

# Xi says China, US should keep up momentum in ties, move forward in right direction



Photo courtesy of China Daily

BEIJING – President Xi Jinping said yesterday that China and the United States should keep up the momentum in ties, and keep moving forward in the right direction on the basis of equality, respect and mutual benefit.

Xi made the remarks while speaking with US President Donald Trump on the phone.

Xi noted that he and Trump had a successful meeting in Busan last month, and reached many important common understandings.

They recalibrated the course of the giant ship of China-US relations and provided more momentum for it to sail forward steadily, thus sending a positive message to the world, he said.

Since then, the China-US relationship has generally maintained a steady and positive trajectory, and this is welcomed by the two countries and the broader international community, Xi said.

What has happened demonstrates yet again that the description of China-US cooperation benefiting both sides and confrontation hurting both sides reflects a common sense that has been repeatedly proven by experience, and the vision of China and the United States helping each other succeed and prosper together is a tangible prospect within reach, Xi said.

He said that the two sides should lengthen the list of cooperation and shorten the list of problems, so as to make more positive progress, create new space for China-US cooperation and bring more benefits to the people of both countries and the world.

Xi outlined China's principled position on the Taiwan question, underscoring that Taiwan's return to China is an integral part of the post-war international order.

Noting that China and the United States fought shoulder to shoulder against fascism and militarism, Xi said that given what is

going on, it is even more important for the two sides to jointly safeguard the victory of World War II.

Trump noted that President Xi is a great leader, adding that he very much enjoyed his meeting with Xi in Busan, and fully shares Xi's comments about the two countries' relationship. He added that the two sides are implementing all elements of what the two leaders agreed to in Busan.

China was a big part of the victory of WWII, said Trump, stressing that the United States understands how important the Taiwan question is to China.

The two presidents also discussed the Ukraine crisis. Xi emphasized China's support for all efforts that are conducive to peace, and expressed the hope that the various sides would narrow their differences, reach a fair, lasting and binding peace agreement at an early date, and resolve the crisis at its root. (More on page 5) – Xinhua

## Putin, Erdogan discuss bilateral ties, Ukraine situation over phone

MOSCOW – Russian President Vladimir Putin and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan yesterday discussed bilateral ties and the situation of Ukraine in a phone call, according to the Kremlin.

The conversation on the bilateral relationship focused on further expansion of trade and investment ties as well as the implementation of strategic projects in energy, the Kremlin said in a news release.

Regarding the Ukraine situation, Putin said the recent US peace proposals, which have

been reviewed by Russia, "could in principle serve as a basis for the final peace settlement."

Putin added that the proposals were in line with what had been discussed during the Russia-US summit in August in Alaska.

Erdogan expressed his intention to advance the negotiation process in every possible way and his willingness to keep Istanbul available as a platform for future negotiations, the Kremlin said.

It added that both leaders agreed to intensify Russia-Türkiye contacts concerning Ukraine at various levels. – Xinhua

## Kremlin says European proposal to Ukraine plan 'unconstructive'

MOSCOW – The Kremlin said yesterday that Europe's counter-proposal to a 28-point US plan to end the Ukraine war was "unconstructive" and did not work for Russia.

"Regarding the plans floating around, this morning we learnt about a European plan

that, at first glance, is completely unconstructive and doesn't suit us," Kremlin aide Yuri Ushakov said yesterday, according to the state TASS news agency. (More on p.11) – AFP



A fairgoer looks at a display at the 22<sup>nd</sup> China International Semiconductor Expo in Beijing on Sunday. The three-day fair ends today. – Xinhua

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### Chasing secrets of the universe on world's rooftop in Sichuan

On Haizi Mountain in Daocheng in Sichuan Province, with an average altitude over 4,400 meters, a silent sentinel keeps watch over the universe.

– Story on p. 6

### Gaza Humanitarian Foundation announces end of its mission

The Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, a US- and Israeli-backed private organisation that provided aid for Palestinians in Gaza but was criticised by the UN, said yesterday it was ending its mission.

– Story on p. 10

### Bolsonaro says ankle monitor tampering driven by 'paranoia'

Brazil's ex-president Jair Bolsonaro, detained after allegedly using a soldering iron on his court-ordered ankle monitor, argued on Sunday that a state of "paranoia" had led him to tamper with the device.

– Story on p. 12



# Police nab Filipina maid for stealing from employer

Ada Lei

The Judiciary Police (PJ) arrested a live-in domestic helper from the Philippines on Sunday for stealing jewellery and cash worth over 85,000 patacas from her employer, PJ spokesman Ho Wai Lok said during a regular press conference yesterday.

Ho identified the suspect as a 37-year-old female surnamed Solomon.

According to Ho, the police received a report on Sunday from a middle-aged local man who said that jewellery and cash had been stolen from his flat in the northern district, suspecting that his Filipina domestic worker was the culprit. Upon checking, he discovered that

eight items of jewellery and cash were missing, amounting to 85,000 patacas.

Ho noted that the victim has employed Solomon since 2023. He usually kept his jewellery and cash in a locked drawer in his bedroom wardrobe. However, on Saturday, the victim discovered that some valuables in the drawer were missing and reported a total loss of 85,000 patacas to the police the following day.

The police apprehended Solomon on Sunday, and discovered a diamond ring and a gold necklace concealed in a storage cabinet beneath the sink in the flat's bathroom. The police also seized multiple pawn tickets for the jewellery from her room.

Ho added that between April and this month, Solomon stole jewellery from the victim and pawned it in nearby hock shops for cash. The police recovered five items of jewellery from three pawnshops, including the two previously discovered, amounting to a total value of 46,500 patacas.

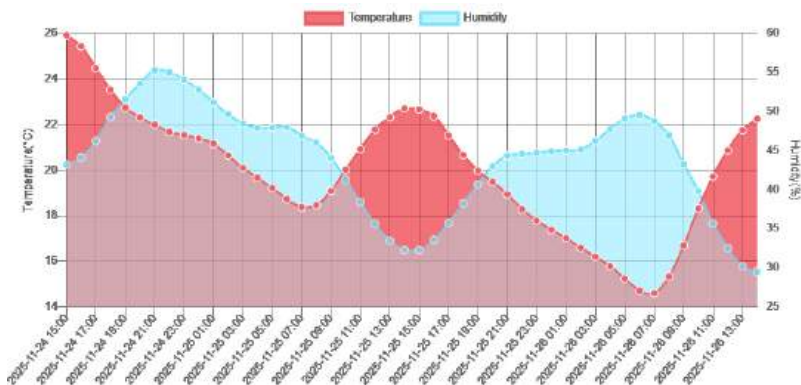
Under questioning, Solomon admitted to using a key from the employer's room to open the drawer and steal the items when he and his family were away, claiming that she had used the cash from the drawer and the money received from the pawnshops for her daily expenses.

Solomon has been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing charges of theft and fraud. ■



Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Ho Wai Lok looks on during yesterday's regular press conference. – Photo: Ada Lei

## Mercury forecast to fall to 14°C in Macau this week: SMG



This temperature forecast chart provided by the Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) yesterday evening forecasts that the local temperature may fall to as low as 14 degrees Celsius from tomorrow morning.

Armindo Neves

The Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) forecast in a statement yesterday evening that Macau's temperature will drop to as low as 14 degrees Celsius this week.

According to the weather station, under the influence of the replenishment of a northeastern monsoon, northerly winds are expected to strengthen and the mercury is expected to drop starting today.

The observatory said that the weather in Macau will be cool and dry in the morning and at night, when the temperature will drop to around 14 degrees Celsius by the middle to latter part of this week.

The bureau urged the public to pay attention to weather changes, take precautions to stay warm and be wary of the risk of fire.

Those in need may seek protection from the low temperature by spending the night at the Social Welfare Bureau's (IAS) cold shelter, provided that the weather station

hoists the Yellow or Orange\* cold weather alert.

The shelter is located at 34 Rua Leste da Ilha Verde, Edifício do Bairro da Ilha Verde (青洲東街34號青洲坊大廈E1的避寒中心).

For more information, one can visit the websites of the local observatory and Social Welfare Bureau.

Meanwhile, the observatory announced in a separate statement yesterday evening that the air quality level is expected to be "bad" today. The bureau urged members of the public afflicted by heart or respiratory conditions, as well as pregnant woman, children and the elderly to reduce to a minimum strenuous activity outdoors, as well as shorten one's stay outside as much as possible, such as in areas affected by heavy vehicular traffic. ■

\*The Orange cold weather alert signifies that it is "very cold" in the city. "Yellow" warns of "cold" weather.

## Young local woman loses HK\$110,000 in 'fake police' scam: police

Ada Lei

A young local woman has fallen victim to a "fake police" scam, resulting in a total loss of HK\$110,000 (113,000 patacas), Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Ho Wai Lok said during a regular press conference yesterday.

According to Ho, the police received a report on Friday from the victim, who said that she had received a call on Wednesday at 2 p.m. from someone claiming to be an "officer from the Chinese mainland's police anti-fraud centre." The caller accused her of spreading a large number of fraudulent messages in the Chinese mainland and requested her cooperation in the investigation, suggesting they

continue the conversation via FaceTime.

On Thursday, the scammer sent the victim a link to a website, instructing her to log in and to provide her personal bank account information. On Friday, the victim discovered that HK\$110,000 had been transferred from her bank account. Suspecting she had been scammed, she immediately reported the case to the police.

### Local woman loses 20,000 patacas in investment scam

Meanwhile, a middle-aged local woman has fallen victim to an investment scam, resulting in a total loss of 20,000 patacas, Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Ho Wai Lok said during a regular

press conference yesterday.

According to Ho, the police received a report on Friday from the victim who said that she had received a message on Thursday from someone claiming to be a Singaporean working in the technology sector in Hong Kong. The scammer lured her with promises of investment opportunities.

Following the scammer's instructions, the victim transferred a total of 20,000 patacas on October 31 and November 7 to a designated bank account. When the scammer pressured her to make additional transfers, the victim grew suspicious and finally reported a total loss of 20,000 patacas to the police on Friday. ■

## Pharma bureau warns of Chinese gel adulterated with Western drug ingredients

Armindo Neves

The Pharmaceutical Administration Bureau (ISAF) warned in a statement last night against using a Chinese gel adulterated with Western drug ingredients non-compliant with local regulations, resulting in certain side effects.

The local pharma bureau said that it took action after receiving a warning yesterday evening from the Hong Kong Department of Health (DH) concerning the problematic gel.

The statement said that the gel is a remedy for external use only named "Rong Shi Gao Fu Kang Medical Antipyretic Gel"\* (榮氏高膚康醫用退熱凝膠), found to have been adulterated with the pharmaceutical ingredients clobetasol propionate and miconazole, the statement said.

The statement pointed out that clobetasol propionate is a corticosteroid medication used to treat inflammatory conditions and must be administered under medical prescription. Side effects of the drug may include moon face\*\*,



This handout photo provided by the Pharmaceutical Administration Bureau (ISAF) yesterday shows the Chinese antipyretic gel adulterated with Western drug ingredients.

hypertension, hyperglycaemia, skin atrophy, adrenal insufficiency, and osteoporosis. "Miconazole" is an antifungal agent used to treat fungal infections, with potential side effects such as local skin irritation and allergic reactions.

According to official records, the statement said, the bureau has not approved the import or distribution of the product in the local market. In order to safeguard public health, the bureau will closely monitor the product's circulation in Macau, the statement said.

The bureau urged the public not to purchase or use the gel, adding that those who have purchased it should discontinue using it immediately and submit the product to the bureau for proper disposal. ■

\*Products marketed for fever that come in gel form are almost always based on the principle of cooling through evaporation. – DeepSeek

\*\*A "moon face" refers to a round, full face that is often associated with the use of corticosteroid medications. – Poe

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MACAU POST

### Macau Weather

**TEMPERATURE FALLING.  
VERY DRY.  
MAINLY FINE.  
FORCE 4 TO 5 NORTHERLY  
WINDS, OCCASIONALLY FORCE  
6 WITH GUSTS.  
MAXIMUM RELATIVE HUMIDITY  
WILL RANGE  
BETWEEN 30%  
AND 60%.**



16°C~23°C

Source: SMG



## String trio ‘Time for Three’ to play with Macao Orchestra

**Khalel Vallo**

The Macao Orchestra (OM) announced in a Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) statement yesterday that the United States’ string trio “Time for Three” will make their Macau debut at the “Starry Symphony” concert on Sunday at the Macau Cultural Centre’s (CCM) Grand Auditorium.

Co-organised by the bureau, Macao Orchestra Company, Limited, and integrated resort operator Sands China, the concert forms part of the Sands China Performing Arts Programme, according to the statement, pointing out that tickets are already on sale through the Macau Ticketing Network.

Time for Three – violinists Nicolas Kendall and Charles Yang, and double bassist Ranaan Meyer – are known for blending classical music with bluegrass, Americana, and popular singer-songwriter

styles, the statement said.

Their cross-genre approach has earned wide acclaim, including an Emmy Award for “Time for Three in Concert” and a Grammy for their album “Letters for the Future” in the category of “Best Classical Instrumental Solo.” For their Macau debut, the trio will perform a mix of classical works, Americana pieces, and popular music, with several numbers featuring their own vocals.

The statement said that the programme aims to offer audiences “an exceptional musical experience.” The concert will run for about 1 hour and 30 minutes with an interval, with tickets priced at 150, 200, 250, and 300 patacas via <https://www.macaoticket.com/>.

Details about the Macao Orchestra’s 2025–26 Concert Season and its digital booklet are available on the orchestra’s website ([www.om-macau.org](http://www.om-macau.org)). ■



This undated handout photo provided by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) yesterday shows the string trio “Time for Three” – (from left to right) Nicolas Kendall, Charles Yang, and Ranaan Meyer.

## Reading Festival 2025 to start next Friday

**Khalel Vallo**

The Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) announced in a statement yesterday that its Macao Reading Festival 2025 is slated to take place from December 5 to 7 at the Taipa Houses complex, which will feature an outdoor library, a coffee market, workshops, and attractions inspired by the 15<sup>th</sup> National Games which concluded last Friday.

Organised in order to strengthen Macau’s development as a “City of Reading”, this year’s festival will run from 5 to 10 p.m. on the first day, and from 3 to 10 p.m. on the next two days, the statement said.

Themed “Reading Vacation”, the event combines reading, arts and leisure while aiming to extend the festive atmosphere of the 15<sup>th</sup> National Games and the 12<sup>th</sup> National Games for Persons with Disabilities (NGD), the statement added.

The programme will include an “Outdoor Library”, an “Art and Cultural Book Fair”, a “Sky Cinema”, a raft of cultural performances, a “Café and Cultural and Creative Market”, and themed areas such as the “Chill Zone” and “Serenity Corner”. Two libraries from elsewhere in the Greater Bay Area (GBA) have been invited to host booths there, aiming to boost cultural exchange between Macau and Guangdong.

The National Games’ mascots “Xiyangyang” (“Joyful”) and “Lerongrong” (“Happy Harmony”) will appear onsite for photo opportunities, alongside photo installations and a lucky draw,



This poster provided by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) yesterday promotes the Macao Reading Festival 2025, slated to start next Friday.

the statement said, adding that a series of themed activities will also debut, including the “Book Travelers” shared reading activity, the “Recharge Your Spirit” workshop, and the “Family Fairy Tale Cosplay Challenge”, in which registered families will compete onstage as storybook characters.

According to the statement, the pre-event programming begins on November 30 with the lecture “Self-Upgrade Through Reading: The Life Hacker’s Journey”, presented by the

Macau Science Centre (MSC).

Additionally, the bureau and Hong Kong Public Libraries will co-host an exhibition called “The Inheritance of Chinese Classics”, with the goal to spotlight the contributions of both institutions to Chinese classical studies, the statement said.

Several festival activities require pre-registration through one’s Macao One Account, including lectures, workshops and the cosplay contest, with free admission. ■

## 7-day food event to start Monday

**Armindo Neves**

The Shunde Federation & Commercial Union Association hosted a press conference yesterday about its upcoming 7-day food event entitled “THE CITIES OF GASTRONOMY (CHINA) IN MACAO 2025”, getting off the ground next Monday.

According to the president of the association and chairman of the event organising committee, Sunny Ip Sio Man, striving to promote Macau’s charm as a UNESCO City of Gastronomy and foster cultural preservation and sustainable development, his association will host a series of events from December 1 to 7.

Ip said that the event will bring together renowned chefs and industry leaders from six cities – Chaozhou, Chengdu, Huai’an, Shunde, Yangzhou, and Macau – featuring diverse formats such as “YUMMY FOOD TASTING ALL OVER MACAO”, “SPECIALTY FOOD TASTING” and “CHINA CULINARY DEVELOPMENT EXCHANGE FORUM”.

These initiatives, according to Ip, aim to deepen culinary cultural interactions among the cities and enhance Macau’s tourism image while promoting international gastronomic exchange.

According to a statement release during the press conference, the event’s launch ceremony of “YUMMY FOOD TASTING ALL OVER MACAO” will be held on Friday, in the runup to the December 1-7 event. The statement underlined that locals and tourists alike can enjoy one or two specially designated signature dishes per day at participating restaurants and eateries during specified time slots, all available at a promotional price.

The statement pointed out that 35 businesses are participating in the event, with nearly 40 outlets involved. The initiative intends to collectively promote and showcase Macau’s status as a UNESCO City of Gastronomy, contributing to the visibility and appreciation of its diverse culinary culture, the statement said.



Shunde Federation & Commercial Union Association President-cum-chairman of THE CITIES OF GASTRONOMY (CHINA) IN MACAO 2025 Organising Committee, Sunny Ip Sio Man, addresses yesterday’s press conference. – Photo: Armindo Neves

The participating eateries include The Plaza Restaurant, La Paloma Restaurant, Mix Restaurant, L’Arc Chinese Restaurant, Son Tak Kong, and Fu Ying Cantonese Restaurant. ■

### ISLAMIC ASSOCIATION OF MACAU DISCLAIMER

Our Association has of late received queries from various organizations and individuals concerning an entity under the name of “Macau Islamic Cultural Exchange Promotion Association” and it’s Director named “Hu Hui Li, Fatima” as to her connections with our Association and if she is a member or director of the Association.

In this respect to allay any misunderstandings within the community and to clarify the matter we wish to emphasize that Islamic Association of Macau is the sole owner and administrator of the Macau Mosque and Cemetery located at No. 4 Ramal dos Mouros and that the “Macau Islamic Cultural Exchange Promotion Association” and it’s director “Hu Hui Li, Fatima” is in no way connected or associated with our Association.

As such Ms. Hu Hui Li, Fatima can in no way represent the interests of the Islamic Association of Macau or to express comments and or remarks to that effect.



ISLAMIC ASSOCIATION OF MACAU  
(澳門伊斯蘭協會)



Photos: Rui Pastorin



## Illustrations for kids on display at Dr. Sun Yat-sen Memorial House

**Rui Pastorin**

The Dr. Sun Yat-sen Memorial House in Macau is the site of an ongoing exhibition by two adult artists from Taiwan featuring illustrations for children.

Located on the third floor, the exhibition is titled “童畫星球 – 毛毛蟲xPocapoca故事村” in Chinese, which directly translated to English means “Children’s Illustration Planet – Caterpillar x Pocapoca Story Village”. The works are presented across three sections, with artworks displayed in two separate rooms, while their introductions along with items such as books, tote bags and water bottles featuring each creator’s characters are displayed between the rooms.

毛蟲 is Chinese for “caterpillar”. AI chatbot Poe notes that “毛毛蟲” is a playful and affectionate term for “caterpillar” in Chinese.

Taiwan-based Armin Cheng (鄭明輝), who is also an interior designer, is showcasing characters from his “Guo Guo Planet” (果果星球), which a statement displayed at the gallery describes as being “a fantastical world” and featuring escaped creatures from Earth and creatures from across the universe live in harmony.

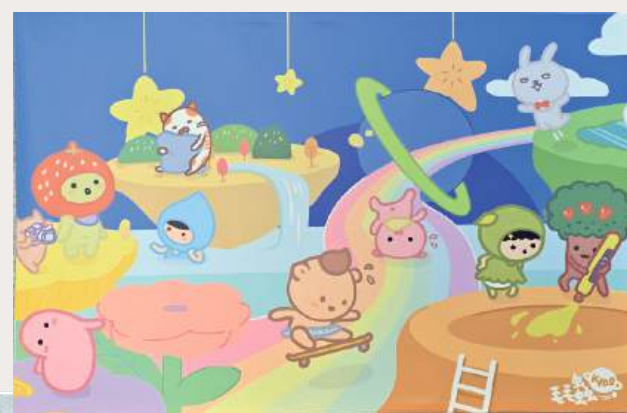
The statement said that long ago, an elder, disheartened by conflicts on Earth, made a wish to cosmic gods to create

a peaceful prosperous home on the planet. Its inhabitants have since grown up valuing peace, respect and helping each other, “using their gifts to protect their home”, the statement said.

Pocapoca, meanwhile, was created by freelance Taiwanese illustrator Poca. According to her website, Poca is derived from the Japanese words Poka-Poka (ぽかぽか), which means “warmth”. Having joined exhibitions and created picture books featuring her characters from Village Pocapoca, Poca is referred to as the “Chief” of the village, where there’s “all sorts of lovely stories happening everyday”, according to her website.

The statement at the gallery notes that characters in the village comprise “many animal residents” that lead “a simple yet heartwarming life”, with Poca recording and turning these moments into stories through media such as picture books and illustrations. It has also expanded into podcasts and visuals on the “Pocapoca故事村” YouTube channel.

One can explore the two artists’ different worlds and characters at the free-admission venue until December 7, located at 1 Rua Silva Mendes (澳門文第士街1號) from Wednesday to Monday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. It is closed on Tuesdays.





# Govt proposes 2 choices for tech industrial park's location

**Tony Wong**

Secretary for Economy and Finance Anton Tai Kin Ip said yesterday that the government is proposing two possible choices for the location of its planned science and technology research and development industrial park, namely the plot at the bottom of Big Taipa Hill, near the airport, previously earmarked for a sandwich-class housing project, and a plot on the Zone E1 land reclamation area off Taipa's Pac On district.

The first proposed plot, located on Avenida Wai Long in Taipa, covers 83,000 square metres, while the second proposed plot, on Zone E1, covers 177,000 square metres, according to Tai.

Zone E1, located between Friendship Bridge and Macau Bridge, is still largely undeveloped.

The policy secretary also noted that the government will start its process on Thursday to gather opinions from members of the public about its proposal for the planned Macau Science and Technology Research and Development Industrial Park.

Tai made the remarks during yesterday's one-day Q&A session in the Legislative Assembly's (AL)

hemicycle about his portfolio's policy guidelines for next year.

The public opinion collection process will run until December 26. The government will announce details of its proposal for the planned industrial park when the opinion gathering process starts on Thursday. The government's ongoing planning of the industrial park is being carried out by the Economic and Technological Development Bureau (DSED).

The planned industrial park is one of the local government's four future large-scale projects aiming to inject new impetus into Macau's long-term development, comprising the Macau International Integrated Tourism and Cultural Zone, the Macau Science and Technology Research and Development Industrial Park, the Macau International Aviation Hub for the Pearl River West Bank, and the Macau-Hengqin International University City.

During yesterday's Q&A session, Tai also said that the government was aiming to set up the science and technology research and development industrial park by leveraging the foundation that Macau has laid over the years in its scientific research,

with a special emphasis on attracting high-quality tech enterprises in four major fields, namely integrated circuits, digital technology, aerospace technology, and big health driven by traditional Chinese medicine (TCM), as well as other promising fields such as intelligent robotics and new materials.

Moreover, Tai also said that the government is planning to set up a Macau International Centre for Scientific and Technological Industry next year, which will be operated during the interim period before the future Macau Science and Technology Research and Development Industrial Park starts operating.

Tai said that the centre, slated to be operational next year, aims to attract tech firms from outside Macau regarded by the local government as meeting the future industrial park's development direction.

Tai also said that the Macau International Centre for Scientific and Technological Industry, covering 2,000 square metres, will be housed in an office space in a building in Nape, which was previously used for the Macao Young Entrepreneur Incubation Centre, which has been relocated to



Secretary for Economy and Finance Anton Tai Kin Ip addresses yesterday's Q&A session about his portfolio's 2026 policy guidelines in the Legislative Assembly's (AL) hemicycle. – Photo: GCS

an office building in the city centre.

Meanwhile, Tai also said that the Consumer Council (CC) and the Science and Technology Development Fund (FDCT) will be merged into the Economic and Technological Development Bureau (DSED) by the end of next year.

Tai also said that the government was drafting plans for its ongoing project to revitalise six historic areas, in conjunction with the city's six gaming operators, to be run in a slightly different mode.

According to the new model, Tai said, the government will continue to

coordinate and oversee the operations of the projects in the six areas, while the respective gaming concessionaires will continue to invest in the projects, with community associations and others from various segments of civil society participating in the projects by organising arts and cultural activities and events there.

Tai said that the government will assess and approve plans submitted by the respective gaming operators for revitalising the historic areas, while the gaming operators will implement the revitalisation by making financial investments as promised to the government. Those from various segments of civil society, including those from the cultural sector, will be tasked with devising and designing various activities and events aiming to attract people to the areas.

Meanwhile, Tai also said that the government is preparing the drafting of proposed amendments to the number of days for statutory paid maternity leave and annual leave listed in the Labour Relations Law, adding that the government will start its process to gather opinions from the labour and business sectors. ■

## Jimmy O. Yang to return for Macau CNY show



This undated photo provided by Galaxy Macau yesterday shows Chinese-American actor-comedian Jimmy O. Yang during one of his shows at Broadway Theatre in Cotai in July this year.

**Rui Pastorin**

Hong Kong-American stand-up comedian and actor Jimmy O. Yang\* will be returning to Macau for the "Galaxy Macau Presents: The Jimmy O. Yang Chinese New Year Show", which will take place on February 21 at Galaxy Arena in Cotai, the integrated resort operator announced in a statement yesterday, with tickets to be available from 11 a.m. on December 4.

The show follows 38-year-old Yang's six sold-out Macau shows that spanned across three days at the Broadway Theatre in July this year, with the statement noting that it drew over 13,000 fans.

Yang, born Au Yeung Man Sing to Shanghainese parents, will be back "bigger and funnier than ever" to usher in the Chinese New Year with joy and good fortune, the statement said.

On his Instagram account, Yang, who is also known for his various

roles in TV and films, announced via video: "I'm gonna do stand-up. There's going to be singing, dancing and some incredibly special guests. It's going to be a mega Chinese New Year extravaganza!"

Ticket prices range from 380 patacas to 880 patacas, with more information available on [www.galaxymacau.com](http://www.galaxymacau.com). Moreover, there is also an exclusive presale for BOC Visa Credit Card holders available from 11 a.m. on December 3 on travel booking platform Klook. ■

\*Yang and his family emigrated from Hong Kong to the US when he was 13. Among his TV roles are Jian-Yang in the HBO comedy series "Silicon Valley", while he also acted in films like "Crazy Rich Asians" in 2018 and the 2021 Netflix romantic comedy "Love Hard", where he was one of the leads. – Source: Post article dated June 11, 2025

<https://www.macaupostdaily.com/news/25110>.

## China and US should jointly safeguard victory of World War II

**China Daily Editorial**

The telephone conversation between Chinese President Xi Jinping and US President Donald Trump yesterday came after the successful meeting between the two leaders in Busan, the Republic of Korea, which produced important common understandings. This set a constructive tone for their latest discussions on various issues of common concern.

During their talk, Xi emphasized the steady and positive trajectory of bilateral ties since that meeting and the importance of maintaining the momentum in relations that had been generated by their exchanges. He said that the two countries should lengthen the list of cooperation and shorten the list of problems so as to make more positive progress, create new space for China-US cooperation and bring more benefits to the people of both countries and the world.

In a world rife with uncertainty, cooperation between the world's two largest economies is essential not only for the two countries themselves but also for the international community at large.

A central topic of their talk was the Taiwan question, with Xi outlining China's principled position on it and stressing that Taiwan's restoration to China constitutes an important part of the postwar international order.

As he pointed out, both nations have a responsibility to safeguard the outcomes of World War II. This is not merely political rhetoric; it is an imperative reality.

President Trump responded by expressing the US side's

understanding of Taiwan's significance to China.

Their conversation also touched upon the Ukraine crisis, with Xi reiterating China's support for a peaceful resolution and emphasizing the need for all parties involved to engage in dialogue to achieve a lasting and binding peace agreement. This reaffirmed China's commitment to promoting stability, both regionally and globally, and highlighted the responsibility the two major powers have to act as stewards of peace.

The positive feedback from Trump about their exchange of views in Busan and the reaffirmation of their mutual objectives served to highlight the importance of head-of-state diplomacy, signaling to the world that the two largest economies are dedicated to resolving their differences.

The carefully considered messaging of their conversation also serves as a reminder of the importance of the postwar international order to nations that are seeking to challenge it, such as Japan under the current Sanae Takaichi government.

Following the recent remarks made by Takaichi regarding the Taiwan question, which touched China's red line, the telephone conversation between Xi and Trump has served to reinforce the postwar framework for peace and cooperation as sacrosanct to a rules-based international order.

Takaichi's provocative and dangerous moves pose threat not only to China's core interests but also to the justice upheld by the international community.

The telephone conversation between the two leaders reflects a shared commitment to ensuring the stability and improvement of China-US relations, and the fact that China and the US have key roles to play in upholding the international order and maintaining global stability.

Cooperation benefits both sides, confrontation harms both. The latest talk between the two leaders was a demonstration of their joint commitment to steadying and improving Sino-US relations on the principles of equality, mutual respect and mutual benefit, which is in line with the international community's expectations and serves the common interests of the world.

Their latest conversation thus sends a resounding message to the global community – constructive cooperation is possible in spite of differences, and the vision of a shared future rooted in mutual respect can be realized.

The continued constructive interaction between the top leaders of China and the US exemplifies the continued efforts of both sides to build a healthy and stable framework for China-US relations. Their displayed commitment to dialogue and partnership is not only a hopeful signal but also a necessary approach to forge a more cooperative global environment.

The dialogue between Xi and Trump is expected to provide new impetus for more productive engagement between the two sides. It should also prompt greater awareness that cooperation among nations based on mutual understanding is crucial for enduring peace and prosperity.

– Courtesy of China Daily



# Chasing secrets of the universe on world's rooftop in Sichuan

CHENGDU – On Haizi Mountain in Daocheng in Sichuan Province, with an average altitude over 4,400 meters, a silent sentinel keeps watch over the universe.

Spread across 1.36 square kilometers of ancient glacial terrain, the Large High Altitude Air Shower Observatory (LHAASO) resembles a vast, intricate net, tirelessly capturing traces of cosmic rays, which are subatomic messengers from the depths of space.

This month, the formidable instrument in China's southwest announced a monumental discovery – it had captured crucial observational evidence that black holes, devouring material from their companion stars and producing jets, act as powerful particle accelerators and may play a key role in the production of high-energy cosmic rays in the Milky Way.

Not far away, where the Bang River winds past Daocheng, another giant stirs. The world's largest circular array of telescopes tracks the sun with quiet precision. The Daocheng Solar Radio Telescope, notably, is vital for efforts aimed at improving the accuracy of space weather forecasts.

Situated on the southeastern edge of the Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau, Daocheng county in Sichuan's Garze Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture has an average altitude of about 3,750 meters.

Blessed with exceptional atmospheric conditions – thin, stable air and minimal light pollution – this remote county, which is home to just 30,000 people, is rapidly becoming a powerhouse of China's deep-space exploration endeavors.

## COSMIC GAZES

Amid the stark beauty of these highlands, a growing community of scientists is gathering, using monumental instruments to push the boundaries of human knowledge.

In deep autumn this year, a biting wind carried flurries of snow across Daocheng. At an altitude of 4,411 meters, the world's highest civilian airport welcomed a familiar figure – Cao Zhen, researcher of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and chief scientist of the LHAASO.

Since its construction began in 2016, Cao has routinely flown to this high-altitude outpost. His task this time – to check progress on a tracking system.

"When we first came here for site selection in the autumn of 2014, we encountered a



*An aerial drone photo taken on Oct. 28, 2025 shows a view of the Large High Altitude Air Shower Observatory (LHAASO) in Daocheng County, Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan Province. LHAASO, located at an altitude of 4,410 meters on Mount Haizi in Daocheng County, began regular operations in July 2021. It has since been recognized as a leading international facility with the world's highest sensitivity and accuracy for gamma-ray and cosmic-ray detection.*

– Xinhua

wolf, just sitting on a ridge," recalled Cao, his eyes still gleaming with the memory of those pioneering days. "We slept in tents at night – listening to wolves howling nearby."

It is in this unforgiving, oxygen-thin terrain that Chinese scientists have carved out a frontier for cosmic ray research.

Invisible to the eye, cosmic rays are streams of high-energy particles from outer space. Along with electromagnetic waves and gravitational waves, they are one of three key "messengers" for observing the universe.

Yet, a century after their discovery, their origins and acceleration mechanisms remain one of astrophysics' great unsolved mysteries. Answering this question requires a detector of unprecedented power and the LHAASO was conceived for this very purpose.

From above, the LHAASO looks like a giant circle. Its massive "net" integrates nearly 10,000 detectors. At its heart are three vast, sealed water ponds designed to capture the faint flashes of light created when cosmic rays collide with atmospheric molecules.

Nearby, 18 "blue boxes" house wide-field Cherenkov telescopes. Scattered around them like sesame seeds on a flatbread are 5,216 electromagnetic particle detectors and 1,188

muon detectors – forming a ground array that identifies gamma-ray photons.

This net is still expanding. Workers, bundled against the cold, could be seen assembling a more powerful tracking system featuring new Cherenkov telescopes. Eventually, 32 such telescopes will be added.

"It's like giving the LHAASO hawk eyes – improving its spatial resolution by over fivefold," explained Cao. "It will allow us to see more clearly."

An hour's drive from the LHAASO, nestled in a grassy basin near Daocheng, lies the solar telescope array. Its 313 six-meter antennas, arranged in a perfect kilometer-wide ring, pivot in unison like a field of metal sunflowers, all focused on a central calibration tower.

Solar eruptions emit radio waves that reach Earth in just eight minutes, while high-energy particles take much longer. "This time difference allows us to provide forecasts and warnings," said Yan Jingye, chief designer of this array.

"When the sun 'sneezes,' the Earth's space weather can 'catch a cold,' potentially disrupting satellites and communications," Yan explained.

In September 2023, the array successfully predicted a solar storm's arrival time with an error level of less than 1.16 hours. This facility also uncovered a rare long-period pulsar that could end up rewriting how isolated slow-spinning neutron stars are born – and tracked a radio coronal mass ejection that raced outward for five full solar radii before fading.

Daocheng's unique advantages – high altitude, flat terrain, relative accessibility and strong local support, are attracting more big science facilities.

On a nearby 4,700-meter peak, construction of a 2.5-meter-wide-field solar telescope is underway. This telescope is set to become the world's largest axisymmetric solar telescope upon completion in around 2026.

"This place is becoming a true frontier for deep-space exploration in China – a hotbed for science," said Cao.

## INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

The LHAASO's most spectacular moment to date came on October 9, 2022, with the detection of the brightest gamma-ray burst in recorded history, an event resulting from a dying star 2 billion light-years away.

While other global detectors were effectively "blinded" by the intensity, the LHAASO was the only ground-based instrument to capture the entire event – collecting over 60,000 gamma-ray photons.

"The LHAASO is revolutionising our understanding of the Galaxy, challenging traditional theories of the origin of cosmic rays," said Elena Amato, an Italian astrophysicist.

The discovery, reported afterward in the journal *Science*, listed foreign co-authors from Ireland's Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies, Thailand's Mahidol University and Russia's Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology.

Since its inception, the LHAASO has evolved into a global scientific platform open to the worldwide research community. In 2025 alone, it hosted two collaboration meetings with the participation of international research institutes.

France, Russia, Thailand and Pakistan are currently international partners of the LHAASO. This is a microcosm of China's growing leadership in international big science projects.

– Xinhua

# China's scientific satellites yield key results, refreshing humanity's understanding of universe

BEIJING – A series of scientific satellites launched by China have achieved major discoveries in fields such as cosmic transient objects, cosmic-ray propagation and solar eruptions, renewing humanity's understanding of the universe.

Focusing on major frontier questions such as the origin of the universe, the origin of space weather and the origin of life, China will launch and implement a series of scientific satellite missions during its 15th Five-Year Plan period (2026-2030), striving to achieve new breakthroughs in areas like the cosmic dark age, solar magnetic activity cycles and the detection of Earth-like exoplanets, according to Wang Chi, an academican of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and director general of its National Space Science Center.

Through the advancement of these missions, China will continue delivering more key, original and leading scientific

achievements, advancing the comprehensive development of the country's space science, space technology and space applications, Wang said.

Since the launch of a CAS space science program in 2011, eight scientific satellites have been sent into space: the Dark Matter Particle Explorer (DAMPE), the Shijian-10 retrievable satellite, the Quantum Experiments at Space Scale (QUESS), the Hard X-ray Modulation Telescope (also called Insight-HXMT), the Taiji-1 satellite, the Gravitational Wave High-energy Electromagnetic Counterpart All-sky Monitor (GECAM), the Advanced Space-based Solar Observatory (ASO-S) and the Einstein Probe (EP).

On an extreme macroscopic scale, the program has produced the world's first all-sky X-ray map. And on an extreme microscopic scale, it has obtained the most precise fine structures to date in the energy spectra of cosmic-ray electrons, protons,

helium and boron nuclei. A Chinese satellite has for the first time directly measured the strongest magnetic field in the universe and detected the high-speed jet closest to a black hole. These missions have also seen a high degree of integration between science, technology and engineering, Wang said.

While achieving scientific breakthroughs, the program has also driven leapfrog development in cutting-edge payload and satellite platform technologies. In just a few examples, China has mastered key technologies such as satellite-to-ground optical-link alignment, realized an integrated satellite platform and payload design, and developed the world's leading large-field, high-sensitivity lobster-eye X-ray telescope.

The program also carries out comprehensive international cooperation on multiple levels. The Solar wind Magnetosphere Ionosphere Link Explorer (SMILE) satellite is the first in-depth, full-

lifecycle comprehensive cooperation project between the CAS and the European Space Agency (ESA). The EP satellite – led by China, with participation from the ESA, Germany and France – marks the first time the ESA has participated in a Chinese space science mission as an "opportunity mission." Such missions have established international science teams and promoted data sharing.

The EP satellite has discovered a new type of X-ray transient source, EP241021a, providing key information for our understanding of mysterious transient objects; detected a weak X-ray burst, EP240904a, within the Milky Way, opening new pathway for locating stellar-mass black holes; and for the first time detected the EP240801a transient source, challenging the established classification of gamma-ray bursts, according to Yuan Weimin, principal investigator of the EP mission.

– Continued on p.7



## Criticism mounts in Taiwan over leader Lai's Japan-supporting stunt

TAIPEI – Harsh criticism has erupted across Taiwan and continues to rise following supportive gestures toward Japan from the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) and the island's leader, Lai Ching-te.

Following the recent erroneous remarks about Taiwan by Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, Lai posted a photo on social media showing himself holding sushi made with Japanese seafood in a show of support for Japan.

Taiwan's *China Times* warned in an editorial that Taiwan's political figures should not recklessly echo the careless remarks of Japanese politicians – so as not to needlessly provoke tension across the Taiwan Strait.

An earlier editorial from the newspaper noted that Taiwan was colonized by Japan for half a century, and that the Taiwan question concerns not only the one-China principle but also historical understanding – matters on which Takaichi has no right to pontificate.

Cheng Li-wun, chairperson of the Chinese Kuomintang (KMT), wrote on social media that Lai had been exploiting the current situation for political manipulation – which does nothing to preserve peace but adds fuel to the fire.

She warned that Lai's move might push both the Strait and the broader region into a more dangerous state.

Chi Chia-lin, honorary chairman of the Reunification Alliance Party in Taiwan, said that by supporting Takaichi's position, the DPP authorities have betrayed their ancestors on the island – given the heinous crimes Japan committed during its colonial rule between 1895 and 1945.

"We must never allow a repeat of Japan's interference in Taiwan," he said.

Chen Chung-chen, an editor from Taiwan-based *Chaiwan Ben Post*, said that everything in the words and actions of Lai and the DPP authorities pushes Taiwan toward the flames of war and betrays mainstream public opinion.

Ranging from calling Japan's defeat during World War II "the end of the war" and echoing the "undetermined status of Taiwan" fallacy, to their current Japan-fawning behavior – the Lai authorities are acting against historical justice and forfeiting national dignity, Chen said.

Dozens of civic groups on the island recently issued a joint statement protesting Takaichi's remarks about Taiwan. The statement stressed that Taiwan people refuse to become victims of Japanese militarism and demanded that the DPP authorities must not acquiesce in, echo or cooperate with Japan's military ambitions.

– Xinhua

## China asks Japan to clarify its so-called consistent stance on Taiwan: FM

BEIJING – China is asking Japan to elucidate its self-claimed consistent stance on the Taiwan question, foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said in Beijing yesterday, stressing that if Japan merely keeps repeating that its position has not changed without specifying what that position is, and meanwhile keeps crossing the line, then this kind of repetition means nothing but empty words, and simply fudges and hollows out the one-China position.

Mao's remarks came after the Japanese side said that Japan has repeatedly explained to the Chinese side the gist of the remarks by Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi and Japan's consistent position on the Taiwan question.

China has articulated its position multiple times on Takaichi's erroneous remarks on Taiwan, Mao told a regular press briefing, adding that those remarks seriously violate the principles laid down in the four political documents between China and Japan, and has fundamentally

eroded the political foundation of China-Japan relations.

"We've noted the Japanese side's reference to Japan's 'consistent position' on the Taiwan question. But what exactly do they mean by this so-called 'consistent position'?" Can Japan articulate this 'consistent position' in its entirety to the public? If Japan merely keeps repeating that its position has not changed without specifying what that position is and meanwhile keeps crossing the line, then this kind of repetition means nothing but empty words, and simply fudges and hollows out the one-China position," said Mao.

Noting that the one-China principle is an unshakable prevailing consensus in the international community, Mao said that if there has truly been no change to the Japanese government's position on the Taiwan question, Japan should unequivocally uphold the one-China principle, and abide by the spirit of the four political documents between the two

countries and honor the commitments Japan has made, including what has been stated in the 1972 Sino-Japanese Joint Statement that "the Government of Japan recognizes that Government of the People's Republic of China as the sole legal Government of China," and "the Government of the People's Republic of China reiterates that Taiwan is an inalienable part of the territory of the People's Republic of China. The Government of Japan fully understands and respects this stand of the Government of the People's Republic of China, and it firmly maintains its stand under Article 8 of the Potsdam Proclamation." "Why can't Japan fully and accurately reiterate this position?" Mao asked.

China urges Japan to take seriously what it has heard from China, do serious soul-searching and correct its wrongdoing, act to honor its commitment to China, and stop pursuing its misguided course, still less say one thing but do another, said the spokesperson.

– Xinhua



This aerial drone photo shows the China Coast Guard (CCG) patrolling in the territorial waters of China's Huangyan Dao and surrounding areas on November 14, 2025.

– Xinhua

## China's scientific satellites yield key results, refreshing humanity's understanding of universe

Continued from p.6

The Insight-HXMT mission has yielded fruitful results in the measurement of Earth's atmospheric density, the flaring mechanism of black-hole accretion outbursts in the Milky Way, the radiation mechanism and surface magnetic field of accreting millisecond pulsars, the ignition locations of surface nuclear burning on neutron stars, and the minimum variability timescale of the brightest gamma-ray burst ever observed, said Zhang Shuangnan, principal investigator of the Insight-HXMT mission.

GECAM discovered a new subclass of gamma-ray bursts produced by compact-object mergers, expanding our knowledge of gravitational-wave electromagnetic counterparts, said Xiong Shaolin, principal investigator of the GECAM mission.

"GECAM is a small but very fruitful gamma-ray mission. The presented results on gamma-ray bursts and magnetars are very interesting and had a significant science impact," said Dmitry Svinkin, a researcher at the Lofe Institute of Russia.

The DAMPE mission discovered a hardening structure in the boron-nucleus spectrum of secondary cosmic rays for the first time, which is significant to revealing cosmic-ray propagation mechanisms, according to Fan Yizhong, the DAMPE satellite's scientific team leader.

Observations from ASO-S have provided new evidence for deciphering the mechanisms of solar eruptions and the origin of high-energy particles, said Su Yang, a scientist representing the ASO-S team.

"I am very impressed by the success of China's ASO-S, which provides unique observations of our sun. ESA's Solar Orbiter mission is very happy about the joint collaboration opportunities, which open a new window to explore our sun," said Samuel Krucker, a professor from the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland.

Andrea Santangelo, a professor at the University of Tübingen of Germany, said that China is at the forefront of space science and is positioned to become the world leader in high energy astrophysics in the next decade. "China has emerged as a reliable, committed space science actor, oriented to success in science and innovation. This trend will continue."

– Xinhua

## China, France pledge to strengthen economic, financial cooperation

BEIJING – Vice Premier He Lifeng yesterday held a video meeting with French Finance Minister Roland Lescure. The two sides exchanged in-depth views on recent economic and financial cooperation between the two countries, as well as issues of common concern.

He, China's lead person in the China-France High Level Economic and Financial Dialogue, said that China stands ready to work with France to deepen exchange and cooperation in the fields of the economy and finance, to promote continuous new achievements in China-France economic and trade cooperation, and to provide stability and positive energy for the world economy.

Lescure, France's lead person in the dialogue, said that France is willing to strengthen practical cooperation with China in the economy, trade and investment in the fields of the economy and finance, and to promote greater progress in economic and trade relations between the two countries.

– Xinhua



# Not my sister': Marcos brushes off sibling's drug claims

MANILA – Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos said yesterday his family was “very worried” about his senator sister, suggesting she was unwell after she accused him of drug abuse at a recent rally.

The accusation was the latest broadside in a family feud that has steadily grown in scope since Imee Marcos publicly aligned with the president's arch-foe, Vice President Sara Duterte, ahead of midterm elections that were held in May.

In his first public comments about his older sister since she told a crowd of demonstrators in Manila last week he had an “addiction”, the 68-year-old president said he did not “like to show our dirty linen in public”.

He went on to say that “for a while now, we’ve been very worried about my sister... The reason is because that lady you see talking on TV is not my sister,” adding that the wider Marcos family shared that view.



*This file photo taken on July 2, 2014 shows Imee Marcos (right), then the governor of Ilocos Norte, and her brother Ferdinand Marcos Jr. as they attend mass to celebrate their mother Philippines' former first lady and congresswoman Imelda Marcos' 85<sup>th</sup> birthday in Laoag city, Ilocos norte, north of Manila.* – AFP

“I hope she feels better soon.”

The president was speaking at the launch of a “transparency portal” aimed at identifying bogus

flood control projects that have cost taxpayers billions – a scandal that was the focus of last week's rally where his sister spoke.

Asked if he intended to speak with his sister, the president said: “We no longer travel in the same circles, political or otherwise. So no.”

Moments later, Imee Marcos, 70, posted a message on Facebook challenging her brother to “prove me wrong”.

## ‘Ghost’ projects

Rage over “ghost” infrastructure projects has been building in the country for months, ever since President Marcos put the issue centre stage in a July address after weeks of deadly flooding.

Scores of construction firm owners, government officials and lawmakers in the archipelago country have been accused of pocketing funds for substandard projects.

On November 17, the senator took the stage at an anti-corruption rally organised by a religious sect with ties to the Duterte family and

said the president's drug abuse was the root issue behind the scandal.

His “addiction”, she told the crowd, was “the reason for the flood of corruption, lack of direction and very wrong decisions”.

His spokeswoman dismissed the claim as “baseless” later that night.

Yesterday, the government touted the arrest of eight Department of Public Works and Highways officials charged over the scandal.

But the biggest name to face a warrant so far, former congressman Elizaldy Co, has fled the country and filed videos from abroad accusing Marcos of being a prime beneficiary of the corruption.

Marcos slammed the video campaign as an example of “fake news”.

“Anyone can go online and make all kinds of claims and say all kinds of things repeatedly. It means nothing,” Marcos said, calling on Co to return to the Philippines to face charges. – AFP

## Singapore sets course for ‘green’ methanol ship fuel supplies

SINGAPORE – Singapore will start issuing bunkering licences next year to companies supplying methanol as marine fuel, in an effort to help global shipping cut carbon emissions, officials said yesterday.

Three companies will kickstart methanol supply in the Port of Singapore from January 1, its Marine and Port Authority (MPA) said in a statement.

Singapore is the world's top bunkering hub due to its strategic location along the Strait of Malacca, having a well-developed infrastructure and access to refineries.

“This marks an important step towards establishing methanol bunkering at scale and driving Singapore's ambition to be a sustainable multi-fuel bunkering hub,” the MPA said.

Global Energy Trading Pte

Ltd, Golden Island Pte Ltd, and PetroChina International (Singapore) Pte Ltd were selected out of 13 firms that applied for licences since Singapore called for applications in March, MPA said.

They were chosen for the “reliability of their supply chains, operational readiness, safety systems, and the sustainability certification of the methanol to be supplied,” according to MPA.

“The strong interest reflects the sector's growing focus on lower-emission marine fuels,” it said.

The licences will be valid for five years to support “the early development of methanol bunkering by giving licensees sufficient scope to build capabilities, strengthen supply chains, and anchor initial investments as the market develops,” it added.

Green methanol, or bio-methanol, is composed of waste

carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and “green hydrogen”, which is created by using renewable energy to split water molecules.

Compared to conventional marine fuels, green methanol has a lower carbon footprint, cutting emissions by up to 65 percent, according to shipping firms.

Global shipping – which generally runs on diesel and other bunker fuels – contributed to at least three percent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions, according to the latest statistics by the UN's trade and development body UNCTAD.

New guidelines by the International Maritime Organisation said shipping emissions needed to be cut by at least 40 percent by 2030 and down to zero by around 2050 if the commitments in the Paris Climate Accords are to be achieved.

– AFP

## Malaysia mulls social media ban for under-16s

KUALA LUMPUR – Malaysia says it is planning to block children under 16 from signing up to social media accounts next year, in a move to tighten access over child-safety concerns.

Communications minister Fahmi Fadzil said Sunday the government was looking at how Australia and other countries dealt with imposing online age restrictions.

“We hope that by next year, social media platforms will comply with the government's decision to bar those under 16 from opening social media accounts,” Fahmi said in a video posted online by Malaysian daily *The Star*.

“So I believe ... if the government, government agencies and parents each play their respective roles, we can ensure

that the internet in Malaysia is not just fast ...but most importantly, safe, especially for children and families,” he added.

Malaysia in recent years has tightened its oversight of social media services in an attempt to combat rising cybercrime.

This includes requiring platforms and messaging services with more than eight million users in the country to obtain a licence under new regulations that took effect in January.

Several MPs in October backed the government's plan to ban under-16s, calling for proper mechanisms to verify the ages of users when they register for accounts.

A survey by Ipsos Malaysia Education Monitor 2025 released by local media in September, revealed that 72 percent of

respondents in Malaysia agreed that the use of social media should be restricted among children.

In Australia, social media platforms, including Facebook, Instagram and TikTok, will be forced to remove users under the age of 16 from December 10 onwards or face hefty fines.

New Zealand's Prime Minister Christopher Luxon will also introduce a similar bill to restrict children's social media use.

The Dutch government advised parents this year to forbid children under 15 from using social media apps such as TikTok and Snapchat.

Meanwhile, five EU countries – Denmark, France, Greece, Italy and Spain – are testing an app aimed at preventing children from accessing harmful content online by checking users' ages. – AFP

## S Korean president warns of risk of accidental clashes with North

SEOUL – South Korean President Lee Jae Myung warned yesterday of the risk of accidental clashes with North Korea, which has cut off all channels of communication with Seoul.

Lee, who has taken several steps to ease tensions since taking office in June, has offered discussions with the North without preconditions, in contrast to his hawkish conservative predecessor.

Pyongyang has yet to respond to Lee's overtures.

“Inter-Korean relations have, regrettably, turned very hostile and confrontational,” Lee told reporters on a flight from South Africa, where he attended the G20 summit, to Turkey.

“There is not even the most basic level of trust, and North Korea is making extremely extreme statements and taking extremely extreme actions,” he said, giving examples of recent cases of North Korea installing triple layers of barbed-wire fences on the border.

“We have now reached a

situation where we do not know when an accidental clash may occur,” said Lee.

“All lines of connection have been cut. They are refusing all dialogue and contact. It is a very dangerous state,” he added.

Lee, however, said Seoul would continue to pursue communications with the North, saying the South was “always open”.

“Why do we exchange and talk with every other country but not with North Korea? Now let us exchange. And we support the normalisation of relations.”

Seoul last week proposed military talks with Pyongyang to prevent border clashes, the first such offer in seven years.

The nuclear-armed North, however, responded by denouncing an agreement between Seoul and Washington to build nuclear-powered submarines, saying in a state media commentary that the deal would cause a “nuclear domino” effect due to the countries’ “confrontational intention”. – AFP



*Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim (left), and Kenya's President William Ruto shares a light moment after a joint press conference during his state visit at Statehouse in Nairobi, Kenya yesterday.*



# Rhino horn sales, shark protection on wildlife talks agenda

Sara Hussein

BANGKOK – Global wildlife talks opened yesterday, with votes expected on increased shark protection, a bid to allow limited rhino horn sales and a push to restrict the trade in eels.

More than 180 nations are joining conservation experts in Uzbekistan's Samarkand to discuss dozens of wildlife trade proposals.

The meeting brings together signatories to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), a 50-year agreement protecting the world's most endangered animals and plants, and regulating trade in 36,000 species.

Among the most contested proposals up for debate is a call to increase protections for eels, a popular food in parts of Asia.

CITES regulates trade on animals and plants under different appendices depending on the threats they face.

Trade in Appendix I species, considered the world's most endangered, is almost entirely banned.

Appendix II species face additional scrutiny and certification before they can be traded.

Anguilla anguilla, or the European eel, is considered critically endangered and was added to Appendix II in



**A hammerhead shark is seen during tagging and monitoring tasks in a mangrove at the Galapagos National Park, Santa Cruz island, Ecuador, on March 5, 2024. Protecting sharks, a controversial bid to allow limited rhino horn sales, and a push to restrict eel trade will be up for debate at global wildlife talks that opened yesterday. More than 180 nations will join conservation experts in Uzbekistan's Samarkand to discuss dozens of wildlife trade and protection proposals.**

– AFP

2009, but several countries want other eel species added now.

They argue eel species are effectively indistinguishable when young – the point at which they are generally traded – meaning the critically endangered *Anguilla anguilla* is often passed off as less threatened eels.

Top eel consumer Japan fiercely opposes the proposal and has launched a concerted lobbying effort against it.

In a submission running over 100 pages, Japanese officials warned listing all eel species would “undermine the credibility of this institution”, could spike eel prices and cause “increased malicious poaching and smuggling”.

## ‘Disastrous’

Other contested proposals include requests to allow government sales of elephant ivory and rhino horn stockpiles.

Advocates argue governments should be able to sell stocks to fund conservation, but many animal protection groups warn reopening sales will drive illegal trade.

“As soon as you open up that legal trade it just provides avenues for illegal ivory and illegal rhino horn to be laundered into those markets in Asia where it has caused so much problems,” said Matt Collis, senior director for policy at the International Fund for Animal Welfare.

“CITES tried this twice in the past, the last time was particularly disastrous... The last thing we want to do is to go back to that,” he told AFP.

Namibia, which is championing the proposal, insists funds are needed to avoid “progressive removal of rhinos from the landscape, shrinking habitat, and weakening national metapopulations”.

CITES members rejected a similar proposal in 2022.

Greater protections for seven species of shark will also be discussed, including a total trade ban under Appendix I for the critically endangered oceanic whitetip.

Experts believe the measure is likely to win the two-thirds support necessary, but other amendments, including a bid to put trade limits on whale sharks and gulper sharks

targeted for their liver oil, may face more scrutiny.

The Samarkand meeting, which runs until December 5, opened a day after countries rejected a call by the CITES secretariat to request India suspend imports of the world's most endangered species.

The recommendation came in a report made by CITES experts examining the controversial Indian mega-zoo Vantara, which has scooped up tens of thousands of animals.

The report endorsed long-running concerns from conservationists. But in talks Sunday on whether to adopt the report's findings, India rejected the suggestion it suspend Appendix I imports as “disproportionate, hurried and procedurally unfair”.

It was backed by a string of countries, including the United States, which called the request “premature”.

The US position is “purely political,” said Lorene Jacquet, campaign and advocacy manager at 30 Million d'Amis, a French animal protection group.

She noted that as the discussions got underway, images emerged showing US President Donald Trump's eldest son visiting Vantara.

“We can now assume that the Trump administration will prioritise its political interests far above conservation at this meeting.” – AFP

## Bangladesh presses India on ousted leader Sheikh Hasina's extradition

DHAKA - Bangladesh's government said on Sunday it had asked India to extradite ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, who was sentenced earlier this week to be hanged over a deadly crackdown against a student-led uprising.

Hasina, 78, has been in hiding in India since her autocratic rule was overthrown in August 2024. As prime minister, she had had New Delhi's backing.

Touhid Hossain, who holds the foreign affairs portfolio in Bangladesh's interim administration, told reporters that on Friday “we sent a letter seeking the extradition of Sheikh Hasina.”

He did not elaborate on the contents of the letter, which according to Bengali newspaper *Prothom Alo* was the third official extradition request since Hasina fled.

Following the court ruling last Monday, convicting Hasina of crimes against humanity and sentencing her to death, the foreign ministry in Dhaka said in a statement that Delhi had an “obligatory responsibility” under a bilateral treaty to facilitate the former leader's return.

India's foreign ministry said in response it had “noted” the verdict, without directly commenting on the extradition request.

It did not immediately respond to the latest letter from Dhaka.

Bangladesh has been in political turmoil since the end of Hasina's rule, and violence has marred campaigning for elections expected in February 2026.

The United Nations says up to 1,400 people were killed in crackdowns as Hasina tried to cling to power, deaths that were central to her trial.

India's past support for Hasina has frayed relations between the two neighbours since her overthrow.

But tensions appear to have eased slightly when Bangladesh's National Security Adviser Khalilur Rahman visited India this week for a regional security summit and met with his counterpart Ajit Doval.

Media reports in Bangladesh said Rahman has invited Doval for a visit.

– AFP

## Suicide attack on Pakistan border police HQ kills 3

PESHAWAR – A suicide bombing killed three Pakistani paramilitary personnel yesterday at a security headquarters in Peshawar city, officials said, the latest deadly violence in the province bordering Afghanistan.

Witness Bilal Ahmed, a hospital employee, said he was on his way to work when he heard a “large blast” from the border force facility, located on one of the city's busiest routes and across the street from a shopping mall.

An AFP reporter saw body parts of a suspected bomber lying outside the main gate on Saddar Road, which was riddled with shrapnel holes. A single discarded black shoe was left nearby.

Rescue workers made their way through the scene, which was peppered with shattered glass from a vehicle.

One assailant detonated explosives at around 8:10 a.m. [local time], just before rush hour, killing “three FC (Federal Constabulary) personnel deployed at the gate”, said Peshawar police chief Mian Saeed.

Security forces shot dead two other suspected attackers, Saeed said.

Four people were wounded in the attack, he added.

Security personnel in high-visibility jackets cordoned off the road, while armed forces in camouflage began combing the area, AFP correspondents saw.

“The attack has concluded, and a clearance operation is under way to determine whether any unexploded ordnance is present,” Zulfikar Hameed, the police chief of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, told AFP.

The province, whose capital is Peshawar, borders Afghanistan and has seen repeated bouts of militant violence



**Army personnel move behind a shield at the suicide bombing site at the border force headquarters in Peshawar, Pakistan yesterday.**

– AFP

which has intensified since the Taliban returned to power in Kabul in 2021.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif condemned yesterday's attack and said that “the perpetrators of this incident should be identified as soon as possible and brought to justice.”

He also praised the “timely action” of security forces for averting greater loss of life.

“We will thwart the evil designs of terrorists who attack Pakistan's integrity,” said Sharif.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack, but Pakistan's state-run broadcaster PTV reported that the assailants had been identified as Afghan nationals.

## Border tensions

Pakistan has blamed previous attacks on militants, particularly the Tehreek-e-

Taliban Pakistan (TTP), which it claims operate from Afghan soil.

Kabul denies the charge, saying Islamabad must address its own security failings.

On November 11, a suicide bomber killed 12 people outside a court building in the capital Islamabad, an attack Pakistan said was planned from Afghanistan. A faction of the Pakistani Taliban claimed that assault.

Relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan have sharply deteriorated in recent months.

Deadly cross-border clashes last month killed more than 70 people on both sides, in the South Asian neighbours' worst fighting in years.

The two countries agreed to a fragile ceasefire but failed to finalise its terms after several rounds of talks, each blaming the other for the impasse. – AFP



## Gaza Humanitarian Foundation announces end of its mission

JERUSALEM – The Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, a US- and Israeli-backed private organisation that provided aid for Palestinians in Gaza but was criticised by the UN, said yesterday it was ending its mission.

“The Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) today announced the successful completion of its emergency mission in Gaza after delivering more than 187 million free meals directly to civilians living in Gaza,” the group said in a statement yesterday.

GHF was tasked with managing aid distribution points in the Gaza Strip in May, effectively supplanting the UN after Israel placed tight restrictions on international aid agencies.

Those agencies were highly critical of the GHF, which managed four distribution centres in the Gaza Strip, while the UN system it replaced had 400.

In August, a UN-mandated expert panel alleged that under the GHF aid was “exploited for

covert military and geopolitical agendas” and United Nations special rapporteurs called for it to be disbanded.

Hundreds of Palestinians were killed by Israeli fire while seeking aid from GHF distribution sites according to the UN human rights office.

The foundation said in its statement on Monday that it had been in talks with other international humanitarian organisations and with the Civil-Military Coordination Centre, a task force set up by the US and its allies in southern Israel to monitor the truce in Gaza.

“It’s clear they will be adopting and expanding the model GHF piloted,” the group’s executive director John Acree said, according to the statement.

The US State Department thanked GHF for its humanitarian work and its contribution to reaching a ceasefire in Gaza.

“GHF’s model, in which Hamas could no longer loot and profit from stealing aid, played a

huge role in getting Hamas to the table and achieving a ceasefire. We thank them for all that they provided to Gazans,” Tommy Pigott, a spokesman for the US State Department, wrote on X.

In reaction to the announcement of GHF’s closure, a spokesman for Hamas said the organisation should be held accountable for the harm it caused to Palestinians.

“We call upon all international human rights organisations to ensure that it does not escape accountability after causing the death and injury of thousands of Gazans and covering up the starvation policy practised by the [Israeli] government,” Hazem Qassem wrote on his Telegram channel.

A US-brokered ceasefire and hostage-prisoner exchange between Hamas and Israel came into effect on October 10.

It is the first phase in what international mediators hope will be a process to end the war and kickstart reconstruction in Gaza.

– AFP

## Israeli military sacks several generals over Oct 7 attack



**Israel's military chief Lieutenant General Eyal Zamir speaks during the funeral of Lieutenant Hadar Goldin who was killed during the six-week 2014 war in Gaza, at a military cemetery in Kfar Saba on November 11, 2025. Zamir announced on Sunday the dismissal of several senior officers over their failure to prevent the October 2023 attacks by Hamas. The war was sparked by Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack on Israel, which resulted in the deaths of 1,221 people. Israel's retaliatory assault on Gaza has killed at least 69,733 people, according to figures from the health ministry on Saturday that the UN considers reliable. – AFP**

JERUSALEM – Israel’s military announced the dismissal of three generals and disciplinary actions against several other senior officers over their failure to prevent the October 2023 assault by Hamas, the deadliest attack in the country’s history.

The move comes two weeks after the military’s chief Eyal Zamir called for a “systemic investigation” into the failures that led to the onslaught, even as the government dragged its feet on establishing a state commission of inquiry, despite public pressure.

The list of generals fired includes three divisional commanders, one of whom was then serving as the

military intelligence chief.

A military statement released on Sunday said all three bear personal responsibility for the armed forces’ failure to prevent the attack launched by Hamas from the Gaza Strip.

The firing comes after all three had already resigned from their posts.

Disciplinary actions were also announced against the head of the navy and air force along with moves against four other generals and several senior officers.

Earlier this month, a report by a committee of experts appointed by the military chief Zamir was published marking the conclusion

of the army’s internal investigations into the October 7th attacks.

The report concluded that there had been a “long-standing systemic and organisational failure” within the military apparatus.

The investigation also noted the military’s “intelligence failure” over its “inability to raise the alarm” over the attacks – even though the army had “exceptional, high-quality information.”

It also deplored “deficient decision-making processes and force deployment during the night of October 7, 2023” and pointed to failures across the military’s chain of command.

– AFP

## Poland summons Israel ambassador over museum’s Holocaust post

WARSAW – The Polish foreign minister summoned the Israeli ambassador yesterday over a social media post by Israel’s Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial saying Poland was the first country where Jews were forced to wear a distinctive symbol during World War II.

The post on Sunday by the museum marked the anniversary of the 1939 antisemitic order – but did not mention that Poland was occupied by Nazi Germany at the time, drawing an angry reaction from Polish Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski.

Despite strong protests from Polish leaders, “the misleading publication has not been amended”, Sikorski wrote on X.

“I have decided to summon the ambassador of Israel to the foreign ministry,” he wrote in English.

The text does not state that Poland imposed the Star of David symbol on Jews, but there were multiple criticisms of the memorial for being inaccurate.

Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk even suggested that it was “perhaps not an error but a deliberate act”.

Polish foreign ministry spokesman Maciej Wewior also expressed concern about a deliberate act, given that “Yad Vashem plans to open a branch in Germany soon”.

“We sincerely hope that this false and historically inaccurate information has nothing to do with it,” he added, implying that Yad Vashem was trying to downplay the responsibility of Nazi Germany.

Also on X, the account of the Auschwitz Memorial – the concentration camp established by the Nazis in occupied Poland, where a million European Jews perished between 1940 and 1945 – recalled that “it was Germany that introduced and enforced this antisemitic law”.

In response, the head of Yad Vashem, Dani Dayan, wrote on X: “Poland was indeed under German occupation.

“This is clearly reflected in our material. Any other interpretation misreads our commitment to accuracy.”

The text posted on the social network stated that on “23 November 1939 Hans Frank, the governor of the Generalgouvernement issued an order requiring all Jews aged 10 and above must wear a white cloth armband 10 cm wide marked with a blue Star of David on their right arm”.

The “Generalgouvernement” was the Nazi administration in occupied Poland.

Frank, nicknamed “the butcher of Poland”, was sentenced to death at the Nuremberg Trials and executed by hanging in 1946.

– AFP

## Hamas says discussed 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of Gaza truce in Cairo

CAIRO – A delegation of senior Hamas leaders discussed the second phase of the Gaza ceasefire agreement on Sunday with the head of Egyptian intelligence, the Palestinian militant group said.

Led by Hamas chief negotiator Khalil al-Hayya, the delegation arrived in the Egyptian capital on Saturday for talks on Sunday with Egyptian intelligence chief Hassan Rashad, two officials from the movement told AFP.

Hamas said in a statement that it “reaffirmed its commitment to implementing the first phase of the [ceasefire] agreement, stressing the importance of putting an end to Israeli violations”.

“The nature of the second phase of the agreement” was also discussed in Cairo, Hamas added, without giving further details.

The second stage of the Gaza ceasefire plan concerns disarming Hamas, establishing a transitional authority and deploying an international stabilisation force.

Hamas, excluded from any role in the future governance of the territory under the Trump plan adopted by the UN Security

Council, is refusing to disarm.

Over the past few days, Israel and Hamas have accused each other of violating the US-brokered truce that came into effect on October 10 after two years of war.

Gaza’s civil defence agency said 21 people were killed and dozens more wounded in multiple Israeli air strikes on Saturday.

The Israeli military said an “armed terrorist” had crossed the so-called Yellow Line within the Gaza Strip, behind which Israeli forces have withdrawn, and fired at Israeli soldiers.

In response to the incident in southern Gaza, the Israeli military said it “began striking terror targets in the Gaza Strip”.

Hamas said on Sunday it had also raised the fate of fighters in Gaza’s southern area of Rafah with whom it had lost contact.

According to various media reports, up to 200 Hamas fighters are believed to be trapped in tunnels in Gaza beneath part of the territory where the Israeli army has redeployed under phase one of the agreement.

– AFP



# Snapchat begins age checks in Australia ahead of social media ban

SYDNEY – Snapchat has begun asking teenage Australians to verify their ages, a company spokesperson said yesterday, just weeks before Canberra enforces sweeping laws banning under-16s from social media.

From December 10, Australia will force social media platforms, including Facebook, Instagram and TikTok, to remove users under the age of 16 or face hefty fines.

“Starting this week, many users will be asked to verify their age to

continue accessing Snapchat,” the company said.

Users will be able to do so using an Australian bank account, government-issued identification, or by taking a photo of their face which a third party will then use to provide an estimated age range.

From December 10, users under 16 will have their accounts locked.

Snapchat, like other social media platforms, has advised teen users to download their data as soon

as possible as it may be tricky to do so once the ban starts.

The messaging app said it strongly disagreed with being included in the government’s ban but “we will comply, as we do with all local laws in countries in which we operate”.

“However, disconnecting teens from their friends and family doesn’t make them safer – it may push them to less safe, less private messaging apps,” it warned.

So far, 10 platforms including

Discord, WhatsApp, Lego Play and Pinterest have avoided being included in the landmark legislation.

But Australian authorities have reserved the right to update the list of banned platforms as required.

There is keen interest in whether Australia’s sweeping restrictions can work as regulators around the globe wrestle with the dangers of social media.

New Zealand’s Prime Minister Christopher Luxon will introduce

a similar bill to restrict children’s social media use.

And the Dutch government advised parents this year to forbid children under 15 from using social media apps such as TikTok and Snapchat.

On paper, the ban is one of the strictest in the world.

But some experts believe that the law will be merely symbolic because of the difficulty in implementing and policing online age verification. – AFP

## Far-right Australian politician dons burqa in parliament

SYDNEY – A far-right Australian politician sparked outrage yesterday after donning a burqa at the country’s parliament, in a display that other lawmakers slammed as “racist”.

Pauline Hanson of the anti-immigration One Nation party was seeking to introduce a bill in the Senate that would ban full face coverings in Australia – a policy she has campaigned on for decades.

Just minutes after other lawmakers blocked her from introducing that bill, she returned wearing a black burqa and sat down.

Her display was met by outrage from her fellow senators.

Australian Greens leader in the Senate Larissa Waters said the move was “the middle finger to people of faith”.

“It is extremely racist and unsafe,” Waters added.

Foreign Minister Penny Wong, who also serves as leader of the government in the Senate, condemned it as “disrespectful”.

“All of us in this place have a

great privilege in coming into this chamber,” Wong said.

“We represent in our states, people of every faith, of every faith, of all backgrounds. And we should do so decently.”

Hanson refused to remove the burqa and the Senate was suspended.

It is the second time she has donned the Muslim clothing in parliament.

In 2017, she wore a full burqa in the Senate to highlight what she said were the security issues the garment posed, linking it to terror.

Hanson has described Islam as “a culture and ideology that is incompatible with our own”.

Her party has increased support as the country’s main conservative opposition remains beset by infighting, with a poll this month reported by *The Australian Financial Review* showing it with a record 18 percent support.

That comes as a government envoy said in September that Australia had failed to tackle persistent and intensifying Islamophobia. – AFP

## US hails ‘significant step forward’ in Ukraine ‘peace framework’ talks

WASHINGTON – The White House said yesterday that talks in Switzerland on a proposal to end the Ukraine war marked a “significant step forward,” and reaffirmed that any eventual deal would “fully uphold” the war-racked country’s sovereignty.

A joint US-Ukraine statement released minutes later by Washington said: “As a result of the discussions, the parties drafted an updated and refined peace framework.”

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio led a US delegation that met with Ukrainian and European officials in Geneva on Sunday to try to thrash out a plan for ending the military conflict, which began in February 2022 with Russia’s offensive in Ukraine.

US President Donald Trump had given Ukraine until November 27 to approve his controversial plan to end nearly four years of fighting.

But Kyiv has sought changes to a draft that accepted a range of Moscow’s demands, with the 28-point plan requiring Ukraine to cede territory, cut its army and pledge never to join NATO.

The statement’s announcement of a new draft appeared to indicate that changes were indeed made.



US Secretary of State Marco Rubio holds a press conference following closed-door talks on a US plan to end the war in Ukraine, at the US Mission in Geneva on Sunday. – AFP

“The talks were constructive, focused, and respectful, underscoring the shared commitment to achieving a just and lasting peace,” the joint statement said.

“The discussions showed meaningful progress toward aligning positions and identifying clear next steps. They reaffirmed that any future agreement must fully uphold Ukraine’s sovereignty and deliver a sustainable and just peace.”

Both sides pledged to keep working on joint proposals “in the coming days.”

The White House’s readout said that Rubio and his team had reaffirmed Washington’s commitment to “ensuring that Ukraine’s sovereignty, security, and future prosperity remain central to the ongoing diplomatic process.”

– AFP

## Swiss public broadcaster says will slash 900 jobs

GENEVA – The Swiss Broadcasting Corporation (SRG) announced yesterday that it would cut some 900 jobs over the next three years as it strives to reduce costs “amid upheavals in the media landscape”.

The broadcasting group, which operates channels in Switzerland’s four national languages, said it needed to save 270 million Swiss francs (US\$334 million) by 2029, equivalent to 17 percent of its 2024 budget.

This, it said, would require it to “eliminate 900 fulltime-equivalent positions” out of about 7,100 currently.

“We regret these job cuts,” SRG chief Susanne Wille said in a statement, explaining that “the political decisions and the context in which our company operates leave us no other choice”.

SRG pointed to “major challenges”, including the Swiss government’s decision to cut the public media licence that provides a

large chunk of its revenue, as well as falling commercial revenues.

“The public is increasingly turning to digital media,” leading to “a profound upheaval for the media, both in Switzerland and abroad,” SRG said in a statement.

“Faced with the upheavals in the media landscape, the company must reinvent itself.”

In June 2024, the Swiss government decided to lower the licence fee, which currently stands at 335 francs per household annually, to 300 francs by 2029, deeming that the broadcaster had sufficient resources.

And next March, the Swiss will be called on to vote on an initiative to slash the licence fee to just 200 francs, put forward under the country’s direct democracy system.

Back in 2018, another initiative that called for the total elimination of all public funding for public broadcasting was rejected by nearly 72 percent of voters. – AFP

## UN slams ‘meagre’ COP results, ‘fatal inaction’ of leaders

GENEVA – The UN rights chief lamented yesterday the “meagre results” at the COP30 climate summit, warning that the “fatal inaction” of leaders might one day be considered a crime against humanity.

Nations sealed a modest agreement at the UN climate summit in the Brazilian Amazon on Saturday as many countries swallowed weaker terms on a fossil fuel phaseout to preserve unity.

The agreement calls on countries to voluntarily “accelerate” their climate action, but only with an implicit nod to phasing out fossil fuels.

In an address to the UN’s business and human rights forum

in Geneva, UN rights chief Volker Türk warned that the “meagre results of COP30 in Belem” illustrated how “corporate power imbalances ... play out in the climate emergency”.

“The fossil fuel industry is generating massive profits while devastating some of the poorest communities and countries in the world,” he said.

“There needs to be proper accountability for this injustice, and for all other harms related to climate chaos.”

Türk highlighted a recent ruling by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) determining that “governments need to prevent significant harm to our

climate, including by regulating businesses”.

And the Inter-American Court of Human Rights had also recognised the right to a stable climate and called on countries to “enforce corporate due diligence and provide remedies for climate related harm”, he said.

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights told yesterday’s gathering that he often wondered “how future generations will judge our leaders’ actions – and their fatal inaction – on the climate crisis in 50, 100 years from now”.

“Could the inadequate response of today be considered ecocide or even a crime against humanity?”

– AFP



## Officials in Guinea-Bissau laud ‘peaceful’ vote

BISSAU – The results of Guinea-Bissau’s presidential and legislative elections are expected later this week, according to officials in the historically tumultuous west African country, who counted ballots for a second day yesterday after deeming the vote “peaceful”.

Provisional results in the coup-prone nation are expected on Thursday, according to the National Electoral Commission’s (CNE) deputy executive secretary Idrica Djaló.

The compilation and counting of ballots, which began as soon as polling stations closed on Sunday evening, continued yesterday, a CNE communications official told AFP.

The Bissau campaign headquarters of the race’s two main candidates, incumbent President Umaro Sissoco

Embaló and opposition leader Fernando Dias, were quiet yesterday as the city’s residents went about business as usual.

On Sunday the CNE announced turnout just above 65 percent, noting that the figure was likely to rise before the final count. Turnout in the country’s 2019 presidential election was 73 percent.

The commission on Sunday also praised the “peaceful” nature of the vote across the country, noting “massive participation” by young people and women.

“No incidents that could have jeopardised the voting process were observed”, Djaló said.

Around 860,000 voters were eligible to choose between 12 presidential candidates, with stability a major issue given multiple political

crises that have rocked Guinea-Bissau since independence from Portugal in 1974, including four coups, and many more putsch attempts.

The country regained its independent statehood from Portugal after an over decade-long war of liberation.

The elections took place with the main opposition party, the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC), and its candidate, Domingos Simões Pereira, blocked from running after turning in late applications.

Voters additionally cast ballots for parliament’s 102 members.

Guinea-Bissau is among the world’s poorest countries and is also a hub for drug trafficking between Latin America and Europe, a trade facilitated by the country’s long history of political instability. – AFP



An official from the National Electoral Commission (CNE) rests in a room storing ballot boxes full of electoral materials at its headquarters in Bissau yesterday, the day after Guinea-Bissau's presidential and legislative elections. – AFP

## Bolsonaro says ankle monitor tampering driven by ‘paranoia’

BRASÍLIA – Brazil’s former president Jair Bolsonaro, detained after allegedly using a soldering iron on his court-ordered ankle monitor, argued on Sunday that a state of “paranoia” had led him to tamper with the device.

The 70-year-old was taken to prison on Saturday from his home, where he had been under house arrest while appealing a coup-plotting conviction, after the Supreme Court deemed him a high flight risk.

The court sentenced Bolsonaro in September to 27 years in prison over an alleged scheme to stop leftist rival Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva from taking office after the 2022 elections.

The far-right ex-president has denied any wrongdoing and though he has already lost one appeal, he had until yesterday for another challenge of his conviction.

During a hearing on Sunday in Brasília, Bolsonaro stated he “experienced a certain paranoia between Friday and Saturday due to medication,” according to a Supreme Court document obtained by AFP.

He also asserted “that he had no intention of fleeing and that there was no breakage of the bracelet’s strap.”

The former army captain further said he spent a good part of Friday afternoon trying to open the bracelet until he “came to his senses” around midnight and stopped.

In a video made public by the court on Saturday, Bolsonaro admitted that he had used a soldering iron on the monitoring bracelet out of “curiosity.”

The video showed the device badly damaged and burned, but still on his ankle.

The court upheld the preventive arrest warrant against Bolsonaro.

### ‘Sovereign country’

Later, his lawyers asked the court to reconsider the measure and return Bolsonaro to “humanitarian



Brazil's former president (2019–2023) Jair Bolsonaro is seen through the door of the Federal Police headquarters, where he is being held, at the end of his wife Michelle's visit in Brasília on Sunday. – AFP

house arrest” due to his “state of mental confusion.”

The former president is experiencing “side effects from the various medications prescribed to him, beginning to have persecutory thoughts and becoming detached from reality,” they said in a letter to the Supreme Court.

The medications he takes to relieve the “hiccup attacks” that have afflicted him for months are to blame for his condition, they added.

In its ruling on Saturday that sent Bolsonaro into custody, the Supreme Court noted that the US embassy is located near his residence.

The former leader is a close ally of US President Donald Trump, who has denounced the trial as a “witch hunt” and sanctioned a supreme court judge and his family.

Trump had also imposed punitive tariffs on Brazil over the case, but has since largely walked them back.

On Sunday, Lula was asked about the possibility that the new arrest of Bolsonaro could affect relations with Washington.

“It has nothing to do with it,” Lula said during a press conference at the G20 summit in Johannesburg.

“I think Trump needs to know that we are a sovereign country, that our justice system decides, and what is decided here is decided,” he said.

Bolsonaro was convicted in September of leading a criminal organisation that conspired to ensure his “authoritarian hold on power.”

The plot allegedly involved a plan to assassinate Lula, his vice president Geraldo Alckmin, and Supreme Court judge Alexandre de Moraes.

Bolsonaro’s legal woes have left Brazil’s large conservative electorate without a champion heading into 2026 presidential elections, in which Lula, 80, has said he will seek a fourth term.

The Bolsonaro defence team said they would appeal his detention, arguing it “could put his life at risk” due to his frail health.

He suffers from recurring abdominal issues after being stabbed during the 2018 campaign, which has required several follow-up surgeries, as well as the recurring hiccups problem.

On Sunday, he received his first visitors in prison: two lawyers, his doctor and his wife Michelle.

– AFP

## Catalan nationalist titan goes on trial for graft

SAN FERNANDO DE HENARES – Spain’s top criminal court yesterday opened a trial on corruption charges against ailing Catalan nationalist figurehead Jordi Pujol, a titan of Spanish politics following Generalissimo Francisco Franco’s death.

The trial of Pujol, 95, and his seven children for alleged criminal association and money laundering centres on the origin of the fortune of the man who led Catalonia’s regional government from 1980 to 2003.

Pujol revealed in 2014 that his family kept undeclared money for more than 30 years in Andorra, a tiny state perched in the Pyrenees mountains between Spain and France.

He said the money was an inheritance from his father, a wealthy businessman, and denied it came from kickbacks for public contracts during his time in office.

After years of investigations, Pujol and his children were ordered to stand trial, but his frail health and cognitive decline put in doubt whether he would face proceedings.

Pujol’s lawyers said he was not physically able to go on trial, but the Audiencia Nacional (high court) decided yesterday that he should take part by video link from his Barcelona home.

The proceedings are due to last six months, with prosecutors seeking nine years in prison for Pujol, who will testify at the end.

His children face jail terms of up to 29 years, if convicted.

After Franco’s death in 1975, Pujol became one of democratic Spain’s most influential politicians as leader of Catalonia’s now defunct centre-right Convergence and Union party alliance that supported minority governments in Madrid.

In exchange, Pujol won more powers for Catalonia in health and education as well as securing the creation of an independent regional police force, earning him the nickname of “Spain’s viceroy”.

Despite championing Catalan nationalism for decades, which saw Franco’s regime jail him for two years, he always argued the wealthy northeastern region should remain a part of Spain. – AFP



Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva (left) meets with Mozambican President Daniel Chapo at the Presidential Palace in Maputo yesterday. Lula da Silva arrived in Mozambique yesterday for a state visit. – AFP



## Football shorts

### Rangers sack chief executive and sporting director

LONDON – Scottish football giants Rangers have sacked chief executive Patrick Stewart and sporting director Kevin Thelwell it was announced yesterday, with the Glasgow club saying the pair were not aligned with their “vision for the next chapter”.

Both officials had been criticised by Gers fans following a poor start to the season that led to manager Russell Martin’s dismissal in October after just one win from his first seven league matches in charge.

Former Manchester United chief executive Stewart only arrived at Ibrox in December, while Thelwell’s appointment was announced in April, although he did not take up his post until leaving Everton at the end of last season.

Rangers have since been taken over by a US-based consortium led by Andrew Cavenagh, who has now appointed director Fraser Thornton as interim chief executive while the club seek replacements for Stewart and Thelwell.

Rangers have won four straight league games under new boss Danny Rohl but are still nine points adrift of Scottish Premiership leaders Hearts. – AFP

### Thigh injury setback for Atletico Madrid’s Llorente

MADRID – Atletico Madrid looks like being without Spain international Marcos Llorente for a vital moment of the season after confirming that he suffered a muscle injury in Sunday’s 1-0 win away to Getafe.

The club website informed he suffered a “muscle injury to his thigh, which has been diagnosed by the club’s medical services after the tests on our player, who was obliged to leave the game against Getafe after 14 minutes.”

As usual in these cases the club didn’t speculate on a return date for Llorente, who can play in either midfield or at right back, saying only that his return would depend on the “evolution of the injury.”

Although his return date is uncertain, Llorente seems certain to miss tomorrow’s vital Champions League clash at home to Inter Milan, as well as next Saturday’s home game against bottom of

the table Oviedo in La Liga and a difficult visit to play FC Barcelona in the Camp Nou on December 2.

The Champions League game will be played at 4 a.m. Thursday morning Macau time. – Xinhua/MPD

### Guardiola ‘ashamed’ over behaviour at Newcastle

LONDON – Pep Guardiola said he was “embarrassed and ashamed” of his behaviour after confronting a cameraman following Manchester City’s damaging 2-1 loss at Newcastle on Saturday.

The City manager reacted angrily after he was filmed close up following the final whistle, when he was involved in discussions with Newcastle player Bruno Guimaraes and match officials.

Guardiola had been angered by the decision to award what proved to be Newcastle’s winning goal in the 70<sup>th</sup> minute at St James’ Park, with City believing goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma had been fouled.

The City boss, speaking yesterday at a press conference on the eve of his team’s Champions League match against Bayer Leverkusen, said he had apologised for his behaviour.

“I feel embarrassed and ashamed when I see it,” he said. “I don’t like it. I apologised to the cameraman after one second.

“I am who I am. Even after 1,000 games I’m not a perfect person. I made a huge mistake.... The reason why is I want to defend my team and my club.”

City’s fourth Premier League defeat of the season left them third in the table, seven points behind leaders Arsenal.

But Guardiola said the Newcastle reverse was “immediately forgotten” as he turned his attention to the Champions League.

City are fourth in the 36-team league phase after a strong start to their European campaign.

Midfielders Rodri and Mateo Kovacic are unavailable for today’s match against Leverkusen.

Guardiola said he did not have a timescale for Rodri’s return but it would not be long before he was back in action.

“We will wait a little more to be sure he is fine,” he said.

The game will be played at 4 a.m. tomorrow morning Macau time. – AFP/MPD

## Maresca urges Chelsea’s Estevao to ignore Yamal comparisons

LONDON – Enzo Maresca has played down comparisons between rival teenage wingers Estevao and Lamine Yamal on the eve of Chelsea’s Champions League clash against Barcelona today.

Estevao, 18, has caught the eye since arriving at Stamford Bridge in July, with nine goals for club and country.

Chelsea manager Maresca was asked at his pre-match press conference yesterday whether Spain international Yamal, just three months younger than Estevao, would be a good role model for his player.

But the Italian said the Brazilian was already established at the top level despite his tender years.

“Estevao is already playing at a high level, he is already in the starting eleven with Brazil,” Maresca told reporters. “For sure he is very young, he can do many things better, but we are very happy with him.

“It’s nice for people that love football to watch players like Estevao, like Lamine Yamal, like [Barcelona midfielder] Pedri. This is the beauty of football.”

Maresca said Estevao must shut out the noise.

“He is going to be for sure an important player for this club,” he said. “For the future, no doubt.

“He has to be happy. He has not to think about being better than this player or the other player.

“He has just to be better than himself day by day. Try to work hard, improve.”



Chelsea’s Spanish defender Marc Cucurella, (left to right) Chelsea’s English midfielder Cole Palmer, Chelsea’s English defender Tosin Adarabioyo, Chelsea’s Ecuadorian midfielder Moises Caicedo and Chelsea’s French defender Malo Gusto take part in a team training session at the Chelsea training ground in Cobham, west of London yesterday on the eve of their UEFA Champions League league phase match against Barcelona. – AFP

Maresca added Chelsea forward Cole Palmer was making good progress after suffering a toe injury but that he was unlikely to be available to face Barcelona or Arsenal this coming weekend.

“Cole is wearing a [protective] boot,” Maresca said. “We don’t know when he will be back but for sure it will be soon.

“He’s already on the pitch, he’s already touching the ball and the feeling [for him] is good.

Barcelona are 11<sup>th</sup> in the league phase of Europe’s top club competition with seven points after four matches – the same number as Chelsea.

Maresca said he had been strongly influenced by the posses-

sion-based style of Pep Guardiola’s Barcelona, who were twice champions of Europe during the now Manchester City manager’s time in charge at the Nou Camp between 2008 and 2012.

“I decided to be a manager because of Pep’s team, Barcelona, years ago,” explained Maresca.

“Now, if clubs or teams decide with different style, I said many times that any club, any team can decide in the way they want to play. I chose mine years ago and this will be the way I like to watch my team in football and also in the future.”

The game will be played at 4 a.m. tomorrow morning Macau time. – AFP/MPD

## Big games for Spanish trio in Champions League today

MADRID – In Champions League action today, Barcelona will travel for a key match away to Chelsea, while Athletic Bilbao has to forget their poor domestic form in a visit to Prague and Villarreal may produce their top domestic form in Europe.

Two wins, a draw and a defeat from four games have left Barcelona 11<sup>th</sup> in the 36-team group, so the five-time champions need a win away to Chelsea that have the same points, to take a step closer to the top-eight and avoid an extra play-off round in February.

Barcelona travel to London after returning to the Camp Nou with a 4-0 win at home to Athletic on Saturday. Raphinha is back after injury and the Brazilian is likely to play some part tonight.

Frenkie de Jong will return to the side after missing out on Saturday due to suspension, while Ronald Araujo has the option of returning in central defense.

Pedri is still out with a muscle problem, but Lamine Yamal’s display at the weekend implied he should have few problems with

his long-standing groin problem.

Chelsea moved second in the Premier League at the weekend and the game is a good early test of both sides’ title credentials.

Athletic need to recover quickly from their weekend defeat in Barcelona, and above all cut out the defensive errors which gifted Barca their first three goals in that game, when Ernesto Valverde’s side travels to Slavia Prague.

Athletic are currently a point outside of the play-offs and a win against a rival that only has two draws so far this campaign is absolutely vital to their qualification hopes.

Valverde will bring Gorka Guruzeta back into his side, while Jesus Areso and Aitor Paredes could come into defense, although his options are limited by injuries to Inaki Williams, Benat Prados, Maroan Sannadi.

Meanwhile, Nico Williams continues to have problems with pubalgia [sports hernia] and after starting at the weekend, Valverde may not risk giving his star player two starts in four days. Williams scored the only goal as Athletic

beat Slavia Prague in last season’s Europa League, but it needed a fine display from goalkeeper Julen Agirrezabala to secure the win.

Villarreal’s domestic form has been outstanding and Marcelino Garcia Toral’s side are currently third in La Liga. However, their form in Europe has been very different and the side from the east of Spain have only got one draw and three defeats.

Villarreal’s last game was a painful defeat to Pafos and another setback away to Borussia Dortmund would be a huge setback. Marcelino is likely to make squad rotations to his side with Pape Gueye coming into midfield and Georges Mikautadze giving Gerard Moreno a rest in attack.

Real Madrid travel to face Olympiakos tomorrow, looking to end a worrying run of form. Atletico Madrid are under pressure when they meet high-flying Inter Milan in one of the most attractive games of the week in the tournament.

The various games will be played at 4 a.m. today and tomorrow Macau time. – Xinhua/MPD



Tigres’ Spanish midfielder Jennifer Hermoso lifts the trophy after winning the Liga MX Femenil Apertura final against America at the Universitario Stadium in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon state, Mexico on Sunday. – AFP



# South Africa's Jansen relishes 6-48 in India Test with bouncer plan

## Cricket

Faisal Kamal

GUWAHATI – South Africa's towering pace bowler Marco Jansen said yesterday his plan to bounce out India worked wonders after his figures of 6-48 put the visitors in sight of a historic Test series win.

The 6-foot 8-inch (2.03 metre) tall Jansen, a left-arm quick, helped bundle out India for 201 in response to South Africa's 489 on day three in Guwahati.

After winning the first Test in the two-match series in Kolkata, South Africa are closing on a first series win in India since Hansie Cronje's team triumphed in 2000.

South African spinners dismissed India's top three before Jansen took charge to get key wickets with the bouncer and reduce India to 122-7.

"To be honest, we just said we're going to try it," Jansen told reporters.

"The ball wasn't nipping as much like in Kolkata, the ball

wasn't squatting as much so we had to figure out a plan and I think when I got my first wicket with a bouncer we said, okay cool, let's see how long this is going to work for and it just came off."

Jansen, who claimed his fourth five-wicket haul across 21 Tests, said, "It's a good wicket, there's good pace, good bounce. If you play the short ball well, you'll score runs. If you bowl well, you'll get wickets."

Jansen sent back Dhruv Jurel who fell to a pull shot on the short ball for an 11-ball duck.

Jansen then bowled a rising delivery to Nitish Kumar Reddy who attempted to fend it away, but Aiden Markram took a stunning diving catch from second slip.

Ravindra Jadeja fell to another bumper from Jansen as India slumped further, and later the lanky quick wrapped up the opposition innings in 83.5 overs.

Jansen, who played for Sunrisers Hyderabad in the Indian Premier League T20 tournament, said his

latest performance is a coming of age on how to bowl on Indian pitches.

"I've always struggled bowling in India, whether it was white ball or red ball," Jansen said with a grin.

"I'm still jealous of people that get the ball to squat and nip back, and bowlers who are shorter than me like KG," he added, referring to Kagiso Rabada.

"Today was just one of those days I got the pace and the bounce out of the wicket, and where everything clicks and everything works and as a player. Those days you take it and you run."

Jansen stepped up to the challenge of being the team's pace spearhead after Rabada missed the two matches due to a rib injury he suffered ahead of the opener.

He said, "Not having KG there definitely adds a bit of responsibility and pressure".

"But we know we have the bowlers. We know we have the players in the squad to help the team win." – AFP

# Townsend says Scotland rugby fans expect too much

## Rugby

EDINBURGH – Gregor Townsend has questioned a sense of "entitlement" among some Scotland rugby supporters following another disappointing campaign that has led to fresh scrutiny of the head coach's position.

The Scots finished their Autumn Nations Series with a 56-0 thrashing of Tonga at Murrayfield on Sunday in a match where the outclassed visitors received four yellow cards, one of which was upgraded to a 20-minute red.

Scotland started this month's Test programme with an 85-0 hammering of another minnow in the United States.

But they blew a chance to record a first win over rugby superpower New Zealand with a 25-17 defeat.

They then somehow let slip a 21-0 lead with just over a quarter of the match remaining to lose 33-24 to Argentina – one of the lowest points of Townsend's eight-year reign.

Scotland have dropped from fifth in the world rankings at the start of the 2023 World Cup to ninth after struggling to beat major nations over the past two years.

The manner of their spectacular slump against the Pumas, with Scotland booed off at Murrayfield

for the first time in living memory, led many to question whether Townsend should stay despite signing a contract extension in September until the end of the 2027 World Cup in Australia.

But Townsend, speaking ahead of the Scottish Rugby Union's annual general meeting tomorrow, insisted he had "never been more convinced" during his time at the helm that the Dark Blues were on the brink of a major achievement.

"The New Zealand game was one of the best performances we've seen," he told reporters. "The 20 minutes against Argentina doesn't change what the team did the week before. Of course we want it to be perfect – we have to be better when the opposition have their moments."

"The game the players are putting out there is a game that can take us to success, whether that's the Six Nations or beyond."

The former Scotland playmaker added: "We've got to make sure what we're talking about here. I don't know if there's an entitlement around us beating the All Blacks and Argentina – these are top-quality teams."

Scotland begin the 2026 Six Nations away to Italy on February 7, having lost 31-29 on their last visit to Rome two years ago. – AFP



Italy's Matteo Berrettini (centre) surrounded by teammates and Italy's team captain Filippo Volandri (left), pose in front of the David Cup trophy after their victory over Spain in their 2025 Davis Cup men's single final at the Super Tennis Arena in Bologna, northern Italy, on Sunday. – AFP

## Sport in brief

### Ugandan She Cranes travel to Scotland for Celtic Netball Cup

#### Netball

KAMPALA – The Uganda netball national team She Cranes has traveled to Scotland for the Celtic Netball Cup 2025 slated for November 26-30 at the Emirates Arena in Glasgow.

Rashid Mubiru, the She Cranes head coach, told Xinhua yesterday that they have prepared well and will put up a good show. "These are not new opponents to us because we played against them in several International tournaments before," added Mubiru.

The other teams that will take part in the tournament include hosts Scotland, Zimbabwe, Northern Ireland, Namibia and defending champions Wales. The six-team tournament will be played in a round-robin format.

The She Cranes' experienced professional players Mary Chollhok Nuba, who features for Queensland Firebirds in Australia, and Faridah Kadondi, who plies her trade with Nottingham Forest in England, are expected to play pivotal roles for

the team as it hopes to make history in the Celtic Netball Cup.

Uganda will open their campaign with a match against Namibia on November 26, and a day later take on Northern Ireland. The She Cranes will take on host Scotland in their third match on November 28, battle Zimbabwe the next day and tussle it out with Wales on November 30. – Xinhua

### Golovkin elected president of World Boxing

#### Boxing

PARIS – Former middleweight champion Gennady Golovkin was on Sunday elected president of World Boxing, which will run the sport at the 2028 Olympic Games.

The Kazakh was the only candidate left standing and was named president by acclamation at the annual congress in Rome.

"It is a privilege to be elected as the new president of World Boxing. But this is just the beginning," Golovkin said in a statement.

"Starting today, athletes will be at the heart of every decision we make."

"On the road to LA28, we will restore trust in Olympic boxing to

secure our place in Brisbane [host of the 2032 Olympics] beyond. Now it's time to move forward as one united boxing family."

The 43-year-old Golovkin was twice unified world middleweight champion. He also won silver at the 2004 Athens Olympics.

He will succeed Dutchman Boris van der Vorst, who was elected in 2023 but decided not to stand for re-election.

Golovkin becomes president of World Boxing less than a month after another former candidate for 'best pound-for-pound fighter' in the world, Manny Pacquiao, became a vice president of the rival International Boxing Association (IBA).

After repeated warnings over financial governance and ethical concerns, the International Olympic Committee severed links with IBA and its Russian president Umar Kremlev ahead of the Tokyo Games in 2021.

The IOC ran boxing in Tokyo and Paris while it debated the sport's future at the Games. World Boxing, created in 2023, is taking over organising the sport at Los Angeles in 2028. – AFP

# England centre strength sparks Ojomoh's star turn against Argentina

## Rugby

LONDON – Max Ojomoh said he had no choice but to play well in his England home debut against Argentina such are the range of midfield options available to coach Steve Borthwick.

Ojomoh only came into the starting team as a late replacement at inside centre after the injured Fraser Dingwall was ruled out on Friday.

But the 25-year-old Bath back, in just his second Test appearance, produced a man-of-the-match performance, scoring England's first try and creating their other two in a 27-23 win over the Pumas at Twickenham on Sunday.

Ojomoh's display has left Borthwick with a selection dilemma ahead of England's Six Nations opener against Wales on February 7.

"A year ago people were going crazy about a centre crisis," said Ojomoh after England completed a November clean sweep.

"Now I'm seeing Seb [Atkinson], Fraser, Ollie Lawrence, Luke Northmore and a lot of 12s coming through and that kind of competition pushes everyone to perform at a higher level."

"Seb and Fraser have been excellent in their last games at 12 so I thought I had to try something out there."

Ojomoh, the son of former England flanker Steve Ojomoh, added: "Only the lucky ones and the very, very good players get

picked straight away, play well and keep their spot."

"It's a very competitive position so there are a lot of contenders up there for one position on the field. If you are in form you keep going."

Ojomoh opened the scoring with a well-taken score in the 10<sup>th</sup>-minute and set up tries for Immanuel Feyi-Waboso and Henry Slade.

Feyi-Waboso was the grateful recipient of a superb cross-kick from Ojomoh the Exeter wing caught the ball without breaking stride before sprinting across the line, while Slade benefitted from his centre partner's hard run and flipped back-of-the-hand pass to score a key try.

"My favourite bit was the cross-kick because I have never done that in the Prem," said Ojomoh.

"I have tried when I've had penalty advantage and I have spooned all of them so it was a great time for it to stick. And to kick it to a very good friend in Manny – I'm glad he got the try."

"I was really surprised for the offload. I saw Sladey and I was 'nothing to lose, may as well have a crack'."

Victory over Argentina was England's 11<sup>th</sup> win in a row and they now enter the Six Nations as title contenders.

"I'm very happy for the team that they have got four from four this month," Ojomoh said. "It's a great note to end on."

"It's been a very good campaign from a very well-gelled squad. It's good to be a part of." – AFP



## Bollywood's 'He-Man' Dharmendra dies aged 89

MUMBAI – India's hugely popular star Dharmendra was lovingly known as the "He-Man" of Bollywood, thanks to his roles in a string of action movies that cemented his legacy spanning more than six decades and 250 films.

Born Dharam Singh Deol on December 8, 1935 in Punjab, he also served as a member of parliament and was honoured with one of India's highest civilian awards.

He struck stardom after becoming the first Bollywood actor to bare his chest on screen, prompting a flood of love letters from female fans.

Dharmendra, who died on Monday aged 89, moved to Mumbai in 1958 after winning a celebrity magazine's talent competition.

"I only had my dreams," he told biographer Rajiv Vijayakar. "I was an untutored villager, with no idea of acting."

His matinee-idol looks quickly caught the eye of producers, and he made his screen debut in 1960 with the melodrama "Dil Bhi Tera Hum Bhi Tere" ("My Heart is Yours, As am I").

It was in the lead role in the 1966 drama "Phool Aur Patthar" ("Flower and Stone"), that he appeared topless.

"When he whipped off his shirt in the film, for the first time Hindi filmmakers woke up to the need to cater to female sexuality," noted the Encyclopaedia of Indian Cinema.

Over the years, Dharmendra shared the screen with leading stars including Nutan, Meena Kumari, and Sharmila Tagore, but his most enduring partnership was with Hema Malini, Bollywood's first woman superstar.

Their irresistible chemistry in films such as the 1972 hit "Seeta Aur Geeta" ("Seeta and Geeta") and the 1975 blockbuster "Sholay"

("Embers") blossomed into a real-life romance.

Their 1980 wedding ruffled many feathers, as Dharmendra refused to divorce his first wife, Prakash Kaur. He and Malini had two daughters.

The controversy did little to dim his popularity. Fans continued to cheer for "Garam Dharam" ("Hot Dharam") in cinemas across India.

### Underrated actor

In the 1980s, Dharmendra starred in a string of action movies, earning him the nickname "He-Man".

But the accolades he received as a handsome leading man overshadowed his versatility and subtle performances in films such as "Bandini" ("Imprisoned"), "Anupama" ("Incomparable") and "Satyakam", now regarded as classics of Indian cinema.

The father of six also dabbled in production, with movies starring his sons Sunny and Bobby Deol, and briefly served as a member of parliament.

Yet acting remained his greatest passion.

He continued acting into his eighties, starring in the "Yamla Pagla Deewana" ("Crazy, Mad Lover") franchise alongside his sons from 2011 to 2018.

Even in his later years, his charisma endured. His performance in 2023's romantic family drama "Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani" ("The Love Story of Rocky and Rani") showed that, even in his 80s, Dharmendra could still make audiences swoon.

Away from the spotlight, Dharmendra retreated to his farm, where he shared videos with his hundreds of thousands of social media followers of himself tending crops and caring for cows.

Despite his fame, he often spoke with humility about his career.

"I was always dissatisfied with the way I looked on screen," he said in a 2011 interview with Bollywood site Glamsham. "I always used to ask my directors for reshoots, saying I am not looking good from this angle or that angle."

His fans, however, would have begged to differ.

– AFP



Bollywood actor Dharmendra poses for a photo on the occasion of his 88<sup>th</sup> birthday at his residence in Mumbai on December 8, 2023. Dharmendra, who was equally at ease in romantic comedies as high-octane action blockbusters, died aged 89 yesterday.

– AFP

## 'Wicked' sequel sees green in weekend-winning N American debut

LOS ANGELES – Universal's musical sequel "Wicked: For Good" stole the box office spotlight in its North America debut this past weekend, with a record-setting haul to the tune of US\$150 million, industry estimates showed on Sunday.

Variety magazine said the film's debut was the highest ever for a Broadway musical adaptation, while analyst David A. Gross of Franchise Entertainment Research called it a "sensational, record-breaking opening" for a fantasy adventure sequel.

Tony Award-winner Cynthia Erivo and pop star Ariana Grande return as the magical land of Oz's most notable witches – the green-skinned, outcast Elphaba and popular pink-wearing Glinda – to wrap up the story-line introduced in last year's blockbuster part one.

The "Wizard of Oz" retelling is based on the long-running Broadway musical, itself adapted from Gregory Maguire's 1995 novel.

Part two follows Glinda and Elphaba – now dubbed the Wicked Witch of the West – as they struggle against the nefarious mechanisms of The Wizard (Jeff Goldblum) and Madame Morrible (Michelle Yeoh).

"This is broad-appeal Hollywood filmmaking at its best, a spectacular adventure story told from a female point of view," said Gross.

"Strong word-of-mouth is going to drive business through this week's 5-day Thanksgiving holiday and into December," he added.

In second place at the US and Canadian box office, according to Exhibitor Relations, was Lionsgate's "Now You See Me: Now You Don't," with US\$9.1 million.

The third instalment in the crime heist franchise dropped from the top spot a week prior, when it took in over US\$21 million.

The film reunites Jesse Eisenberg, Isla Fisher, Dave

Franco and Woody Harrelson as Robin Hood-style illusionists targeting dangerous criminals.

With US\$6.3 million, third place went to 20<sup>th</sup> Century's "Predator: Badlands," the latest instalment in the decades-old sci-fi horror franchise.

Paramount's "The Running Man" – a new take on Stephen King's dystopian novel about a murderous game show – fell two spots since its debut the previous weekend to fourth place, with US\$5.8 million.

Fifth place went to Searchlight's "Rental Family," starring Brendan Fraser as a struggling actor who takes on odd stand-in roles in Japan.

Gross called the film's US\$3.3 million haul a "soft opening for a fall drama," but said it should get a lift from this week's long holiday weekend, and that international revenue "should be solid," given its setting and Fraser's foreign appeal.

– AFP

## Eurovision voting rules altered after Israel row

Nina Larson

GENEVA – The Eurovision Song Contest's organisers said on Friday they were changing voting rules to strengthen "trust and transparency", following controversy sparked in recent years over massive public support for Israeli candidates.

The European Broadcasting Union (EBU) announced that it was implementing a range of changes to the voting rules for the glitzy competition ahead of its next edition in Vienna next May, including halving the number of votes each member of the public can cast.

It said it would also set stronger limits on promotion to curb third-party influence, including government-backed campaigns, and boost efforts to "detect and block coordinated or fraudulent voting activity".

The announcement came after several countries, including Spain, Ireland and the Netherlands, threatened to pull out of the 2026 contest if Israel is permitted to take part again.

Others also said they were considering a boycott over the situation in Gaza.

In justifying its decision, Dutch broadcaster AVROTROS highlighted a "serious violation of press freedom" by Israel in Gaza.

And it accused Israel of "proven interference... during the last edition of the Song Contest", in which it came second, by lobbying the public overseas to vote for it.

### 'Must not be instrumentalised'

"We've listened and we've acted," the EBU's Eurovision Song Contest director Martin Green said in a statement.

"We are taking clear and decisive steps to ensure the contest remains a celebration of music and unity. The Contest should remain a neutral space and must not be instrumentalised."

Among the announced changes was the dramatic reduction in the number of votes each member of the public can lodge.

Acts competing in the Eurovision annual finals receive two sets of points with equal weight from each of the competing nations: one by a professional jury and one given by viewers voting via telephone, text message or online.

Up to 20 votes have until now been permitted from a single payment method, but going forward that number will be cut to 10, EBU said.

The move comes after the past two editions saw the Israeli acts receive little backing from professional juries but a surge of support from the public vote.

That catapulted Eden Golan from the depths of the jury rankings to fifth place in Malmo, Sweden in 2024, and Yuval Raphael all the way to second place in Basel, Switzerland, this year.

### Vote on Israel participation?

EBU members were initially scheduled to vote this month on whether Israel would be permitted to participate in Vienna.

But after a fragile truce took hold in Gaza, the organisation said it would instead consider the issue during its general assembly in December.

EBU said on Friday that its members would first consider whether its new measures might remove the need for such a vote.

"We very much hope the package of measures will assure Members that we have taken strong action to protect the neutrality and impartiality of the Song Contest going forward," spokesman Dave Goodman told AFP.

"Only if they consider the new measures are not sufficient will there be a vote on participation."

EBU said that "the full list of participating broadcasters in next year's competition will then be revealed before Christmas".

If Israel is excluded, it would not be the first time a broadcaster is barred.

Russia was excluded following its offensive in Ukraine in 2022, while Belarus had been excluded a year earlier after the contested re-election of President Alexander Lukashenko.

Politics is officially barred from the event, but participants are frequently accused of trying to sneak political messages into their acts.

EBU said on Friday it would also strengthen efforts "to prevent any misuse of the Contest, for example, through song lyrics or staging".

– AFP

### World Weather

CHINA	ASIA-PACIFIC	WORLD	LUSOPHONE
Beijing -4°C~7°C	Manila 25°C~29°C	New York 12°C~13°C	Lisbon 9°C~16°C
Shanghai 1°C~14°C	Bangkok 20°C~31°C	London 0°C~8°C	Rio de Janeiro 20°C~25°C
Hong Kong 14°C~23°C	Tokyo 5°C~15°C	Frankfurt 1°C~5°C	Luanda 24°C~28°C
Taipei 14°C~22°C	Singapore 24°C~31°C	Vancouver 5°C~8°C	Maputo 19°C~26°C
Guangzhou 9°C~23°C	Kuala Lumpur 24°C~31°C	Paris 1°C~7°C	Dili 24°C~33°C
Nanjing -2°C~12°C	Jakarta 22°C~35°C	Moscow 0°C~1°C	São Tomé 25°C~29°C
Guilin 5°C~19°C	Seoul 1°C~11°C	Las Vegas 7°C~19°C	Praia 23°C~30°C
Xi'an -1°C~11°C	Sydney 19°C~29°C	Monte Carlo 7°C~14°C	Bissau 20°C~33°C





## Moving home

A Kenya Wildlife Services (KWS) ranger uses a hook to remove the blindfold off an adult female Masai Giraffe that has been translocated during a relocation of large herbivores from Kedong ranch in the wake of land subdivisions and corralling on the ranch that has interfered with wildlife migratory routes in Naivasha, Nakuru county, Kenya last Sunday. Driven by two long ropes held by about twenty rangers, the blindfolded giraffe entered a tall trailer that is to transport her out of her natural habitat in the Rift Valley, which is deteriorating after having been resold. This is the first step in a meticulous relocation operation in the vast Kedong ranch, part of an ancestral corridor between Mount Longonot and Hell's Gate Park, near the iconic Lake Naivasha. — AFP

## Where's his coat??

Dogs enjoy playing in the snow during the first snowfall of the season in Skaryszewski Park in Warsaw, Poland on Sunday. — AFP



## Lucky cats and rakes

Cat figures holding "kumade", a traditional bamboo rake for good fortune, are pictured at the Hanazono Shrine during the Tori-no-Ichi festival, a traditional bamboo rakes fair for better sales and business results next year, at the shrine's premises in Tokyo's Shinjuku district yesterday. — AFP



## Sea of lights

Lights are seen at Nasatta Park in Ratchaburi province, Thailand, on Friday. The Nasatta Light Festival 2026: Winter Illumination started on Friday, and will continue until May 3, 2026. — Xinhua

## Pandas' picnic

Giant pandas Yu Ai, Qi Sanmei, and Liang Yue eat at Chongqing Zoo in Chongqing, on Sunday. — AFP



## Operatic theatre

Artists perform amid giant giraffe puppets during the French street theatre group Compagnie OFF's "Les Girafes – Operette Animaliere" in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico on Sunday. The show, a blend of opera, circus arts, dance, and performance, was presented as part of the Late 2025 Festival of Cultura GDL, which took place in the streets of Guadalajara. — AFP

