

Sam meets Singapore minister, visits key facilities

Tony Wong

Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR) Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai, who is on a working visit to Singapore, met with Singapore's Coordinating Minister for Social Policies and Minister for Health Ong Ye Kung yesterday, where they exchanged views on deepening cooperation between Macau and Singapore in the fields of public health, traditional Chinese medicine (TCM), and governance in relation to ageing societies, according to a statement by the Macao Government Information Bureau (GCS) yesterday.

Sam departed from Macau on Saturday for an eight-day working visit to three Southeast Asian countries – Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia. He is leading a delegation comprising local officials and about 120 business representatives on his visit to the three countries. Sam's delegation is slated to depart for Indonesia today. They are scheduled to return to Macau this coming Saturday.

During the meeting, according to the statement, Sam noted that both Macau and Singapore are multicultural and inclusive societies, each having one of the highest population densities in the world, and sharing many commonalities in public health that provide opportunities for mutual learning.

Sam highlighted that Singapore is a global leader in public health governance and

biomedical sciences, making it a highly valued partner for Macau. Singapore's experiences provide important reference value for Macau, he said.

Sam noted that TCM is a field with strong potential for collaboration, adding that Macau welcomes Singaporean pharmaceutical companies to leverage the synergies between Macau and Hengqin by establishing operations at the Traditional Chinese Medicine Science and Technology Industrial Park of Cooperation between Guangdong and Macao, located in Hengqin. Products developed there could not only access the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) market with ease, but also be promoted, through Macau's business platform role, to Portuguese-speaking countries and markets covered by the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), he said.

In the field of public health, Sam noted that Macau and Singapore have maintained close cooperation for many years. Since 2005, the two sides have renewed – every three years – a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on cooperation on health-related matters, strengthening collaboration in key areas such as medical personnel training, public health emergency response, and information exchange, he noted.

Continued on p.6



Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai (left) poses for a photo with Singapore's Coordinating Minister for Social Policies and Minister for Health Ong Ye Kung on the sidelines of their meeting yesterday. – Photo: GCS

Macau govt donates 30 million yuan to support Xizang mudslide relief and recovery



Staff members prepare to unload Chinese relief supplies at Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu, Nepal, yesterday. Carried by two Y-20 transport planes, Chinese relief supplies and four Chinese rescue experts arrived in the city at about 7 a.m. (local time) yesterday to assist in disaster relief efforts. The mudslides, which hit Nepal on Wednesday, have caused heavy casualties and widespread damage to infrastructure. (More on p.9)

– AFP

Staff Reporter

The Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR) Government announced on Saturday that it will donate 30 million yuan (36. million patacas) to the Xizang Autonomous Region to support emergency rescue and post-disaster recovery following a devastating mudslide in Gyirong County, Shigatse City, on Wednesday. The financial aid will be channelled through the Macao Foundation (FM).

The disaster, triggered by a mudslide originating on the Nepalese side of the border, has resulted in heavy casualties and left numerous individuals missing in Gyirong.

According to a statement by the Macao Government Information Bureau (GCS), Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai expressed his deep concern over the disaster and has extended his official condolences to Wang Junzheng, Secretary of the Communist Party

of China (CPC) Xizang Autonomous Regional Committee. Sam offered his profound mourning for the victims and conveyed his heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved families and those affected by the tragedy.

In addition to the 30-million-yuan financial contribution, the local government committed to providing medical assistance and other essential relief resources tailored to the needs of the disaster zone, the statement said.

Emphasising the spirit of solidarity and mutual support during times of crisis, the MSAR Government has also issued a public appeal to all sectors of the local community. Local organisations and citizens are encouraged to take proactive initiatives and contribute through various channels to support the rehabilitation of Gyirong County and help displaced residents rebuild their lives. ■

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

The Macau Post Daily

Xi kicks off state visit to Kyrgyzstan, hailing 'golden period' of cooperation

President Xi Jinping landed in Bishkek yesterday for a state visit to Kyrgyzstan and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit 2026.

– Story on p. 7

NASA launches Roman telescope on cosmic mapping mission

NASA launched its new flagship space telescope yesterday, embarking on a multi-year mission to create an unprecedented map of the cosmos and shed light on some of the biggest mysteries in physics.

– Story on p. 10

Guinea-Bissau votes in referendum on giving president more powers

Voters in Guinea-Bissau cast their ballots yesterday in a referendum that could give the president more powers ahead of a general election meant to restore civilian rule later this year.

– Story on p. 12

AI – A great tool for journalism, but only with a human in the loop



In the runup to our newspaper's 22nd anniversary last week, media colleagues and readers told me they noticed that we are regularly crediting DeepSeek and Gemini for our explanatory footnotes.

Some said they believed that *The Macau Post Daily* is one of the world's first newspapers – perhaps the first one – whose masthead lists its team members, printer, wire services (AFP and Xinhua), and company details alongside the AI tools that we are using.

Well, as a publisher, I delight in being a trailblazer.

We are also the world's only English-language daily that publishes a full page of news and views about the Portuguese- and Spanish-speaking countries.

Earlier this year, we added both large language models (LLMs) to our masthead to inform our readers about the newswires and AI tools we use to continuously improve our newspaper's quality.

Of course, AI is more than just a tool; it possesses agency. That presents a challenge not only for journalists, but for anyone using it in a professional context.

In artificial intelligence, agency refers to a system's ability to act autonomously to achieve specific goals rather than merely responding to individual, step-by-step prompts.

Unlike a non-agentic model that relies on constant user prompts (e.g., "Translate this text"), an agentic AI independently evaluates options, plans multiple steps, uses external tools, and adapts based on incoming feedback.

Agency allows AI systems to make independent decisions to achieve predefined objectives. As a daily user of AI, I am well aware of its tendency to invent false facts, known as hallucinations. Therefore, professional journalistic standards require a human-in-the-loop (HITL) for any AI-assisted reporting, editing, and publishing.

Human-in-the-loop (HITL) is a design approach where humans actively intervene in an AI-driven system to guide, review, accept, or correct its actions.

In AI, including publishing, the term "loop" refers to the continuous cycle of automated data processing.

In other words, HITL describes any automated process that requires human oversight, judgment, or intervention at critical steps. Placing a human inside that loop ensures a person reviews, corrects, or approves the machine's work before a final action is taken.

Instead of allowing an AI system to operate with complete autonomy, the HITL approach keeps human judgment at critical decision points to ensure safety, accuracy, accountability, and ethical alignment.

While AI can help summarise notes or suggest outlines, a journalist must always write and edit the final story.

After all, journalism is the process of gathering news and views, writing as accurately, evenhandedly, and concisely as humanly possible, and editing the text to ensure it is reader-friendly, accurate, and fair – what I call the 'ABC' rule of journalism: accuracy, balance, and conciseness."

Journalism is not a literary pursuit, but an act of communication.

Our newspaper mainly relies on AI assistance for three tasks: proofreading, background referencing for footnotes, and translating texts from Chinese and Portuguese into English.

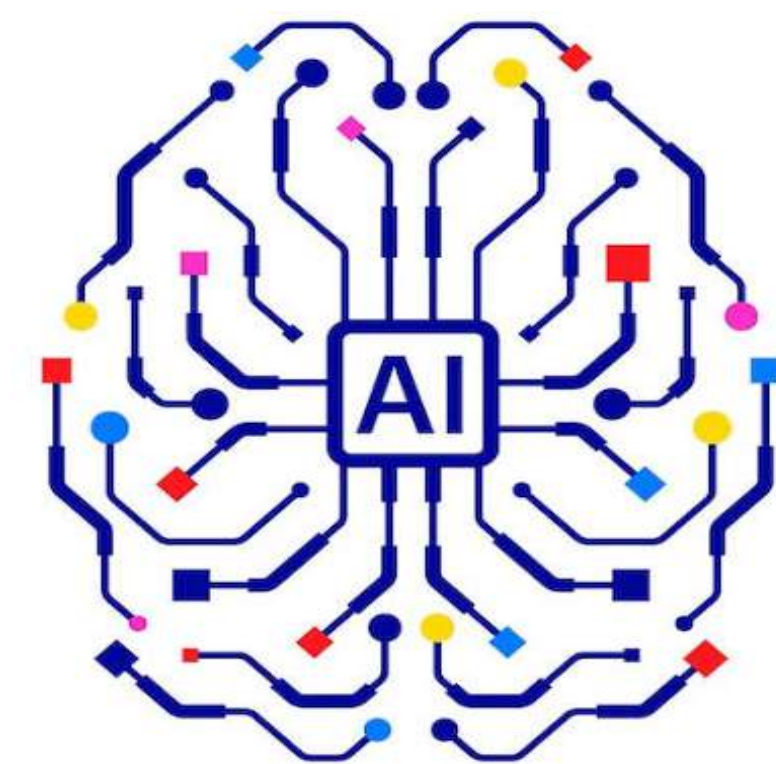
Occasionally, we also use it for subediting, but that is a slippery slope: AI can get carried away and turn overly creative, risking the integrity of the original text. For professional journalism, that is unacceptable. Content is sacrosanct – only the reporter, subeditor, and editor bear responsibility for it.

"Consequently, as chief editor, my routine starts by prompting DeepSeek or Gemini: "Please proofread this Macau newspaper article for grammar and spelling, without changing any content or attributions". More often than not, it works.

AI agency must stop where editorial judgement begins. Full stop.

Let's be realistic: AI has become a strategic partner in our daily editorial work – not as a replacement, but as an amplifier of human journalism.

For us, high-speed AI is a useful partner, particularly when it comes to translation. While newspaper translations took hours or even days just two decades ago, today



Circuit brain icon for AI hardware. – Source: Magnific via Gemini

they take seconds. Like human translations, AI translations are not perfect. They must be edited by a human who is proficient in the language and, most importantly, well-versed in the content. That is often an issue with human translators – they frequently struggle to understand the subject matter. In my experience with both forms of translation (and as a translator myself decades ago), AI is often better at understanding the core context of an article. In the near future, I believe translators will primarily be tasked with reviewing, correcting, and polishing AI-generated translations.

What AI can certainly do better than a human is search through vast amounts of data and background information in a very short time. However, data compiled this way needs cross-checking by us journalists.

AI also comes in handy when we struggle to improve and shorten ("the shorter the better"—one of journalism's oldest maxims) a headline or subheading. DeepSeek and Gemini are pretty good at it, and they often come up with two or three alternatives."

The era of the augmented newsroom and generative AI began in 2018 when Reuters launched Lynx Insight, an AI assistant designed to aid journalists by scanning vast datasets, spotting anomalies, suggesting story leads, and assisting with background research.

By 2022, LLMs shifted the dynamic to interactive newsroom tools – supporting subediting, translation, background checking, headline generation, and search optimisation under human editorial supervision.

In late 2022, OpenAI unveiled ChatGPT (Generative Pre-trained Transformer), introducing human-like dialogue to the public. The model was pre-trained on vast amounts of internet text and fine-tuned for conversational tasks using Google's Transformer neural network architecture, which allows

the system to process sequences of words efficiently, understand context, and evaluate word relationships within a sentence.

When we launched our newspaper on August 27, 2004, all of this was still futuristic. Initially, we focused on our print edition, but about a decade later, we gradually developed our online presence.

Nowadays, the unabridged e-edition of our 16-page newspaper is released daily on our website. However, I am convinced that a newspaper should live up to its name – it must always have a printed edition, as that strengthens readers' confidence in our product.

Unlike digital-only news outlets, whose articles can be silently edited or removed in seconds, printed newsprint builds trust through its permanence.

Over the past 22 years – and increasingly assisted by AI in recent years – our newspaper has carved out a unique space in Macau's media landscape through strict adherence to the principles of professional journalism.

We continue to strictly separate news from opinion and adhere to the time-tested 5Ws of journalism (Who, What, When, Where, Why) – requiring full source attribution and ensuring that all news photos carry clear descriptive captions and source credits. However, we often use collective captions (also called omnibus captions) for photo features and exhibition coverage. These avoid repetitive text under every individual picture, keep the layout clean, and provide structured context.

In my view, every news photo must carry a caption built on the 5Ws. Anything less shortchanges our readers and compromises the standards of professional journalism.

AI may be humanity's greatest invention, just as electricity was its greatest discovery. Electricity is arguably mankind's greatest technological achievement, because without it, modern life as we know it would be impossible.

AI is arguably humanity's greatest invention because it expands human intellect. The danger lies in potential cognitive laziness. Ultimately, because AI relies on human-written code, human-labelled data, and statistical probability, it is a reflection of humanity itself.

As the probably most important tool ever invented by us humans, AI should be a common asset of all humanity. Incidentally, within AI's global context, I think we should all gratefully remember Alan Turing (1912–1954), the British mathematician whose work during World War II laid the foundations for modern computing. In 1950, Turing published a paper titled "Computing Machinery and Intelligence," where he posed a question that we all now know was profoundly pertinent: "Can machines think?" Depending on how one defines thinking, the answer today is increasingly looking like yes.

We celebrated our newspaper's 22nd anniversary about a month after President Xi Jinping's call for joint efforts to build a just and equitable system for AI governance. Xi made the appeal on July 17 when the World Artificial Intelligence Cooperation Organisation (WAICO)* was created in Shanghai.

"All countries should take a people-centred approach and develop AI for the public good.

"We should ensure that AI is an important driver for shared prosperity and common security", Xi said.

China is a global leader in AI development. Reportedly, its open-source large AI models have been downloaded more than 10 billion times.

"AI development should not be a solo performance by a single country, but a symphony of international cooperation", Xi said. It remains to be seen how the US and EU, for instance, will respond to his sensible appeal.

As a dyed-in-the-wool optimistic realist, I expect AI to play a positive role in humanity's future development, particularly in fields such as medical diagnosis, news reporting, climate risk analysis, weather forecasting, and natural disaster warning systems. However, we must remain on guard so that such a potent tool – arguably the most powerful ever created – does not slip beyond our control. Unlike traditional human tools, such as the simple hammer invented by our ancestors three million years ago, AI possesses true agency.

AI is an extraordinary tool for virtually everyone – provided there is always a human in the loop.

– Harald Brüning

* "I recommend the following article by University of Macau Associate Professor Francisco José Leandro: 'WAICO: Towards a More Inclusive and Representative AI Governance Architecture'.

– <https://www.macaupostdaily.com/news/28973>

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

**CLOUDY.
OCCASIONAL THUNDERY
SHOWERS.
FORCE 2 TO 4 NORTH TO
NORTHEASTERLY WINDS WITH
GUSTS.
RELATIVE HUMIDITY
WILL RANGE BETWEEN
80% AND 98%.**



25°C~29°C

Source: SMG

Macau Artist Society marks 70th anniversary

Rui Pastorin

The Macau Artist Society (MAS) this year marks its 70th anniversary, and the milestone was commemorated on Saturday with the opening of a large-scale exhibition at Sands Macao in Nape.

Located on the resort's Level 4 ballroom and exhibiting 198 artworks until September 15, "Art in the New Era – The 70th Anniversary Invitational Exhibition of the Macau Artist Society" features pieces by artists from Macau, Hong Kong, the Chinese mainland and China's Taiwan region, as well as those from France, Japan, South Korea, and the US.

The ongoing showcase is organised by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) and MAS, in conjunction with Sands China and is supported by the Federation of Associations of Cultural Sectors of Macau.

During Saturday's ceremony, IC President Deland Leong Wai Man, as summarised in an MAS statement on Saturday, pointed out that the association has upheld the spirit of patriotism and love for Macau, participating in local cultural development and maintaining close collaboration with the bureau, as well as significantly contributing to Macau's cultural growth.

Leong represented Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Wallis O Lam at the event.

Highlighting the exhibits, MAS



This photo provided by Sands China on behalf of the Macau Artist Society (MAS) shows officiating guests and representatives posing before cutting the ribbon during the opening ceremony of "Art in the New Era – The 70th Anniversary Invitational Exhibition of the Macau Artist Society" at Sands Macao on Saturday.

President Lok Hei was noted in the statement as saying in his speech that the exhibition presents a raft of styles and media "in response to the new artistic currents of the era", adding that the society will "continue to uphold its founding principles".

Moreover, Sands China Executive Vice Chairman Wilfred Wong Ying Wai pointed out in his speech the significance of the group's contributions to the growth of Macau's cultural and artistic sector, adding

that that the company is "deeply honoured to have built strong relationships with local artists and cultural groups through various art exhibitions and exchange programmes, working together with the Society [MAS] to advance the development of Macau's arts and culture".

The following day, the extended activity "New Pathways for Macao Fine Arts" forum was held at Sands Macao, bringing together expert and academic speakers from the Chinese mainland, Hong Kong and Macau.

Hosted by local art magazine *Fantasia's* Executive Editor-in-Chief Cheong Sio Pang, the forum featured four speakers: Mo Xiaoye, a former professor at the School of Art and Design of Zhejiang Sci-Tech University; Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) Faculty of Humanities and Arts Distinguished Prof. Guilherme Ung Vai Meng; Cultural Development Consultative Committee member Chan Hou Seng; and University of Macau (UM) Department of Fine

Arts Associate Prof. Ng Sau Wa.

A separate MAS statement yesterday noted that representatives from the local art scene, along with over 100 university students, as well as artists from the Chinese mainland and abroad, were in attendance, altogether seeing discussions on the "development prospects of Macau fine arts amid the transformations in the contemporary era". ■

Stay tuned for more photos and details about the exhibition on Page 4.

主辦單位
Organizadores
Organizadores

澳門特別行政區政府文化局
INSTITUTO CULTURAL do Governo da Região Administrativa Especial de Macau

澳門美術協會
MACAU ARTIST SOCIETY

協辦單位
Co-organizador
Co-organizer

金沙中國
Sands China Ltd.

支持單位
Entidade de apoio
Supporting Unit

澳門文化界聯合總會
FEDERAÇÃO DAS ASSOCIAÇÕES DAS CULTURAS DE MACAU



時代新風

澳門美術協會七十周年美術作品邀請展

ARTE NA NOVA ERA

EXPOSIÇÃO POR CONVITE COMEMORATIVA DO 70º ANIVERSÁRIO DA ASSOCIAÇÃO DOS ARTISTAS DE BELAS-ARTES DE MACAU

ART IN THE NEW ERA

THE 70th ANNIVERSARY INVITATIONAL EXHIBITION OF THE MACAU ARTIST SOCIETY

展覽地點 Local Location

澳門金沙酒店4樓宴會廳
Sands Macao, Piso 4, Ballroom
Sands Macao, Level 4, Ballroom

展覽日期 Período da exposição Exhibition Period

30.08.2026~15.09.2026
11:00-19:00



MAM unveils GBA-joint exhibition on Qing Dynasty Guangdong paintings

Khalel Vallo

The “Lucidity in a Prosperous Era: Guangdong Paintings of the Qing Dynasty” exhibition opened at the Macao Museum of Art (MAM) in Nape on August 21, bringing together 136 works from four museums to showcase the development of Guangdong painting and its fusion of Chinese and Western artistic influences.

Co-organised by MAM, the Guangdong Museum (Guangzhou Lu Xun Museum*) and the Guangzhou Museum of Art, with support from the Hong Kong Museum of Art, the exhibition features works from the collections of the participating institutions.

The exhibition highlights the transformation of Guangdong painting during the Qing Dynasty (1644-1912), from the artistic periphery to the mainstream and from traditional approaches to innovation. The works demonstrate Guangdong artists’ diverse exploration of brushwork and subject matter, while reflecting the vast region’s natural landscape, cultural life and interactions between Chinese and Western artistic traditions.

“Vast East” is the etymology of Guangdong.

Addressing the opening ceremony, Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) President Deland Leong Wai Man said that the exhibition provides visual evidence for further research into the artistic and cultural heritage of the Greater Bay Area (GBA). She also highlighted the ongoing collaboration among cultural institutions in Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau in collection management, research and exhibitions.

Public guided tours will begin this Saturday, with Cantonese tours on Saturdays and Putonghua tours on Sundays and public holidays. Group

tours are also available by prior reservation, while talks, workshops and concerts will be held throughout the exhibition period.

According to an information message at the entrance of the exhibition, Zhu Wanzhang, the exhibition curator, noted that exhibitions focusing specifically on Qing Dynasty Guangdong painting remain rare, even in regions such as Guangzhou and Hong Kong where such works are prevalent. The local collection, despite its quantity and quality, has seldom been featured in previous research and exhibitions on Guangdong art.

Rather than providing a comprehensive survey of the entire history of Guangdong painting, the exhibition adopts a museum-centred approach, using MAM’s own collection as its primary focus while drawing on loans from the Guangdong Museum (Guangzhou Lu Xun Museum), the Guangzhou Museum of Art and the Hong Kong Museum of Art, Zhu said.

According to Zhu, the close collaboration among museums in Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau enables the exhibition to trace the main developmental trajectory of Lingnan painting** while highlighting its distinctive regional characteristics. Rooted in Chinese painting traditions yet shaped by the cultural environment of Lingnan, the selected works demonstrate the region’s diverse and interconnected artistic history. The exhibition also aims to encourage further exploration of regional heritage and serve as an example of cultural exchange, mutual learning and collaborative development across the GBA.

“Lucidity in a Prosperous Era: Guangdong Paintings of the Qing Dynasty” will run through November 2 at MAM. With free admission, the museum is open from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.,

with last entry at 6:30 p.m., and is closed on Mondays.

**Lu Xun (鲁迅; 1881–1936), born Zhou Shuren, is widely considered the “pioneer of modern Chinese literature” and one of the most influential Chinese writers of the 20th century. He was a leading intellectual figure in the New Culture Movement and the May Fourth Movement. – DeepSeek*

***Lingnan painting refers to a major 20th-century Chinese art movement that blended traditional Chinese brushwork with Western and Japanese artistic techniques. The term “Lingnan” literally means “south of the Nanling Mountains,” referring to the Guangdong and Guangxi regions of southern China. – Gemini*



Photos taken at the MAM gallery on August 21 by Khalel Vallo

Filial piety event aims to promote care for seniors

Ida Cheong

The opening ceremony for the “15th Filial Piety Culture Promotion” was held on Saturday, aiming to strengthen community cohesion and ensure the culture of respecting and caring for the elderly remains deeply rooted in the city.

The one-day event, organised by the Respect Seniors General Association of Macao (RSGA), was held at the Tap Seac Multisport Pavilion, featuring a rich programme including artistic performances, commendation ceremonies, convenience services, and complimentary health check-up experiences.

RSGA President Chan Lei Kei noted in a speech during the event that Macau has become an ageing society, adding that senior citizens serve as witnesses and contributors to the city’s development, representing a valuable asset to Macau.

Chan added that over the past year, his association has maintained a continuous service footprint, achieving remarkable milestones. It hosted over 110 events, including senior care services, cultural performances, and community outreach programmes, and conducted more than 80



Respect Senior General Association of Macao (RSGA) President Chan Lei Kei (second from left) and other attendees pose for a group photo during the opening ceremony for the “15th Filial Piety Culture Promotion” at the Tap Seac Multisport Pavilion on Saturday. — Photo: Ida Cheong

interest classes* (興趣班), serving over 120,000 local senior citizens. Through these activities and services, the spirit of respecting and loving the elderly has reached neighbourhoods, households, and individual hearts, he said.

Chan said that the event generated strong promotion across the citywide community through synchronized online

and offline campaigns, adding that by promoting filial piety at hotspots across various districts, launching interactive public check-in activities, and sharing authentic stories of filial piety, the event aimed to spread the positive values of “respect, filial piety, and gratitude” throughout Macau, fostering a spirit of compassion across society.

Chan underscored that his

association continues to inspire the younger generation to pass on the traditional virtue of filial piety, set examples of respect for parents, and deepen intergenerational communication, aiming to make respecting, bringing joy to, and empowering the elderly a societal norm in Macau, thereby continuously strengthening community cohesion. ■

*In the context of Macau, Hong

Kong, and the Chinese mainland China, the term “interest classes” refers to extracurricular, leisure, or recreational courses designed for personal enrichment rather than formal academic qualification or exam preparation. For senior citizens, these are non-formal, continuing-education workshops offered by community centres or non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

Police nab woman for falsely accusing friend of rape

Armindo Neves

The Judiciary Police (PJ) arrested a woman from the Chinese mainland for falsely accusing her “friend” of rape on Wednesday, PJ spokesman Cheong Un Hong said during a regular press conference on Friday.

Cheong identified the suspect as a 28-year-old online live streamer surnamed Zhang.

According to Cheong, on the evening of Wednesday, the Judiciary Police received a report from Zhang, who claimed that she

had been raped in a hotel guestroom in Cotai. At the same time, the man involved reported to the Public Security Police Force (PSP) that he was being harassed by Zhang, Cheong said, adding that as the case was suspected to involve rape, it was transferred to the Judiciary Police for follow-up investigation.

According to Cheong, the investigation revealed that the two had met online over a month ago and had subsequently arranged to travel to Macau together where they had a

meal last Monday.

On Tuesday afternoon, at the man’s invitation, Zhang stayed overnight in his rented hotel room. On Wednesday evening, Zhang reported that she had been subjected to non-consensual sexual intercourse at around 3 p.m. that day. Zhang said that she had remained in the man’s room until the evening, when she reported the matter to the Judiciary Police.

PJ officers discovered that after having sexual intercourse with the man, Zhang had demanded HK\$20,000

(20,603 patacas) in casino chips from him, which he refused. This led to an argument, and both parties separately reported the matter to the police. According to a medical examination, no signs of sexual assault were found on the woman. The Judiciary Police suspect that Zhang, having failed to obtain the money, fabricated the rape allegation against the man.

Zhang has meanwhile been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing a charge of making a false report. ■



This image downloaded from the Judiciary Police (PJ) website shows its official logo.

Barra carpark to provide one-hour free parking from tomorrow

Ida Cheong

In order to encourage the heavy-duty passenger vehicle sector to optimise the use of parking resources, the Heavy Passenger Motor Vehicles Parking Lot of Barra Public Transport Interchange will provide a one-hour free parking promotion start-

ing at midnight (00:00) tomorrow until 11:59 p.m. on December 31, according to a joint statement from the Transport Bureau (DSAT) and Macao Light Rapid Transit Corporation (MLM) yesterday.

During the promotional period, the first hour of parking

in the carpark will be entirely free of charge. If a vehicle stays over one hour, the standard rates will apply to the remaining duration: 6.0 patacas per half-hour (or part thereof) between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., and 3.0 patacas per half-hour (or part thereof) during all other hours, the statement said.

The statement noted that the carpark is located on the second basement level (B2) of the Barra Public Transport Interchange, providing 27 parking spaces and 6 temporary drop-off/pick-up bays for heavy passenger vehicles.

The Light Rapid Transit (LRT) company will closely monitor the usage of this incentive, adjusting service arrangements as necessary based on operational needs, while continuously gathering feedback from the industry and the public to improve overall supporting services, the statement added. ■



This photo downloaded from the Macao Light Rapid Transit Corporation (MLM) official website yesterday shows its Parking Lot of Barra Public Transport Interchange.

Macau POST

22

Congratulations on the
22nd anniversary of
The Macau Post Daily

澳門建築置業商會
Associação de Construtores Cíveis e Empresas de Fomento
Predial de Macau
Macao Association of Building Contractors and Developers

Sam meets Singapore minister, visits key facilities

Continued from p.1

In addressing the shared global challenge of population ageing, both Macau and Singapore are vigorously exploring policy responses, Sam said, expecting enhanced exchanges at both policy and practical levels, including sharing experiences in social security and healthcare services, in order to jointly build more resilient models of governance for an ageing society.

During the meeting, both sides agreed that Macau and Singapore should work together to explore new pathways for collaboration in TCM and public health matters, combining Macau's institutional and platform advantages with Singapore's industrial and technological strengths to achieve mutually beneficial and sustainable development, according to the statement.

Sam visits public housing, tourist attractions

Meanwhile, Sam conducted several site visits in Singapore

yesterday, with a view to drawing on Singapore's successful experience in order to support Macau's accelerated urban renewal initiative and the continuous enrichment of its attractions as a World Centre of Tourism and Leisure, according to a separate GCS statement last night.

Yesterday afternoon, Sam visited a public housing estate in Queenstown – a redevelopment project built in a former satellite town. Sam received a briefing from Housing & Development Board (HDB) CEO Tan Meng Dui, and they engaged in in-depth exchanges on urban planning and housing development practices.

According to the statement, Sam said that HDB flats – Singapore's public housing stock – serve not only to meet residents' housing needs but also form a core pillar of social stability through their high-quality, liveable environments. With a growing number of residential buildings in Macau categorised as old, Sam said, Macau must accelerate

its urban renewal initiative.

Sam said that Singapore's public housing model is globally recognised as a benchmark, and its core principles and overall approach offer valuable reference points for Macau.

Sam said that the Macau government can study Singapore's recently highlighted policy framework for replacing older HDB flats with new ones. By adapting such models to Macau's local context, Sam said, the Macau government can optimise the allocation of its subsidised home-ownership scheme (HOS) housing resources, explore a system for allowing HOS households to apply to move to other HOS units with different bedroom numbers, and develop innovative housing policies better aligned to residents' needs.

Sam noted that urban renewal, an important initiative concerning residents' well-being, is one of the priorities outlined in Macau's 3rd Five-Year Plan. Sam said that the visit has enabled the Macau government to gain a better understanding of Singapore's advanced urban renewal concepts and practices, providing valuable insights for Macau's urban renewal and community governance strategies.

Yesterday morning, Sam visited popular facilities such as the Marine Life Park on Sentosa Island, learning how Singapore continuously enhances its tourism and leisure infrastructure to enrich the visitor experience. Such a site visit has provided practical lessons for Macau to diversify its tourism attractions.

Subsequently, Sam proceeded to the Gardens by the Bay to study the project's founding vision and development plans. He said that the gardens are more than just a large urban park – they represent a successful integration of culture, art, and ecological technology, serving as an exemplary case of

city branding. He also noted the inclusive features catering to the needs of seniors and children, which reflect practical measures to enhance public well-being.

Sam meets Chinese ambassador to Singapore

Meanwhile, after arriving in Singapore on Saturday afternoon, Sam met with Chinese Ambassador to Singapore Cao Zhongming in the evening, where they exchanged views on how Macau can leverage its unique role of internal and external connections to further expand cooperation with Singapore in areas including talent development, sci-tech research, and the TCM industry, according to a GCS statement on Saturday night.

Sam said that as this year marks the beginning of Macau's 3rd Five-Year Plan, Macau will build on its development positioning as a "One Centre, One Platform, One Base", by giving full play to its advantage in internal and external connections and East-and-West cultural integration.

The Macau government's "One Centre, One Platform, One Base" concept refers to Macau developing itself into a World Centre of Tourism and Leisure, a commercial and trade cooperation service platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries, and an exchange and cooperation base with Chinese culture as its mainstream and the co-existence of different cultures.

Sam noted that building on the successful model of its visit in April to Portugal and Spain, the Macau government has now once again brought together representatives from various key enterprises in the Chinese mainland, which are joining forces with businesses from Macau and Hengqin as a collaborative effort to explore Southeast Asian markets and establish platforms for

mutual exchange.

Sam underlined that to develop Macau as an international talent hub, it is important to establish joint talent-training initiatives with Singapore and encourage Singaporean universities and research institutions to participate in major projects in Macau and Hengqin, such as the Macao Science and Technology Research and Development Industrial Park, and the Macao-Hengqin International Education (University) Town.

Given Singapore's solid foundation in the TCM sector, Sam said he expects his visit to attract pharmaceutical companies and research institutions from Singapore to explore partnerships with the Traditional Chinese Medicine Science and Technology Industrial Park of Cooperation between Guangdong and Macao in Hengqin, helping connect TCM markets across the GBA and Southeast Asia.

According to the statement, Cao said during the meeting that the Macau government's visit to the three Southeast Asian countries, covering high-level meetings, investment promotional events, and site visits, will greatly support Macau's efforts to advance its appropriate economic diversification and sustainable development.

Cao noted that both Macau and Singapore are highly internationalised economies and place strong emphasis on multiculturalism, sharing many similarities and offering rich opportunities for mutual learning. Cao suggested that the Macau government can use the visit as an opportunity to present Macau's broad development prospects, and promote the new opportunities arising from the development of the GBA and Hengqin, fully demonstrating Macau's unique strengths of being backed by the motherland and connected to the world. ■

Customs seizes 950 kg of frozen beef worth 30,000 patacas



This undated handout photo provided by the Macau Customs Service on Friday shows dozens of cartons of frozen beef stored merely at room temperature at a parallel trading den in Macau peninsula's northern district on Thursday.

Armindo Neves

Macao Customs Service officers raided a parallel-trading den in the peninsula's northern district on Thursday where they seized 950 kg of frozen beef worth around 30,000 patacas in total, according to a Friday statement.

On Thursday, the statement said, customs officers caught a 29-year-old local female who ran the den and had hired a number of parallel traders to smuggle frozen beef from Macau to the mainland.

The suspect faces a fine in compliance with the relevant provisions listed in the External Trade Law, the statement said.

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

Hotel Lisboa to unveil renovated West Wing

Rui Pastorin

Hotel Lisboa Macau is set to unveil its renovated West Wing in September, the integrated resort operator announced in a statement on Friday.

The statement noted that 427 rooms across the West Wing have completed a "sweeping rejuvenation", while also highlighting that the hotel's architecture remains honoured throughout the refurbishment.

The façade has been restored, while the West Wing's sculptural mosaic columns and original floor tiles are fully preserved, according to the statement. The statement added that the hotel's evolution from 1970 to 2000 can also be found highlighted in architectural sketches and photos, among others, throughout its corridors.

Meanwhile, the statement also highlighted two themed family suites: the "Racing Themed Suite" and the "Nautical Themed Suite". The former takes inspiration from the Macau Grand Prix, the famed Guia Circuit and its Lisboa Bend,



This photo provided by Hotel Lisboa Macau on Friday shows "The Racing Themed Suite".

with the room incorporating related motifs. The latter, meanwhile, takes on the "heroic discovery of the Time Voyage Ship", the statement said, featuring interactive touches.

In terms of dining choices, Café Noite e Dia ("Night and Day Café") will be open to guests in October, with breakfast, lunch and dinner

buffets provided. The statement also highlighted menus from "Guincho a Galera", which reopened in September 2025 and is the holder of three consecutive Black Pearl Restaurant Guide One Diamond rating, and "Portas do Sol", which serves Chinese cuisine.

Hotel Lisboa opened in 1970. ■

**Congratulations on the
22nd anniversary of
The Macau Post Daily**

**22^{Years}
ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION**



**澳門管理專業協會
Macau Management Association**

CREATIVE MACAU marks 23rd anniversary with 'PRESENT' members exhibition

Khalel Vallo

CREATIVE MACAU marks its 23rd anniversary with "PRESENT" 23rd Anniversary Members Collective Exhibition" in Nape, bringing together works by its members that explore creative freedom, surrealism and the dual meaning of the word "present" as both a gift and the current moment.

Launched on Friday, the exhibition provides a platform for CREATIVE MACAU members to express their individual artistic visions through surreal visual art. The works use symbolic metaphors, distorted perspectives and irrational collages across different media to explore ideas beyond everyday reality.

According to a recent statement by the gallery, "PRESENT" carries two meanings: an artistic gift through which creators convey their emotions and ideas, and a fleeting moment captured and transformed into lasting artwork. Through this concept, the exhibition seeks to connect creators, their works and audiences while reflecting on the significance of the present.

Addressing the ceremony, Paulo Canelas de Castro, president of the Centre for Creative Industries (CCI) and the Institute of European Studies of Macau



CREATIVE MACAU Marketing and Communication Manager Menn Chow (right) and Paulo Canelas de Castro, president of the Centre for Creative Industries (CCI), address Friday's "PRESENT" 23rd Anniversary Members Collective Exhibition" and the gallery's 23rd anniversary in Nape.
— Photo: Khalel Vallo

(IEEM), described the anniversary as a celebration rather than a formal ceremony, saying the gathering marked 23 years since the launch of the space as a platform for the creative community.

He said the venue allows artists to express their "artwork" and "ingenuity" in different ways, adding that the anniversary was an opportunity to share the joy of participating in the community. He also expressed gratitude to the artists for their contributions both to the exhibition and over the years, while looking forward to the community's

continued development in the future.

The exhibition celebrates CREATIVE MACAU's 23 years as a space for the local creative community, with "PRESENT" bringing together members' artistic interpretations of creativity, time and the present moment.

Running through September 25, the exhibits are on display at the gallery on the ground floor of the Macao Cultural Centre (CCM) in Nape with free admission between Monday and Saturday, from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. ■

Stay tuned for an upcoming p4.

China's AI models bring innovation, opportunities, not threats

Commentary

BEIJING – Chinese AI models have consistently delivered innovation and opportunities to global development, becoming integral digital infrastructure powering AI advancement worldwide.

At the 2026 World AI Conference in Shanghai and on multiple previous occasions, China has reiterated its support for an open-source, collaborative and sharing-oriented approach to AI development, so as to promote technological innovation, industrial development, and real-world applications for the benefit of all sectors and all people.

While some US tech giants pursue closed-source strategies and try to erect technological barriers to maintain monopolies, Chinese companies are driving the global open-source movement. The majority of the world's high-performance open-source large language models come from China, with total downloads exceeding 10 billion, ranking first globally.

The impact is tangible. The open-source approach of Chinese AI models offers cost-effective solutions for businesses worldwide, including US firms. On OpenRouter, a leading global AI platform, top five of the most popular models in July were all from China. Well-known American companies, including Airbnb and Pinterest, as well as European

automakers, have been using Chinese large models to optimize their operations and products.

More significantly, Chinese AI models are lowering barriers for developers and enterprises in developing countries, allowing them to accelerate digital transformation on their own terms. By building atop the foundation of Chinese open-weight models, local developers can create tailored products, provide localized services and retain data sovereignty, just like building houses of their own rather than renting space in someone else's walled garden.

For instance, Chinese companies have developed Arabic language AI models to help common Arabic speakers use digital technologies more conveniently through native speech generation.

Meteorological departments in more than 40 countries have used China's AI-driven MAZU model for early weather warning services via the cloud, with customized versions deployed in seven countries, including Pakistan, Ethiopia and the Solomon Islands. A long list of such cooperation endeavors proves that Chinese AI models are effective, safe and affordable.

So why do some Western politicians still fabricate negative accusations? Behind these types of rhetoric lie strategic anxiety and an outdated zero-sum mentality.

Ironically, the very models they have accused of threatening US interests are now defended by US industry as vital to its own innovation ecosystem. US tech companies and startups, including Nvidia, Microsoft and Meta, have jointly released a letter urging policymakers not to impose restrictions on open-weight models, stating that these models can strengthen competition and ensure that the benefits of technology are widely shared rather than concentrated in the hands of a few.

AI should be a common asset of all humanity. Its development should not be a solo performance by any single country or vested interest groups, but a symphony of global cooperation. China has always been committed to making AI an international public good, striving to bridge the global intelligence gap via open-source sharing, technological empowerment and global governance cooperation.

The political maneuvers of a few cannot stop the trend of technological accessibility benefiting the entire humanity. The "threat" narratives will eventually collapse under the weight of reality, which is measured by accumulating downloads, good and convenient services, and countless developers worldwide who choose to use Chinese AI models.

— Xinhua

Comedy show 'Our Own Way' finds extraordinary in ordinary

Armindo Neves

The original interactive comedy show "The New Tale of the Peach Blossom Spring", produced by Beijing Fun Age Entertainment Co., Ltd. (also known as Mahua FunAge or Kaixin Mahua), will officially premiere on September 11 at the theatre of the Hengqin Cultural Art Centre.

According to a statement released during Friday's media preview event, the play boldly reimagines Tao Yuanming's* classic "The Tale of the Peach Blossom Spring", telling the story of a young girl who travels through time and space to meet youngsters striving to make their way in Hengqin. The show aims to let viewers find extraordinary in the ordinary. During the 17-day performance, the theatre foyer will feature a "Peach Blossom Spring Wonderland" with attractions such as a wishing tree, AI fortune-telling, robot interactions, and a peach blossom tavern, the statement said, adding that from the moment audience members enter, they will be immersed in the world of the play and audience interaction will run throughout the entire performance.

The show's theme song, "我不要" ("I Don't Want"), along with its official music video, has been released simultaneously, performed by a Macau actor, the statement said, adding that the entire music video was created using AI generation technology. The statement did not reveal the name of the actor.

The production is staged under the guidance of the Livelihood Affairs Bureau of the Guangdong-Macao In-Depth Cooperation Zone

in Hengqin and the Macau Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), and will run until September 27. ■

* Tao Yuanming (陶渊明, 365–427 CE) was a Chinese poet and recluse of the Eastern Jin Dynasty, best known for his pastoral verse celebrating simple rural life, farming, and drinking, in deliberate retreat from political corruption. He is considered the foremost poet of the tianyuan ("fields and gardens") tradition and a symbol of personal integrity and spiritual independence in Chinese literature. - DeepSeek



This poster provided by the Beijing Fun Age Entertainment Co., Ltd. on Friday promotes the upcoming "Our Own Way" play slated to hit the stage from September 11 through September 27 at the Hengqin Cultural Art Centre.

Macau POST

22

Congratulations on the
22nd anniversary of
The Macau Post Daily

CSC & ASSOCIADOS – SOCIEDADE DE AUDITORES

CHUI'S INVESTMENT COMPANY LTD

N Korea's defence minister dismissed: state media

Kang Jin-kyu with Daniel Stublen in Washington

SEOUL – North Korea's defence minister has been dismissed as part of a reshuffle of the country's military leadership, state media reported yesterday.

The "structural reorganisation plans" were decided during a meeting on Saturday led by Kim Jong Un, the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said.

No Kwang Chol was not only dismissed as defence minister but also demoted in the ruling party leadership to "first vice-director of the Munitions Industry Department," KCNA said.

Kim Song Gi, director of the General Political Bureau of the Korean People's Army, was named as the new defence minister.

Another senior official, defence advisor Pak Jong Chon, was given the position of vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission and named to the ruling party's Political Bureau.

Several other promotions were also announced.

In a separate report, KCNA said Kim had lauded scientists, researchers and officials at a ceremony on Saturday for their advances in defence technology,

giving them top national honours.

The honourees greatly contributed to "resolving scientific and technological problems of epochal significance in developing new combat weapon systems", KCNA said, without specifying the type of system.

A photo released by KCNA shows Kim pinning a medal on a recipient.

The nuclear-armed state's weapons research centre "has recently developed exclusive technologies, to be regarded as an event in strengthening the capability for fighting a war", it added without giving details.

With such technologies, it has shown "the course of unique development of the country's military and technological capabilities", it said.

In late June, Kim oversaw tests of a new extended-range multiple rocket launcher and artillery.

Trilateral drills

The leadership shuffle comes shortly after joint annual drills between South Korea and the United States wrapped up.

The drills, which are regularly denounced by Pyongyang as preparations for an invasion, were closely watched this year after US President Donald Trump ordered

them to be cut short.

Trump criticised the drills as provocative towards the North and bashed Seoul for not supporting his war against Iran.

The US president also praised North Korean leader Kim, whom he met twice during his first term in office, as he eyes a new meeting, potentially this year.

Despite Trump's overtures, North Korea has shown little sign of reciprocating, firing missiles and condemning the scaled-down drills.

Pyongyang has also slammed Washington's approval of arms sales to South Korea and plans to fund programmes documenting human rights abuses in the North.

Military cooperation among Washington and its regional allies is meanwhile set to continue, with South Korea, the United States and Japan due to hold trilateral joint exercises – called Freedom Edge – from September 7 to 11 in international waters east and south of South Korea's Jeju Island.

"This exercise is a defensive drill conducted annually by the three countries to respond to North Korea's nuclear and missile threats and safeguard peace and stability in the region," Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said Friday. – AFP



Three girls hold mobile phones as they walk along the Taedong River in Pyongyang, North Korea Thursday. – AFP

Cambodia shuts over 700 cyberscam locations: govt

PHNOM PENH – Cambodia said on Friday it had closed more than 700 online scam centres in a crackdown over the past year, detaining nearly 30,000 suspects including a clutch of senior government officials.

The Southeast Asian country has emerged as a hub for crime syndicates running fake romantic relationship and cryptocurrency investment schemes in which scammers – some willing, others trafficked – defraud internet users around the world.

But under pressure from several countries including the United States and China, Cambodian authorities say they are cracking down on the industry.

A government statement said on Friday authorities had cleared more than 700 compounds and deported 58,266 foreign nationals over the past year.

It said nearly 30,000 suspects had been arrested, including 15 high-ranking officials and law enforcement officers.

More than 3,400 suspects from 29 nationalities, including citizens from China, Vietnam, Australia, France, Japan, South Korea, Singapore and Thailand, were in custody awaiting trial.

"Although large-scale sites have been completely cleared, criminal groups have altered their tactics to decentralised, small-scale activities, hiding in guesthouses, condominiums, rental houses, vehicles, and coffee shops," the government said.

Cambodia extradited alleged scam boss Chen Zhi, the Chinese-born chairman of multi-billion-dollar Cambodian conglomerate Prince Holding Group, to China in January after he was sanctioned by the US and UK governments.

In April, Cambodia also extradited to China Li Xiong, the Chinese-born former chairman of Huione Group, whom Beijing accuses of playing a key role in a major transnational gambling and fraud syndicate. – AFP

Thailand warns 'problematic' tourists could face deportation

BANGKOK – Thailand's government has warned that "problematic" tourists could face deportation as new rules on removing foreigners convicted of illegal activities came into effect on Friday.

The changes come amid growing scrutiny of the behaviour of visitors to the Southeast Asian country, whose beaches and culture attract tens of millions of tourists each year.

"Problematic foreign tourists or workers who break the law must leave," Tourism Minister Surasak Phanchaoenworakul said in a social media post late Thursday.

His comments came ahead of the implementation of new rules on how foreigners could be deported from Thailand after being convicted and serving sentences for certain crimes.

These include overstaying a visa, working or operating a business unlawfully, using or making forged documents, or any other offence that carries a prison

sentence of more than five years.

The measures, approved by Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul's government in July, are intended to "safeguard Thailand's cultural values", officials said.

Previously, deportation cases were largely considered on a case-by-case basis.

"Thailand has a policy of welcoming foreigners to travel, work and conduct business. However, it has been found that some foreigners have not acted in accordance with the law," read the new regulation published in the kingdom's Royal Gazette.

Surasak said the rules were intended to deal with "low-quality foreigners" who disrupt public order.

In May, Thailand announced it was halving the time that tourists from most countries could visit without a visa from 60 to 30 days.

The move came after a series of high-profile arrests of foreigners for drug offences, sex trafficking and for unlawfully operating businesses

such as hotels and schools.

Since then, a number of incidents have provoked public debate.

In July, Italy's embassy apologised after a video of a group of Italian students being loud and rude on a Bangkok train went viral.

In May, authorities deported a Spanish and a Peruvian national after the couple were caught having sex in public, an act that can constitute a public indecency offence under Thai law.

However, experts warn the country needs to balance tighter oversight with its reliance on tourism, which accounts for 13 percent of GDP.

Thailand expects about 33.5 million foreign tourists in 2026, up from nearly 33 million visitors in 2025, the government has said.

The country has attracted 18 million foreign tourists since the beginning of the year, but arrivals were down three percent from the same period last year, according to the latest figures. – AFP

Philippine province of Tarlac placed under state of calamity amid heavy rains

MANILA – Tarlac province in the Central Luzon region of the Philippines has been placed under a state of calamity due to continuous heavy rain and widespread flooding caused by

the southwest monsoon, Governor Christian Yap announced yesterday.

The declaration allows local authorities to access emergency funds and speed up relief efforts

for affected communities.

The Philippines has faced prolonged rains since August, driven by tropical cyclones and the southwest monsoon.

– Xinhua

1 killed, 3 seriously injured in explosion at rented room in N Vietnam

HANOI – One man was killed and three others seriously injured in an explosion at a rented room in northern Vietnam's Phu Tho province on Saturday afternoon, the Vietnam News Agency reported.

The explosion occurred at around 1:10 p.m. in Binh Xuyen commune.

Authorities found multiple firecracker shells and finished firecrackers, along with some yellow and black powders suspected to be

materials used to make firecrackers.

An initial investigation indicated that the explosion was linked to the illegal production of firecrackers.

The blast also damaged three rooms and affected several other rented rooms, as well as part of the corrugated metal roof in the building's common courtyard, said the report.

Police are continuing to investigate the case. – Xinhua



A man walks past a boat swept onto a road by heavy rain in Himi, Toyama Prefecture, Japan on Thursday. – AFP

Rescuers dig into tunnel as missing toll from Nepal, China flood tops 3,000

Arunabh Saikia with Paavan Mathema in Kathmandu

BIDUR, Nepal – Rescuers in Nepal and China battled through leg-sucking mud, as well as the threat of rising rivers and a newly formed lake, yesterday to search for thousands missing after a deadly wall of water and debris swept through the Himalayas, engulfing entire villages.

Latest figures from both countries put the number of missing at 3,048, including hundreds of foreigners. There were 797 confirmed deaths, with reports of some bodies possibly swept downstream as far away as India.

Nepal said it had begun the grim task of burying some of the hundreds of bodies yesterday, after first taking DNA samples so that families could later reclaim them and perform traditional funeral rites once they had been identified.

The disaster, which struck the China-Nepal border Wednesday morning, was caused by a glacial collapse, sending a wall of water and debris downstream, the US Geological Survey said.

Nepali army troops and engineers also drilled through debris yesterday towards hydropower workers believed trapped in a tunnel at the Trishuli 3A hydroelectric site in the Himalayan river valley after they successfully inserted a pipe into the passage.

They have “started sending air through the small opening”, Nepali Home Minister Sudan Gurung said in a statement.

Overnight rain and rising river waters hampered efforts earlier yesterday, filling the excavation area with water before conditions eased, the Nepal army said.

Nepal’s disaster authority listed 933 hydropower workers among the missing in an area home to vast energy infrastructure projects.

Chinese rescuers near the Tibet border port that was hit by a deadly mudslide were “moved to a safe location” yesterday after a new lake was formed by a landslide, state media reported.

China’s state news agency Xinhua reported yesterday that experts had said “a glacier on the southern slope of Lirung Peak in Nepal” fractured, triggering an ice-rock avalanche.

The torrent plummeted rapidly, forming a massive debris flow that travelled more than 20 kilometres before crashing into Gyirong Port.

“The sudden glacial collapse and flash flood is a devastating reminder of how fragile



This aerial photograph shows an overflowing Trishuli River (left) and houses covered in mud (right) in the aftermath of flash floods at Baireni in Nepal's Dhading district yesterday. – AFP

these mountain environments can be,” UN climate chief Simon Stiell said in a statement.

‘Nothing left’

Survivors face an agonising wait to learn the fate of missing relatives and the prospect of rebuilding their lives from nothing.

“All the settlements near the river were swept away,” resident Buddhi Ram Dangol told AFP in Nepal’s Nuwakot district.

“There is nothing left.”

Worried relatives crowded around lists of rescued people pasted on a wall at an army base serving as a rescue hub in the district capital Bidur.

Nepal’s disaster authority said yesterday 592 foreigners, including trekkers and Hindu pilgrims to Tibet’s sacred Mount Kailash, were among the missing.

The Isha Foundation, led by Indian guru Sadhguru, said in an Instagram post on Saturday that 80 members had been on a group trip in the area.

“At this time, there seems to be no encouraging indications of survivors at the immigration office area,” it said.

‘Enormous’ trauma

The United States and Canada said they would provide US\$3.6 million each in humanitarian aid to Nepal.

The UK has offered US\$6.8 million, while the UN released US\$2.5 million in emergency

funding, and aid pledges were made by the European Union, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and others.

Nepal’s economy is already under pressure, with limited resources to respond to a disaster of this scale. Foreign Minister Shisir Khanal said the reconstruction bill could run into “billions of dollars”.

He appealed for specialised assistance, including heavy-lift drones and technology to help locate people who are trapped.

Malaysia said it would send search-and-rescue specialists to assist.

Khanal also called for forensic testing kits to identify corpses and freezer units to store them, saying bodies that have been in water could decompose at a faster rate.

The deluge of ice and mud caused huge lakes, and one of those formations has become a risk for further floods.

The Chinese and Nepali foreign ministers spoke on Saturday and discussed sharing satellite and hydrological data, both sides said.

In Tibet, where Chinese authorities are the only source of information, rescue operations were paused at the hardest-hit area of Gyirong because of the risk of more flooding from a newly formed lake.

However, state broadcaster CCTV said late on Saturday that the lake was “discharging naturally” and had been “essentially drained”, citing China’s ministry of water resources.

A total of 2,141 rescuers were near the Gyirong site, the Xinhua state news agency said.

Pilgrimage route

Nepal reported a death toll of 781 people yesterday, with 2,502 people unaccounted for.

Across the border in Tibet, 16 people died and 546 remain missing, CCTV reported.

Authorities also said they had evacuated 555 stranded tourists and 499 Chinese residents from Tibet.

In India, officials said they had recovered seven bodies from rivers flowing from Nepal, believed to be flood victims. – AFP

Bird flu detected in dead dolphin in S Australia

SYDNEY – H5N1 bird flu has been detected in a dead dolphin in South Australia, officials in the state said Friday, the first case of its kind in the country.

The cetacean was found dead in Goolwa, just over 60 kilometres south of Adelaide, the state’s Department of Primary Industries and Regions said.

“While the detection in the common dolphin is a new development in Australia, there is evidence of dolphins and porpoises catching H5 bird flu overseas,” the department said.

“Dolphins would not commonly eat birds but it is not unusual for them to sometimes interact.”

Australia was for years the only continental landmass free of the H5 strain,

which has caused severe disease and death in poultry and wild birds worldwide.

There have been no cases detected in poultry or in the country’s agriculture production.

South Australia’s Chief Veterinary Officer Skye Fruean told media that the dolphin is believed to have “eaten a bird or interacted closely with a wild bird”.

“We know that dolphins are highly susceptible,” she said.

Officials also confirmed Friday that the highly contagious influenza had been detected in a red fox near Adelaide.

It is the first case detected in a land mammal in Australia, the country’s Chief Veterinary Officer Beth Cookson said.

“The risk to human health remains low,” she stressed. – AFP

THE MacauPOST

22

Congratulations on the
22nd anniversary of

The Macau Post Daily



澳門中華總商會
致賀

澳門新口岸上海街175號中華總商會大廈五樓

Rua de Xangai 175. Edif. ACM. 5 andar Macau

Tel: (853) 28576833

Fax: (853) 28594513

http://www.acm.org.mo

E-mail: acmmcc@macau.ctm.net



中總微信號



中總廣東辦微信號

NASA launches Roman telescope on cosmic mapping mission

Charlotte Causit

WASHINGTON, DC – NASA launched its new flagship space telescope yesterday, embarking on a multi-year mission to create an unprecedented map of the cosmos and shed light on some of the biggest mysteries in physics.

Designed to take a panoramic view of the vast reaches of space, the Roman Space Telescope “will help unlock the secrets of the universe,” US President Donald Trump said on Friday during a ceremony at NASA headquarters in Houston, Texas.

Standing over 12 metres tall, the state-of-the-art observatory launched from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida at 7:26 a.m. (local time) aboard a SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket.

Developed over more than a decade at a cost topping US\$4 billion, the telescope is named after pioneering US astronomer Nancy Grace Roman, who became known as the “Mother of Hubble,” another of NASA’s flagship telescopes.

While Hubble revealed that the universe is expanding faster than previously thought, Roman will seek to answer some of the other unsolved mysteries, including those of dark matter and dark energy.

“Roman will give the Earth a new atlas of the universe,” NASA administrator Jared Isaacman said in April when he unveiled the project to the press.

Studying the invisible

With a field of view more than 100 times larger than Hubble’s – and significantly wider than James Webb’s – Roman will survey vast swaths of the sky from a vantage point 1.5 million kilometres from Earth, which it will take about 100 days to reach.

Designed to work in tandem with other observatories such as Webb, which offers greater power and precision, Roman aims to discover thousands of exoplanets as well as tens of thousands of supernovae, the explosive deaths of massive stars.

“It will be the biggest catalogue of astronomical objects anybody’s ever produced, and it will help us understand how common are solar systems like our own,” Dave Content, Roman’s technical manager, told AFP.

The new telescope will also shed light on two of the biggest mysteries in physics: dark matter and dark energy. Their origins remain unknown, but together they are believed to make up about 95 percent of the universe.

Dark matter is thought to act as a kind of gravitational glue, while dark energy is believed to be a repulsive force driving the universe’s expansion.

With its infrared vision, Roman will be able to detect light emitted by celestial objects billions of years ago, effectively looking back in time and offering scientists a glimpse into the universe’s distant past and helping

them better understand these two mysterious phenomena.

Surprise

Roman’s observations will complement the work of the Rubin Observatory in Chile and the European Space Agency’s (ESA) Euclid probe, and are highly anticipated because they could challenge scientists’ understanding of the universe’s structure.

Julie McEnery, Roman’s senior project scientist, said recent research suggests the way scientists have been thinking about the universe’s early expansion, based on the predictions of existing models, may be wrong.

“Recent observations hint that our standard model of the universe is incorrect,” she told a press conference on Saturday, adding that Roman will help clear that up.

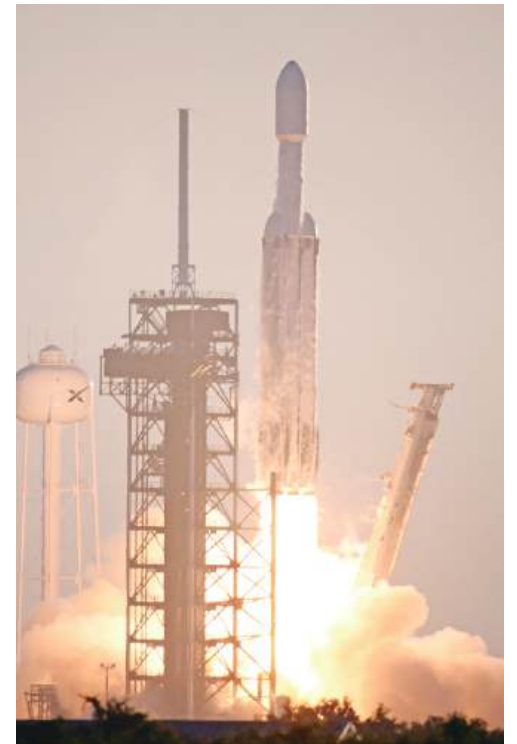
“It will definitively say, ‘Yeah, the model works, or it doesn’t.’ And if it doesn’t, it’s going to provide us with the precision and quality of data that will allow us to start to distinguish between those options.”

Scientists and the general public will have access to all of Roman’s data. But the sheer volume will be daunting, Content warned.

The telescope will be generating about 1.3 terabytes of data a day, “which means you basically can’t download the data to anybody’s laptop,” he said.

For McEnery, the more data, the better.

“I very much hope, and in fact expect, that



A SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket carrying the Nancy Grace Roman space telescope lifts off from Launch Complex 39A at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida yesterday. – AFP

the most exciting science from Roman will be a surprise, something we couldn’t predict, and that will set the stage for the next deeper set of questions for future missions to address.” – AFP

Trump calls for ‘punishment’ of NBC reporter

WASHINGTON, DC – President Donald Trump yesterday threatened a prominent NBC broadcast journalist with possible punishment by US media regulators as the Republican expressed disappointment with coverage of his candidate endorsements ahead of November’s midterm elections.

Trump took to his Truth Social platform to attack Kristen Welker as the “unpopular ‘hostess’ of the once great Meet the Press” talk show for stating that the president had “mixed results” on his endorsement of political candidates in party primaries, insisting the results went his way 98 percent to 100 percent of the time.

“Because of this purposeful inaccuracy, she will be reported to the FCC for rebuke or punishment,” he said, referring to the Federal Communications Commission, which assigns and oversees licenses for radio and television broadcast frequencies.

“Unfortunately, she is not the only one. The Radical Left News is going out of their way to harass, demean, and libel anything ‘TRUMP.’”

The Republican billionaire used American media to his advantage over the years as a provocative real estate developer in New York. But as president he dramatically turned against the press and what he called “fake news.”

He has sued several newspapers including *The Wall Street Journal* and *The New York Times*, and ordered federal funding slashed for public media.

His administration, from the Pentagon to the FBI, has ramped up restrictions and attempts to



US President Donald Trump (right) arrives to speak during a Congressional Space Medal of Honor presentation at NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, on Friday. The Artemis II crew were being honored with the Congressional Space Medal of Honor for their historic mission around the Moon. – AFP

intimidate journalists, and the FCC – headed by a close Trump associate – has pressured broadcasters to toe the line.

“I hope that Chairman Brendan Carr, and the fine people of his Commission, will take this Threat to our Country very seriously,” Trump said.

The latest attack is part of the Trump administration’s months-long offensive against media outlets it deems overly critical.

Such efforts are facing growing resistance from news organisations and major broadcast networks. Several of them have filed lawsuits against the FCC, arguing such pressure constitutes political retaliation that violates the First Amendment of the US Constitution,

which protects freedom of speech.

Relations between Trump and Welker have been under pressure for months. In June the president abruptly cut short an interview with her following a tense exchange, during which he grew irritated by Welker’s questioning, particularly on the war against Iran.

NBC News did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Experts argue the FCC lacks the legal authority to punish broadcasters or reporters for their viewpoints.

According to a 2025 paper by the *Yale Journal on Regulation*, the US Supreme Court has confirmed that US law “does not grant the FCC the power to ban controversial speech.” – AFP

Google Maps renames Lake Ontario ‘Lake America’ in US – but not Canada

WASHINGTON, DC – Google redesignated Lake Ontario as “Lake America” on maps seen by US users yesterday after President Donald Trump announced he was renaming the body of water, with a Canadian official slamming the cross-border tensions as “absolutely backwards.”

People in Canada will still see Lake Ontario, the indigenous-rooted name used for the lake since the 17th century, on their devices and computers, the US-based tech giant said.

The shock nomenclatural spat erupted as the latest element of Trump’s “America First” narrative, with longtime allies the United States and Canada ramping up a trade war that has seen Washington and Ottawa slap tit-for-tat tariffs on each other.

Apple’s Maps app that comes installed on all iPhones makes no mention of “Lake America” on its maps as of yesterday morning.

Google said it made its change in line with the US Geographic Names Information System (GNIS), the official federal database for geographic names.

“Since we update Google Maps to reflect name changes in official government sources, which is GNIS for the US, people using Maps in the US will see ‘Lake America,’ those in Canada will continue to see ‘Lake Ontario,’ and those outside of the US and Canada will see both names,” Google said on its blog.

The change mirrors Trump’s unilateral altering of the name of the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of

America in January 2025 – a move Mexico has also rejected.

Ontario is the smallest by surface area of the five Great Lakes, which straddle the Canada-US border between Ontario province and the US state of New York.

The province’s premier, Doug Ford, offered fresh criticism yesterday of the trade dispute and Trump’s lake name change.

“It’s absolutely backwards. It was like something out of [US comedy TV show] ‘Saturday Night Live’ when he signed a document saying – changed to ‘Lake America.’ No one’s going to call it Lake of America,” Ford told ABC talk show “This Week.”

“It’s just so disappointing.”

Ford also warned that while a trade war would harm both countries, “it’d be definitely devastating on the US” given that Canada has been by far the largest purchaser of US vehicles. Should those buys dry up, US auto factories would be hit hard.

“A tariff on Canada is nothing more than a tax on American people,” he said. “It’s probably the worst move you could ever do.”

Canada and the US have a deeply interconnected auto manufacturing sector, and a sizeable portion of parts for US vehicles are made in Canada.

Trump himself waded in yesterday to say Americans “want to make our own cars.”

“Canada has been ripping us off for years – NO LONGER!” Trump posted on his Truth Social platform.

– AFP

Iceland votes 'No' to resuming EU talks

Pierre-Henry Deshayes

REYKJAVIK – Iceland voted 'No' to resuming membership negotiations with the European Union, referendum results showed yesterday, dealing a blow to Brussels which had been keen to welcome a new wealthy member.

Almost 53 percent of Icelanders rejected the resumption of EU entry talks suspended 13 years ago, while some 47 percent voted in favour in Saturday's referendum.

Prime Minister Kristrun Frostadottir, who favoured a 'Yes,' stressed she didn't "see this as a setback".

"I see this as a victory for democracy," she told reporters, pointing to voter turnout of over 80 percent.

"I want to make it absolutely clear, this government is not going forward with the accession talks this term."

This means any discussions of Icelandic accession are frozen at least until 2028 – an apparent disappointment to Brussels, which had appeared willing to compromise on thorny issues to facilitate Iceland's accession.

EU chief António Costa nonetheless told Frostadottir the bloc "fully respects the democratic choice" made by voters, a spokesperson said.

"Iceland remains one of the EU's closest and most trusted partners," said the spokesperson.

Far-right, eurosceptic leaders in Britain and France hailed the result.

"At a time when some are pushing for greater federalism and the transfer of sovereignty to the European Commission, this vote reminds us that another Europe is possible, a Europe of free, sovereign nations cooperating voluntarily on matters of common interest," France's Marine Le Pen wrote on X.

"Congratulations to Iceland on voting to keep their independence," Reform UK leader Nigel Farage, who was one of the faces of Britain's Brexit, wrote on the same platform.

Iceland, a country of just under 400,000 inhabitants applied to join the EU in the wake of the 2009 financial crisis that devastated its economy.



Iceland Prime Minister Kristrun Frostadottir addresses a press conference in Reykjavik, Iceland, yesterday. Icelanders voted 'No' to resuming membership negotiations with the European Union, final referendum results showed yesterday, dealing a heavy blow to Brussels which had been keen to welcome a new wealthy member.

– AFP

Membership talks were then suspended in 2013 when a eurosceptic government came to power.

The island is, however, already closely linked to the EU as a member of the European Economic Area (EEA) and the free-movement Schengen zone, ties which will remain unchanged.

The referendum result was non-binding but the government had vowed to respect it.

High turnout

Debates ahead of the vote had mainly revolved around domestic and economic issues, though the war in Ukraine and US President Donald Trump's ambitions for neighbouring Greenland – which he has mixed up with Iceland on several occasions – also featured.

The campaign had "lifted discussions about the EU, about Iceland's place in the world, about our general geopolitical situation and status, to a higher level", Frostadottir said

after casting her ballot on Saturday.

Political analysts had said it was unlikely the government would resign in the event of a 'No' victory, though it could emerge weakened by the rejection.

According to RUV, voter turnout was 82.5 percent, the highest participation in any Icelandic vote since April 2009 parliamentary elections during its crippling financial crisis.

The campaign divided Icelanders.

"It's hard to grasp that it's a 'No'," 37-year-old artist Elisabet Anna Kristjansdottir told AFP.

"It's quite sad that the Icelandic people

don't even want to see the possibilities of joining the EU."

Anna Maria Bogadottir said meanwhile she was "really happy", but acknowledged it would now "be a challenge to unite 50 percent on each side."

Wooing from Brussels

A 'Yes' vote would have given the government a mandate to resume negotiations with Brussels, including on the hotly contested issue of fishing – a pillar of Iceland's economy and part of its national identity, and over which Reykjavik wants to retain exclusive control.

Any accession agreement would then have been put to another referendum in Iceland.

The fisheries sector has been fiercely opposed to joining the bloc – 90 percent of companies in the industry are against the idea – and the EU had tried to woo it with a conciliatory approach ahead of the vote.

EU Enlargement Commissioner Marta Kos had said Brussels and EU member states would be willing to "find creative solutions" to Iceland's "unique specificities on fisheries and agriculture".

An EU source in Brussels told AFP: "I don't think anyone [in the EU] wants to block an accession over a question of fish."

Brussels had hoped to be able to present wealthy Iceland as an example of positive enlargement that could also make it more palatable for member states to agree to take in poorer countries like Montenegro.

It would also have enabled it to enlarge its presence in the strategic Arctic region, and perhaps helped change some minds in ultra-wealthy non-EU member Norway.

– AFP

'We are standing firm,' Maduro says in posts from prison

CARACAS – Venezuela's deposed leader Nicolás Maduro said on social media yesterday that he was "standing firm," while posting photographs from the New York prison where he has been held since his capture by US forces.

Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores, were seized in Caracas during a US military operation in January. They are being detained in a Brooklyn, New York jail on drug trafficking and firearms possession charges, which they deny.

"I am sending these photos as a small gift to all my grandchildren, to the boys and girls, and to all the good people who love us," he wrote on the Telegram messaging service.

"I want you to know that we are standing firm, with our hearts full of your love," he added.

In the two photographs, Maduro is wearing a grey tracksuit and making peace signs with his hands. He appears to have lost considerable weight since his capture.

Although the photographs emerged yesterday, camera data indicates they were taken on June 25, a day after twin deadly earthquakes killed more than 6,500 people

and caused widespread destruction in northern Venezuela.

"We will remain strong, calm and confident: God is with us. God will provide. Venezuela will rise again," he concluded.

The message was posted two days after his successor, interim President Delcy Rodríguez, announced a "historic" oil agreement allowing the United States to operate oil fields in Venezuela.

Rodríguez is governing under intense pressure from Washington and says she has "chosen the path of diplomacy" with the United States because she wants Venezuela to become an "energy powerhouse."

Maduro does not have access to newspapers or the internet in prison, but he is allowed to speak by telephone with his family and lawyers for approximately 300 minutes a month, with a maximum of 15 minutes per call, according to a source close to the former leader.

His son, Nicolás Maduro Guerra, says he is in good shape and spends his time studying the Bible.

Maduro and his wife's trial in the United States will begin on June 1, 2027, a federal court in New York announced in late July.

– AFP

Macau POST

22

Congratulations on the 22nd anniversary of The Macau Post Daily

澳門婦女聯合總會

Associação Geral das Mulheres de Macau

Guinea-Bissau votes in referendum on giving president more powers

Allen Yero Embaló and Lucie Peytermann

BISSAU – Voters in military-run Guinea-Bissau cast their ballots yesterday in a referendum that could give the president more powers ahead of a general election meant to restore civilian rule later this year.

Security was stepped up at strategic points in the capital, with members of the national guard and the police stationed at key locations.

Voting closes at 5 p.m. (local time), with the first provisional results due starting tomorrow.

The referendum came less than 10 months after a coup in which the military seized power in the impoverished Portuguese-speaking west African country.

Shopkeeper Halimatou Traore told AFP she hoped the new constitution would bring positive changes.

“The successive crises the country has gone through have had a very negative impact on my earnings. If everything goes well, Guinea-Bissau will set off on new paths,” she said as she waited to vote.

Braima Seidy, 76, a veteran of the war of liberation against Portugal, emerged smiling from the polling booth.

“I truly believe that this new Constitution can bring stability to the country,” he told AFP.

The junta says the change seeks to stabilise institutions before new presidential and parliamentary elections designed to hand power back to civilians scheduled for December 6.

But the political climate is tense in the coup-prone coastal nation, where the opposition has urged voters to boycott the referendum “in a context of restrictions on public freedoms”.

Presidential system

The head of the junta, and transitional president, General Horta N’Tam, called on “young people to massively vote” as he cast his own ballot yesterday.

“What we want after this



Guinea-Bissau's transitional president General Horta N'Tam shows his ink-stained finger after casting his ballot at a polling station during the country's constitutional referendum in Bissau, yesterday. – AFP

referendum is to allow whoever wins the elections to see out their mandate without hindrance,” he said.

Under the transitional charter he upholds, the general is barred from running for election.

The junta has unanimously approved a constitutional amendment for the country to switch to a presidential system from a parliamentary one, and was asking the public to back it.

The new text proposes abandoning the old system whereby the prime minister came from the parliamentary majority, which has led to uncomfortable power-sharing.

It would also allow the head of state to appoint and dismiss the prime minister and members of the government, and to dissolve parliament.

Yesterday, voters had to answer “yes” or “no” to the question: “Do you agree with the entry into force of the new constitution approved by the National Transitional Council?”

The army took over power just days after a presidential election, overthrowing then-president Umaro Sissoco Embaló and suspending the electoral process.

Following 2023 legislative elections, Embaló himself

dissolved the opposition-dominated parliament in response to what he described as an attempted coup.

He then ruled by decree until he was ousted by the army.

In a news conference held as voting was going on, the head of the country's electoral commission, Idrissa Djalo, said “no incident” has been reported.

Turnout was “significant ... in some regions, reasonable in others”, he said.

In five Bissau polling stations visited by AFP in the afternoon, voters were turning up irregularly in small numbers. Intense rain in the morning had dissuaded some.

“Voters are coming in dribs and drabs. The rain has kept things low-key,” said the head of one of the stations.

Guinea-Bissau, which is one of the world's poorest countries, has experienced five coups and a series of attempted coups since independence from Portugal in 1974.

Its referendum follows a string of other African countries including Zimbabwe and Chad that have amended their constitutions in recent years to extend term lengths, remove age limits or strengthen powers of the executive. – AFP

Struggling Cuban chefs hold out for a brighter tomorrow

Yussel González

HAVANA – Opening a restaurant in a country where many are struggling to feed themselves and the electricity is more often off than on may seem foolhardy, to say the least.

Many shops, cafés and hotels have closed since January, when the United States imposed an oil embargo, starving the communist-ruled island of fuel for its power plants and vehicles.

Once-vibrant Havana is a picture of misery as the standoff drags on into its eighth month.

But some chefs are clinging on, in the hope that better times lie just around the corner.

Dainel Castillo used to run a restaurant catering to the tourists that poured off cruise ships.

With foreigners having all but deserted the Caribbean island, he, like many in the tourism industry, has fallen back on the domestic market.

“It’s the Cuban people who are consuming now, who are eating, who are going out to eat,” he said.

It’s a trickle, not a tide, however, and most cannot afford to fork out 6,000 pesos – or US\$9 at the informal exchange rate, nearly the average monthly wage of US\$10 – for his signature surf-and-turf mix of seafood, chicken and pork.

So he opened a new restaurant named Jireh (Hebrew for “The Lord Will Provide”) offering humbler fare: pork dough, a Cuban staple, for 50 pesos, or about 7 US cents.

Just putting food on the table is a herculean task.

‘Cubans find a way’

Several hours each day are spent trying to source ingredients like cooking oil.

One bottle costs between 4,000 and 5,000 pesos, or between US\$6 and US\$7 – a huge sum for most.

So he now swaps in lard.

“Cubans always find a way,” Castillo joked.

But no amount of inventiveness can circumvent daily power

outages that last up to 30 hours at a stretch in the capital.

When the electricity goes, the fans stop whirring, diners’ conversation comes to an abrupt halt and food begins spoiling in the refrigerator.

It’s not just the little guy that is suffering.

A 20-minute walk from Castillo’s restaurant is La Guarida, an upscale restaurant situated inside a decaying mansion that featured in the 1993 Oscar-nominated movie “Strawberry and Chocolate.”

In its heyday, Cuba’s most famous restaurant hosted celebrities such as Steven Spielberg, Madonna and Mick Jagger, visits memorialised in photos on the wall.

These days, it is glaringly empty.

“La Guarida is my life,” said Enrique Núñez, its 57-year-old owner. “Even if I’m the only one coming to work, I’ll come and keep it open.”

Small indulgences

So who goes to a restaurant in Cuba today?

Yosbel León, 44, has the difficult task of drawing customers in off the street to Jireh.

He estimates that 90 percent of Cubans simply can’t afford to eat out.

“It’s the people who can save a little money, those who really have money. Very few ordinary Cubans,” he said.

Armanda Saez, an 18-year-old student who was munching on a pastry outside a café, described restaurant outings as a luxury for her family.

“We have to dip into our savings,” she said.

Rafael Gómez would like to take his partner out for dinner to celebrate her birthday at the end of August.

The last time they went to a restaurant was in December, before the US blockade began.

“I’d like to take her back to the same restaurant,” said Gómez, 39, who is unemployed. “To feel happy and enjoy a nice meal.”

– AFP



A musician performs beside empty tables at El Balcón de los Hermanos (“The Brothers Balcony”) restaurant in Havana on August 22, 2026.

Cuba says schools to reopen tomorrow, despite energy crisis

HAVANA – Cuba’s education minister has confirmed that the new school year would begin as planned on September 1, despite a severe energy crunch underscored by another major blackout.

Minister Naima Trujillo admitted that restarting classes presented a “challenge” in a context of rolling blackouts and chronic food and fuel shortages that have brought the communist-ruled island to its knees.

She said that, in recognition of the crisis, which has brought life on the island to a near standstill, schools would be tolerant of students arriving late or not in uniform.

“The biggest challenge of this school year will be to simply have it at all,” Trujillo said.

Shortly after she spoke, the national electricity company announced that power had been knocked out in four of eastern Cuba’s five provinces – the latest in a relentless series of blackouts that have caused misery for millions.

The Unión Eléctrica de Cuba power utility said the blackout was caused by a transmission failure that severed electricity supplies from three power plants.

Several hours later, the company said that power had been restored.

Washington began blocking oil shipments to Cuba in January, as President Donald Trump tries to bring down the communist regime.

The Trump administration has also tightened sanctions on the

island, causing an exodus of foreign investors.

The measures have accelerated an already severe crisis, marked by draconian electricity rationing and drastic shortages of fuel, drinking water and subsidized food.

In recent weeks, power cuts have lasted for up to 30 hours at a time in Havana and for days on end in rural areas, leaving many with no respite from the suffocating summer heat.

Yannay Miranda, the mother of a six-year-old girl, said that despite the collapse in basic infrastructure, she would do everything possible to get her daughter to school next week “so that she doesn’t stop learning.”

– AFP

Bellingham, Mbappe fire as Real Madrid ease to Malaga win



MADRID — Jude Bellingham and Kylian Mbappe both struck as Real Madrid's perfect start to La Liga under Jose Mourinho continued in a 4-0 cruise against Malaga yesterday.

Los Blancos scored three times in just over 10 minutes in the first half to open up a comfortable lead over the Andalusian visitors to the Santiago Bernabeu.

Sandwiched between Bellingham and Mbappe's strikes was an own goal by Malaga goalkeeper Alfonso Herrero, while Arda Guler tapped in a fourth late on.

"I've got the freedom to go higher or lower if we need, I'm enjoying myself a lot," Bellingham told Real Madrid TV of his attacking midfield role under Mourinho.

The former Birmingham and Borussia Dortmund star was given a standing ovation from the fans when he was substituted in the second half.

"It's an honour to play for this club and in front of these fans and the ovation was very nice," added Bellingham.

After two victories in their opening two games and with superstar trio Mbappe, Bellingham and Vinicius Junior starting the season well, Madrid's confidence was high.

Mourinho rotated, making five changes to the team that started their opening matches, giving Trent Alexander-Arnold and Marc Cucurella among others their first starts this season.

Bellingham opened the scoring after 19 minutes with an excellent solo goal, beating two defenders before drilling through Herrero's legs.

Bellingham forced the second goal seven minutes later, after Herrero denied Mbappe.

The England international headed the rebound towards goal and defender Carlos Puga desperately tried to clear off the line, with the ball bouncing in off the unfortunate stopper Herrero.

Mbappe rattled home the third with a volley from Alexander-Arnold's cross for his fourth goal of the campaign, leaving him top of Spain's scoring charts.

Promoted side Malaga threatened just before half-time, with Rafa Rodriguez striking the post after a corner was played to him, and Chupe hitting the side netting.

Madrid cruised through the second half, with Bellingham hitting the outside of the post as they occasionally threatened to extend their lead.

They only managed to get a fourth late on, when Vinicius teed up substitute Guler to finish from point-blank range.

"The second half was more about managing the game, at a lower tempo," Mourinho told Real Madrid TV.

"Malaga were calmer on the ball, but every time we stepped up the pace, it always felt like we could score one or two more.

"One of our objectives was to keep a clean sheet."

Madrid managed to do that for the first time this season and Mourinho said it was important for Los Blancos.

"Football isn't just about having fun with the beauty of the goals - it's also about going home thinking that we're a solid unit," added the Portuguese veteran.

Today, champions Barcelona host Rayo Vallecano in their third match of the campaign, having comfortably won their opening games.

The game will be played at 3:30 a.m. tomorrow morning Macau time. —AFP/MPD

Fernandes treble inspires Man Utd rout, Chelsea beat Brighton in thriller



LONDON — Bruno Fernandes starred with a hat-trick in Manchester United's 5-2 rout of Ipswich, while Chelsea extended Xabi Alonso's perfect start with a thrilling 4-3 win against Brighton yesterday.

Fernandes shone as he ensured United bounced back from their humiliating 2-0 defeat at Hull on the opening weekend of the Premier League season.

Boss Michael Carrick was in danger of another embarrassing loss to a promoted club when Leif Davis put Ipswich ahead at Old Trafford with a 29th minute strike that cannoned in off the crossbar.

But the Fernandes show started in the 40th minute after Marcelino Nunez's slip allowed Matheus Cunha to pick out the United captain for a sumptuous finish.

United went in front in the 56th minute when Jacob Greaves was pressured into an own goal.

Greaves deflected Harry Maguire's shot into his own net, with Ipswich's appeals for handball against the United defender snubbed by VAR.

Completing a miserable five minutes for Greaves, the Ipswich defender conceded a penalty with his foul on Cunha and United captain Fernandes stepped up to slot home from the spot.

Fernandes sealed his treble in the 68th minute, sweeping in from close-range after Kobbie Mainoo and Bryan Mbeumo had shots blocked.

It was Fernandes's second league hat-trick for United following his treble against Leeds five years ago.

Fernandes was not finished and Bryan Mbeumo scored from his pass with a lob that clipped the bar and dropped over the line in the 82nd minute.

Chuba Akpom's stoppage-time tap-in was little consolation for out-classed Ipswich, who were beaten for the first time



Manchester United's Portuguese midfielder Bruno Fernandes applauds at the end of the match after getting a hat-trick during the English Premier League match against Ipswich Town at Old Trafford in Manchester, north west England, yesterday. —AFP

since returning to the top-flight.

"It was a massive result for us. We lost three points last week. First game at home, the fans have been waiting for this," Fernandes said.

"Scoring goals is the best feeling in football. Doing a hat-trick at home with our fans is something I'm proud of. I hope I can do much more and help my team-mates score too."

Palmer genius

Joao Pedro, Morgan Rogers and Cole Palmer all scored when Alonso's reign as Chelsea boss kicked off with a 3-2 win at Fulham last Monday.

Pedro and Palmer were back on target, while Rogers teed up Chelsea's second goal, scored by Pedro Neto, as the Blues held off

a rally from Brighton at Stamford Bridge.

Emiliano Martinez made his Chelsea debut in goal just hours after sealing his move from Aston Villa.

But there was no place for his Argentina team-mate Enzo Fernandez, who could still leave Chelsea for Manchester City before tomorrow's transfer deadline.

"We have to be aware until Tuesday [tomorrow] evening what is going to develop. We're not sure. We are preparing for all scenarios," Alonso said of Fernandez.

"I'm sure that, whatever happens, from Wednesday we will have a good enough squad to compete in the Premier League."

Romeo Lavia profited from a mix-up between Bart Verbruggen and Mats Wieffer to prod in Chelsea's opening goal from a corner.

Neto then turned in Rogers's cross before Pedro rounded off a brilliant Chelsea counter-attack that began inside their own box.

Martinez was beaten moments later by a blistering volley from Malick Yalcouye.

Pedro turned Pascal Gross's cross into his own net just after the hour mark.

A moment of genius from Palmer eased Chelsea's nerves as he curled into the bottom corner from outside the area after a fine solo run.

Gross headed in a stoppage-time consolation for Brighton, but Chelsea join Manchester City and Hull as the only sides to take six points from their opening two games.

Brentford were on course to also maintain their perfect start when Kevin Schade's audacious flick opened the scoring away to Leeds.

But Dominic Calvert-Lewin turned in Lukas Nmecha's driven cross to salvage a point and Leeds's unbeaten start to the campaign.

Sunderland got off the mark with a 1-0 victory over Fulham thanks to Wilson Isidor's winner 15 minutes from time.

—AFP

Suzuki sends 'perfect' Freiburg past Bremen, Schalke lose



Freiburg's Japanese midfielder Yuito Suzuki (centre left) scores the team's first goal during the German first division Bundesliga match against Werder Bremen in Freiburg, southern Germany, yesterday. —AFP



BERLIN — Japan's Yuito Suzuki scored a sensational hat-trick as Freiburg cruised to a 4-1 home win over Werder Bremen yesterday, while Schalke lost to Augsburg on their Bundesliga return.

"I feel amazing and I'm very happy to score a hat-trick and to help the team with some goals. I'm just very happy," Suzuki said.

"Today was perfect. We want to continue like that," the 24-year-old added.

Suzuki opened the scoring with a header from a corner before Igor Matanovic added

another with a great long-range effort for the Europa League finalists just before the break.

The forward then scored two goals inside seven minutes early in the second-half.

Suzuki was on hand to dink in a Derry Scherhant cross with 48 minutes played and was again in the right spot to turn in a no-look Matanovic pass for a first Bundesliga hat-trick.

Bremen offered little in attack despite returning Germany striker Niclas Fuellkrug starting up front and were only able to pull back a late goal through Dariusz Stalmach with 14 minutes remaining.

In yesterday's late game, seven-time German champions Schalke suffered in their first top-flight match in 1,191 days, going down 3-0 away at Augsburg and finishing with 10 men.

Michael Gregoritsch gave Augsburg the lead after 18 minutes and the visitors hopes of getting back into the match took a hit when Ron Schallenberg saw red for a last-man foul.

Anton Kade added another with 11 minutes remaining and Rodrigo Ribeiro rounded out the victory with a superb stoppage time strike.

—AFP

In-form Marc Marquez wins Aragon MotoGP Grand Prix

MotoGP

ALCAÑIZ, Spain – Marc Marquez claimed a dominant victory at the Aragon MotoGP to put himself firmly in the title hunt yesterday, with Pedro Acosta finishing second and Marco Bezzecchi third.

Seven-time MotoGP champion Marquez has a strong record at the MotorLand circuit and climbed to second in the overall standings behind Jorge Martin, who came fifth.

Last year's winner Marquez trails his Spanish compatriot by just 19 points, knocking Italian Bezzecchi down to third, 24 points behind Martin.

It was Marquez's fourth win of the season, all of those coming within the last six races as he reignited his title bid in spectacular fashion, and a sixth victory from six races for Ducati in Aragon between sprints and Grands Prix.

"Once I got the lead I put my foot down and turned up the pressure and opened the gap so that there would be no doubt about victory," said home favourite

Marquez, who finished 1.754 seconds clear of the field.

Aprilia riders Bezzecchi and Martin started well and took a 1-2 but Marquez quickly repassed Martin to move into second.

The Spaniard admitted he made a "huge mistake" by forgetting to turn off his rear ride height device after Turn 1 at the start, allowing Bezzecchi and Martin to usurp him.

Bezzecchi built an advantage of eight-tenths but Marquez snatched the lead on lap six at Turn 15, the pair brushing wheels out of the corner, allowing KTM rider Acosta in to snatch second.

"We were going 330 or 340 (kilometres per hour), and it's incredible with these bikes because there was a moment when we were side by side, I wanted to pull away, he wanted to pull away and couldn't. The bikes were locked together," explained Marquez.

Bezzecchi said his rival had more power to help him capitalise in that crucial moment.

"I heard Marc Marquez's

engine when we were side by side on the straight, but with his experience and the extra power of his bike he was able to get the better of me," said Bezzecchi.

"It is a shame I lost second straight away to Pedro. I would have preferred to fight harder for runner-up but I am still very happy."

Francesco Bagnaia and Franco Morbidelli both crashed out, while Raul Fernandez retired to the garage.

Marquez extended his advantage to more than a second on lap 14 and continued to pull away from Acosta, stretching it to 1.4sec by lap 16 and finishing nearly 1.8sec ahead.

"We're in the World Championship, we're a team, and you always have to believe the bike you're riding is the best," added Marquez. "That's what I have in my head."

Marc's brother Alex Marquez came in fourth, ahead of Martin, Fermin Aldeguer and Fabio Di Giannantonio, who is fourth overall.

Injured Japanese rider Ai Ogura did not compete and dropped to fifth in the standings. –AFP

Team Movistar's Spanish rider Enric Mas celebrates his victory followed by Team Netcompany Ineos' Scottish rider Oscar Onley during the 9th stage of the Vuelta a Espana 2026 cycling tour, a 187.4 km race between Villajoyosa and Alto de Aitana in Confrides, Spain yesterday. –AFP



Norris extends McLaren stay until 2030

F1

LONDON – Reigning F1 world champion Lando Norris has committed his long-term future to McLaren after signing a contract extension that will keep him at the team until 2030.

The new deal comes less than a week after Norris secured back-to-back wins with victory at the Dutch Grand Prix, rekindling the British driver's hopes of a successful defence of his world title.

It includes an option for a multi-year extension beyond 2030, McLaren said in its announcement on Saturday.

Last season, the 26-year-old Norris delivered McLaren's first drivers' title since Lewis Hamilton won it in 2008.

Norris joined McLaren's junior programme when he was just 17 and made his F1 debut two years later, in 2019.

"McLaren is my home, and I'm very pleased to be signing a new

contract to keep me with the team until at least 2030," Norris said in a team statement.

"When I started this journey nine years ago, I was clear about the goals I wanted to achieve: to get McLaren back to the front and to win championships.

"We've achieved that goal, but we want more, we want to keep on winning, and we know as a team that we're capable of achieving it."

Norris sits fourth in this year's championship, trailing Mercedes driver Kimi Antonelli by 83 points with 11 races left in the season.

His McLaren team-mate Oscar Piastri extended his contact at the start of the 2025 season on a deal that is believed to run until at least 2028.

McLaren won constructors' titles in 2024 and 2025, ending a championship drought that had stretched back to 1998, but the team was well off the pace at the start of this season after struggling to master the new rules.

Norris's resurgence has shown there is still all to play for after wins in Hungary and the Netherlands with an improved car.

"Lando has been an integral part of McLaren's journey and success over the last nine years, and we are delighted to continue our partnership with him," said team principal Andrea Stella.

"He is an exceptional driver, someone who combines outstanding natural speed with maturity, consistency and a strong commitment to McLaren, but above all, he is a special human being who is valued by everyone in the team."

Stella added: "With him and Oscar, we know we can count not only on one of the strongest partnerships but also on one of the most united and close-knit teams in Formula 1."

Norris will also receive one of the MCL39 cars that he used to secure his first F1 title last year as a gift from the team.

–AFP

US Open top seed Zverev downplays favourite status

Rebecca Bryan



NEW YORK – The US Open looks more open than ever, and top-seeded Alexander Zverev says the absence of Jannik Sinner and questions surrounding defending champion Carlos Alcaraz as he returns from injury do little to enhance his own status as favourite.

"I feel like I'm one of the 128 players that are favourites in the draw," the German said as he prepared for the start of the last Grand Slam of the season yesterday in Flushing Meadows.

Zverev captured a long-awaited first Grand Slam title at the French Open this year and finished runner-up to world number one Sinner at Wimbledon.

Alcaraz, whose Australian Open title in January made him the youngest man to complete the career Grand Slam, missed both of those tournaments with a right wrist injury that the Spaniard says is fully healed.

But more than four months have elapsed since he last played, and it remains to be seen if he has the requisite fitness to become the first man to win back-to-back US Open titles since Roger Federer won his fifth straight back in 2008.

"I expect him to be maybe a bit rusty the first or second match, but once he gets through that, I think he's going to be a contender for sure here," Zverev said.

A host of players who could challenge the top two seeds includes 39-year-old Novak Djokovic, seeded fourth as he again chases a record-setting 25th Grand Slam singles title.

Djokovic said his early exit amid physical struggles in the Cincinnati Masters had a silver lining, allowing him to "really train and get my body and mind into the right state, prepared for what's coming up."

Like Zverev, Shelton was reluctant to paint Sinner's withdrawal with a knee injury as an automatic boost to his own title hopes.

"I know how much quality that there is in the draw," Shelton said. "I think it would be disrespectful to just think 'Oh, there's no Sinner, it's a massive opportunity.'"

Shelton pointed to Zverev, the returning Alcaraz and Djokovic, but

also to rising talents like France's Arthur Fils, who won his first ATP Masters title in Cincinnati last week.

"All the American guys are pretty dangerous on this surface," added Shelton, who retired from the third round at the US Open last year with a shoulder injury. "I think to kind of discredit the group that is playing high-level tennis right now wouldn't be smart."

Sabalenka swoon

Women's world number one Aryna Sabalenka insists no one should count her out as she bids to become just the third woman, after Chris Evert and Serena Williams to win three straight US Open titles.

But since her back-to-back hard-court titles in Indian Wells and Miami the Belarusian star hasn't reached a final, and even if she pulls off the rare treble she could still lose her world number one ranking.

Second-ranked Elena Rybakina, who beat Sabalenka for the Australian Open title in January, has been steadily closing in and could secure the top spot with a run to the semi-finals regardless of Sabalenka's results.

Rybakina's US Open build-up has been clouded by injury, but six-time Grand Slam champion Iga Swiatek, third-ranked Jessica Pegula and No. 4 Coco Gauff arrive buoyed by recent successes.

"There's not one or two super-dominant players where you feel like they have to lose in order for you to have a chance," said Pegula, who has won two titles this season and reached three other finals.

Pegula was beaten in the Cincinnati title match by a resurgent Gauff, who won the first of her two Grand Slam titles at the US Open in 2023.

Swiatek, the former world number one from Poland, sent a signal with her first title of the year in Toronto.

All of the marquee names – including two-time champion Naomi Osaka – will have to contend with rising stars including Philippines sensation Alexandra Eala and Sara Bejlek, the 20-year-old Czech who is seeded 28th after a breakout run to the Cincinnati semi-finals that included a victory over Sabalenka. –AFP



Mirka Federer presents the hall of fame trophy racket to Swiss former tennis player Roger Federer as he is inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame during a ceremony in Newport, Rhode Island, on Saturday. A tearful Federer said of his formal entrance into the sport's pantheon was one of the "greatest honours of my life." –AFP

A lasting Dolly Parton legacy: childhood literacy



US singer and actress Dolly Parton poses on the sidelines of the premiere of "Joyful Noise" at the Chinese Theatre in Hollywood, California on January 9, 2012. Parton, the country music star who rose from grinding poverty in Tennessee to become a rhinestone-studded cultural icon with hits like "Jolene" and "9 to 5," died last Tuesday. Parton was more than a singer, she wrote 3,000 songs, acted in major Hollywood films and donated millions of US dollars to charities in her home state and beyond, as well as ran a book donation drive for poor children. — AFP

Michael Mathes

SEVIERVILLE —To nine-year-old Zenaida, it wasn't Dolly Parton's storied country music career that made her so great. It's the entertainment icon's beloved Imagination Library book donation programme that has had the biggest impact on the young girl's life.

"These are the first books I learned how to read," Zenaida told AFP on Wednesday, flipping through Parton's "Coat of Many Colors" children's book at a makeshift memorial in the singer-songwriter's hometown at the foot of the Great Smoky Mountains.

Parton's extraordinarily successful book project was born of personal anguish: her own father grew up illiterate in rural Tennessee.

But thanks to the Imagination Library, millions of children like Zenaida in the United States and around the world have received a literacy boost from Parton herself: books that arrive by mail, for free, from birth until age five.

For Kendal Manning's two young boys, the programme has been a godsend.

"We've been receiving their books since they were born. We have them all," the 41-year-old theatre performer told AFP at the memorial, where several Imagination Library books were left among the flowers.

When Manning's boys were born, "immediately we were sent something in the mail to sign up," she said.

"It says mountains about the person that

she is, the heart that she had for people," Manning said.

Parton, who died last week at 80, is globally renowned for her music. But locals remembered her more for her charitable giving and care for younger generations in blue-collar regions of her native east Tennessee.

Her non-profit foundation is committed to keeping the popular programme going.

What began in 1995 as Parton's modest giveaway of 6,000 books to needy children has mushroomed into an operation involving hundreds of local groups and multiple publishers.

"Now we give away 3.4 million books a month to kids" up to age five, Dollywood Foundation's treasurer Eugene Naughton told AFP.

The foundation funds the programme, along with several other donors.

The Book Lady

Literacy was a critical focus for Parton, who has said she set up the Imagination Library because of her own father's inability to read, which "probably kept him from seeing all his dreams come true."

"I'm the Book Lady to lots of kids, and I take great pride in that," she once said in an interview with NBC's Boston affiliate.

The books have reached countless families in east Tennessee, where hospitals often invite new parents into the programme.

"I signed up all five of my grandchildren

on the day they were born," Susan Williams recalled in Sevierville.

"My children had the books too, and now their children have them. Two generations," she said, holding back tears.

Imagination Library claims 300 million books gifted since its inception. The programme has extended to Australia, Britain, Canada, and Ireland.

In the United States, Parton's books have reached as far as Bethel, Alaska, a small town accessible only by plane or boat that serves as a hub for indigenous villages.

Zenaida's mother Katy Allis had brought her four children to the Parton memorial to honour the woman who changed their lives.

Her son Victor, 11, plopped onto the sidewalk to read his Imagination Library edition of "Llama Llama Red Pajama," a family favourite.

"I see her programme as a part of our collective culture," said Allis.

"I don't know there are even words to express how important that is."

Local teacher Tabitha Thomas, 34, was also at the memorial with her three children who are growing up with the books, including her seven-month-old who has already received a few in the mail.

Impoverished kids in the region "often don't have the money to buy those books, so it helps a lot of the community," she said of Parton's generosity.

"She's touched so many lives." — AFP



English singer-songwriter Rachel Chinouriri performs on the Marigold Stage during the Daisy Chain Fields Festival 2026 at Great Park Sports Complex on Saturday in Irvine, California. — AFP

Céline Dion arrives in France ahead of sold-out comeback dates

PARIS — Canadian superstar Céline Dion arrived in Paris on Friday two weeks ahead of the first of her sold-out comeback concerts in the French capital.

The singer headed to the Royal Monceau luxury hotel near the Champs-Élysées, where a crowd of admirers behind security barriers cheered her and shouted "Céline, we love you!"

"I've always felt supported from day one and it's a story that keeps going," she told BFM TV, wearing black sunglasses and a beige trench coat.

"It's true that this is my second home. I appreciate that you're here, thank you very much," she said to fans.

The 58-year-old announced in March that would give 16 concerts in the French capital starting from

September and October after a lengthy break prompted by health problems. Her last full concerts were in 2020.

The announcement prompted a furious scramble for tickets not seen since Taylor Swift's The Eras tour in 2024.

Dion appeared at the Eiffel Tower for the opening ceremony of the Paris Olympics that same year, with her show-stealing performance later becoming the subject of speculation about whether she had sung or lip-synched.

The singer disclosed in 2022 that she had been diagnosed with Stiff Person Syndrome, an incurable autoimmune disorder. She was forced to cancel her last tour dates due to both the COVID-19 pandemic and ill health.

— AFP



Canadian singer Céline Dion acknowledges fans as she arrives at Hôtel Le Royal Monceau - Raffles Paris on Friday, ahead of her string of concerts in the French capital. — AFP

Chinese owner files for Club Med HK listing

PARIS — Fosun, the Chinese owner of Club Med, on Friday said it had filed for an initial public offering (IPO) in Hong Kong for the travel operator and its ClubMed Lifestyle and other tourism-focused businesses.

"Upon completion of the proposed listing, proceeds... will be used primarily to expand its global resort network, upgrade its vacation offerings, and strengthen its digital and AI capabilities," a company statement read.

Fosun withdrew Club Med from the Paris stock exchange after acquiring it in 2015.

The new entity, with Club Med as its flagship, plans to operate about 85 resorts by 2030 in a rapidly growing market, the statement added.

Club Med currently has 69 resorts worldwide and recently announced plans to open new sites to reach 100 resorts by 2035.

Club Med's CEO Stéphane Maquaire said in an email that the listing "marks an important step

in the evolution of our group's shareholding structure".

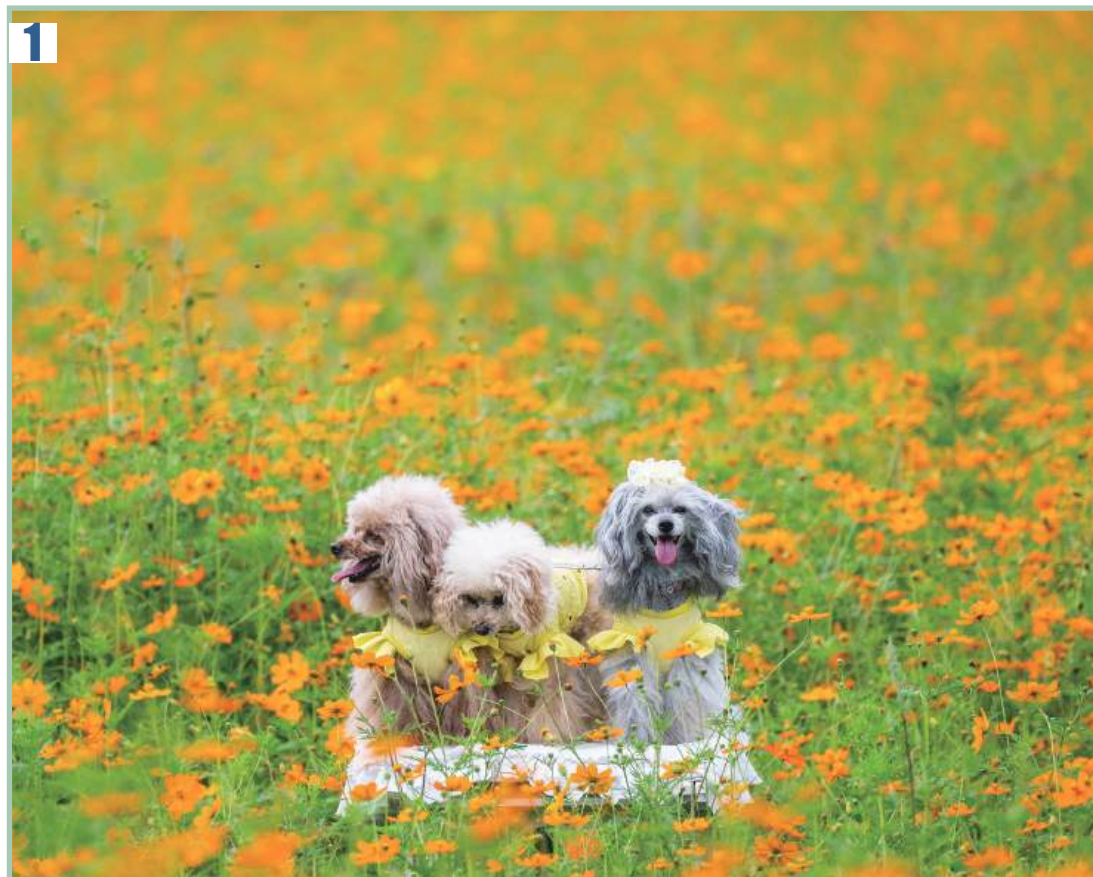
"This new momentum gives Club Med the means to accelerate its international development."

Fosun had been opposed to returning the holiday club brand to the stock market and listing had been a sticking point with Club Med's former chairman, Henri Giscard d'Estaing.

He said in June last year that he wanted to "return to the Paris stock exchange as early as the first half of 2026".

— AFP

World Weather			
CHINA	ASIA-PACIFIC	WORLD	LUSOPHONE
Beijing 18°C~30°C	Manila 25°C~30°C	New York 22°C~28°C	Lisbon 17°C~27°C
Shanghai 24°C~33°C	Bangkok 26°C~33°C	London 12°C~22°C	Rio de Janeiro 21°C~27°C
Hong Kong 24°C~29°C	Tokyo 23°C~31°C	Frankfurt 12°C~23°C	Luanda 19°C~23°C
Taipei 25°C~33°C	Singapore 25°C~33°C	Vancouver 13°C~21°C	Maputo 17°C~27°C
Guangzhou 24°C~31°C	Kuala Lumpur 25°C~34°C	Paris 12°C~23°C	Dili 20°C~32°C
Nanjing 23°C~26°C	Jakarta 24°C~34°C	Moscow 13°C~23°C	São Tomé 25°C~31°C
Guilin 22°C~31°C	Seoul 21°C~24°C	Las Vegas 22°C~35°C	Praia 24°C~32°C
Xi'an 17°C~31°C	Sydney 10°C~21°C	Monte Carlo 21°C~29°C	Bissau 24°C~33°C



1. Field dogs

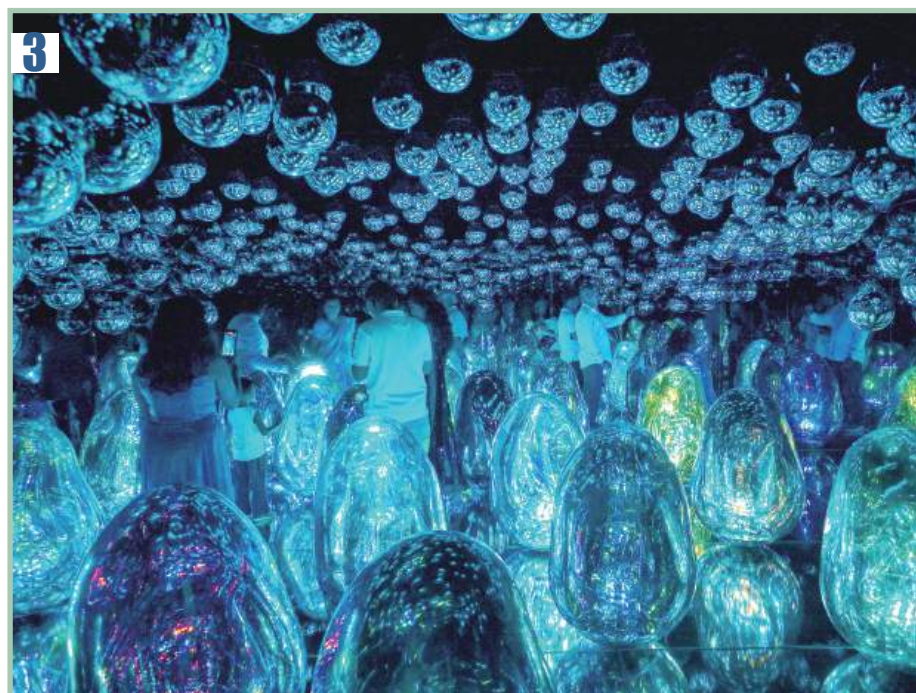
Dogs are seen posed on a table in a field of flowers Yamanakako Hana no Miyako park near Mt. Fuji in Yamanakako, Yamanashi Prefecture, Japan yesterday. – AFP

2. Lazy afternoon

Lion cubs are seen in the Lake Nakuru National Park in the Great Rift Valley, Nakuru County, Kenya, on Wednesday. Home to extensive savanna landscapes, abundant wildlife and spectacular natural scenery, Kenya ranks among Africa's major tourism destinations. – Xinhua

3. Shining eggs

Visitors walk through an installation titled Resonating Microcosms – Solidified Light by international art collective teamLab during the 'Second Nature by Superblue' exhibition at the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre (NMACC) in Mumbai, India on Saturday. – AFP



4. Just waiting it out

A spectator wears a poncho as rain delays play on day three of the second test match between England and Pakistan at Lord's cricket ground in, London on Saturday. – AFP

5. Multi-coloured flowers

People visit fluorescent installations during the "Magic Forest" charity event for animals held at Paite Loomapark in Ida-Viru County, northeastern Estonia, on Saturday. – Xinhua



6. National bird

Drones form an image of an African fish eagle during a drone light show in Lusaka, Zambia, on Saturday. A drone light show by Chinese tech experts illuminated the night sky over Lusaka on Saturday night. – Xinhua

