>. The statement said that the card is also being promoted through KB Kookmin Card's platforms, while special bank cards featuring Macau's heritage buildings were issued.

The statement said that KB Financial Group subsidiary Kookmin Card is a leading credit card company in South Korea, one of Macau's top foreign visitor source markets. Visitor arrivals from the country are increasing, with MGTO recording a total of 382,494 in the first three quarters of the year, up by 12 percent year-on-year, according to official figures. ■



This photo provided by the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) yesterday shows South Korean actor Chae Jong-hyeop holding the "KB Kookmin Travelers Check Card - Macao Edition".



Posters of Macau Vocal Association (MVA) festival



Macau Vocal Association returns with fresh voices & traditions

Interview by William Chan

The Macau Vocal Association (MVA) announced a vibrant return of its annual Macau Vocal Festival in November, highlighting a renewed commitment to both its established traditions and innovative approaches, music director Mars Lee Siu Hong said in an online interview with the *Post* last week.

This year's festival boasts an expansive programme – two recitals, an opera talk, two opera excerpt concerts, and a vocal masterclass – designed to engage audiences, celebrate local and international talent, and spark new interest among the next generation of vocalists.

A diverse lineup & international reach

According to Lee, the 2025 programme opens with “An Evening of Slavic Art Songs,” a solo recital by Lee. Known for his versatility and passion for exploring various art song traditions, Lee has curated performances around English, French, German, Italian, Japanese and Portuguese repertoires in past festivals.* This year, accompanied by Ukrainian pianist Kateryna Gavrylova, Lee ventures into Russian and Slavic art songs, featuring works by Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninoff, Stravinsky, and Barvinsky.

Lee noted, “I’ve long been drawn to the emotional intensity of Russian music, but language was always a barrier. With the guidance of Kateryna, I can finally share this powerful repertoire with our local community.” This approach encapsulates MVA’s ethos: bridging cultures through song and empowering local vocalists to take bold artistic steps.

Opera excerpts with new talents

The Opera Excerpt Concert, a highlight since 2011, features five newcomers from the Macao Polytechnic University (MPU) singing in the pieces’ original languages with Chinese subtitles to introduce audiences to opera’s dramatic world.

“Providing young singers with opportunities to shine is fundamental,” says Lee. “This collaboration allows their voices and artistry to develop in a creative, supportive environment. It is our hope to surprise and inspire the public with new forms of stage presentation.”

Educational Mission: Masterclasses and Public Access

A highlight this year is the solo concert and masterclass led by Chen Hongyu, a professor of Inner Mongolia Arts University. Winner of multiple international awards and a seasoned educator, Lee noted that Chen aims to bring not only technical mastery but a strong belief in music’s communicative power.

“His concert, ‘The Authentic Voice of the Heart,’ will guide audiences from European lyric poetry to Eastern poetic traditions, reflecting on how music echoes universal emotions across cultures,” Lee said, adding that in Chen’s masterclass, local students and enthusiasts will gain direct feedback on technique and interpretation, propelling their own aspirations to a higher standard.

Innovation, sustainability, community engagement

Lee noted that central to MVA’s mission is cultural accessibility – every festival event is free to the public. “The art of Western singing is neither widely taught nor commercially viable in Macau,” notes Lee, “but with support from the Macao Foundation, partners, and tireless volunteers, our non-profit association persists. To ensure both quality and sustainability, we expand our reach through school-based opera outreach, and this year, we launch our first choir with divisions for children, youth, and adults.”

Senior music critic Shee Va, long-time festival collaborator, returns with his trademark creative opera talks, Lee said. This year, his lecture will illuminate Russian composer Modest Mussorgsky’s** famous piano suite “Pictures at an Exhibition,” drawing connections between visual and musical art, reinforced by live aria performances from association members. Dr Shee’s multi-disciplinary lens and engaging public style have become an audience favourite, making opera approachable and relevant to new generations.

As Macau’s cultural landscape evolves amid shifting social and economic realities, Lee noted the MVA remains adaptive but steadfast in its artistic vision. “We see the pandemic’s impact on performers, supporters, and the arts community,” acknowledges Lee, “but our resolve hasn’t wavered. The performing arts may be challenging, but their social value is irreplaceable. Through each festival, we hope to nurture not only vocalists, but a greater appreciation for the beauty and depth of classical music.”

The featured events will be held between November 8 and 22 at the Rui Cunha Foundation and Orient Foundation. For more information, visit: macau-vocal.org

*<https://macaupostdaily.com/news/17297>

**According to Wikipedia, Modest Petrovich Mussorgsky, 21 March 1839 – 28 March 1881) was a Russian composer, one of the group known as “The Five.” He was an innovator of Russian music in the Romantic period and strove to achieve a uniquely Russian musical identity, often in deliberate defiance of the established conventions of Western music.

Many of Mussorgsky’s works were inspired by Russian history, Russian folklore, and other national themes. Such works include the opera *Boris Godunov*, the orchestral tone poem *Night on Bald Mountain* and the piano suite *Pictures at an Exhibition*.

For many years, Mussorgsky’s works were mainly known in versions revised or completed by other composers. Many of his most important compositions have posthumously come into their own in their original forms, and some of the original scores are now also available.

Date	Event	Time
08 SAT	馬仕華 歌劇講座：畫布背後歌聲 Opera Talk: The Voice Behind the Canvas 官樂怡基金會	5:00pm
14 FRI	男中音李兆康 斯拉夫藝術歌曲之夜 An Evening of Slavic Art Songs Bartione Mars Siu-Hong Lei 東方基金會	8:00pm
15 SAT	歌劇專場 Opera Excerpt Concert 東方基金會	8:00pm
16 SUN	歌劇專場 Opera Excerpt Concert 東方基金會	8:00pm
21 FRI	陳宏宇教授獨唱會 Professor Hongyu Chen Solo Recital 東方基金會	8:00pm
22 SAT	陳宏宇教授聲樂大師班 Professor Hongyu Chen Vocal Masterclass 東方基金會	5:00pm

澳門聲樂節 2025 Macau Vocal Festival

官樂怡基金會 FUNDACÃO ORIENTE 官樂怡基金會 FUNDACÃO ORIENTE

Public holiday notice for Chong Yeung Festival

Macau marks today the traditional Chong Yeung Festival, also known as Double Ninth Festival or Ancestors' Festival, as a public holiday. The festival is celebrated on the ninth day of the ninth lunar month, i.e., according to the Western calendar, on October 29 this year. On Chong Yeung Festival, people visit cemeteries to honour their ancestors.

The *Post*'s team takes a break today. The next print edition will be published on Friday. However, as usual, our website will be updated 24/7. We wish all our readers, advertisers and distributors a pleasant holiday.

Police nab nurse for stealing beauty products from Cotai shop

Ada Lei

A female nurse from the Chinese mainland was arrested on Friday for stealing beauty products valued at 1,084 patacas from a shop, Public Security Police (PSP) spokeswoman Lai In Hong said during a regular press conference yesterday.

Lai identified the suspect as a nurse in her thirties, surnamed Wang.

According to Lai, the police received a theft report on July 29 from the employee of a shop in a resort in Cotai, who discovered during an inventory check that several boxes of beauty products, valued at 1,084 patacas, were missing from the shelves. After reviewing the shop's surveillance system, the employee discovered that a woman had taken two boxes of beauty products on June 13 and three boxes on July 28, leaving the shop without paying.

Through their citywide CCTV surveillance system and the shop's camera footage, the police identified Wang as the suspect and apprehended her on Friday at the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge



This undated handout photo provided by the Public Security Police (PSP) yesterday shows PSP officers escorting the suspected thief into a police station.

checkpoint. Under questioning, Wang admitted to stealing the beauty products out of greed, and claimed that she had used all the stolen products.

Wang has been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing a theft charge. ■

Legislators elect 7 committee presidents, secretaries

Tony Wong

Lawmakers yesterday elected the presidents and secretaries of the new, eighth term of the Legislative Assembly's (AL) seven committees – the Committee on House Rules, 1st Standing Committee, 2nd Standing Committee, 3rd Standing Committee, Follow-up Committee for Land and Public Concession Affairs, Follow-up Committee for Public Finance Affairs, and Follow-up Committee for Public Administration Affairs.

The legislature announced the results of the elections by secret ballot in a statement yesterday evening.

The elections of the seven committees' presidents and secretaries were carried out behind closed doors after yesterday's plenary session, the second one of the legislature's new term.

The legislature's new four-year term started on October 16, when its first plenary session was held, during which André Cheong Weng Chon, a newcomer to the Legislative Assembly after serving as the Macau Special Administrative Region's (MSAR) secretary for Administration and Justice between December 20, 2019 and October 15, 2025, was unanimously elected by his peers as the legislature's president.

Cheong is one of the seven members whom Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai 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.

During the first plenary session of the legislature's new term, 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.

According to the Legislative Assembly Procedure Rules, the legislature's four-member executive board headed by the president of the Legislative Assembly suggests the number of standing committees that the legislature should have, and what they should be called, when a new four-year legislative term starts.



Legislative Assembly (AL) President André Cheong Weng Chon chairs yesterday's plenary session in the hemicycle when legislators were voting on the executive board's suggestion on the lists of lawmakers on the legislature's seven committees.

– Photo: Tony Wong

The executive board also suggests the number of members that each standing committee should have and who should join which committee, according to the Procedure Rules.

The number of members of each standing committee must range from 7 to 11, according to the Procedure Rules.

The rules for follow-up committees are the same as those for standing committees, according to the Procedure Rules.

During yesterday's plenary session, lawmakers unanimously passed the executive board's suggestion concerning the number of members of each standing and follow-up committee and the list of lawmakers on each committee.

A total of 31 lawmakers will sit on the three standing committees and three follow-up committees. As is customary, the president and vice-president of the legislature do not sit on any of the committees.

As is customary, the members of the 1st Standing Committee are the same as the Follow-up Committee for Land and Public Concession Affairs; the members of the 2nd Standing Committee are the same as the Follow-up Committee for Public Finance Affairs; and the members of the 3rd Standing Committee are the same as the Follow-up Committee for Public Administration Affairs.

The number of standing committees and follow-up committees and their designations remain the same as in the previous legislative term (2021-2025).

The legislature's standing committees are tasked with reviewing bills after their outlines have been passed by a plenary session.

Yesterday's plenary session also unanimously passed the executive board's suggestion on the list of

lawmakers on the seven-member Committee on House Rules.

After yesterday's plenary session, members of the seven committees elected their respective presidents and secretaries behind closed doors.

Indirectly-elected lawmaker-cum-urban planner José Chui Sai Peng was elected president of the seven-member Committee on House Rules whose remit includes raising suggestions on amending the Legislative Assembly Procedure Rules. Chui succeeds Alan Ho at the helm of the committee.

Directly-elected lawmaker Wong Kit Cheng, a nurse by profession, was elected president of the 10-member 1st Standing Committee, succeeding Ella Lei.

Indirectly-elected lawmaker-cum-banker Ip Sio Kai was elected president of the 10-member 2nd Standing Committee, succeeding restaurateur Andrew Chan Chak Mo who had retired from the hemicycle.

Directly-elected lawmaker-cum-unionist Leong Sun Iok was elected president of the 11-member 3rd Standing Committee, succeeding lawyer Vong Hin Fai who had retired from the legislature.

Ella Lei, also the executive board's second secretary, was elected president of the Follow-up Committee for Land and Public Concession Affairs, which was chaired by José Chui in the previous legislative term (2021-2025).

Directly-elected lawmaker Becky Song Pek Kei was elected president of the Follow-up Committee for Public Finance Affairs, which was chaired by Wong Kit Cheng in the previous legislative term.

Indirectly-elected lawmaker Ma Chi Seng, representing the cultural and sports sector, was elected president of the Follow-up Committee for Public Administration Affairs, succeeding businessman Zheng Anting who had retired from the hemicycle.

Meanwhile, indirectly-elected lawmaker-cum-gaming executive Angela Leong On Kei, also representing the cultural and sports sector, was re-elected president of the legislature's Administrative Committee, which is responsible for financial and administrative work for the operation of the legislature. She obtained 32 votes out of the 33 votes cast during yesterday's plenary session, with one blank ballot.

The Administrative Committee consists of a lawmaker elected by fellow legislators, the secretary-general of the legislature, and a staff member from any of the departments and offices in the legislature. The lawmaker chairs the committee. ■

Xi, Finnish president exchange congratulations on 75th anniversary of diplomatic ties

BEIJING – President Xi Jinping and Finnish President Alexander Stubb yesterday exchanged congratulatory messages on the 75th anniversary of diplomatic ties between the two countries.

Xi said that Finland is the beautiful "land of a thousand lakes" and one of the first European countries to sign an intergovernmental trade agreement with China.

Over the 75 years since the establishment of diplomatic ties, China-Finland relations have transcended differences in social system and ideology, and stood the test of changes in the international landscape, with cooperation in political, economic, trade, people-to-people, cultural, and other fields being steadily deepened, he said.

Xi said that Stubb successfully paid a state visit to China last October, during which they drew together a blueprint for the growth of the future-oriented new-type cooperative partnership between China and Finland.

Xi said he attaches great importance to the growth of

China-Finland relations, and stands ready to work with Stubb to carry forward their traditional friendship, break new ground in bilateral cooperation across the board, and advance an equal and orderly multipolar world and a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization.

For his part, Stubb said that the relations between Finland and China are close and well-founded, noting that over the 75 years since the establishment of diplomatic ties, bilateral relations have developed steadily with expanding cooperation.

He noted that during his first state visit to China last October, the two sides issued the Joint Action Plan between China and Finland on Promoting the Future-oriented New-type Cooperative Partnership 2025-2029.

The international community trusts China's role as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, he said, adding that he looks forward to continuing dialogue with President Xi on bilateral and global issues. – *Xinhua*

Charting a new chapter for Asia-Pacific development through unity, responsibility

Analysis

SEOUL – Gyeongju, a historic city in South Korea, is about to welcome leaders from the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), the region’s highest-level, most extensive and most influential economic cooperation mechanism.

At the invitation of President Lee Jae-myung of the Republic of Korea (ROK), Chinese President Xi Jinping will attend the 32nd APEC Economic Leaders’ Meeting in Gyeongju and pay a state visit to the ROK from October 30 to November 1, the Chinese foreign ministry announced on Friday.

China has leveraged APEC to focus on the common interests of the region’s people; uphold openness, cooperation, and common development; collaborate with all parties to address changes and create new development opportunities; and continuously make contributions to regional development.

During the upcoming APEC meetings and the Chinese leader’s state visit to South Korea, China is set to work with all parties to discuss plans for regional prosperity and development, foster consensus on unity and cooperation, address global challenges, and jointly chart a new chapter for Asia-Pacific development.

BUILDING CONSENSUS FOR COMMON DEVELOPMENT

“The success of the Asia-Pacific is due to our firm commitment to peace and stability in the region, to our continuous practices of true multilateralism and open regionalism, and to our deep faith in the trend toward economic globalization as well as mutual benefit and mutual success,” Xi said in his written speech at the APEC CEO Summit in Lima last year.

Today, the Asia-Pacific region, home to one-third of the world’s population, accounts for over 60 percent of the global economy and nearly half of world trade. It is the world’s most dynamic growth engine and a prime example of regional economic integration.

Currently, China is the major trading partner of many Asia-Pacific economies and an important player in regional industrial and supply chains.

In the first three quarters of this year, China’s imports and exports with other APEC economies increased by 2 percent year-on-year, reaching 19.41 trillion yuan (US\$2.73 trillion), accounting for 57.8 percent of China’s total trade value.

In the face of prolonged geopolitical conflicts, the resurgence of unilateralism and protectionism, and the “fragmentation” of the global economy, APEC now confronts a critical choice: to open its doors or close them, to join hands in cooperation or to erect fences.

In this regard, Xi has pointed out that “development in our region has been achieved not through provoking antagonism and confrontation, pursuing a beggar-thy-neighbor policy, or erecting high fences around a small yard, but by staying open and inclusive and drawing on each other’s strengths.”

By firmly implementing the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, actively advancing efforts to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership and the Digital Economy Partnership Agreement, and fulfilling the China-ASEAN Free Trade Area 3.0 negotiations, China has continuously injected its strength into building an open Asia-Pacific economy in recent years.

Herman Tiu Laurel, president of the Asian Century Philippines Strategic Studies Institute, a Manila-based think tank, said that China has pointed the way for economic globalization, injecting confidence and momentum into Asia-Pacific development.

For Wirun Phichaiwongphakdee, director of the Thailand-China Research Center of the Belt and Road Initiative, China-proposed initiatives have become the most influential intellectual engines within APEC, providing theoretical guidance for the stable development of the entire Asia-Pacific region and charting the course for building a peaceful and prosperous region.

DEEPENING NEIGHBORHOOD FRIENDSHIP

The people of China and South Korea have a long-standing tradition of friendly exchanges and mutual support.

China stands ready to work with South Korea to stay committed to the spirit that guided the establishment of their diplomatic ties, uphold good-neighborliness and friendship, and stick to the goal of mutual benefit and win-win results so as to jointly promote the continuous development of the China-South Korea strategic cooperative partnership, and bring more benefits to the two peoples, Xi said on June 4 when congratulating Lee Jae-myung

on his election as president of South Korea.

In less than a week, Xi spoke with Lee by phone, emphasizing the need to keep bilateral relations on the right track to ensure the sound and steady growth of China-South Korea relations.

Kwon Ki-sik, head of the Korea-China City Friendship Association, said that a healthy and stable South Korea-China relationship has implications beyond bilateral ties, holds significant importance for regional peace and stability, and provides momentum for regional economic development.

The China-South Korea Free Trade Agreement officially entered into force in 2015. In 2024, bilateral trade volume had reached US\$328.08 billion, marking a 5.6 percent increase. China has remained South Korea’s largest trading partner for 21 consecutive years, while South Korea has regained its position as China’s second-largest trading partner.

“A good neighbor is not to be traded for gold,” Xi once remarked, using this proverb to characterize China’s relations with neighboring countries like South Korea. China consistently prioritizes its neighboring countries in its diplomatic agenda and actively calls for building a community with a shared future with neighboring countries.

Hwang Jae-ho, director of the Seoul-based Institute for Global Strategy and Cooperation, noted that China’s neighborhood diplomacy, grounded in amity, sincerity, mutual benefit, and inclusiveness, demonstrates strategic foresight and guides the development of relations among regional countries.

Hwang said China’s efforts to build a community with a shared future with neighboring countries have boosted stability and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific and the wider world.

ROOTS IN ASIA PACIFIC, SHARES OPPORTUNITIES WITH WORLD

“The vines of sweet potato may stretch in all directions, but they all grow out of its roots,” Xi once used the “sweet potato” as a metaphor to describe China’s determination to advance hand in hand with countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

“Similarly, no matter what level of development it may reach, China, with its roots in the Asia-Pacific, will always

contribute to the region’s development and prosperity,” he said.

China remains firm in providing opportunities for Asia-Pacific countries through its new development pathways, while offering robust support for the accelerated recovery of the world economy. From 2021 to 2024, China’s economy grew at an average annual rate of 5.5 percent, surpassing the global average and accounting for approximately 30 percent of global economic growth.

China is actively cultivating new drivers for green development, deepening industrial cooperation with all parties, and advancing high-quality growth in the Asia-Pacific region. Through technological innovation, China is also accelerating the global transition toward a greener future.

For example, the Jakarta-Bandung High-Speed Railway in Indonesia is designed and built in accordance with Chinese standards. Per capita carbon dioxide emissions are just 6.9 grams per kilometer, a clear testament to China’s joint efforts with the world in building a green Belt and Road.

Meanwhile, several Chinese new energy vehicle manufacturers have set up operations in Southeast Asian countries, upgrading local green industries and supporting the sustainable transformation of the global transport sector.

Tan Kar Hing, deputy chairman of Malaysia’s Center of Regional Strategic Studies, said that China is embracing openness, cooperation, and mutual benefit, transforming its wisdom and technology into new drivers for sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.

Lee Hee-sup, secretary-general of the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat, expressed his confidence that China will continue to play a leading and central role in the Asia-Pacific economic cooperation, adding that China’s focus on economic innovation and opening-up not only supports its own growth objectives but also contributes to economic recovery across the region and the world.

China – through its four global initiatives, the call for building a community with a shared future for humanity, and concrete actions – is promoting global peace, stability, development and prosperity, said Ban Ki-moon, former UN secretary-general. Ban expects China to continue contributing its wisdom to the sustainable development of the world. – *Xinhua*

Mutual respect the right approach to relations

China Daily Editorial

German Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul’s decision to postpone his visit to China has provoked mixed reactions.

While German officials and media outlets emphasize that Berlin remains committed to dialogue with Beijing, the postponement has sparked discussions about the future trajectory of Sino-German relations.

Stressing Germany’s “very long-standing, good relationship with the People’s Republic of China” and the government’s desire to maintain open channels of communication, Wadephul was quick to publicly state that the trip was “only postponed, not canceled” and the visit would be rescheduled as soon as possible.

Deputy government spokesperson Steffen Meyer echoed this sentiment, reinforcing Berlin’s interest in a “respectful and good dialogue” with China.

Despite the reassurances, the postponement of Wadephul’s visit highlights the lack of a clear and stable policy toward China within the new German government and is indicative of the ambivalence within Germany of how to approach China.

Pragmatists argue that maintaining

strong economic ties with China is crucial for Germany’s export-driven economy, especially given China’s role as one of Germany’s largest trading partners.

The latest bilateral trade data indicate that China has regained its position as Germany’s top trading partner. According to Reuters calculations, German imports and exports with China totaled 163.4 billion euros (US\$190.7 billion) from January to August, while trade with the United States amounted to 162.8 billion euros.

Meanwhile, those advocating a more cautious approach emphasize the need to address security concerns related to technology and the Ukraine crisis. This faction is wary of becoming “overly reliant” on China, particularly in strategic technology sectors.

Wadephul’s postponement of his visit will hopefully prove to be a minor hiccup in Sino-German relations, but it did highlight the current German government’s mixed messages toward China.

China always views its relations with Germany from a strategic and long-term perspective. As Foreign Ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun said in response to a question on the postponed visit, China and Germany

are major countries and leading economies in the world, and cooperation is mutually beneficial. “Under the current circumstances in particular, it is all the more vital for the two sides to uphold mutual respect, equality and win-win cooperation, and advance the bilateral relationship on the right track.”

Beijing is willing to engage in serious discussions with Berlin on the basis of mutual respect to find solutions to the problems that have emerged in their relations. But Germany should not expect that it can dictate China’s actions.

China is not a party to the Ukraine crisis and it legitimately maintains normal trade ties with Russia, as do many other countries. Germany’s call for China to cut those ties is simply shifting its responsibility to find a way to resolve the crisis onto China, which is unfair and unreasonable.

On the rare earth issue, Berlin’s concerns are unfounded. As Beijing has repeatedly said, its recently announced refinement of its export control system is not a ban and exports are merely subject to justified scrutiny to ensure they meet approval requirements.

Wadephul should reflect on his earlier remarks on the Taiwan question. He claimed

in a recent interview that the Germany’s “one-China policy remains unchanged” but the German government “decides on its design”, adding that there must be no violent change to “the status quo”. This rhetoric is problem-ridden: Taiwan is an inalienable part of China, and the government of the People’s Republic of China is the sole legal government representing the whole of China.

As Guo said, “There is no room or justification for any ‘decide on its design’ interpretations”.

Wadephul’s Taiwan-related remarks are not conducive to healthy Sino-German relations.

In the coming months, the German coalition government’s ability to present a unified stance will be crucial in determining the direction of Germany’s China policy. And the outcome of the internal debates will shape Germany’s foreign policy not only toward China but also its broader role within the EU and its transatlantic relations.

As these dynamics unfold, it is hoped that Germany will adhere to the principles of mutual respect and win-win cooperation, so as to steer Sino-German relations forward on the right track.

– *Courtesy of China Daily*

Remarks by Premier Li Qiang at the 28th China-ASEAN Summit

Full Text

KUALA LUMPUR – Premier Li Qiang yesterday delivered a speech at the 28th China-ASEAN Summit.

The following is the full text of the speech:
Remarks by H.E. Li Qiang
Premier of the State Council
Of the People's Republic of China
At the 28th China-ASEAN Summit
Malaysia, October 28, 2025

Honorable Prime Minister Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim,
Colleagues,

It is my great pleasure to join you in Kuala Lumpur. I wish to thank Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim and the Malaysian government for their thoughtful arrangements.

This year marks the 80th anniversary of the victory of the World Anti-Fascist War. In September, China held a series of solemn commemorative events, and many ASEAN leaders joined us in Beijing to honor that arduous yet heroic chapter of history. During that war, China and Southeast Asian nations, undeterred by tyranny, rose up in resistance, stood by one another, and fought shoulder to shoulder till we achieved independence and liberation. In the ensuing decades, we continued to stand side by side to promote common development. We inspired one another and pulled together to deliver rapid economic growth. We supported one another and coalesced amid hardships to overcome major challenges like financial crises, tsunamis, and the COVID-19 pandemic. As President Xi Jinping noted during his visit to Southeast Asia in April, "Unity brings strength, and cooperation leads to mutual success." China and ASEAN countries are good neighbors and good brothers, standing close and connected, in kinship and in mutual support. As long as we stay united and independent, we will generate immense strength. No difficulty is too great for us to surmount.

Today, we look back with delight on a year of fresh progress in China-ASEAN joint endeavors. Across all areas our cooperation is flourishing. Trade has been growing steadily. The "ASEAN Visa" has brought our peoples even closer. And we have just witnessed the



Premier Li Qiang attends the 28th China-ASEAN Summit in the Malaysian capital Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

– Xinhua

signing of the China-ASEAN Free Trade Area 3.0 Upgrade Protocol, heralding a new opportunity to expand and enhance our economic and trade cooperation. At the same time, we must pay attention to the new developments on the international landscape. Unilateralism and protectionism are buffeting the international economic and trade order, external interference in our region is on the rise, and many countries are slapped with unwarranted high tariffs. Development today faces greater risks and challenges. In the face of power politics and economic bullying, we will gain nothing from disunity and confrontation, and will only end up divided and conquered by external forces. The more challenging the situation, the more resolute we should be in maintaining unity and self-reliance. We must defend our legitimate rights and interests through mutual support and coordinated action, and promote steady and sound economic growth by leveraging our complementary strengths and deepening our cooperation. China is ready to work with ASEAN countries to build greater synergy,

remove external disturbances, address risks and challenges together, and create a brighter future for all of us.

Colleagues,

Last May, the ASEAN Summit adopted the ASEAN Community Vision 2045. China stands ready to work with ASEAN countries to strengthen the alignment of development strategies, deliver on the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-China Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (2026-2030), continue advancing the building of an even closer China-ASEAN community with a shared future, and keep writing new chapters of China-ASEAN unity for strength.

First, we should further consolidate strategic mutual trust. China and ASEAN countries share similar values, and equality and harmonious coexistence are our common pursuit. We should strengthen strategic communication and properly handle differences to ensure that trust remains the defining theme of our relations. China will continue to support ASEAN in playing an active role and promoting the peaceful settlement of disputes between Cambodia and Thailand in the

ASEAN way. We need to speed up consultations on the COC and strive for its early conclusion to better maintain peace and stability in the South China Sea.

Second, we should promote deeper convergence of interests. We should take the China-ASEAN Free Trade Area 3.0 Upgrade Protocol as an opportunity to accelerate trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, and strengthen industrial integration and interconnection. China will continue to replenish the China-ASEAN cooperation fund to support practical cooperation between the two sides. China is ready to work with ASEAN countries to establish a China-ASEAN digital academy, a platform for AI cooperation, and a center for maritime development and technological cooperation, and deepen cooperation in transportation, digital economy, green economy, disaster prevention and mitigation, climate change and other areas, with a view to making the pie of mutually beneficial cooperation bigger and better.

Third, we should forge stronger people-to-people bonds. We should further expand the breadth and depth of people-to-people exchanges. China will work with ASEAN to hold a successful closing ceremony of the China-ASEAN Year of People-to-People Exchanges, and designate 2026 as the China-ASEAN Year on the Fifth Anniversary of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. We will speed up the establishment of meeting mechanisms of tourism and education ministers of China and ASEAN countries, and make good use of the China-ASEAN Network of Academies on Governance and Public Administration and Think Tanks to enhance our mutual understanding and friendship.

Looking forward, China will always be ASEAN's good friend based on mutual trust and good partner for shared development. Let us reaffirm our commitment to unity for strength, march forward together with faster steps, promote the sustained and steady development of China-ASEAN cooperation, and make greater contributions to peace and development of the region and beyond.

Thank You.

N.B. Bold italics added by the Post

Wang Yi urges China, Japan to build constructive, stable bilateral ties fit for new era

BEIJING – Foreign Minister Wang yesterday called on China and Japan to jointly advance the strategic relationship of mutual benefit and build constructive and stable bilateral ties fit for the new era.

Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, made the remarks during a phone conversation with Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi.

During the talks, Wang congratulated Motegi on taking office once again as the Japanese foreign minister.

China and Japan are each other's important neighbors, Wang said, noting that China has maintained consistency and stability in its policies toward Japan, and is willing to work with the country to continue observing the principles and following the direction set in the four political documents between the two nations.

China has noticed the positive signals sent by the new Japanese cabinet, Wang said, adding that high-level exchanges are of great significance to the development of bilateral relations.

It is hoped that the new cabinet of Japan will make a good start in engaging with China and put right "the first button of a shirt," said Wang.

Noting that history and the Taiwan question bear on the foundation of bilateral relations and the basic good faith between the two sides, Wang expressed the hope that Japan join hands with China to uphold the political foundation and promote the continuous improvement and development of bilateral relations on the right track.

For his part, Motegi said that as the international landscape undergoes profound transformations, Japan and China are shouldering increasingly significant international responsibilities.

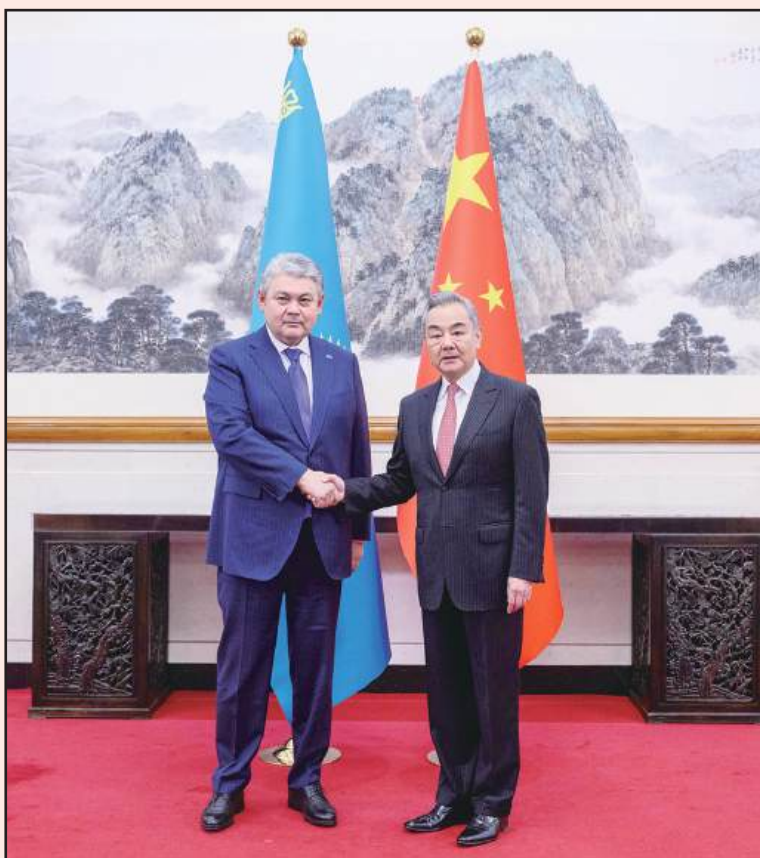
China is an important neighbor of Japan, and Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi attaches great importance to Japan-China relations, he said.

The Japanese side has never intended to decouple or sever supply chains with the Chinese side, and hopes that both sides will enhance exchanges at all levels, expand mutually beneficial cooperation, properly manage differences, and fully advance a constructive and stable strategic relationship of mutual benefit between the two countries, said Motegi.

They also exchanged views on some specific matters in bilateral relations.

(More on Japan on page 8)

– Xinhua



Foreign Minister Wang Yi, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, shakes hands with Kazakhstan's Minister of Foreign Affairs Yermek Kosherbayev in Beijing yesterday. – Xinhua