

Chan vows national security & building high-level safe city

Staff Reporter

The government held a meeting yesterday to brief association representatives about Macau's 3rd Five-Year Plan regarding its security portfolio, during which Secretary for Security Chan Tsz King said that his portfolio will place a strong emphasis on two major aspects: safeguarding national security and building a high-level safe city.

The meeting, which was attended by about 60 representatives from 27 associations, was held at the Service Platform Complex for Commercial and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries (aka Forum Macao Complex) in Sai Van.

The meeting was open to the media when Chan delivered his opening speech and officials under his portfolio gave presentations about the 3rd Five-Year Plan regarding the government's security portfolio. Afterwards, the meeting was held behind closed doors while attendees gave their opinions and officials answered their questions.

Yesterday's meeting came after the government held a meeting on Monday to brief association representatives about the plan regarding its administration and justice portfolio.

The Macau government announced and published the final version of the 3rd Five-Year Plan on



Secretary for Security Chan Tsz King (centre) addresses yesterday's meeting with association representatives about Macau's 3rd Five-Year Plan at the Forum Macao Complex, flanked by officials comprising (from left to right) Judiciary Police (PJ) Director Sit Chong Meng, Unitary Police Service (SPU) Commissioner-General Leong Man Cheong, Macau Customs Service Director-General Adriano Marques Ho, and Public Security Police Force (PSP) Commissioner Ng Sou Peng. — Photo: GCS

Tuesday last week.

The Macao Special Administrative Region's (MSAR) 3rd Five-Year Plan, officially known as the 3rd Five-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development, covers the period between 2026 and 2030.

Delivering his speech, Chan said that over the next five years, new technologies and new business formats will bring numerous development opportunities to Macau, but they will also present new tests for public safety and social governance.

Consequently, Chan said, while driving development, the local government must prevent and resolve all types of risks to ensure that the fruits of development will not be threatened. Chan quoted President Xi Jinping as saying that security is the prerequisite for development, and development is the guarantee of security, underlining that only through high-level security can Macau safeguard high-quality development.

Chan said that in compliance

with the local government's strategic planning for Macau outlined by the 3rd Five-Year Plan, his portfolio will place a strong emphasis on two major aspects: safeguarding national security and building a high-level safe city.

Chan noted that the 3rd Five-Year Plan has a dedicated section about safeguarding national security and social stability at its beginning, highlighting the priority status and foundational guarantee role of national security in the MSAR's governance.



In this section, Chapter 4 lays out measures to improve Macau's systems and mechanisms for safeguarding national security, while Chapter 5 outlines measures to strengthen law enforcement capacity, Chan noted.

In the same section, Chapter 6 lays out the government's goal of building a high-level safe city, including measures aiming to strengthen urban safety management and strengthen the institutional systems for ensuring good public security.

Chan also underlined that he will include the necessary initiatives and measures in his 2027 policy guidelines aiming to ensure the effective implementation of the 3rd Five-Year Plan's security-portfolio tasks and goals scheduled for next year. ■



A woman listens to literary audio excerpts at the Shanghai Literature Museum in Hongkou District, Shanghai, yesterday. After years of preparation, the Shanghai Literature Museum, a comprehensive literary institution, officially opened to the public yesterday, offering a concentrated showcase of the evolution and remarkable achievements of Shanghai literature. The museum consists of a main building and three historic buildings, featuring five permanent exhibition zones that reveal the history and character of Shanghai literature from different perspectives.

— Xinhua

AI, overseas expansion fuel China's digital publishing growth

JINAN—China's digital publishing industry continued to expand in 2025, with artificial intelligence (AI) reshaping content production and digital cultural products gaining traction in overseas markets.

The industry generated 1.88 trillion yuan (US\$277 billion) in 2025, up 7.51 percent year on year, according to an annual report on China's digital publishing industry released yesterday.

AI is increasingly being integrated into publishing, with applications ranging from topic planning and multilingual translation to content review, recommendation and distribution, according to the report.

Some traditional publishing houses are turning their professionally edited and reviewed content into new knowledge services, such as AI-powered question answering and database subscriptions.

Wang Biao, director of the digital publishing institute at the Chinese Academy of Press and Publication, said AI applications in publishing have evolved from supporting tools into an important part of the production process since 2025.

Digital cultural products are also gaining momentum overseas, with online literature, video games and online films and TV series emerging as major drivers of China's cultural exports, according to the report. — Xinhua

Macau's most popular English-language newspaper – Your trustworthy source of news & views

The Macau Post Daily

Premier Li arrives at mudslide-hit area in Xizang

Premier Li Qiang arrived at Gyirong Township in southwest China's Xizang Autonomous Region yesterday afternoon, after a massive mudslide hit the area Wednesday morning.

— Story on p. 7

Alleged 9/11 mastermind to go on trial in June 2028

Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the alleged mastermind of the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States, will go on trial before a US military court in June 2028, an official said yesterday.

— Story on p. 11

Clashes in Ceuta month after mass migrant influx

Protests over security in Spain's North African exclave of Ceuta escalated into violent clashes with the Spanish military yesterday, a month after a mass influx of migrants from Morocco.

— Story on p. 12

Macau's Greatest Investment

Commentary by Manuel Silvério
Independent Analyst on Public Policy and Regional Development (Former senior public official with international experience and a longstanding commitment to public policy and sports development)

When we think of Macau's biggest investments over the past few decades, our minds naturally turn to the bridges, the international airport, hospitals, universities, major tourism projects, and the cultural and sporting facilities that have transformed the city. All have contributed to the progress of the Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR) and significantly improved people's quality of life.

Yet, looking back over some of the articles I have written in recent months, I noticed something curious. I had written about international volleyball in Macau, the Lusofonia Games, Cabo Verde at the FIFA World Cup, the Sports Medicine Centre, the Asian Football Confederation's (AFC) club licensing system and, more recently, the Association of Macanese Youth's visit to Qinghai. At first sight, these subjects appeared to have very little in common.

But they all led me back to the same question: what has really been Macau's greatest investment?

The answer is not infrastructure. It is people.

Infrastructure creates the conditions for development. It matters, and it will continue to matter. But bridges do not make decisions, buildings do not teach and equipment does not create knowledge on its own. It is people who turn investment into progress.

Macau began to understand this particularly well during the final years of the Portuguese administration. As the establishment of the Macao SAR approached, it became clear that institutional continuity alone would not be enough. People had to be prepared to carry those institutions forward.

Many young professionals were given responsibility early in their careers. They learnt alongside more experienced officials and specialists and developed through the practical demands of their daily work.

Looking back, that quiet investment in people helped ensure a stable transition and produced a generation of professionals who would continue serving Macau for decades.

That commitment did not end in 1999. Macau's progressive integration into national development, the emergence of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA), the establishment of the Guangdong-Macao In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin and steadily improving links with the Chinese mainland have opened new opportunities for education, research, employment and cooperation. These developments have done more than bring cities closer together. They have brought people closer and widened the range of possibilities available to them.

At the same time, Macau has developed highly qualified professionals across many fields. Today, its public services, universities, hospitals, businesses and associations possess considerable expertise. The challenge is no longer simply to train capable people. It is also to create the conditions for institutions to work together more effectively.

Modern societies do not advance through sectors operating in isolation. The major challenges of our time require coordination, shared knowledge and the ability to work across institutional boundaries.

I was reminded of this when revisiting the history of international volleyball in Macau. For more than three decades, some of the world's finest national teams competed here. Spectators naturally remember the matches and the titles. What I remember most, however, are the hundreds of young people who took their first steps as volunteers, interpreters, technicians, administrators and event organisers.

Many later pursued entirely different careers, but the experience they gained through those international events stayed with them. The real legacy was never confined to the sports hall. It remained with the people.

The same was true of the Lusofonia Games. Their greatest value was not simply the medals or the international scale of the event. It lay in collective learning, the friendships that were formed, the networks

of cooperation that emerged and the experience accumulated by those involved in organising them.

A few days later, writing about Cabo Verde at the World Cup brought me back to the same conclusion. A small country demonstrated that success depends less on territorial size than on the ability to develop people, build sound institutions and mobilise talent.

My reflections on the future of Macau's Sports Medicine Centre pointed in the same direction. Beyond providing clinical services, an institution of this kind can become a centre for knowledge, research, training and innovation. Even an apparently technical subject such as the Asian Football Confederation's club licensing system reveals a similar truth: development increasingly depends not only on material resources, but on the ability of institutions to cooperate.

More recently, the visit to Qinghai strengthened this conviction further. Over several days, young people from Macau encountered a reality very different from their everyday lives. They experienced the vastness of the country, its ethnic diversity, the importance of ecological security, its strategic resources and the demands of life in regions where development takes place far from the great metropolitan centres.

It was more than a journey. It was an educational experience.

They discovered that understanding the country requires curiosity, a willingness to learn and the courage to leave one's comfort zone. Such experiences are not easily forgotten. They can help prepare more aware and responsible citizens, better equipped to contribute to Macau.

Today, it is easy to measure Macau's progress through new infrastructure, economic indicators or changes to the urban landscape. Much harder to measure are the things we cannot readily see: accumulated knowledge, experience passed from one generation to the next, trust built between institutions and the ability to prepare those who will assume responsibility in the future.

That is where a society's real wealth lies.

Over the past decades, Macau has invested billions of patacas in building the city. That investment was essential, and its

results are visible everywhere. But a bridge does not bring people closer unless someone crosses it in search of new opportunities. A university does not create knowledge without teachers and researchers. A hospital does not save lives merely because the building exists. A cultural centre cannot preserve identity without artists, creators and audiences. And a major event leaves no meaningful legacy if it fails to develop people.

Development, therefore, can never be measured by construction alone. What matters is our ability to turn material investment into human capital.

Looking back at the articles I have published in recent months, I now realise that they were all telling the same story, though from very different perspectives.

International volleyball showed how a major sporting event can help shape generations. The Lusofonia Games reminded us that cooperation between peoples leaves a legacy extending far beyond medals. Cabo Verde demonstrated how a small country can achieve remarkable things when it believes in its people. The Sports Medicine Centre showed that an institution should be valued not only for the services it provides but also for the knowledge it creates. The AFC club licensing system illustrated how the future increasingly depends on coordination between institutions. And Qinghai reminded us that knowing the country better also means preparing Macau better for the future.

All these examples lead to the same conclusion: sustainable development does not begin with infrastructure. It begins with people.

Bridges connect shores. Buildings reshape skylines. Institutions organise society. But none of them dreams, learns, teaches or serves. People do.

Perhaps, then, when future generations ask what Macau's greatest investment really was, the answer will not be found only in the projects that transformed the city.

It will be found in the generations we were able to nurture, in the institutions that knew how to pass on knowledge, and in the people who continue, every day, to build the future of the Macao Special Administrative Region.

End

Congratulations on the 22nd anniversary of The Macau Post Daily

OCBC Bank (Macau) Limited

LRT extends weekend bicycle access trial to Dec 31

Khalel Vallo

The Macao Light Rapid Transit Corporation (MLM) will extend its trial measure allowing passengers to take bicycles through Light Rail Station (LRT) gates and onto trains on Saturdays and Sundays until December 31, in a move aimed at supporting greener travel and providing passengers with more flexible transport options, according to a statement by the LRT operator yesterday.

Under the extended trial arrangement, passengers may take bicycles into light rail stations and onto trains on Saturdays and Sundays, provided they fold the bicycle or remove one wheel before entering the paid area, the statement said, noting that after folding or removing the wheel, the bicycle must not exceed 180 cm in length.

Bicycles originally measuring no more than 130 cm in length can be taken into the stations without being folded or having a wheel removed, the statement noted.

According to an MLM statement in May, the trial was originally scheduled to end this Sunday.

The operator said in yesterday's statement that the extension will allow the trial to further collect passenger feedback while continuing to review and optimise the relevant arrangements.

The measure aims to promote green travel while balancing the reasonable use of space inside light rail carriages, providing passengers with a more convenient and comfortable journey experience, the statement noted. ■



This poster taken at Lotus Station in May explains its trial measure to take bicycles through LRT gates and on to trains on Saturdays and Sundays.
– Photo: Tony Wong

Published since Aug 2004

- Director & Chief Editor – Harald Brüning
- Office Manager – Sally Chong
- Marketing Manager – Kevin Cheung King Lok
- Managing Editor – Maria Cheang Ut Meng
- Editors – Lesley Wells, Johnny Un
- Senior Reporters – Tony Wong, Rui Pastorin
- Reporters – Khalel Vallo, William Chan, Ida Cheong, Armino Neves
- Chief Graphic Designer – Simon Wang
- Graphic Designer – Colin Zhong
- Administrative Assistants – Ester Mak, Carl Leong
- Printed by Tipografia Welfare Lda., 82-86 Rua dos Pescadores
- Ai tools: DeepSeek, Gemini
- Wire services – AFP, Xinhua

Macau Weather

VERY HOT.
CLOUDY APART FROM SUNNY INTERVALS.
A FEW SHOWERS.
FORCE 2 TO 4 WEST TO SOUTHWESTERLY WINDS.
RELATIVE HUMIDITY WILL RANGE BETWEEN 70% AND 95%.

27°C~31°C

Source: SMG

Local sports delegation receives MSAR flag ahead of Asian Games, Asian Para Games

Khalel Vallo

Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai presented the Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR) flag to the local sports delegations for the 20th Asian Games and 5th Asian Para Games at Government Headquarters in Nam Van yesterday, encouraging athletes to uphold the Olympic and Chinese sporting spirits and aim for strong results in the upcoming competitions in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.

The 20th Asian Games will start on September 19 and end on October 4, followed by the 5th Asian Para Games which will begin on October 18 and conclude on October 24.

In his opening remarks, Sam said that both Games are the highest-level sporting events in Asia and important platforms for exchanges among countries and regions. He said that the continued participation of the local sports delegations was the result of sustained efforts by the local government and community.

He encouraged the local athletes to cherish the opportunity, face strong opponents without fear and compete with determination, while demonstrating the spirit and vitality of Macau's young people to the world.

Sam also said that the local government has made coordinated arrangements for the

development of sports under the nation's 15th Five-Year Plan, and will continue to provide targeted support measures for athletes' training and related safeguards, support their participation in competitions outside Macau and strengthen talent development.

According to a statement by the Sports Bureau (ID), the government will further improve its sports policies and establish a scientific and professional talent development system, while making use of the institutional advantages of the Guangdong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) and the Guangdong-Macao In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin to strengthen sports exchanges and cooperation with the mainland and internationally.

Sam also highlighted continued investment in sports for people with disabilities (PWDs), including improvements to barrier-free facilities and supporting measures, so athletes can pursue their sporting ambitions in a fair and inclusive environment. With the competitions approaching, Sam said he believed the athletes were ready and would demonstrate their ability and sporting spirit at the Asian Games and Asian Para Games.

Speaking to the media after the presentation, local athlete Kuong Chi Hin,

who will compete in the men's Changquan* ("Long Fist"), said he was excited and happy to serve as a sports representative for the second time. Kuong said he had completed about 80 percent of his preparations over the past month and would use the remaining time to prepare for the competition. Kuong said he hoped to avoid mistakes during the event and secure a place on the podium.

Meanwhile, wheelchair fencing athlete Lao In I said her goal this year was to finish in the top eight, having achieved top-eight

finishes several times without winning a medal. Lao said she had been training hard for the Asian Games and hoped more able-bodied athletes would join her in competitions, noting that she is currently Macau's only wheelchair athlete. ■

*Changquan refers to a family of external martial arts styles from northern China. The forms of the Long Fist style emphasise fully extended kicks and striking techniques, and by appearance would be considered a long-range fighting system. – Gemini



Local athlete representatives Kuong Chi Hin (right) and Lao In I (left) present a keepsake to Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai at Government Headquarters in Nam Van yesterday. – Photo: Khalel Vallo

Govt, Kai Fong roll out mobile mental health care



A mobile mental health support service vehicle is parked for a public awareness promotion shot in Praça do Tap Seac recently. – Photo: Health Bureau

Armindo Neves

The Health Bureau (SSM) announced in a statement yesterday that it has launched a mobile mental health support service vehicle aimed at proactively bringing mental health support into the community.

The service was launched in conjunction with the Macau General Union of Neighbourhood Associations (UGAMM, commonly known as Kai Fong) on Monday.

According to the statement, the mobile service vehicle offers three core services: first, regular tours through various districts to distribute mental health information, raising residents' awareness of their own mental state and that of their family and friends; second, providing immediate counselling, connecting individuals with service resources, and offering referral guidance for those in need; and third, promoting knowledge of emotional management through mini-lectures, workshops, and interactive games.

The statement also noted that the service aims to break through traditional limitations of time and space by proactively extending

mental health support to every corner of the community, providing residents with immediate and convenient mental health support and counselling services.

Subsequent service points and schedules will be announced on a dedicated Facebook page. In the future, additional service locations will be added based on demand.

The statement emphasised that the government has always placed great importance on residents' physical and mental well-being, and continues to expand and improve its social support network, promoting the integration of mental health service resources into the community.

The mental health self-assessment tool launched last year has helped residents gain an immediate understanding of their own psychological condition, the statement said, adding that, in collaboration with the Macau Youth Development Service Centre, the government has also established a psychological support hotline (2871 2356), which provides 24-hour mental health support and counselling through a professional team. ■

Congratulations on the
22nd Anniversary of The Macau Post Daily

CTM Fiber
Ultra-fast Double Up

Macau Exclusive
CTM Fiber 360° Super Wi-Fi Plan

FREE Speed Upgrade to
2Gbps

Note: Customers are bound by the respective service agreement.



www.ctm.net
No.1 Hotline: 1000

Join "CTM Buddy" Get Amazing Privileges

CTM



Photos taken at the exhibition venue yesterday by Rui Pastorin

PURSUING ART AMIDST busy LIVES

Review by Rui Pastorin

Amidst a busy and fast paced life, do you ever remember to slow down and make time for your hobbies? Several art lovers from Macau are placing a special emphasis on the importance on remembering to do so, presenting their paintings in the exhibition “Leisurely Strokes” at the Rui Cunha Foundation gallery.

The ongoing event presents a collection of paintings tackling different subjects. Exploring the venue, exhibitiongoers will find paintings depicting the pastel-coloured buildings found in Macau’s city centre and brightly-lit integrated resorts, dreamy scenes and real-world locations

like the rain-soaked streets of New York, along with flora and everyday items. Pets and scenes of nature also make special appearances.

Each piece on display sees the artists creatively present their subjects in vibrant colours. The works are predominantly oils, but one can also find ceramic paintings among them.

According to a joint statement by the gallery and the “Association of the Promotion of the Diversity of In Sang Artistic Expressions of Macau”*, the exhibitors all have a great interest in art and come from all walks of life, ranging from students and teachers to office workers.

Each of them has one thing in common:

they continue to engage in art amidst their busy lives and routines. All had learnt to paint together, the statement said, and studied art with a China Academy of Art graduate. The exhibition presents their achievements and progress.

The statement pointed out that each finds solace in painting, which also serve as “a tranquil harbour for the soul”, noting that they each express their emotions through brushes and colours. “Through constant toning and sketching, they explore the essence of beauty and calm their restless minds”, according to the statement.

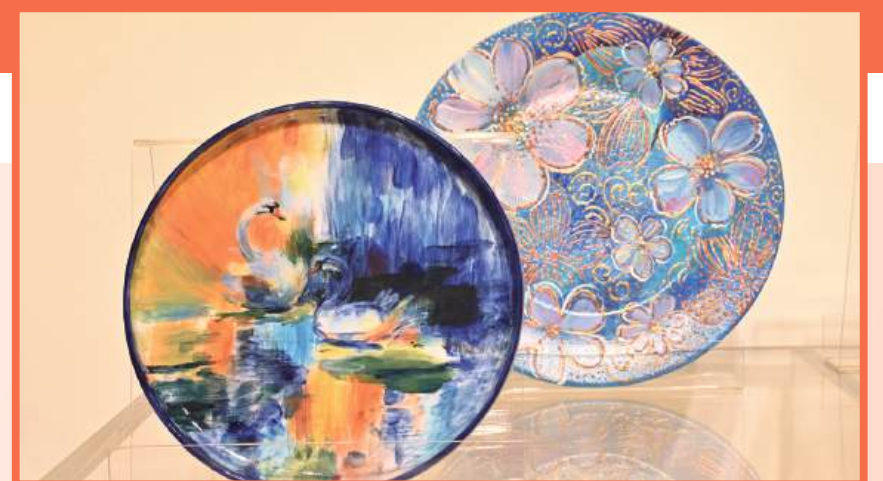
Organisers, as noted in the statement, hope that exhibitiongoers will feel the “warmth and

healing power of art in these brushstrokes and hues”, while noting that, through passion, one can find joy in art in life.

“Each creation is a tender tribute to life and a lingering glow of their youthful passion, preserving gentle moments in ordinary days”.

One can visit the Cunha gallery at 749 Avenida da Praia Grande daily from Monday to Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., and from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Saturdays, being closed on Sundays. It is on until next Saturday.

*Literally translated, the association’s name means “Macau Association for the Promotion of Derived Diversified Art Forms”.



'Barra Slow Fest' to feature baking theme, upgraded music programme

Rui Pastorin

The free-admission Barra Slow Festival will again be held at Navy Yard No.1, No.2, Dock Area and Outdoor Plaza in Barra District, this time themed "Bake with Ease, Savour the Summer" and gathering more than 100 bakery and lifestyle-aesthetics market stalls.

To be held from next Friday through Sunday, the announcement was made by organiser the District Development Centre of the General Union of Neighbourhood Associations of Macau (widely known as Kai Fong or UGAMM) in a statement on Wednesday.

The Mondial du Pain ("World Bread") Ambassadors (China) brings top award-winning bakers such as the China champion of the 10th World Bread Competition, Global Final Champion of the 9th edition; and Gold Medallist of the 2nd National Contest,

alongside popular brands like Jiangren Zhiwei, Roll Roll Bakery, and One Roll Bakery.

Ceramic tableware, calming scented goods, plant-based woven crafts, linen sundries, fine accessories and creative cultural ornaments will also be presented by Asian brands at the Lifestyle Aesthetics Market.

Meanwhile, the statement said that the music programme has been upgraded to a three-day-large-scale sunset concert series within the bamboo pavilion, this time featuring 10 artistes from across China. Among them are Hong Kong singers Yoyo Sham (岑寧兒) and Gigi Cheung (張蔓姿), as well as Offside Festival from the Chinese mainland.

The event will be held from 12 noon through 8 p.m. throughout the three-day period. One can find more details, including on workshops, by visiting ddcmacao.com or the relevant social media accounts. ■



This undated handout photo provided by the District Development Centre of the General Union of Neighbourhood Associations of Macau (Kai Fong) on Wednesday shows festivalgoers at a previous edition of the Barra Slow Festival.

Male student takes photos in university ladies' toilet: police

Armindo Neves

The Public Security Police Force (PSP) have arrested a male student from the Chinese mainland for taking photos of a woman inside a public ladies' toilet, PSP spokesman Wong Wai Chon said during a regular press conference yesterday.

Wong said the suspect, surnamed Liu, is in his 20s. Wong added that the victim is a female mainland Chinese student also in her twenties.

According to Wong, on Friday afternoon, while using a cubicle in the toilet of a university library, the victim noticed that someone in the adjacent cubicle was using a mobile phone to take photos beneath the partition.

Wong did not identify the university.

She immediately reported the incident to the police, Wong said, adding that upon arrival,

PSP officers identified Liu using surveillance footage and subsequently intercepted him in his dormitory.

Liu admitted to the offence, claiming that he had failed to notice the gender sign upon entering the toilet. He added that once inside, he acted on a "momentary impulse" to photograph the victim in the adjacent cubicle, according to Wong.

Liu said he had deleted the photos after being discovered. Police examined his mobile phone and computer and found suspicious photos or videos. The victim and the suspect were not acquainted.

Liu has been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) on suspicion of invasion of privacy.

Under Article 186 of the Macau Penal Code, invasion of privacy is punishable by up to two years' imprisonment. ■



This undated handout photo provided by the Public Security Police Force (PSP) yesterday shows evidence seized from the toilet voyeur.

HK launches AI training for all

HONG KONG – The final installment of the launch ceremonies for Hong Kong's artificial intelligence (AI) training for all program was held at the Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC) yesterday.

The HKPC will help small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) become more competitive with AI-powered digital transformation.

Noting that over 90 percent of Hong Kong's companies are small- and medium-sized, Sun Dong, secretary for innovation, technology and industry of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government, said in his speech that the

HKPC will focus on equipping employees of these firms with AI skills tailored to real tasks.

Yesterday's event followed the launch of two other segments of the AI training for all program. Cyberport seeks to promote AI proficiency among younger students, parents, the elderly and vulnerable groups. The Hong Kong Science Park helps college students and professionals translate AI proficiency into workplace skills.

Under the program, the HKSAR Government aims to hold over 200 events with a total attendance of over 50,000 by the end of next year. – Xinhua

China opposes US plan to impose additional tariffs: MOC

BEIJING – The Ministry of Commerce (MOC) yesterday voiced firm opposition to the US government's consideration of an additional 7.5 percent tariff on Chinese imports, calling the move a typical act of unilateralism and protectionism that politicizes trade issues.

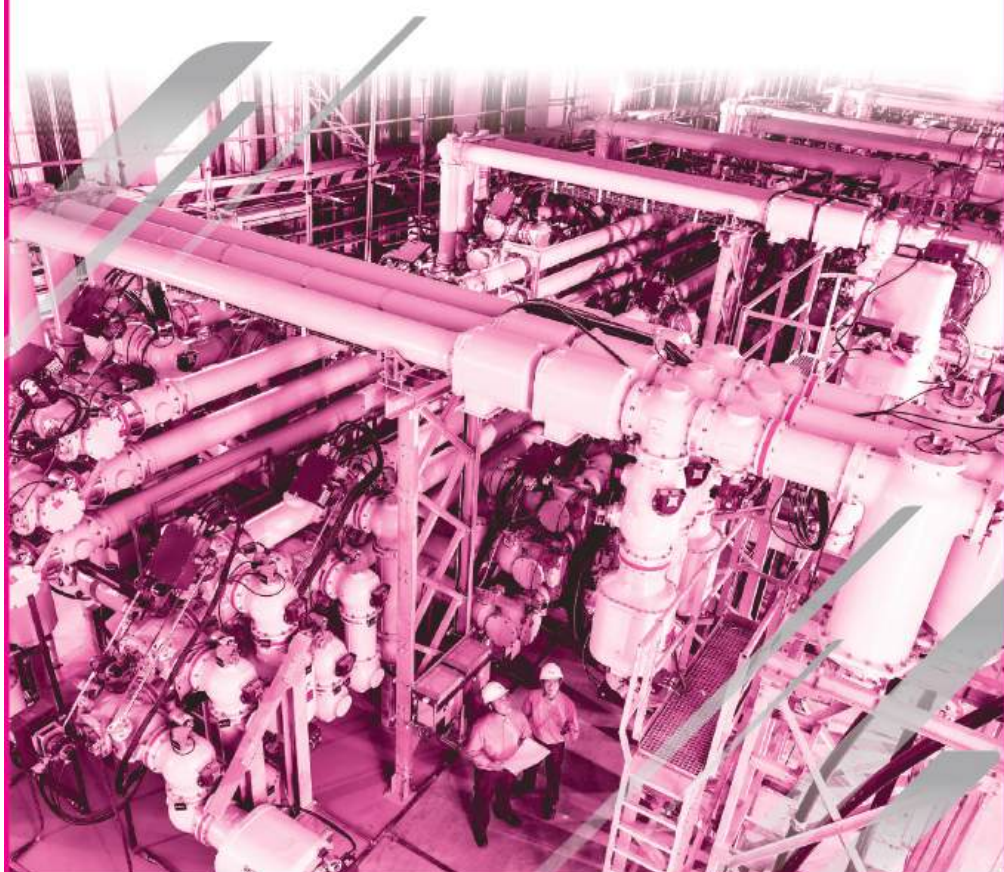
Noting that the United States has launched a Section 301 investigation into

16 economies, including China, under the pretext of "overcapacity," ministry spokesperson Huang Ling said at a routine press conference that China will continue to closely follow and comprehensively assess any subsequent US actions, and reserves the right to take all necessary measures to safeguard its legitimate rights and interests.

– Xinhua



Congratulations
on the 22nd anniversary of The Macau Post Daily



Companhia de Electricidade de Macau - CEM, S.A.

www.cem-macau.com

f t i 澳電 CEM

China's new economic growth drivers index rises 12.5 pct in 2025

Analysis

BEIJING — China's new economic growth drivers index rose 12.5 percent in 2025, with the transformation and upgrading index and the innovation driven index together accounting for nearly two-thirds of the increase, official data showed yesterday.

The index reached 153, with 2022 set as the base year of 100, according to the Institute of Statistical Sciences of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). All four sub-indexes increased from a year earlier.

The transformation and upgrading index rose 22.7 percent, the fastest among the four, and contributed 34.1 percent to overall index growth. The innovation-driven index increased 12.9 percent and contributed another 31.4 percent, bringing their combined contribution to 65.5 percent.

That marked a shift from 2024, when the network economy was the largest contributor to index growth and transformation and upgrading accounted for 16.7 percent of the increase.

Lyu Haiqi, head of the NBS institute, said in an analysis accompanying the index release that China's new growth drivers continued to grow in strength in 2025, with innovation playing an increasingly prominent leading role and transformation and upgrading gathering pace.

He said the developments helped China make new progress in high-quality economic development.

On transformation and upgrading, Lyu noted that the value added of high-tech manufacturing rose 9.4 percent in 2025, 3.5 percentage points faster than that of major industrial enterprises as a

whole. The share of the value added of high-tech manufacturing in the total value added of major industrial enterprises rose to 17.1 percent.

Lyu cited continued efforts to advance the digital transformation of manufacturing, the "AI Plus" initiative, technological upgrading and intelligent manufacturing, alongside the green transformation of key industries. He also pointed to faster growth in strategic emerging industries and continued development of future industries.

Exports of electric vehicles, photovoltaic products and lithium batteries — often referred to as China's "new three" — approached 1.3 trillion yuan in 2025, up 27.1 percent, he noted.

Lyu also pointed to increased innovation input. China's expenditure on research and development reached

3.9 trillion yuan in 2025, up 8.1 percent and equivalent to 2.8 percent of GDP. Spending on basic research and the value of technology contracts both recorded double-digit growth.

The network economy index rose 10.8 percent. Lyu pointed to the continued expansion of digital infrastructure and the development of new forms of consumption and trade, including instant retail, livestreaming e-commerce and cross-border e-commerce.

The economic vitality index increased 4.8 percent. Lyu cited continued reform efforts, including measures to build a unified national market, a new version of the negative list for market access and efforts to advance market-oriented allocation of production factors.

The index measures developments in 2025. Separate data for 2026 showed

high-tech manufacturing continuing to post faster value-added growth than major industrial enterprises as a whole.

In the first seven months, the value added of high-tech manufacturing rose 13.8 percent year on year, compared with a 5.3-percent increase in the total value added of major industrial enterprises, NBS data showed earlier this month. The NBS said new growth drivers witnessed robust development and the economic structure continued to improve.

Separate industrial profit data released yesterday showed profits in high-tech manufacturing growing faster than overall industrial profits. Profits of major industrial enterprises rose 17.6 percent year on year in the first seven months, while profits of high-tech manufacturers rose 50.1 percent.

— Xinhua

China plans AI-powered legal education for more targeted outreach

BEIJING — China will use technologies including artificial intelligence (AI) and big data to make public legal education more targeted and interactive over the next five years, officials said yesterday.

Under China's five-year plan for legal education and publicity from 2026 to 2030, the country will promote lifelong legal education and explore new models of targeted outreach, bringing legal education closer to people's daily work and lives.

The Ministry of Justice will draw on big data resources from government agencies, judicial bodies and internet companies to identify the legal needs and rights-

related concerns of different groups of people, Xu Yunkai, director of the ministry's legal publicity and governance bureau, said at a press conference introducing the plan.

AI and other new technologies will be used to generate legal education content, deliver it to targeted audiences and enable real-time interaction, making legal education more accessible and engaging, Xu said.

Young people will be a key focus, with the plan calling for stronger legal education and a more comprehensive framework for youth legal education, said Tang Jie, an official with the Central Committee of the Communist Youth League of China.

Authorities will also use AI, short videos and other formats to make legal education more appealing to young people.

During the 2026-2030 period, China's cyberspace authorities will step up public education on cyberspace-related laws and make greater use of digital platforms for legal education, said Chao Baodong, an official with the Cyberspace Administration of China.

Authorities will encourage internet service providers, particularly major online platforms, to participate in legal education by establishing dedicated channels and organizing related activities.

— Xinhua



Tourists gather outside the Tsingtao Beer Museum in Qingdao, Shandong Province, yesterday. The Tsingtao Beer Museum has attracted an increasing number of visitors in recent years, largely thanks to its immersive projects that combine history, culture and leisure into a refreshing travel experience. — Xinhua

Wang Yi meets US ambassador to China, urging removing disruptions to bilateral high-level exchanges

BEIJING — Foreign Minister Wang Yi said China and the United States should earnestly implement the important consensus reached by the two heads of state, and remove disruptions and overcome obstacles to high-level exchanges between the two countries, according to a press release issued by China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday.

Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, made the remarks when meeting with David Perdue, ambassador of the United States to China, on Wednesday in Beijing.

Under the guidance of the two heads of state, both sides are working to build a constructive relationship of strategic stability, Wang noted.

He said facts show that improving bilateral ties, coexisting peacefully on the basis of mutual respect, and achieving win-win cooperation serves the fundamental interests of both

peoples and meets the international community's shared expectations.

Both sides should earnestly implement the important consensus reached by the two heads of state, focus on a constructive agenda, and properly manage differences, he said, calling for efforts to remove disruptions and overcome obstacles to high-level exchanges and push bilateral ties toward stable, healthy and sustainable development.

Both sides are ready to strengthen communication and cooperation to prepare for the next phase of high-level interactions and build a constructive relationship of strategic stability on the basis of respect and reciprocity, Perdue said.

Perdue expressed condolences on behalf of the US side over the casualties caused by a mudslide that struck a port along the China-Nepal border in southwest China's Xizang Autonomous Region on Wednesday.

— Xinhua

WORLD NA TCHA FOLK BELIEF CULTURE FESTIVAL 2026

NA TCHA FOLK BELIEF EXHIBITION

Sept 15th - 18th

WELCOMING DINNER

Sept 15th 19:00
Barra Kitchen

NA TCHA JOINT PARADE

Sept 16th 11:00
From Ruins of St. Paul's to Senado Square

PARADE ROUTE

Ruins of St. Paul's to Senado Square

BLESSING CEREMONY

Sept 16th 16:00
Barra Kitchen

FAREWELL DINNER

Sept 16th 18:30
Barra Kitchen

All affected residents, tourists evacuated following mudslide in Xizang

GYIRONG – Residents affected by a mudslide in Gyirong County of the Xizang Autonomous Region have been resettled, and all stranded tourists have been transferred, local authorities said yesterday.

A total of 499 villagers and construction workers have all been properly accommodated. Meanwhile, 555 affected tourists were evacuated and transferred under the coordination of cultural and tourism authorities. No tourists remain stranded.

Civil aviation authorities have also

joined the rescue efforts. As of 3:00 p.m. yesterday, civil aviation services had transported 324 rescue personnel and delivered 24 tonnes of rescue equipment, daily necessities and medical supplies to the disaster-hit area, providing support for emergency response and the relocation of affected residents.

The mudslide struck China's Gyirong border checkpoint in Gyirong County on Wednesday morning. As of 8:00 a.m. yesterday, three people had been killed, 558 others remained missing, while two local villagers had been rescued. – Xinhua



Evacuees from Seqiong Village eat food provided by the authorities in Jifu Village of Gyirong County in Xigaze, southwest China's Xizang Autonomous Region, yesterday. Residents affected by a mudslide in Gyirong have been resettled, and all stranded tourists have been transferred, local authorities said yesterday. A total of 499 villagers and construction workers have all been properly accommodated. Meanwhile, 555 affected tourists were evacuated and transferred under the coordination of cultural and tourism authorities. No tourists remain stranded. Civil aviation authorities have also joined the rescue efforts. As of 3:00 p.m. yesterday, civil aviation services had transported 324 rescue personnel and delivered 24 tonnes of rescue equipment, daily necessities and medical supplies to the disaster-hit area, providing support for emergency response and the relocation of affected residents. – Xinhua

China deploys satellites, drones for rescue efforts in mudslide-hit county in SW China's Xizang

BEIJING – China has deployed satellites and drones to aid the rescue efforts in the mudslide-hit area in the southwestern Xizang Autonomous Region after a mudslide struck a checkpoint along the China-Nepal border.

The China National Space Administration (CNSA) said yesterday that immediately after the disaster, it coordinated and deployed satellite resources to conduct emergency imaging of the mudslide-hit area and retrieve historical imagery of the area.

As of 5:00 p.m. yesterday, the CNSA had delivered five pre-disaster images and 10 post-disaster images to relevant emergency response and disaster relief departments, providing timely and effective satellite data support for disaster assessment and mitigation efforts.

A large unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) Wing Loong took off from adjacent Sichuan Province and arrived over the disaster-hit area at 2 a.m. yesterday. Equipped with high-definition cameras for comprehensive

reconnaissance of the area, the UAV also carried mobile base stations from China's three major telecommunications operators and a satellite communication system to support emergency communications work.

Meanwhile, rescue personnel also used small UAVs in rescue operations. Using the high-definition cameras, the UAVs can help construct 3D real-scene models of the mudslide-hit area, providing data support for the rescue command center to understand the overall situation and mark priority search zones.

In addition, rescue personnel utilized UAVs' thermal imaging equipment to capture human heat-source signals, helping to identify the locations of missing persons in vegetated terrains and mud-covered zones.

The mudslide, which occurred on the Nepalese side, struck Gyirong border checkpoint in Gyirong County, Xizang, on Wednesday morning. – Xinhua, MPD

Premier Li arrives at mudslide-hit area in Xizang

GYIRONG, Xizang – Premier Li Qiang arrived at Gyirong Township in southwest China's Xizang Autonomous Region yesterday afternoon, after a massive mudslide hit the area Wednesday morning.

Li, also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, has been

entrusted by Xi Jinping, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, to lead a group of senior officials from relevant departments to the disaster-hit area.

They will supervise rescue and relief operations, and visit rescue and relief personnel and people affected by the disaster. – Xinhua

Nearly 100 Chinese nationals remain missing on Nepalese side due to mudslide: FM

BEIJING – Nearly 100 Chinese nationals remain missing on the Nepalese side after Wednesday's mudslide, foreign ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said at a regular press briefing yesterday.

The Chinese embassy in Nepal is further verifying the information with the Nepalese side, Lin said.

Lin made the remarks when answering a query about the mudslide that occurred on Wednesday in Nepal, which caused heavy casualties and left many missing at Gyirong checkpoint in Gyirong County, Rikaze City of southwest China's Xizang Autonomous Region.

Noting that the mudslide has caused massive casualties and left many missing in both China and Nepal, Lin said that the Chinese side extends heartfelt sympathies to the government of Nepal and all those hit by the disaster. He added that the two sides are having close communication and coordinating

efforts for the search and rescue, and the Chinese side is ready to provide emergency assistance in light of Nepal's need.

Lin said that according to the information released so far by the local Chinese authorities, a total of 260 foreign nationals remain unaccounted for in the affected areas, with more specifics pending further verification due to the conditions on the ground. He also said that for Chinese rescuers, all lives are precious, regardless of their nationalities, and the Chinese side is communicating with relevant foreign embassies in China to keep them updated.

The Chinese Embassy in Nepal has put out a safety alert. "Again we advise Chinese nationals there to move to safety and take precautions against secondary hazards. The Chinese Embassy in Nepal is available at all hours and will do its utmost to assist Chinese nationals in need," Lin said. – Xinhua, MPD

(More on page 9)



22

Congratulations on the
22nd anniversary of

The Macau Post Daily

海洋花園
金山發展有限公司
OCEAN GARDENS
GOLDEN CROWN DEVELOPMENT LTD.

地址：澳門氹仔海洋花園大馬路388號海洋大廈四樓
電話：2881 1234 傳真：2881 2228

Xi's SCO attendance, state visits to energize regional cooperation, global development

Analysis

BEIJING — From August 30 to September 3, President Xi Jinping will attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit 2026 in Bishkek and pay state visits to Kyrgyzstan and Egypt.

Amid an ever-evolving international landscape, Xi's upcoming trip is expected to foster collaboration among all parties to deepen practical cooperation. By pooling the strengths of the Global South, it is set to advance global governance reform, promote world peace and development, and facilitate the building of a community with a shared future for humanity.

CARRYING FORWARD 'SHANGHAI SPIRIT'

Rows of freight trains stand ready at the China-SCO Demonstration Area in Qingdao, Shandong Province, awaiting departure for Central Asia and Europe — a striking visual testament to the growing vitality of SCO cooperation.

Guided by the Shanghai Spirit of mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, consultation, respect for diverse civilizations and pursuit of common development, the SCO has expanded from six founding members to a 27-nation family. Demonstrating strong vitality and broad appeal, it has stood out as a model for a new type of international relations.

"Looking back, we have weathered the storms on our journey and emerged stronger because we have adhered to the Shanghai Spirit," Xi said in his speech at the 25th Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the SCO in north China's port city of Tianjin last year.

Xi has attended every SCO summit since 2013, steadily shaping the grouping's development along the way. He has repeatedly called for carrying forward the "Shanghai Spirit" and forging an even closer SCO community with a shared future.

At the SCO Astana summit in 2024, Xi called for building a common home featuring solidarity and mutual trust, peace and tranquility, prosperity and development, good-neighborliness and friendship, as well as fairness and justice.

To further unlock the organization's potential, Xi told fellow SCO leaders at the Tianjin summit to seek common ground while shelving differences, pursue mutual benefit and win-win results, champion openness and inclusiveness, uphold fairness and justice, and strive for real results and high efficiency.

Also at the Tianjin summit, the organization mapped out a strategic blueprint for its development over the next decade and ushered in a new stage of high-quality development. Over the past year, China has implemented the major initiatives proposed by Xi and contributed to regional development through concrete actions.

Seven cooperation platforms — covering green industry, digital economy, scientific and technological innovation, energy, higher education, vocational and technical education, and artificial intelligence — have been launched, generating more than 160 projects. Meanwhile, steady implementation of the action plan for high-quality development of economic and trade cooperation continues to drive trade growth between China and SCO member states.

In the process of building an SCO community with a shared future, China has been both an architect and a driving force, said Sayfiddin Juraev, a professor of political science at Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies.

It is also at the Tianjin summit that Xi proposed the Global Governance Initiative, a vision that has rallied broad support across the international community.

Xi's vision consistently shapes not only the SCO's current agenda but also its long-term operating strategy, Sheradil Baktygulov, director of the Kyrgyz Institute of World Politics, told Xinhua. "The SCO's values of peace, equality, and mutually beneficial cooperation are reaching the global level."

NEW CHAPTER OF PARTNERSHIP

China and Kyrgyzstan, linked by mountains and rivers and united by close bonds between their peoples, are good neighbors, good friends and good partners, said Xi during talks with Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov in Beijing on Feb. 5, 2025.

Last year marked a high point in China-Kyrgyzstan diplomacy, with the two leaders meeting three times. Key engagements also included their back-to-back meetings on the sidelines of the second China-Central Asia Summit in the Kazakh capital of Astana in June and the SCO summit in Tianjin in August.

Kyrgyzstan's most valuable advantage is that it is a neighbor of China, Japarov has said. Invoking the ancient Chinese proverb — "Amity and good-neighborliness are invaluable to a country" — he noted that the saying aptly captures the essence of Kyrgyzstan-China relations.

Since establishing diplomatic ties more than 30 years ago, China and Kyrgyzstan have been supporting each other amid shifting global dynamics.

In recent years, under the strategic guidance of the two heads of state, China and Kyrgyzstan have elevated their ties to a comprehensive strategic partnership for a new era in the spirit of solidarity and mutual benefit, and are working together to build a China-Kyrgyzstan community with a shared future featuring good-neighborliness, friendship, and shared prosperity.

Practical cooperation between the two countries is gaining strong momentum, as seen in the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway

project, with construction well underway.

In a congratulatory letter to the commencement ceremony of the project in December 2024, Xi said that the construction of the railway is a strategic decision made by the three governments to promote regional connectivity, prosperity and stability, which also reflects the shared aspiration of the three countries to open up this strategic corridor.

Located in Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan was among the first countries to actively participate in Belt and Road cooperation. Projects such as the Chinese-built new North-South highway and the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan highway enhanced regional connectivity and facilitated economic exchanges.

For years, China has been one of Kyrgyzstan's most important trade and investment partners, with two-way trade amounting to US\$27.2 billion in 2025, up 19.8 percent year on year.

From pure honey to fresh orchard fruit, high-quality Kyrgyz agricultural goods are becoming household favorites across China. Meanwhile, on the streets of Kyrgyzstan, sleek Chinese new-energy vehicles are quickly becoming a familiar sight.

At the Irkeshtam Port on the China-Kyrgyzstan border, 24-hour freight clearance operations have helped speed up the flow of goods, streamlining cross-border trade for businesses on both sides.

The port also serves as a key gateway for Chinese exports, ranging from machinery to home appliances, as they travel onward to markets across Central Asia and Europe.

The bond between China and Kyrgyzstan runs deeper than trade — it is also reflected in the growing exchange between their peoples.

In Bishkek, the Luban Workshop is helping train a new generation of skilled professionals. Its curriculum

standards in areas such as smart water management and electrical equipment have been incorporated into Kyrgyzstan's national education system.

The two countries have also maintained close coordination on the international stage, working together within multilateral platforms such as the United Nations and the China-Central Asia mechanism.

"We are witnessing one of the most meaningful and fruitful periods in the history of Kyrgyz-Chinese bilateral relations," said former Kyrgyz Foreign Minister Alikbek Jekshenkulov. Xi's upcoming visit will represent not only another milestone, but also an opportunity to elevate bilateral ties to a new level, he added.

A MODEL OF FRIENDSHIP

Since the establishment of diplomatic ties in 1956, China and Egypt have worked together to deepen their relationship, and strengthen friendship, solidarity and mutually beneficial cooperation.

"China-Egypt relations have become a model of amity, solidarity and cooperation among developing countries, as well as a benchmark for collective cooperation between China and Arab states and between China and Africa, thereby advancing steadily toward building a China-Egypt community with a shared future in the new era," Xi said on May 30 in a congratulatory message to Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi on the 70th anniversary of diplomatic ties.

Strong political trust and close engagement between the two leaders have been instrumental in driving bilateral ties. For over a decade, Xi and Sisi have met more than 10 times, providing strategic guidance for the continued expansion of bilateral cooperation.

In 2014, the two countries elevated their relationship

to a comprehensive strategic partnership. In 2016, Xi paid a state visit to Egypt. In 2024, Egypt became the first Arab country to include the goal of building a community with a shared future in a bilateral joint statement.

A major symbol of this partnership is the China-Egypt Suez Economic and Trade Cooperation Zone. In January 2016, Xi and Sisi jointly inaugurated the second phase of the zone; it has since developed into a flagship project of China-Egypt industrial cooperation.

By the end of June this year, the zone had attracted more than 200 companies, brought in over US\$4.7 billion in investment, created more than 10,000 direct jobs and supported tens of thousands of additional job opportunities.

Beyond economic cooperation, cultural exchanges have brought the two peoples ever closer together. Chinese language education has been introduced into Egypt's national education system, while growing interest in Chinese culture has encouraged more Egyptians to explore China.

The exchange runs both ways: the Grand Egyptian Museum has become a magnet for Chinese tourists, while the Shanghai Museum's exhibition on ancient Egyptian civilization gave Chinese audiences a closer look at Egypt's rich cultural heritage in return.

Egypt and China have developed a partnership rooted in mutual trust and understanding with remarkable resilience and vast potential for further development, said Osama El-Gohary, assistant to the Prime Minister of Egypt and chairman of the Information and Decision Support Center.

Under the guidance of the two heads of state, Egypt-China ties are poised to reach new heights, delivering greater benefits to both peoples and contributing to global development, he said. — Xinhua



An aerial drone photo taken yesterday shows the Suihuonan Railway Station of the Harbin-Yichun high-speed railway, in Suihua, Heilongjiang Province. Construction of the 318-km Harbin-Yichun high-speed railway is underway. Upon completion, the railway travel time between Harbin and Yichun is expected to be shortened to about 2 hours. — Xinhua

Clashes as Indonesian protesters demand harsher punishment for graft

Dessy Sagita

JAKARTA – Protesters in Indonesia clashed with police yesterday as thousands marched on parliament to demand harsher penalties for corrupt officials in a country historically blighted by graft in its public and private sectors.

As night fell, with most protesters dispersed, violence broke out as demonstrators hurled projectiles at police who fired tear gas and turned a water cannon on the group.

An AFP reporter saw protesters set fire to a police booth and motorcycle, with several people carried away on stretchers.

Riot police managed earlier to keep protesters outside the closed gates of the legislature, where they paraded a metres-long flag in the red-and-white national colours and hung a banner reading: “The corrupt get rich while the people suffer.”

Protesters, several donning motorcycle helmets and wearing masks or bandannas tied over their faces, tried fruitlessly to break down the gate to the parliament building, while others threw trash and objects over it.

Outside the gate, some tended to burning trash tyres on the street.

Jakarta police said earlier it had deployed 18,500 officers to secure the streets of the capital as public anger rises over economic hardship and growing inequality.

“What we need is for the government to wake up,” demonstrator Dian Purnomo, a 50-year-old author, told AFP.

“They must provide what the people need, not force programmes we all know will only benefit them.”

Another protester, 41-year-old motorcycle taxi driver Asep, said he was wanted labour protections and “the forfeiture of the assets of corrupt officials, the death penalty for corrupt officials.”



Representative of the protesters Supriyono, also known as Botok, attends a meeting to voice grievances to the Deputy Speakers of the Indonesian House of Representatives at the House of Representatives building in Jakarta yesterday, following a demonstration urging lawmakers to immediately pass an asset forfeiture law for corruptors. – AFP

The demonstrators are pushing for parliament to pass a bill, which has been before it since 2008, to allow for the seizure of the assets of corrupt officials – for whom some at yesterday’s rally want the death penalty.

They also demand an end to the government’s costly free school meals programme – a signature project of President Prabowo Subianto that has been mired in allegations of graft and marred by mass food poisonings.

“In the past year, things have been getting worse,” author Dian said.

“Corruption is rampant... nobody is stopping it. No matter how much people

protest, the free meals scheme keeps going.”

‘Provocateurs’

Yesterday’s protest came a year after nationwide demonstrations erupted into riots in which a dozen people were killed and thousands arrested.

Indonesia’s biggest unrest since Prabowo

took office in 2024 came August and September last year, sparked by anger over lavish perks for lawmakers that morphed into general anti-government anger.

“Nothing has changed since August last year. I don’t know any more what to do with this parliament,” said protester Axonzer, a university student who like many Indonesians, has one name.

“We’ve done peaceful protests, there have been riots. What more do we have to do? Our demands from last year came to nothing,” he said.

Jakarta police said they had detained 65 people ahead of yesterday’s march on suspicion of being “provocateurs”.

Some allegedly had Molotov cocktails.

Most protesters dispersed peacefully in the early evening.

Southeast Asia’s biggest economy has long battled corruption despite strengthening anti-graft laws, creating special investigative commissions and nabbing several high-profile suspects.

Indonesia scored a low 34 out of 100 on watchdog Transparency International’s Corruption Perceptions Index for 2025.

Graft has been a rallying cry for protesters angry about rising living costs as Indonesia and the region reeled from higher oil prices caused by the Middle East war.

Protests erupted in several cities in June after the government hiked the price of non-subsidised gasoline by a third to alleviate budget pressures.

– AFP

Japan to survey animal cafes over hygiene, welfare concerns

TOKYO – Japan plans to probe popular animal cafes, where visitors can interact with anything from cats to capybaras, following concerns about hygiene and the creatures’ welfare, authorities said yesterday.

Japan has hundreds of the cafes where campaigners say animals are sometimes kept in cramped spaces, and that their popularity encourages the capture and illegal trade of rare wildlife.

A fact-finding survey will begin as early as next month, starting with obtaining basic facts such like the number of establishments and what animals they keep, an environment ministry official told AFP.

The ministry will examine whether they comply with relevant laws, including whether animals have enough space and how often cleaning takes place, said the official, without wishing to be named.

“We may then do on-site inspections if we find facilities that appear to be breaching rules” stipulated by the animal welfare law, he said.

The decision to launch the survey followed recommendations by members of an expert panel about animal welfare.

Animal welfare groups have long been alarmed by the cafes, where visitors can pet and play with a dizzying array of animals including micro-pigs, hedgehogs, owls and snakes.

A 2025 survey by World Wide Fund for Nature Japan said that some kept endangered species listed on the Red List of the International Union for Conservation.

They also included species covered by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, which regulates international trade in wildlife.

Some shops had inadequate hygiene management without nudging users to handwash after contact with animals, and its “microbiological testing detected pathogenic bacteria in multiple facilities”, the report said.

“Whether the animals are otters, capybaras, raccoons, owls, reptiles, or other wild species, these businesses are built around close encounters that prioritise customer entertainment over the animals’ needs,” said Laila Imai, campaign coordinator in Asia of animal welfare group PETA.

“Many are subjected to constant handling, noise, flashing cameras, and interactions with strangers throughout the day,” Imai said.

“What may appear charming to visitors can be stressful and unnatural for the animals forced to live that way.”

Some animal cafes act as adoption centres, helping to find new homes for rescued cats and dogs.

– AFP

Congratulations on the 22nd Anniversary of The Macau Post Daily



Nepal-Tibet disaster: what we know

KATHMANDU – Catastrophic flooding and landslides on the Nepal-Tibet border unleashed waves of water and debris that killed more than 360 people and left more than 1,400 missing.

Here is what we know so far:

What happened?

The exact sequence of events is still unclear, but on Wednesday morning, a tsunami-like wall of freezing water and mud wiped out towns under a torrent of sludge, engulfing homes, smashing bridges and dams, and sweeping vehicles away like toys on both sides of the border.

It gouged a path nearly 170 kilometres through Nepal, experts said, hitting villages and towns on the path of two rivers – Bhote Koshi and Trishuli.

Surveillance footage from the Chinese side showed a wall of mud and water crashing over a building as terrified people ran.

Emergency teams are racing to pluck survivors from affected zones, while Nepali soldiers used sniffer dogs and heavy equipment to search for bodies buried under the suffocating dirt.

Hundreds missing, many dead

At least 362 people have been reported dead, 359 of them in Nepal and three at a Tibet border hub. Their nationalities have not yet been confirmed.

Nepal's disaster agency said 910 people were unaccounted for yesterday, including at least 517 foreigners. Its tourism board put the number of missing tourists, both Nepali and foreign, at 667 in total.

Chinese authorities have said the disaster caused "major casualties" and reported another 558 missing – 260 of whom are foreigners.

In addition to Chinese and Nepalis, the missing include Indians, Americans, Malaysians, Europeans, Australians, Ukrainians and many more.

Some 77 pilgrims from across the world were at the Nepal-China border immigration office when the flood hit on Wednesday, popular Indian spiritual leader Sadhguru said.



Rescue workers rescue stranded residents from a house buried in sludge after flash floods at Trishuli in Nepal's Nuwakot district yesterday. – AFP

Aid

Promises of aid and assistance came in soon after reports of the scale of the disaster.

UN relief chief Tom Fletcher said yesterday he had allocated US\$2 million "to save lives with emergency medical care, shelter, water".

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has sent medical kits to provide basic health services to 10,000 people for three months, while the World Food Programme and UN children's fund are readying relief supplies.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) said it had allocated more than US\$1 million.

"Many families have lost their homes," the IFRC's chief in Nepal, David Fisher, told AFP, adding that whole settlements had been "wiped out".

Britain's King Charles said he was "heartbroken" by the tragedy as the UK government offered US\$6.8 million in aid.

The European Union said it had activated its Copernicus satellite surveillance system to aid recovery efforts and was ready to provide more help.

Neighbouring India sent a military cargo plane with aid hours after the disaster, with further planes flying in nearly 50 tonnes of supplies.

Delhi was also sending in steel Bailey bridges.

Bangladesh said it was sending tents, mosquito nets, food and body bags, according to a government statement.

Japan was sending an emergency response team, while Switzerland has said it had allocated more than US\$600,000.

The United States has pledged US\$500,000.

Cause

While the explanation for the calamity has evolved since it struck, it appears linked to a collapsing glacier.

Within hours of the flooding, Nepal's authorities said an earthquake likely triggered a landslide, in turn blocking a river and sending water gushing downstream.

China also reported a landslide, saying a border hub between Tibet and Nepal had been hit by a surge of debris.

The Nepali authorities' explanation aligned with a US Geological Survey report of a quake in Tibet that was north of the disaster zone.

However, USGS subsequently updated its conclusion to say the seismic activity initially reported as a quake "was instead a glacial collapse and debris flow" that "caused subsequent catastrophic impacts downstream".

"Additional analysis of nearby seismic stations, long period seismic waves, and satellite imagery led to the determination that the seismic event was instead a glacial collapse and debris flow, and that no earthquake had occurred."

Fears of more potential floods remain, with water trapped by the immense piles of debris blocking the valley. – AFP

N Korea vows 'powerful response' after US approves arms sales to South

SEOUL – North Korea condemned yesterday US plans to supply Seoul with tactical missiles and fund human rights monitoring projects, vowing a "powerful response" to what Pyongyang described as Washington's hostility towards it.

The US Department of State said last Friday it had approved the possible sale of AIM-9X Sidewinder Block II missiles and related equipment to South Korea at an estimated total cost of US\$125 million.

Pyongyang's foreign ministry spokesperson, in a statement carried by the official Korean Central News Agency, said that "we cannot overlook the adverse effect of the US sale of its weapons to the ROK on the regional security environment", referring to South Korea.

The statement also criticised Washington's plans to provide millions of dollars for programmes related to human rights and the flow of information into North Korea.

The Department of State's

Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor announced last week an open competition for organisations to document rights abuses in North Korea to "challenge the DPRK's information monopoly", it said, referring to Pyongyang.

The North's foreign ministry denounced "the persistence and sequence of the US hostile moves", describing the latest measures as security threats that seek to "create instability in the social system of our state".

North Korea "will make a serious, immediate and powerful response to the hostile acts", the statement said.

US President Donald Trump has recently made a series of overtures to Pyongyang, including scaling back joint military drills with South Korea, but has so far received a cool response.

The two Koreas remain technically at war because their 1950-53 war, triggered by a North Korean attack, ended with an armistice rather than a peace treaty. – AFP

HRW slams 'ruthless' Taliban govt as new law bans protest

KABUL – Human Rights Watch slammed yesterday the "ruthless effort to suppress all dissent" by the Taliban government, after a new police law banned demonstrations across Afghanistan.

The 84-page legislation published by the justice ministry outlines a series of changes to law enforcement nationwide, including the rule that "all types of protests are banned".

Elaine Pearson, Asia director for Human Rights Watch, said the measure is "another step in the Taliban's ruthless effort to suppress all dissent".

"The Taliban authorities fear any dissent and so they are escalating their repression," she said in a statement to AFP.

The Afghan government did not respond to AFP's requests for comment on protests being outlawed through the legislation, which was made public this month.

Demonstrations have been rare during the Taliban administration's

five years in power. At least two people were killed in June when security forces allegedly opened fire at a women's rights protest in the western city of Herat, a group of UN experts said.

Amnesty International described the police law as "another sweeping assault on human rights in Afghanistan", with the protest ban "among its most egregious provisions".

The new law also extends detention without charge from three days to 10, or even longer by court order.

This month, the intelligence agency detained two UN employees for 11 days without giving a reason.

In a country where corporal punishment is used for a range of crimes, the police legislation tells officers they cannot hit prisoners with weapons such as sticks or wires without a court order.

They can, however, use force to get a suspect to repent, and are also allowed to use anger, according to the legislation. – AFP

US aircraft carrier in row over conditions to stop in Thailand: official

BANGKOK – Sailors from a US aircraft carrier at the centre of a political row over conditions onboard will stop in Thailand for rest and recreation, a Thai Navy spokesman said yesterday.

The USS Abraham Lincoln carrying 5,000 sailors and marines has been at sea since November 2025 and has in recent months been deployed in the Middle East during the US-Israeli war on Iran.

Concerns about deteriorating living conditions and poor mental health onboard – including media reports of two attempted suicides – has prompted questions from

US lawmakers.

Paraj Ratanajaiapan, spokesman for the Royal Thai Navy, confirmed to AFP that US sailors will be arriving in the resort of Pattaya, south of Bangkok, for "rest and recreation".

He would not deny or confirm local media reports that the aircraft carrier would be arriving between September 2 and 6.

Pattaya Mayor Poramase Ngampiches told local media the visiting sailors could generate an estimated 5–15 million baht (US\$150,000-US\$450,000) in tourism revenue, based on expected spending per person.

Once a sleepy fishing village, Pattaya was transformed by the Vietnam War in the 1960s, when American soldiers on leave began coming for rest and recreation.

It has since become hugely popular with foreign tourists, known for its beaches and a nightlife scene that has long drawn scrutiny over sex tourism.

US President Donald Trump has dismissed concerns about the Abraham Lincoln and rejected suggestions it had been deployed for too long.

But he confirmed another carrier would swap out with the Lincoln in the Middle East. – AFP



Lim Sang-woo (centre), the Foreign Ministry's representative for overseas Korean protection and consular affairs, speaks to reporters as South Korean government's response team including firefighters and police officers leave for Nepal, where nine Korean hydropower workers remain unreachable following flash floods, at Incheon International Airport, west of Seoul, yesterday. – AFP

Canada 'welcomes' US stance on language, exempts seafood from tariffs

MONTREAL – Canada's top negotiator in US trade talks sounded a positive note yesterday on Washington's position regarding French language and Canadian culture, as Ottawa separately exempted seafood products from planned counter-tariffs.

"Canada welcomes that the US is now withdrawing its positions on discoverability and labelling and is confirming that measures to promote French language and Canadian culture will not be subject to future US trade actions," said Ottawa's minister in charge of US-Canada trade Dominic LeBlanc.

He added on X that Canada awaits "further constructive US clarifications on their other positions" that would allow negotiations to resume and move towards a possible deal.

His comments came shortly after the Canadian government announced plans for retaliatory duties on US goods, set between 15 percent and 50 percent.

These are scheduled to take effect September 8 and broadly mirror President Donald Trump's 50-percent duties on C\$27.6 billion (US\$20 billion) in Canadian goods, which came into place on Saturday.

Trade talks collapsed at the eleventh hour on Friday, with Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney saying US negotiators sought restrictions on his country's trade pacts with other nations.

US officials made unacceptable "threats" to the French language and "Quebec culture" too, he added, referring to eastern Canada's French-speaking province.

LeBlanc's comments came after Trump's

top trade official Jamieson Greer told Canadian public broadcaster CBC that the issue of discoverability – how easy it is to find something online – of French content on streaming services had been flagged by the White House, though not as a dealbreaker.

Greer said the US government is aware that French language protections are "quite sensitive and quite important."

"There is no way we would let a good deal go by for something like this," Greer said. "This is not something where we push hard, or condition, or red-line."

The White House had alleged "discriminatory treatment" by Canada against US alcohol, automobile and dairy products in rolling out its latest tariffs.

Canada's retaliatory measures are set to impact industrial and consumer products,

such as railway construction materials and dishwashers.

But late Wednesday, Canada's Department of Finance said it was exempting fish and other seafood products, in adjustments made "based on feedback."

"We are continually working with Canadian industries to assess the effectiveness of these measures, with a primary focus on industries that have been targeted by US tariffs," the department added.

Canadian duties on imported American seafood could have hit states like Alaska and Maine ahead of key US midterm elections in November.

Already, US voters are reeling from higher gasoline costs due to war in the Middle East, while Trump's tariffs filter through the economy. – AFP

Alleged 9/11 mastermind to go on trial in June 2028



This handout photo obtained March 1, 2003, shows, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, alleged organiser of the September 11, 2001, attacks, shortly after his capture by US and Pakistani forces in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, earlier that day. – AFP

Chris Lefkow

WASHINGTON, DC – Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the alleged mastermind of the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States, will go on trial before a US military court in June 2028, an official said yesterday.

The long-awaited trial of Mohammed and three other accused 9/11 plotters is scheduled to begin on June 5, 2028 at the US naval base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, a court spokesman said.

Prosecutors had requested a January 2027 date for the trial of Mohammed, Walid bin Attash, Ali Abdul Aziz Ali and Mustafa Ahmed al-Hawsawi but the presiding military judge said more time was needed to resolve pretrial disputes.

Mohammed, also known as "KSM," was considered one of Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden's top lieutenants before he was captured in March 2003 in Pakistan.

He was held in secret CIA facilities for three years before arriving at the military prison in Guantanamo Bay in 2006.

Mohammed's trial has been repeatedly delayed and a plea deal that would have seen the death penalty taken off the table was withdrawn last year following protests from the relatives of some victims of the 9/11 attacks on New York and Washington.

Much of the legal jousting in the 9/11

defendants' cases has focused on whether they could be tried fairly after having undergone torture at the hands of the CIA.

A trained engineer, Mohammed has said he masterminded the 9/11 attacks "from A to Z" and has claimed involvement in a string of other plots against the United States, where he attended university.

His deadliest was the 9/11 operation, which saw nearly 3,000 people killed after hijacked planes rammed into the Twin Towers in New York and the Pentagon in Washington, with another crashing in a Pennsylvania field.

Mohammed, born in Kuwait to parents from Pakistan, also claims to have helped in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing that killed six people and to have personally beheaded US journalist Daniel Pearl in 2002.

The United States uses Guantánamo in Cuba, an isolated naval base, to hold militants captured during the "War on Terror" that followed the 9/11 attacks in a bid to keep the defendants from claiming rights under US law.

The facility held roughly 800 prisoners at its peak, but they have since slowly been sent to other countries. A small fraction of that number remains.

– AFP

Israeli minister sets out plan to 'Judaize' Arab population centres

JERUSALEM – Israel's far-right finance minister yesterday laid out his party's plan to dramatically increase the number of Jews living in two areas of the country with large Arab-Israeli populations.

With elections approaching, Bezalel Smotrich said the plan would emulate what he termed the "revolution" in the occupied West Bank, where the construction of Israeli settlements has soared in recent years.

"Today I present to you the Religious Zionism's plan for the Judaisation of the Negev and Galilee: the revolution we carried out in Judea and Samaria – we will carry out in the Negev and Galilee, and on a massive scale," he wrote on X, using the Biblical name for the West Bank.

His party posted an AI-generated video on X showing two Arab men shouting and crying about the proposed plan.

The Negev, in the south of Israel, and the Galilee, in the north, are regions with large Arab-Israeli populations.

Most of Israel's Arab minority identify as Palestinian and either remained or are the descendants of those who remained in what is now Israel after its creation in 1948. They represent about 21 percent of the country's

10.2 million inhabitants.

Smotrich said the goal was "one million additional Jews in the Negev and Galilee, 40 new communities, dozens of farms, expansion of existing communities, and hundreds of thousands of housing units."

"We will cancel the reckless plans in Arab communities, which have taken over land reserves and threaten Jewish settlement in the area," he added.

Smotrich vowed the establishment of industrial and employment zones and said his party would demand the next government "remove barriers and place Zionist professionals in key positions".

Israel is heading towards tight elections to be held on October 27, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu facing an uphill battle.

According to current polling, Smotrich's party, which is a member of Netanyahu's coalition, is just on the cusp of reaching the electoral threshold needed to enter the next parliament.

Israel has since 1967 occupied the West Bank, where more than 500,000 Israelis live in settlements which are illegal under international law. The territory is home to about three million Palestinians. – AFP

Unpaid work in Cabo Verde estimated at 9.6 pct of GDP

PRAIA – Unpaid work in Cabo Verde has an estimated economic value equivalent to 9.6 percent of the country's GDP and continues to be disproportionately undertaken by women, according to a report presented this week by the Cabo Verdean Institute for Gender Equality and Equity (ICIEG).

The Tuesday report shows that 88.4 percent of women aged 10 and above engage in unpaid work, compared with 67.9 percent of men. In care work involving children, the elderly and people with disabilities, the participation rate stands at 36 percent among women and 18.8 percent among men.

David Matern, Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Cabo Verde, said that if such work were included in national economic accounts, its economic value would amount to approximately 9.6 percent of GDP.

Matern stressed that domestic and care work constitutes an "economy" that takes place every day in households and communities, but "remains practically invisible in national accounts."

According to ICIEG President Marisa Carvalho, the overall volume of unpaid work has decreased by more than 50 percent compared with 2012, but the difference between women and men in performing this work remains above 20 percentage points.

Adelsia Almeida, Minister of Family, Inclusion, Social Development and Labor, said the figures show that care constitutes a "true economic asset" of the country, adding that the government intends to progressively strengthen the National Care Policy by expanding services such as childcare centers, home-based support, day centers for the elderly and services for people with disabilities.

– Xinhua, MPD

Clashes in Ceuta month after mass migrant influx

António Sempere and Diego Urdaneta

CEUTA – Protests over security in Spain’s North African exclave of Ceuta escalated into violent clashes with the Spanish military yesterday, a month after a mass influx of migrants from Morocco.

Residents of Ceuta, which is just 18 square kilometres in size, have held several demonstrations over what they say are security and hygiene problems linked to the influx.

The latest demonstration drew thousands of people late Wednesday and ended in clashes after police fired tear gas to prevent confrontations with migrants camping on a beach, according to Spanish media reports.

Hours later, in the early hours yesterday (local time), a military vehicle carrying four soldiers was “ambushed” by about 70 migrants, who attacked it with stones and other objects, a police spokesman in Ceuta told AFP.

The soldiers fled and called for police assistance. Police detained 12 migrants, all Moroccan, the spokesman said.

One soldier suffered minor injuries after being struck by a stone. The motive for the attack was not immediately clear.

“The tension in the city of Ceuta is very high” because there is “no response” from the [central] government [in Madrid] and “we feel abandoned,” Kissy Chandiramani, the autonomous city’s finance councillor, told news radio SER Thursday.

But she also appealed for calm, saying people had the right to protest but warning that growing hostility would not resolve the crisis.

Working ‘without rest’

More than 70,000 migrants entered Ceuta



Mourners pray during last Saturday’s burial in Ceuta of some of the unidentified migrants who drowned while trying to swim to the Spanish exclave from the Moroccan coast. – AFP

in late July, swimming or crossing on foot from neighbouring Morocco in a chaotic influx that left scores dead and fuelled fresh tensions within the European Union over migration.

Although the vast majority returned to Morocco immediately afterward, thousands remain in the territory, many living rough on the streets.

Spain’s left-wing government puts the figure at between 3,500 and 7,000, while Ceuta’s right-wing leaders say it is at least 10,000.

Some Ceuta residents have told Spanish media they are afraid to walk alone on the

streets or do not let their children leave their homes.

Justice Minister Felix Bolanos appealed for calm, telling lawmakers in Madrid that authorities were working “without rest” to restore normality to the territory.

Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez has faced mounting criticism from Ceuta’s authorities and residents, who say Madrid reacted too slowly to the mass arrival.

The government has in recent days moved to expand shelter for migrants and speed up efforts to determine who can be returned to Morocco.

‘Worsening every day’

The Interior Ministry said yesterday it would send additional personnel to help identify migrants, while the government approved 25 million euros (US\$29 million) in additional funding to help care for unaccompanied minors, who are entitled to special legal protections.

To speed up the response, Spain’s Cabinet on Tuesday approved the creation of a “single command” for Ceuta, to be led by Territorial Policy Minister Angel Victor Torres.

The crisis has also intensified Spain’s political divisions ahead of a general election expected next year, with conservative and far-right opposition parties calling for the return of all migrants.

But the government has warned that each individual must be identified to determine whether they are entitled to asylum or subject to deportation, while thousands of minors require special protection.

“I understand that there are people who say they should be returned now,” Torres said Wednesday during a visit to Ceuta. “But we have to do it respecting the law.”

Sánchez has also come under fire for going ahead with his summer vacation while the crisis festered, and convening his national security council to discuss the situation only after he returned earlier this week.

“People in Ceuta have been putting up with this alone for a month,” the head of the main opposition People’s Party (PP), Alberto Núñez Feijóo, wrote on X on Thursday.

“Nothing was done to prevent the invasion ... and nothing is being done to stop the public-order crisis that is worsening every day,” he added.

– AFP

Portugal starts 2026-27 flu, COVID-19 jab campaign

LISBON – Portugal has started the 2026-27 autumn-winter vaccination campaign for seasonal flu and COVID-19 diseases with an official incentive of 3.15 euros (US\$3.69) for each vaccine administered.

According to a decree published in Portugal’s Official Gazette, community pharmacies can participate in the campaign with a budgetary impact of up to 7.6 million euros.

The campaign started on Tuesday.

Citing experience from the 2024-25 and 2025-26 periods, the Health Ministry said such seasonal campaigns had “demonstrated relevant benefits for the protection of public health and for the response capacity of the health system.”

The Central Administration of the Health System will finance the campaigns by transferring the funds to local health units, which will be responsible for paying participating pharmacies.

This decentralized vaccination model combines pharmacies with primary healthcare facilities operated by the National Health Service, expanding the number of locations where people can receive seasonal vaccines.

The previous seasonal campaign in Portugal ran from Sept. 23, 2025 to April 30, 2026. It involved about 3,500 vaccination sites, including 2,585 community pharmacies and around 1,000 primary healthcare units.

During that campaign, pharmacies administered more than 1.1 million flu vaccine doses and about 631,000 COVID-19 vaccine doses.

The government said continuing the model stems from its assessment that expanding vaccination access through community pharmacies can strengthen the country’s capacity to deliver seasonal immunization while maintaining the role of the public healthcare system.

– Xinhua

6 killed, 5 injured in road accident in Mozambique

MAPUTO – Six people were killed and five others injured in a road accident in Nacala-a-Velha district, Mozambique’s northern Nampula Province, local media reported this week.

The accident occurred last Sunday afternoon near a dam in Nacala-a-Velha, when a passenger vehicle traveling from Monapo district to the port city of Nacala swerved into the opposite lane to avoid potholes and collided with an oncoming truck.

Six people were killed at the scene, while five others sustained injuries ranging from serious to minor and were taken to the district hospital for treatment.

Both vehicles were damaged in the collision, with one of them wrecked.

According to local media, this was the second road accident recorded at the same location this year, while dozens of accidents have occurred along the Nacala Port-Nampula road section.

– Xinhua

Unemployment reaches new lows in Brazil ahead of polls

BRASÍLIA – Brazil’s unemployment rate extended its steady decline, official data showed yesterday, in welcome news for President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva as he seeks re-election in October.

Latin America’s largest economy recorded an unemployment rate of 5.3 percent between May and July, the lowest for the quarter since the IBGE statistics agency adopted its current method of calculation in 2012.

This is down from 5.6 percent during the same period last year.

A record number of 103.3 million Brazilians are employed in a country of 213 million inhabitants.

However, 37.5 percent of these workers are in informal employment.

The low unemployment rate is one of the achievements touted by Lula, 80, who is seeking a fourth non-consecutive term in office.

Opinion polls show him with a narrow lead over his rival, the senator Flavio Bolsonaro, who is the son of far-right former president Jair Bolsonaro.

– AFP

Equatorial Guinea offers Cubans asylum after US deportation

MALABO – Four Cubans are among a group of people recently deported from the United States to Equatorial Guinea, which has offered asylum to the nationals from the Caribbean island, a lawyer confirmed yesterday.

Vice-President Teodoro Nguema Obiang Mangue said on X on Monday that Cubans deported to the country under the migration agreement with the United States would be granted “the possibility of requesting protection”.

A lawyer close to the case told AFP that four Cubans were deported to Malabo on August 20, along with a

Brazilian and around a dozen nationals from African countries including Nigeria and Cameroon.

Equatorial Guinea, an oil-producing central African state, has become a key transit point under US President Donald Trump’s migration crackdown policy.

Since November 2025, Washington has deported at least 60 people there, most of them Africans.

Around 40 of them are still being held in a hotel, while Equatorial Guinea has deported the others to their countries of origin or to other states.

– AFP

Czech duo Muchova & Mensik win US Open mixed doubles title

us open NEW YORK – The Czech team of Karolina Muchova and Jakub Mensik won the US Open mixed doubles Wednesday, saving two match points in a nervy semi-final and then pulling through in a tight final.

The pair survived a second-set pummelling in the championship decider in New York to edge Belinda Bencic of Switzerland and Flavio Cobolli of Italy, 6-3, 1-6, 10-6.

Mensik, a singles semi-finalist at this year's French Open, sealed the triumph with a searing ace to the backhand corner.

Another Mensik ace saved one of two match points earlier in the evening when the Czech pair edged the Russians Mirra Andreeva and Andrey Rublev, 5-4, 3-5, 11-9.

The back-to-back wins secured the first Grand Slam title for both Mensik and Muchova, who lost a heartbreaking Wimbledon singles final in July in three sets to fellow Czech, Linda Noskova.

"At the end and the matching outfits made the difference for us," Muchova quipped during the trophy presentation, referencing the white and maroon kit worn by the team.

The mixed doubles event is in its second year with a convention-



Czech Republic's Jakub Mensik and Czech Republic's Karolina Muchova hold up the trophy after they beat Switzerland's Belinda Bencic and Italy's Flavio Cobolli in the mixed doubles final of the 2026 US Open tennis tournament at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in New York on Wednesday. — AFP

busting format which features shortened sets and multiple matches played the same day.

The competition is scheduled before the main US Open to attract singles stars who usually avoid Grand Slam doubles events to conserve energy for the concluding matches of the biggest events.

The tournament's star teams - the cross-generational partnership of Serena Williams and Carlos Alcaraz and Novak Djokovic and Aryna Sabalenka - did not make it through the event's preliminary rounds.

That left open a Grand Slam opportunity for some of the game's most accomplished non-household names to nab a precious major title, resulting two semifinals and a final that all went the distance.

Earlier, Cobolli and Bencic beat the married team of Elina Svitolina of Ukraine and Gael Monfils of France in a hard-fought marathon, 4-5, 4-1, 10-5.

The result ended the prospects for a fairytale finale to the career of the acrobatic Monfils, who has said 2026 will be his last season. — AFP

'Smart cricketer' Dinusha helps Sri Lanka draw 2nd India Test

Cricket

COLOMBO - Sonal Dinusha hit an unbeaten 133 as Sri Lanka staged a stunning comeback to draw the second Test against India in Colombo yesterday.

Sri Lanka declared their second innings on 429-9 in the final session on day five after being made to follow on and the teams then shook hands before the 15 mandatory overs began.

India won the opening Test and claimed the two-match series 1-0.

"I don't think we could have done anything differently," said India skipper Shubman Gill. "A lot of positives for us, learning from the opposition. The way they came back, it was tremendous to see."

Gill acknowledged a "brilliant game", saying "Test cricket won today".

Sri Lanka, who resumed on 229-6, extended their lead to 216 runs, the left-handed Dinusha standing out with twin centuries in the match after his 103 in the first innings.

Dinusha, 25, batted superbly under pressure in just his fifth Test to be named player of the match after he made sure Sri Lanka picked up valuable points in the World Test Championship.

"He is a smart cricketer, this innings today would go down in history in Sri Lankan cricket as one of the greatest match-saving knocks," Sri Lanka coach Gary Kirsten told reporters. "It was great to watch."

Dinusha became only the eighth Sri Lankan to score hundreds in both innings of a Test, joining an exclusive list including Duleep Mendis, Asanka Gurusinha, Aravinda de Silva, T.M. Dilshan, Kumar

Sangakkara, Kamindu Mendis and Dhananjaya de Silva.

Finding talent

The match-saving hundred was Dinusha's third in Test cricket and also his career-best score.

Dinusha, who made 100 and 84 in the opening Test in Galle, amassed an impressive 420 runs in the series.

Indian batter Devdutt Padikkal was named player of the series for his 328 runs, including centuries in both matches.

India had looked favourites to wrap up the Test until day four, but overnight batters Dinusha and Keshara Nuwantha (46) put on 112 runs for the seventh wicket to turn the match on its head.

"It's all about finding the talent," said de Silva, the Sri Lanka skipper. "I think the selectors and coach gave me that opportunity to get the youngsters in and let them really go there and do the job for the country."

Left-arm spinner Manav Suthar broke the stand in the first over after lunch to have Nuwantha caught at second slip following a wicketless first session.

Veteran spinner Ravindra Jadeja then had Prabath Jayasuriya out for two but Dinusha kept up the fight with the lower-order.

India, who posted 503-9 declared in their first innings, enforced the follow-on after they bowled out Sri Lanka out for 290.

The hosts were in trouble at 218-6 in their second innings before Dinusha and Nuwantha ground their way towards a draw.

India stay fifth in the WTC standings, with Sri Lanka sixth.

— AFP

Ex-champ Wawrinka gets last-minute wildcard to US Open



NEW YORK - Switzerland's Stan Wawrinka has been granted a last-minute wildcard to compete in US Open singles next week, organizers announced Wednesday, following controversy over the 2016 champion's omission.

The US Tennis Association announced Wawrinka, a three-time singles Grand Slam winner, would replace Patrick Kypson. Kypson was originally awarded the spot, but withdrew with injury, the USTA said.

"I'm incredibly excited to accept the wild card for the 2026 US Open and look forward to

competing in front of the fans in New York once again," Wawrinka said in a USTA press release.

The omission of Wawrinka, 41, from the original list of wildcards has been a bubbling controversy within tennis since the USTA announced its picks last week.

Wawrinka, who has said he will retire after this season, opened the 2026 Grand Slam campaign solidly, winning two rounds at the Australian Open before losing in four sets to Taylor Fritz, a top US player.

Wawrinka lost in the first round of both the French Open and Wimbledon and has struggled to amass

main tour wins in recent months.

But at number 127, Wawrinka is not far from the cutoff to merit direct entry.

Furthermore, he was the only other player besides Andy Murray to win multiple Grand Slams in a period dominated by Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic.

The original snub had sparked criticism from pundits and former players such as 2003 US Open Champion Andy Roddick, with many questioning the USTA's system for doling out slots for players who don't qualify by ranking. — AFP



Team Ducati Lenovo Team's Marc Marquez (right) and Team Aprilia Racing's Jorge Martin attend a press conference at the Motorland circuit in Alcaniz, northeastern Spain, on the eve of the Moto GP Aragon Grand Prix yesterday. — AFP

Pogacar extends Vuelta lead

Cycling

MADRID — Tadej Pogacar (UAE-Team Emirates) strengthened his grip on this year's Vuelta a Espana (Tour of Spain) cycle race yesterday when he claimed his third stage win of the race, beating Enric Mas (Movistar) in a sprint finish after the pair had escaped on the final climb of a tough 177.5 kilometer stage between Alcossebre and Castellon.

Pogacar now leads the Vuelta with 3 minutes and 34 seconds advantage over Mas, who moves into second place, with Primož Roglič (Red Bull-Bora Hansgrohe) in third, 4 minutes and 21 seconds behind.

The break of the day formed with around 90 kilometers to ride and included 16 riders, including Wout van Aert (Visma-lease a Bike), Pello Bilbao and Santiago Buitrago (Bahrain Victorious), Patrick Konrad (Lidl-Trek), Ramses Debruyne (Alpecin-Premier Tech) and George Bennett (NSN Cycling Team).

Pogacar's UAE team worked hard to reel in the breakaway before the final Puerto de Bartolo, which included a testing three-kilometre section of dirt road and ramps of up

to 17 percent gradient.

That saw the race leader look to attack again, but after seeming to ride off the front with his typical ease, Mas (Movistar) was able to match the Slovenian and even nipped ahead to take the mountain points at the summit.

Pogacar then tried to attack again in the opening kilometers of the narrow and twisty descent, but had a big scare when his back-wheel locked on a corner and although his handling skills allowed him to stay upright, it allowed Mas to again catch up and the pair descended together.

Mas and Pogacar combined efforts in the last 10 kilometers into Castellon to extend their lead over the chasing group, which included Roglič and Richard Carapaz (EF Education-Easypost), before Pogacar's better sprint took him to another stage win, while Mas has the consolation of moving into second in the overall standings.

Today sees a mountain stage with five categorized climbs ending with a first category haul to the top of Valdelinares to finish, which could see Pogacar further extend his lead. — Xinhua

Japan's 'polka dot queen' artist Yayoi Kusama dies aged 97



Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama waves at a photo session during a press preview of her exhibition titled "My Eternal Soul" at the National Art Center in Tokyo on February 21, 2017. — AFP



Visitors look at an artwork titled 'Dancing Pumpkin' by Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama at the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) in Melbourne on June 5, 2025. — AFP

Hiroshi Hiyama and Kyoko Hasegawa

TOKYO — Japan's Yayoi Kusama, one of the world's most celebrated contemporary artists, has died aged 97, her company said yesterday, triggering tributes from around the world.

The "polka dot queen" channelled hallucinations and battles with mental health into vibrant art featuring her trademark dots, nets and infinity motifs over a career spanning decades and continents.

"Throughout an extraordinary lifetime devoted entirely to artistic creation, Kusama pursued an internationally acclaimed career as a pioneering avant-garde artist whose creative practice encompassed visual art, performance, fiction, and poetry," a statement said, announcing her death on August 14.

"She continued to paint until her final days, never setting aside her brush, and continued exploration of forever love and eternal soul," it added.

Born in 1929 to a wealthy and conservative family, Kusama began producing her unique signature art aged 10.

"One day, after seeing a tablecloth with a red flower pattern on a desk, I saw the same red flower pattern all over the ceiling, windows and pillars. It filled the room, and covered my body," she wrote in her autobiography.

After studying art in Japan, Kusama moved to the United

States in the late 1950s, and — helped by modernist artist Georgia O'Keeffe (1887-1986) — made a splash in New York's avant-garde scene.

Despite facing discrimination as a Japanese woman, she won fame for bold, big paintings and provocative 1960s "happenings" featuring body painting and polka dots.

She also launched a fashion line, established a "Church of Self-Obliteration" and styled herself the "High Priestess of Polka Dots" to officiate at a gay wedding.

Returning to Japan in the 1970s, Kusama checked herself into a Tokyo psychiatric hospital, where she lived — and worked — for the rest of her life.

Soul 'explosion'

Instantly recognisable in her bright red wig and bold spotted outfits, her fame enjoyed a renaissance from the 1980s.

Her infinity rooms, pumpkin sculptures — including one on Japan's "art island" Naoshima — and immersive installations still attract crowds and have sold for millions of US dollars.

"It's a great quality to be weird and to express yourself no matter what," Velislava Nuneva, a 21-year-old college student from Bulgaria, told AFP.

Outside the Yayoi Kusama Museum in Tokyo, Nuneva said she was inspired by how the artist managed to succeed in the male-dominated art world of New York.

Yasuko Minami, 58, called Kusama "someone who projected her inner soul in her works like an explosion".

"She expressed herself honestly," Minami told AFP.

Students Hibiki Karasawa, 20, and Hinata Sakamoto, 19, have visited Naoshima island and seen Kusama's yellow polka-dot pumpkin in its setting by the sea.

"I feel her work was something that even those who may not be familiar with art can appreciate, with the vibrant designs and bold use of colour, or turning something like a pumpkin into a work of art," Karasawa told AFP.

"She conveyed her world view in a very unique way."

"I love the way she uses colours," said Sakamoto. "Vivid yellow and red. You see it and immediately you know it's Kusama-san's* work."

Tim Cook, CEO of Apple, called the artist a "true visionary who showed us the power of boundless imagination".

"Yayoi Kusama's creativity pushed the art world forward and left behind a brighter, more vibrant world for us all," Cook said on X.

— AFP

* The suffix "san" (さん) is the standard, polite Japanese honorific roughly equivalent to "Mr.," "Ms.," "Mrs.," or "Miss." It attaches directly to a person's surname or given name (e.g., Kusama-san) to express politeness and respectful social distance. — Gemini, MPD

'Rocky Horror Picture Show' star Tim Curry dead at 80

LOS ANGELES — Tim Curry, the English actor best known for his star turn as Dr Frank-N-Furter in the cult classic musical film "The Rocky Horror Picture Show," has died at the age of 80, US media reported on Wednesday.

Curry, who had struggled with his health for more than a decade after a debilitating stroke, died at his home in Los Angeles, the TMZ entertainment website said, citing unnamed sources.

The actor, who launched his career in London's West End theatre district, first played the gender-bending mad scientist in "Rocky Horror" before reprising the role in the 1975 film, which is still a staple of midnight cinema showings more than 50 years later.

His other credits include the sinister clown Pennywise in a 1990 television miniseries version of Stephen King's "It" and films that included "Annie," "Charlie's Angels" and "Muppet Treasure Island."

Curry's co-stars were quick to lavish praise on the actor, with "Rocky Horror" star Susan Sarandon calling him a "funny, sexy original."

"What I loved about him most was his heart. Even wheelchair bound he continued to be so sweet and

generous with his fans. Thank you Tim for meaning so much to so many people," she wrote on Instagram.

Carol Burnett, who co-starred with Curry in "Annie," said the pair had a wonderful time together.

"Nobody could play lovable villains better than he could. He was a dear friend. I was blessed to know him," she wrote.

Curry's impressive theatrical resume that began in the 1960s saw him do turns at the Royal Court Theatre and the Citizens Theatre, taking on roles written by Shakespeare, Brecht and Tom Stoppard, among others.

His stagework was nominated for Tony and Olivier awards.

One of his more memorable performances was on Broadway and in the West End as King Arthur in "Monty Python's Spamalot," the stage adaptation of "Monty Python and the Holy Grail."

His slightly cartoonish good looks and an unparalleled ability both to camp and to vamp meant he was much in demand for roles that required a certain air of villainy.

That was on display in "Annie" in 1982, when, as con artist Rooster Hannigan, he plots to kidnap the orphan girl.

Three years later, in "Clue," he was the butler who corralled a country

house full of murder suspects in the cinematic version of the board game.

There were straighter roles, including opposite Sean Connery in "The Hunt for Red October," but his comedic talents shone brightest, even in small parts, like the Plaza Hotel concierge in "Home Alone 2."

But it was Dr Frank-N-Furter, the "sweet transvestite from Transsexual, Transylvania," that defined his career.

Richard O'Brien's madcap stage creation tells the story of an unsuspecting young couple whose flat tire leads them into the house of a scientist who is creating a cross-dressing sexual plaything.

Along the way, there's a lot of singing, dancing and a heavy dose of rocker Meatloaf.

The film, which flopped on its initial release, found life as a cult classic on the midnight showings circuit, with aficionados dressing up to sing and dance in the aisles and throw popcorn — and frankfurters — at the screen.

"It seemed like something that would go," Curry told a TV interviewer in 1970s London.

"I was hesitant in that, if it worked, it might be a difficult image to shake off. But really, I've often thought that it wasn't worth doing unless you took a risk." — AFP



English actor Tim Curry arrives for the Los Angeles premiere of the 3-D animated feature "Fly Me To The Moon," in Los Angeles, California on August 3, 2008. — AFP

World Weather

CHINA	ASIA-PACIFIC	WORLD	LUSOPHONE
 Beijing 17°C~23°C	 Manila 25°C~28°C	 New York 20°C~29°C	 Lisbon 16°C~26°C
 Shanghai 26°C~31°C	 Bangkok 26°C~33°C	 London 16°C~23°C	 Rio de Janeiro 20°C~27°C
 Hong Kong 25°C~31°C	 Tokyo 23°C~32°C	 Frankfurt 14°C~24°C	 Luanda 20°C~23°C
 Taipei 25°C~34°C	 Singapore 25°C~33°C	 Vancouver 12°C~19°C	 Maputo 14°C~25°C
 Guangzhou 24°C~33°C	 Kuala Lumpur 25°C~35°C	 Paris 15°C~23°C	 Dili 21°C~32°C
 Nanjing 24°C~33°C	 Jakarta 23°C~33°C	 Moscow 9°C~20°C	 São Tomé 24°C~30°C
 Guilin 23°C~33°C	 Seoul 24°C~29°C	 Las Vegas 27°C~41°C	 Praia 24°C~31°C
 Xi'an 21°C~27°C	 Sydney 10°C~19°C	 Monte Carlo 20°C~29°C	 Bissau 24°C~31°C



1. Earning their keep

Indian Runner Ducks are herded to forage for aphids, worms and snails at the Vergenoegd wine farm in Stellenbosch, South Africa last Friday. Every morning, 1,000 long-necked ducks are let loose on a South African wine farm to gobble up insects in an environmentally friendly method of pest control that is gaining popularity. At 9:00 a.m. the long-necked, upright and flightless Indian Runner ducks charge out of their pens on a farm in the Stellenbosch wine-producing area, near Cape Town, and head to work.
— AFP

2. Lover's tiff

Atlantic puffins gather among the grassy nesting burrows on the coastal cliffs of Heimaey, part of Iceland's Westman Islands (Vestmannaeyjar), on Wednesday. The archipelago is home to one of the world's largest Atlantic puffin colonies during the summer breeding season.
— AFP

3. Not for the faint-hearted

Revellers participate in the "Tomatina" annual food-battle in the Spanish eastern town of Bunol, yesterday.
— AFP



4. Fob watches... fashionable again

Photo taken on Wednesday shows pocket watches displayed at the Clock Gallery of the Jerusalem Museum of Art in Jerusalem.
— Xinhua

5. 2 people in there??

This multiple-exposed photo shows a dancer performing during the closing show of an international flamenco festival in Mexico City, Mexico, on Tuesday.
— Xinhua

6. Medical care

An opossum is rescued after a wildfire in Coello, Tolima department, Colombia on Wednesday.
— AFP