

Govt launches health scheme to encourage wellness

Participants accumulate points for gifts



Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Wallis O Lam (centre), other government officials, and association representatives applaud after symbolically launching the citywide healthy lifestyle competition at the Tap Seac Multisport Pavilion yesterday. — Photo: Tony Wong

Tony Wong

The government has launched a citywide healthy lifestyle competition aiming to encourage residents to maintain a healthy lifestyle. Participants can earn points on their Macao One Account app after engaging in different types of healthy practices and redeem them for various types of gifts.

The competition, which is open-ended, only covers local residents. All of them, regardless of age, can join the event as long

as they hold an account on the Macao One Account e-government app.

A launch ceremony for the competition was held at the Tap Seac Multisport Pavilion yesterday afternoon. After the ceremony, a press conference was held at the venue to announce details of the event.

The competition is being implemented by the Health Bureau (SSM), in collaboration with the Sports Bureau (ID), the Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ),

the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), and the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS). Officials from these bureaus revealed details regarding their respective roles in the competition during yesterday's press conference.

Residents can sign up for the competition via the health management platform in the "My Health" component of their Macao One Account. As the event, free of charge, is open-ended, residents can sign up at any time.

Participants can earn points to redeem

gifts by practicing four key types of healthy behaviour in their daily lives. For most of the healthy practices, the respective points will be automatically recorded in their Macao One Account. For certain practices, such as preparing a healthy diet, participants must take the required photos and upload them to the platform, in which case AI will verify whether the food is genuinely healthy in order to earn points.

Continued on p.6

Xi extends Teachers' Day greetings, urges nurturing capable youth for national rejuvenation

BEIJING — President Xi Jinping has extended greetings to teachers and educators across the country ahead of Teachers' Day, which is celebrated annually on September 10.

In a congratulatory message, Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, called on teachers nationwide to enhance their professional competence and capabilities, and foster a new generation of young people to shoulder the mission of realizing national rejuvenation.

Over long periods of time, teachers across the country have devoted themselves to education, imparting knowledge

and nurturing young minds, said Xi, commending their significant contributions to the cause of the Party and the state.

Xi emphasized the importance of carrying out the basic task of fostering virtue through education and cultivating a high standard of professional integrity and conduct on the new journey.

He also called for fostering public respect for educators, encouraging support for education, and bringing together all efforts to make China a leading country in education.

China boasts the largest education system in the world, having roughly 440,000 schools at all levels and of all types, with 280 million students and 18.7 million teachers. —Xinua



John Lee Ka-chiu (center), chief executive of the Hong Kong SAR, flanked by students addresses a live space lecture of the "Tiangong Class" Hong Kong and Macao Designated Session in Hong Kong, yesterday. — (Story on p.6) — Xinhua

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The Macau Post Daily

China firmly opposes US groundless allegations on Chinese AI firms

The Ministry of Commerce yesterday voiced firm opposition to the recent US announcements that Chinese AI companies are engaged in so-called industrial-scale efforts to distill capabilities from US AI models.

— Story on p. 7

Netanyahu on Syria visit says 'very close' to toppling Iran's Islamic republic

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said during a visit to Israeli troops in southern Syria yesterday that Iran's Islamic republic was on the verge of collapse, as fighting in the six-month Middle East war intensifies.

— Story on p. 11

Portuguese no-confidence motion over minister fails

Portugal's parliament on Tuesday rejected a no-confidence motion against the minority government by the far-right Chega party, which is seeking the resignation of the scandal-ridden interior minister.

— Story on p. 12

The Qinghai Visit as a New Starting Point

The future and responsibility of Macanese youth

Commentary by Manuel Silvério

Independent public policy and regional development commentator (Former senior public official with international experience and a long-standing commitment to public policy and sports development)

An action that has not yet ended

The visit by the Association of Macanese Youth to Qinghai Province, held from July 26 to August 1, 2026, was not merely a study visit, nor simply an experience to be kept in photographs and memories. Its most important meaning lay in allowing the participants to step outside the familiar environment of Macau and come into direct contact with a broader, deeper, and more complex side of the country.

Over several days, young Macanese* people and other participants travelled through a profound part of the land of the Motherland, far from the major cities, financial centres, and modern urban landscapes that are more familiar to us. They experienced the plateau, the altitude, the long distances, ethnic and cultural diversity, the force of nature, ecological security, strategic resources, and the historical memory of a land with many meanings. These experiences remind us that Macau, although it is the place where we live, is only one part of the country's overall development landscape.

A journey of this nature should not remain only in photographs and places visited. A truly meaningful journey should not end upon return. Its value lies in whether it can lead participants to think more deeply about the country, Macau, their own community, and future responsibilities. It should continue, after returning to Macau, as a starting point for reflection, participation, and responsibility.

On the evening of August 12, at a Macanese buffet dinner hosted by [veteran Macau civic leader and lawyer] Leonel Alves, the participants in the Qinghai visit gathered again in an atmosphere of sharing and reflection, recalling also the bonds of friendship created throughout the experience. Senior officials from the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Macao SAR were also present, led by Qiu Yu, director-general of its Coordination Department, who had accompanied the delegation throughout the visit to Qinghai.

It was a simple but meaningful reunion. After an intense programme, there was finally time to speak more calmly, recall moments from the journey, exchange impressions, and realise that the visit to Qinghai had not ended with the arrival at Shenzhen airport, nor with the coach journey back to Macau through the Hengqin border crossing. On the contrary, another journey began at that moment: the journey of thinking, back in Macau, about how we should carry forward the lessons received during this visit and respond to the inspiration it provided.

Leonel Alves's reminder

As head of the delegation, Leonel Alves stated that the visit had been a success. Its success lay not only in the completion of the programme or in the quality of the organisation, but above all in the many lessons received along the way. He recalled the journey, the long coach rides, the in-depth conversations among participants, the direct contact with different realities of the Motherland, and even the special feeling of experiencing almost "four seasons" in a single day. These are experiences that can only be fully understood when lived first-hand, and which help one feel, in a concrete way, the diversity and depth of Chinese culture.

Leonel Alves also expressed the wish that,

next year, another visit of this kind could be organised, allowing more people to visit other regions of the country.

More important still was the message he left with the young people. In a clear, calm, and firm tone, he urged Macanese youth to better understand Macau's new situation and to recognise that certain responsibilities can no longer be postponed. He reminded them that we should not remain confined to our own small circles or personal interests, but should broaden our horizons and think, with greater vision, about the community, Macau's interests, development, young people, our children, and the future of the new generations.

This is perhaps the most important lesson Qinghai should leave us.

From memory to participation

Macau is a comfortable city, and that is an achievement we should value. But comfort can also mean excessive complacency. When a community becomes too accustomed to being protected, it risks losing initiative, narrowing its horizons, and confusing the preservation of identity with the mere preservation of memory.

Macanese identity cannot remain confined to nostalgia, cuisine, occasional gatherings, or family photographs. All of this matters, but it is not enough. For a community to retain its vitality, it must prepare its young people and the next generations so that they can participate in the time in which they live.

Preparing young people does not mean merely inviting them to ceremonies, lunches, receptions, or group photographs. More importantly, it means listening to them, accompanying them, entrusting them with responsibilities, and creating concrete opportunities for them to learn, make mistakes, grow, and serve.

In fact, Macau already has many associations and organisations that have trained young members through practice: supporting their initiatives, involving them in social activities, guiding them towards the real needs of the community, giving them opportunities to appear in different areas of society, and helping them gain confidence, experience, and a sense of responsibility. The Macanese community can, and should, draw inspiration from these experiences.

The training of young people can move forward naturally, but it also requires method. Opportunities must be created for them to write, speak, organise activities, present ideas, take part in projects, accompany those with more experience, visit the mainland, get to know the Greater Bay Area (GBA), receive delegations, and learn to communicate with different sectors of society.

This is not about training young people merely to preserve a cultural memory. It is about giving them the tools to participate in the affairs of Macau today.

Macanese identity must renew itself

Macanese identity will only continue to have vitality if it remains useful, respected, and recognised by society. It must therefore be passed on as heritage, but also exercised as competence.

The Macanese have their own history, an intercultural sensitivity, and an experience of coexistence among different languages, traditions, and communities. Yet these advantages will only have future value if they are accompanied by preparation, discipline, linguistic ability, knowledge of the country, civic awareness, and a spirit of service.

Today, Macanese identity can no longer be reduced to a single formula. It does not necessarily mean fluency in Portuguese, nor

should it be used to create false hierarchies over who is more important or more authentic. What matters is that all voices willing to contribute to Macau and to this distinctive feature of our city can find their place in this shared effort.

We are often asked: how many Macanese are there? The answer is not always easy, and perhaps that is not the most important question. What truly matters is whether we still have the ability to maintain this unique feature of Macau, to extend this historical and cultural heritage, and to help Macau remain a distinctive, open, plural, and internationally recognised Chinese city.

The value of a community does not depend only on the number of its members, but on the quality of its presence, the usefulness of its participation, and its ability to pass on to younger generations a sense of belonging, responsibility, and service. If Macanese identity continues to serve as a bridge between cultures, languages, memories, and future projects, then, regardless of numbers, it will continue to have meaning for Macau.

Young people are the key to the future

Among Macanese youth, some already have strong conditions: they are multilingual, open, broad-minded, and capable of assuming greater responsibilities. Others still need to gain confidence, step outside their usual environment, and get to know Macau, the Greater Bay Area, and the whole country better. Both groups should be accompanied. Both are part of the community's future.

Naturally, we should neither overinterpret nor underestimate the attention, consideration, or opportunities granted by public authorities. As in many things in life, recognition depends, to a large extent, on individual and collective effort, preparation, usefulness, and the ability to contribute seriously.

The Macanese community does not need to place itself above anyone, nor does it need to be present in everything. What it needs is to be prepared, to remain open, and, when necessary, to have the capacity to serve Macau, always in harmony and openness with the other communities that also form part of the plural reality of the Macao SAR.

It is precisely here that visits such as the one to Qinghai have special value. When well organised, they are not tourism, but human, civic, and community training. They place young people before different settings, allowing them to adapt, coexist, listen, observe, and understand that Macau, however important it is to us, is only one part of a much wider national reality.

But a journey alone is not enough. The real challenge begins after the return. Which conversations will continue? Which initiatives will emerge? Which young people will begin to write, organise activities, study Chinese more seriously, learn more deeply about the country's history, move closer to the Greater Bay Area, and think about Macau's overall interests?

If nothing happens after the return, the journey will remain only a good memory. If there is continuity, it will become an investment.

Turning experience into responsibility

Macau needs to invest better in its young people. This investment should not be limited to scholarships, courses, or occasional visits, but should build paths of responsible growth. Young people can begin by observing, then helping; later, they can propose ideas, organise work, represent the community, and assume responsibilities. No community can

renew itself if it leaves the younger generation forever waiting for symbolic permission from its elders. But, in the same way, no young person truly grows without guidance, example, and demand.

The older generation has the responsibility to open doors. Young people have the duty to enter through them with humility, willingness to learn, and a spirit of service. The community cannot continue merely to talk about young people; it must begin to entrust them with concrete tasks. Young people, in turn, must also understand that social or political visibility is not personal vanity, but a responsibility towards the community, Macau, and the country.

To think about young people is also to think about our children and grandchildren. It is to ask what kind of Macau we want to leave them. It is to ask whether they will still have space to live, work, participate, and feel that they belong to this land. It is to ask whether Macanese identity will be only a beautiful memory of the past or a living presence in the city's future.

The answer will depend less on speeches than on the concrete opportunities we are able to create, and also on the willingness of young people themselves to take those opportunities seriously.

A bridge that can still renew itself

Qinghai taught us that the country is vast, diverse, demanding, and profoundly complex. The reunion of August 12 reminded us that this learning must continue in Macau. The visit was important, but responsibility begins now: to transform experience into awareness, awareness into participation, and participation into future.

Macau is our home. The country is the wider horizon behind us. Between the Macao SAR and the mainland, the Macanese community can continue to be a living bridge. That bridge should connect Macau to the Greater Bay Area and to other provinces and cities of the mainland, but also to the outside world, especially the wider Portuguese-speaking world and other countries and communities with which Macau maintains historical, cultural, linguistic, emotional, and commercial ties.

Preserving Macanese identity does not mean placing a precious relic of the past inside a glass cabinet. It means giving new life to a unique, flexible heritage deeply connected to Macau. It means transforming memory into presence, identity into competence, and tradition into strength to serve the Macau of today.

This is perhaps the most appropriate path: to allow Macanese youth to know Macau better, to understand the country better, to keep alive the connection with the Portuguese-speaking world, and to engage in dialogue with other communities, without closing in on themselves. Only in this way can Macanese identity continue to have dignity, usefulness, and a future.

If the journey to Qinghai helped us step out of the greenhouse, then returning to Macau should not simply lead us back to our previous comfort. Preserving Macanese identity is not only about remembering what we once were; it is about preparing, with courage and humility, what we may still become. This responsibility requires action from each one of us.

(End)

Macao SAR, September 5, 2026

**Customarily, the term "Macanese" refers to Macau's community of mixed Portuguese and Asian extraction, as well as its diaspora.*

Editor's note: Minor edits, footnote and remarks within square brackets added by the Post

Fu Luen calls for society-wide focus on student mental health and emotional guidance

Interview by Armindo Neves

On the first day of the new school year on September 1, a severe assault involving a teacher and a student occurred at a local school, where an 18-year-old Form 6 student used drain cleaner to injure a female teacher in her 60s, sparking widespread public concern and distress.

Speaking to the *Post* in a phone interview last week, local lawmaker and Vice-President of the Women's General Association of Macau (Fu Luen) Sharon Loi I Weng expressed deep sympathy to the seriously injured teacher and her students, and said she felt immense pity for the student who has been charged with intentionally causing bodily harm.

Loi, who is also vice-principal of Fu Luen School, emphasised that any school campus should offer a warm and safe environment. She stressed that the healthy physical and psychological development of students is not the sole responsibility of a single school or teacher.

She called on civil society as a whole to share this responsibility and build a lifelong mental health protection network.

Long-term suppressed emotions trigger extreme behaviour

In the interview, Loi said that although details of the case await further investigation by the police and judicial authorities, existing information suggests that friction between the student and the teacher involved may have begun as early as junior secondary school, with suppressed emotions remaining unresolved for years.

In today's hyper-connected digital and social media era, face-to-face communication among students has decreased, while exposure to violent content has increased, Loi said. She added that when facing setbacks or grievances, students lacking healthy outlets are more likely to vent their grievances through extreme measures.

Strengthening home-school cooperation and relieving teacher pressure

"The education sector currently faces pressure from educational reforms and declining birth rates. With teachers' energy stretched thin, it is difficult for them to tackle

increasingly complex student emotional and behavioural issues alone," said Loi.

To address this, communication and cooperation between home and school must be strengthened and parents should offer more care and companionship to spot emotional changes early, she said. Furthermore, Loi commended the Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ) for actively expanding school social worker and psychological counselling teams in recent years, allowing "professionals to handle professional tasks". Operating as impartial third parties, these specialists can more effectively foster consensus between homes and schools and support student counselling.

Systematising & proactively embedding mental health education

To prevent crises at their source, Loi put forward two key recommendations:

Proactive mental health education: Drawing on the Chinese mainland's experiences, she recommended incorporating mental health education into the formal curriculum framework in the future to establish system-wide teaching. A "life-course" emotional literacy curriculum should be implemented, teaching young children to recognise and manage emotions starting from crèche level.

Refining regulations on dangerous items and express referral paths: The needs of integrated students and high-risk cases should be continuously reviewed, alongside stronger safety promotion and home-school guidance regarding the ban on dangerous items on



Undated file photo of Women's General Association of Macau (Fu Luen) Vice-President-lawmaker Sharon Loi I Weng. – Photo courtesy of Fu Luen

campus. Simultaneously, an emergency "green channel" for referrals should be established to ensure high-risk students receive timely medical and psychiatric professional support, Loi said.

Additionally, Fu Luen and its subsidiary district family service centres and psychological counselling centres will continue to provide free psychological resources, offering community support to teachers, students, and residents in need at any time to jointly build a safety barrier for campuses and the wider community, according to Loi. ■

MGM donates 1 million patacas to UTM foundation



Kenneth Feng Xiaofeng (left), CEO and executive director of MGM China Holdings, and Cheung Kin Chung, chair of the Executive Committee of the UTM Development Foundation, pose with their signed certificates during yesterday's signing ceremony on the public Macao University of Tourism's Taipa campus. – Photo: Khalel Vallo

Khalel Vallo

Integrated resort operator MGM donated 1.0 million patacas to the Macao University of Tourism Development Foundation (UTMDF) at a signing ceremony yesterday, with the funding set to support the university's academic and institutional development.

The donation agreement was inked on UTM's Taipa campus by Cheung Kin Chung, chair of the Executive Committee of the UTM Development Foundation, and Kenneth Feng Xiaofeng, chief executive officer and executive director of MGM China Holdings.

According to a statement by the public university yesterday, the funding will support improvements to the learning environment, teaching and research quality, and international cooperation, with the aim of contributing to UTM's development.

Addressing the ceremony, Cheung said that Macau's tourism and leisure industry needs more high-calibre interdisciplinary talent as the government advances its "1+4" appropriate economic diversification strategy. He described the donation as an opportunity to strengthen

industry-academia collaboration and support the development of cultural tourism professionals.

Meanwhile, Feng said that talent cultivation was fundamental to strengthening Macau's competitiveness as an international hub for tourism professionals, noting that MGM has maintained a partnership with UTM for a number of years, including a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed in 2024 and several youth talent development programmes. "Through this donation, MGM hopes to further support the nurturing of tourism professionals for Macau's cultural and tourism industries, empowering the next generation with the knowledge and skills needed to thrive," Feng said.

The ceremony marked the first in a series of planned donation agreements between UTM and Macau's integrated resort (IR) enterprises, the statement said, adding that further partnerships would be organised to pool resources from different sectors in support of the university's development and strengthen the talent base for cultural and tourism development in the Greater Bay Area (GBA). ■

Driver suffers multiple fractures after crashing lorry: police

Armindo Neves

A Public Security Police Force (PSP) spokeswoman confirmed to the *Post* by phone yesterday that a driver suffered multiple fractures after crashing his lorry.

Speaking to the *Post* yesterday evening, the spokeswoman said the police received a report at 3:36 p.m. regarding an accident on Estrada Circular Fronteira de Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau (港珠澳口岸環形馬路), where a driver had lost control of his lorry and crashed into public property.

According to a statement released by the Fire Services Bureau (CB) at 6:00 p.m. yesterday, the 67-year-old driver was trapped inside the lorry before being freed by the rescue team.

A CB spokesman confirmed to the *Post* by phone that when firefighters arrived, they found the driver trapped in his seat. The front of the vehicle was severely crushed, requiring hydraulic tools to force open the door.

The police identified the driver as a local resident in his 60s who suffered multiple fractures – including broken right ribcage, pelvis, and right leg – as well as chest contusions. He was rushed to the public Conde de São Januário Hospital Centre (CHSCJ) for emergency treatment.

The cause of the accident remains unknown as the driver was being prepared for surgery yesterday evening so that PSP officers were unable to question him, the spokeswoman said, adding that a breathalyser test could not be conducted. ■



PSP officers work near the scene of a lorry crash on Estrada Circular Fronteira de Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau yesterday. – Photo courtesy of TDM

Alley Leong, Sin U Lam present 31 paintings at Casa Garden

Rui Pastorin

The oil paintings of young local female artists Alley Leong (梁天兒) and Sin U Lam are together being showcased in the exhibition titled “Soft Bodies, Hard Structures” at Casa Garden until September 30, allowing visitors to explore two distinct art styles.

With 31 pieces presented, the exhibition at the Macau headquarters of the Lisbon-based Orient Foundation (FO) is held as part of Art For All Society Macau’s (AFA) “The Collaboration Project - AFA Young Artist Development Programme”.

The programme encourages participating artists to create at least one work together, but for this inaugural edition, Leong and Sin, the latter of whom is based in London, worked together under a shared set of rules, according to exhibition details at the venue.

Contrast is commonly found throughout this showcase, and that starts with the artists’ backgrounds.

Macau-based Leong, a self-taught artist, started off in the tattoo industry, working as a tattoo artist for six years prior to focusing on oils. Exploring her artworks, one will find female figures depicted in vivid colours, with a distinct red dot, sometimes noted as a “third eye”, within them, as highlighted in an artist and exhibition statement at the venue.

Each piece goes deeper, with the exploration of the bodily experience a key point in her works. Leong, who was born without her left forearm, confronts the relationship between the body and the self, also noting her personal experiences.

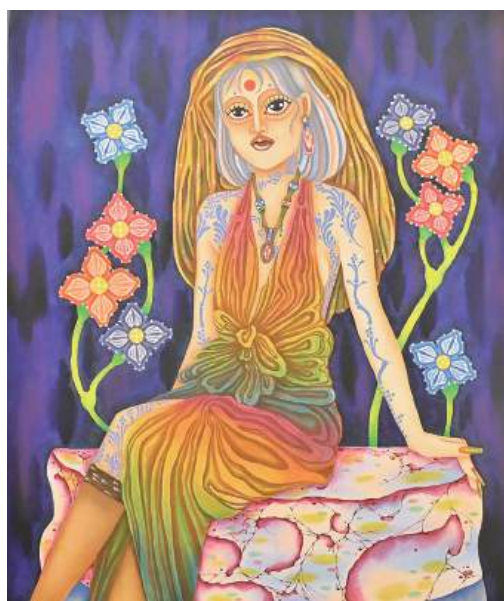
Sin, meanwhile, is formally trained in fine art, starting with sculpture before moving onto painting. For her works, objects and landscapes take different forms on canvas from colours to figures. The artist information also highlights that memory, lived experience, and her perception of the world around her are also sources of inspiration.

Using their styles, each explores different themes, putting their worlds and perceptions onto the canvas. Leong challenges standard body norms by depicting alternative possibilities for what makes a body complete or perfect.

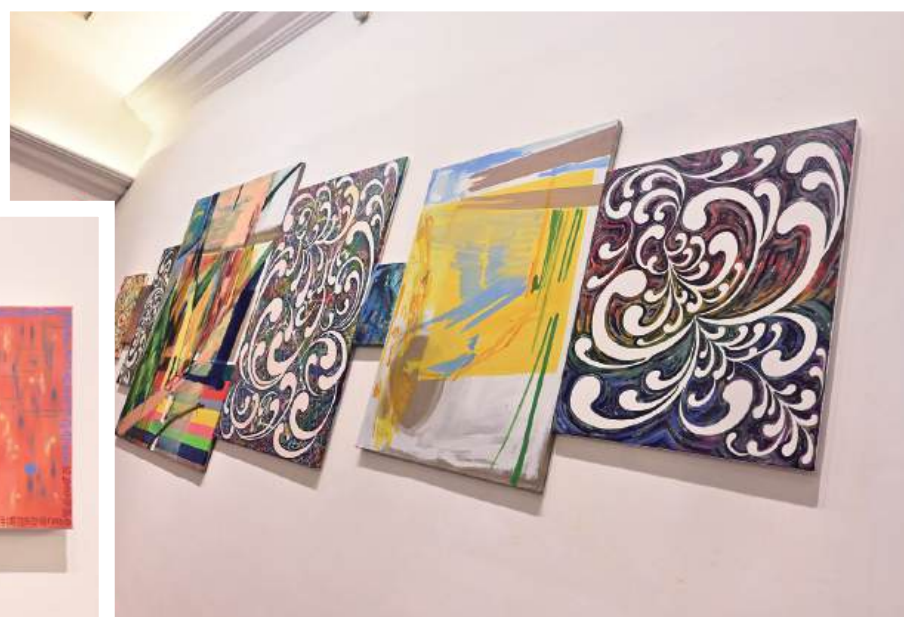
Sin’s works, meanwhile, take on a more abstract route. Highlighting “spatial memories” that highlights emotions within space, her works, according to the statement, have “structure and architectural quality, using art to preserve unseen memories, emotions, and felt experiences, framing the body as a way of being.”

Art lovers and other members of the public can explore the two artists’ works from 10:00 a.m. through 7:00 p.m., being open from Tuesday to Sunday.

Casa Garden is located at 13 Praça de Luís de Camões.



Photos taken yesterday at Casa Garden by Rui Pastorin



26th Macau Food Festival to feature 150 local eateries

Staff Reporter

The 26th Macau Food Festival will be held from November 20 to December 6 near Praça do Lago Sai Van (Sai Van Lake Square – 澳門西灣湖廣場), featuring roughly 150 local food and beverage businesses, the organiser announced yesterday.

Once again, 17-day event is organised by the United Association of Food and Beverage Merchants of Macau. A press conference was held at The Plaza Restaurant yesterday, attended by 26th Macau Food Festival Organising Committee Chairman Andrew Chan Chak Mo, Director Lei U Weng, Deputy Director Fong Kin Fu, Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) Tourism Product and Events Department Chief Ip Weng San, and representatives from more than 230 businesses.

The booth application process,



(From left to right) MGTO Tourism Product and Events Department Chief Ip Weng San, 26th Macau Food Festival Organising Committee Chairman Andrew Chan Chak Mo, Director Lei U Weng and Deputy Director Fong Kin Fu look on during yesterday's press conference at The Plaza Restaurant in Zape.

– Photo: MPD

which was launched yesterday, will run until September 24.

Successful applicants will have to pay a deposit of 3,000 patacas. The operators are required to use a POS (point-of-sale) system provided by

the association, which will deduct 10 percent from the operators' revenue to cover its outlays, such as for promotions, decorations, water and power supply, security, and cleaning services, Chan said.

According to Chan, the festival will showcase Macau's diverse food culture and the fusion of Chinese and Western culinary traditions, whilst providing residents and visitors with a variety

of dining experiences.

The culinary festival will party coincide with the Macau Grand Prix (MGP), which is slated to be held between November 19-22.

Chan noted that traffic congestion and pedestrian safety had been persistent issues during previous editions, with some local families driving to the festival but being unable to find parking spaces and ultimately returning home.

Chan added that organisers are applying for a temporary plot of land to set up a parking area between Sai Van Lake Square and Avenida do Lago Nam Van. The site is expected to accommodate more than 200 private cars and motorcycles.

A new direct shuttle bus service between Hengqin Port and Macau Tower will also be introduced this year, operating non-stop from Friday to Sunday, Chan added. ■

Local man arrested over illicit recording on buses: Macau police

Staff Reporter

The Public Security Police Force (PSP) arrested a local man in his 20s for illicitly recording women's private body parts on public buses, a PSP spokesman said during a regular press conference yesterday.

According to the spokesman, the police received a report on Sunday from an alert passenger who spotted the suspect using his mobile phone to surreptitiously film two female commuters while travelling on a bus. The passenger tailed the suspect after he alighted in Taipa and confronted him. The suspect admitted to filming the women, prompting the passenger to contact the police.

PSP officers later examined the suspect's mobile phone and uncovered more than 1,000 suspected illicit videos, some dating back two years. Among them were 23 videos recorded on the day of the incident alone, involving at least three female victims, the spokesman added.

The suspect, surnamed Chou, targeted women's legs, areas beneath their skirts, and women wearing shorts. One video clip showed him pursuing two women onto a bus at the Praça Ferreira Amaral bus terminus and filming them for at least 10 minutes.

The two women were unaware they were being recorded.

Chou was transferred to the Public Prosecution Office (MP) on suspicion of invasion of privacy and unlawful recording and photography. ■



This undated handout photo provided by the Public Security Police Force (PSP) yesterday shows PSP officers escorting the illicit recording suspect to a police van.

CURB crowns winners of GBA photo contest

Rui Pastorin

The Centre for Architecture and Urbanism (CURB) announced the winners of its "Treasures of the Greater Bay: Urban Villages in the Greater Bay Area Photography Competition" on Tuesday, having received 323 photos from 134 participants this year.

Composed of the Macau Open

Group, Macau Student Group, and GBA Open Group categories, the first prize winners were Lei Heong Ieong, Lam Chi Kuan, and Liu Ye. According to the competition website, the top prizes for both the Macau and GBA group is 4,000 patacas, while the winner of the student group is set to receive 2,000 patacas.

The complete list of winners, along with their winning images, as well as honourable mentions, can be found on <https://competition.curb-center.com/gba-2026-edition/>.

Combined with the inaugural edition in 2024, which drew 157 participants and 377 submissions, the contest has gathered a total of 291 participants and 700 photographs, the statement said.

An award ceremony will be held at Curb's headquarters at Ponte 9 (No.9 Pier) – Creative Platform, on Rua das Lorchas, next Saturday, during which an exhibition presenting the works will also kick off. Moreover, prior to the ceremony, CURB will also launch the "Amazing Macau: Architecture Photography Between Heritage and Modernity" album which compiles 149 photos chosen from CURB's various photography competitions since 2022, the statement said. ■



This poster provided by Centre for Architecture and Urbanism (CURB) on Tuesday promotes the upcoming award ceremony and exhibition launch slated for next Saturday.

Gen. Ye Ting photo exhibition opens at Tap Seac Gallery

Khalel Vallo

According to a statement by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) on Tuesday, the "Light & Sword: Photographic Works of General Ye Ting" exhibition opens today at Tap Seac Gallery in Praça do Tap Siac, featuring nearly 300 historical images documenting the life and military career of General Ye Ting (1898-1946).

Organised by the bureau, presented by the Macao Museum and co-organised by the Research Association of Yeting, the exhibition commemorates the 130th anniversary of Ye Ting's birth, the statement said.

The exhibition is divided into three sections: "A Glimpse of his Life", "Photography on the Battlefield" and "Years in Macao", the statement noted, adding that the displays cover different periods of Ye Ting's life, including his involvement in the Northern Expedition (1926-1928), Nanchang Uprising (1927), Guangzhou Uprising (1927) and the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression (1931-1945).

Ye, one of the founders of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) and commander of the New Fourth Army, had a strong interest in photography and left numerous battlefield documentary images, according to the statement.

The exhibition also highlights his involvement in supporting the anti-Japanese resistance in Macau and his contributions to the national liberation and rejuvenation efforts.

With free admission, the exhibition runs until October 31 at Tap Seac Gallery, which is open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., including public holidays. Further information is available from the Macao Museum on 2835 7911 during office hours. ■

Stay tuned for an upcoming Page 4.



This poster provided by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) on Tuesday promotes the upcoming "Light & Sword: Photographic Works of General Ye Ting" exhibition which opens today at Tap Seac Gallery in Praça do Tap Siac.

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Macau Weather

CLOUDY APART FROM SUNNY INTERVALS.
A FEW SHOWERS IN THE MORNING AND AT NIGHT.
FORCE 3 TO 4 NORTH TO NORTHEASTERLY WINDS.
RELATIVE HUMIDITY WILL RANGE BETWEEN 55% AND 95%.



25°C~31°C

Source: SMG

HK, Macao students interact with Shenzhou-23 crew from orbit during 'Tiangong Class'

HONG KONG – The “Tiangong Class” Hong Kong and Macao Designated Session was held simultaneously in Hong Kong and Macao yesterday morning, as the three Chinese astronauts of the Shenzhou-23 crew currently carrying out a manned space mission at the Tiangong space station delivered a live space lecture for students.

Shenzhou-23 mission commander Zhu Yangzhu, astronaut Zhang Zhiyuan and Hong Kong’s first payload specialist Li Jiaying, or Lai Ka-ying in Cantonese, delivered an engaging and vivid science lesson to the young people of Hong Kong and Macao.

The event was jointly organized by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) government, the Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) government and the China Manned Space Agency, with the main classroom set up at Lai’s alma mater, Tsuen Wan Public Ho Chuen Yiu

Memorial College in Hong Kong.

A total of 160 Hong Kong students and 50 Macao students attended the main venue in person, joined by school principals, teachers, youth representatives, and tech professionals from both cities.

The HKSAR government and the Macao SAR government also arranged for teachers and students of primary and secondary schools to watch the live broadcast simultaneously on campus.

During the session, the three astronauts demonstrated scientific experiments in the unique space environment in real time and shared glimpses of daily life aboard the space station. They conducted a series of science demonstrations, including baking a cake in the space kitchen, wringing out a wet towel, and tending the space vegetable garden.

Lai also showcased the operating procedures for MUSICO, a lightweight, high-resolution, high-precision carbon dioxide and

methane point-source detector developed under the leadership of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

Throughout the lecture, the astronauts answered questions from students on space science and astronaut life in orbit.

John Lee Ka-chiu, HKSAR’s chief executive, asked Lai whether she had received the letters sent by the students. In response, Lai said she had read through every letter from home, pledging to honor their trust and spare no effort to complete her in-orbit mission. She added that her spaceflight reflected the country’s strong support for Hong Kong.

Kong Chi Meng, director of the Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ) of the Macao SAR government, said that the lecture was not only a vivid lesson in science and technology education, but also a profound lesson in patriotism, with the three astronauts serving as exemplary role models for students. – *Xinhua*

HKSAR’s first CE Tung Chee-hwa dies at 89



This July 3, 1997 photo shows Tung Chee-hwa in his office as the first chief executive of the Hong Kong SAR. – Photo: HKSAR Government

Lu Wanqing

Tung Chee-hwa, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region’s first chief executive, passed away on Tuesday at the age of 89.

In a statement in the early hours yesterday, his office said Tung passed away at Hong Kong Sanatorium and Hospital, in the presence of his family members.

Serving as chief executive from July 1997 to March 2005, he steered Hong Kong through its formative years that followed the city’s return to the motherland.

Tung managed a tenure that ensured the city’s smooth return to the motherland and was instrumental in ensuring a successful implementation of the “One Country, Two Systems” principle and the Basic Law of Hong Kong SAR, which allows “Hong Kong people governing Hong Kong” with a high degree of autonomy, with the central government’s full trust and support.

In 2019, he received a national honorary medal and title, which recognized his pivotal work on Hong Kong’s return to the motherland and contribution to the implementation of “One Country, Two Systems.”

He also served as vice-chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), the country’s top political advisory body. He was awarded the Grand Bauhinia Medal by the Hong Kong SAR government in 2006.

Born in Shanghai in 1937, Tung spent his childhood in Hong Kong before furthering his education at the University of Liverpool, in the United Kingdom. He returned to Hong Kong in 1969 to take care of his family’s shipping business after years of working in the United States.

Before his 1997 swearing-in as HKSAR chief executive, Tung had already established himself in the city’s corporate scene while building a reputation by serving in various public sector and advisory roles.

His stewardship was tested

during the Asian financial crisis in the late 1990s. Tung steadied the SAR through the turbulence, notably in a bold 10-trading-day market intervention that saw his administration deploying HK\$118 billion in foreign exchange reserves to buy into the local stock market.

Tung was also remembered for his efforts to enhance the SAR’s bonds with the Chinese mainland. In 2003, as the city was recovering from the social, economic and psychological stress brought by the SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) outbreak, he delivered a Policy Address that drew a clear focus on economic recovery through deeper ties with the mainland.

He also helped fast-track the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA), a free-trade pact signed in June 2003 that has since granted Hong Kong businesses privileged access to the mainland market.

Also in 2003, to revive the SARS-hit tourism and economy, Tung’s government secured the landmark Individual Visit Scheme from the central government. It allowed residents of selected mainland cities to travel to Hong Kong on individual leisure endorsements, whereas previously most mainland leisure visitors could only come on group tours or business permits. In normal years, the scheme has brought tens of millions of mainland visitors to Hong Kong annually.

Tung left office in 2005 citing poor health, yet remained actively engaged in public life afterwards.

He channeled his energy through two non-profit organizations he founded – China-United States Exchange Foundation (CUSEF) and Our Hong Kong Foundation – in 2008 and 2014, respectively. While CUSEF promotes bilateral exchanges between China and the United States, Our Hong Kong Foundation is today a prominent local think tank generating public-policy proposals for Hong Kong.

Courtesy of China Daily Hong Kong

Govt launches health scheme to encourage wellness



Health Bureau (SSM) Director Alvis Lo Iek Long (centre) speaks during yesterday’s press conference at the Tap Seac Multisport Pavilion as other officials look on, comprising (from left to right) Health Bureau’s Health Promotion Division chief Wong Weng Man, Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ) Deputy Director Wong Ka Ki, Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) President Wilson Hon Wai, Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) President Deland Leong Wai Man, Sports Bureau (ID) Acting President See Lei Si Leng, and Health Bureau’s IT Department official Leong lat Tou. – Photo: Tony Wong

Continued from p.1

The four types of healthy behaviour comprise:

- 1). Regular exercise, including daily walking and taking government-run sports or fitness classes;
- 2). A healthy diet, either by preparing a healthy meal at home or selecting healthy options when ordering takeaways;
- 3). Disease screening, including regular health checks and cancer screenings;
- 4). Vaccination, including receiving influenza jabs, or even merely reading vaccination information on their Macao One Account.

All details about the competition can be checked on its dedicated website: <https://www.ssm.gov.mo/portal/healthylifestylechallenge>.

Participants can check how many points any particular healthy behaviour listed by the programme will earn on this dedicated website or via their Macao One Account.

Points are calculated quarterly

and remain valid for two years. Points can be redeemed for a wide variety of gifts, including sporting goods, everyday household items, digital gadgets, shopping vouchers, dining coupons, cinema tickets, and tickets for cultural performances.

For daily walking to be converted into points for the programme, participants are required to authorise their Macao One Account to access the step counts automatically recorded by their smartphones, smart wristbands, or sports watches.

Participants can prepare a healthy meal at home and upload photos to the platform to earn points, in which case AI will verify whether the food is truly healthy in line with official standards. Alternatively, they can choose to order meals classified as healthy options on any of the three participating local online takeaway platforms, in which case the points will be automatically recorded.

Participants can also earn points by enrolling in sport or fitness classes run either by the Sports Bureau (ID) or financed by the Education

and Youth Development Bureau’s (DSEDJ) continuing education programme. Those who have met the required attendance rate will have their points automatically recorded.

Participants who have undergone regular health checks or screenings for certain cancers at public healthcare institutions or certain private institutions can also earn points.

The Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) will provide free tickets for its signature events, including certain shows in its upcoming Macao International Music Festival.

The Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) has been organising various briefing sessions for different vulnerable groups, teaching them how to use their Macao One Account to join the contest and ensure that their healthy behaviours will be converted into points on the platform.

The bureau will also continue to host sessions to brief social service professionals how to teach their service users to use their Macao One Account for the competition. ■

China firmly opposes US groundless allegations on Chinese AI firms: MOC

BEIJING – The Ministry of Commerce (MOC) yesterday voiced firm opposition to the recent US announcements that Chinese artificial intelligence (AI) companies are engaged in so-called industrial-scale efforts to distill capabilities from US AI models, calling the accusations groundless and without legal basis.

The US move politicizes distillation, which is a normal technical and commercial issue in the AI industry, a ministry spokesperson said, adding the US announcements are another proof of the country's pursuit of technological hegemony and computing power monopoly in the AI field, as well as

its suppression of competition.

Distillation is a common practice for mutual learning among AI models, which is essentially a neutral technical means used by global model companies including US firms. It can help models enhance their learning efficiency, achieve more efficient utilization of human knowledge, and is significant for the development of the AI industry in various countries.

China's open-source models are open to global enterprises, including those from the United States. Some US enterprises have disclosed the distillation of a large number of Chinese models, the spokesperson said.

However, the US side has repeatedly and unilaterally accused Chinese enterprises of engaging in "industrial-scale" distillation, and smeared common practices as aggressive acts. This reflects the anxiety and double standards of the United States, the spokesperson said.

The United States frequently threatened sanctions on and suppression of Chinese companies' distillation practices this year, aiming to maintain the US monopoly in computing power and data, and prevent other countries from participating in the inclusive sharing of AI innovation achievements, the spokesperson said.

China and the United States should handle the challenges and risks in the AI field in a proactive and responsible manner. The two heads of state have agreed to hold an inter-governmental dialogue on AI. China is willing to engage in constructive and professional discussions with the United States based on the principles of equality, mutual benefit and win-win cooperation, said the spokesperson.

If the US side takes actions to suppress Chinese AI enterprises under the pretext of targeting distillation, China will surely take resolute countermeasures, the spokesperson added.

– Xinhua

Xi's Central Asia, Middle East tour injects certainty, positive energy into world in flux

Analysis

BEIJING – President Xi Jinping made a five-day trip to Central Asia and the Middle East from August 30 to September 3, during which he attended the 2026 Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit and paid state visits to Kyrgyzstan and Egypt, sending strong messages that inject certainty and positive energy into a turbulent and changing world.

The trip, observers say, was in step with the broader trends of the times as the Chinese president, with the shared future of humanity in mind, advanced a series of proposals on reforming and improving global governance.

VISION FOR AN "EQUAL AND ORDERLY MULTIPOLAR WORLD"

At the expanded SCO Plus Meeting in Bishkek, capital of Kyrgyzstan, Xi called for an "equal and orderly multipolar world" and a more just and equitable global governance system, with a stronger role for the United Nations.

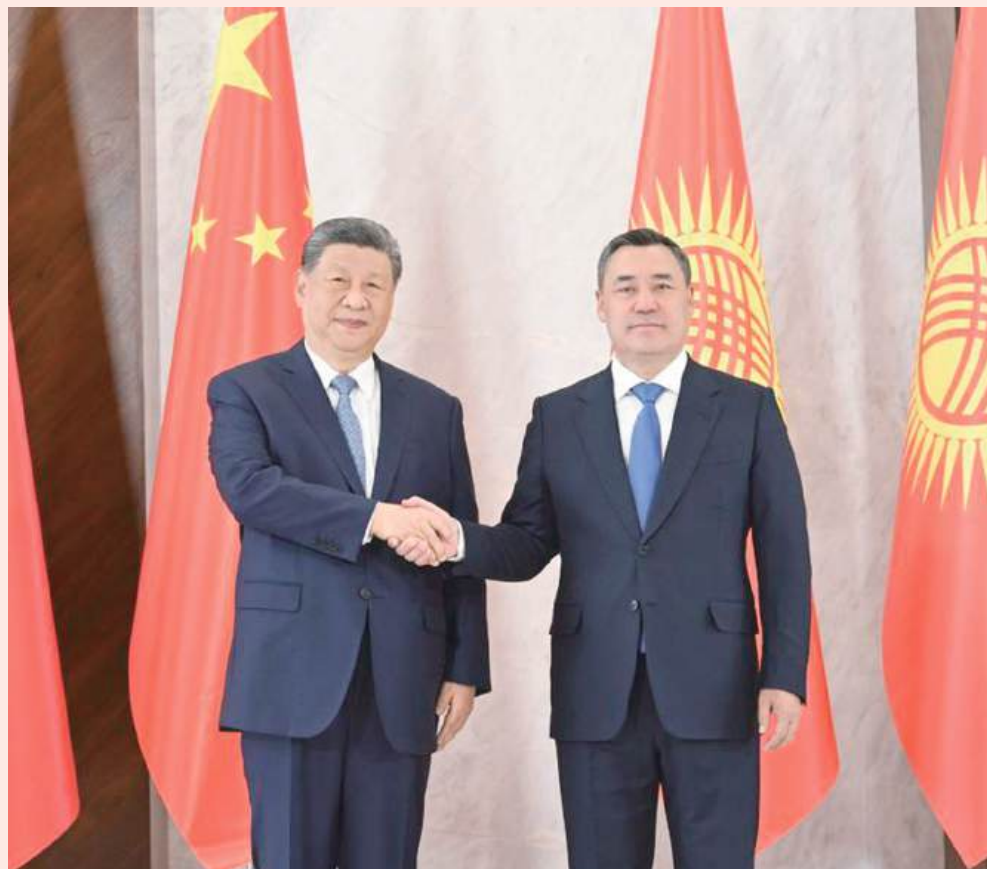
The SCO, since its establishment in 2001, has grown from a six-member Eurasian organization to a 27-nation family across Asia, Europe and Africa.

In his speech, Xi said that sovereign equality and mutual respect are fundamental principles; balance, order and the rule of law are inherent requirements; multilateralism, dialogue and consultation are essential pathways; and mutual benefit, win-win, and inclusiveness are the way forward for development.

These principles are rooted in Xi's vision for global governance, first articulated with the launch of the Global Governance Initiative (GGI) at last year's SCO Summit in China's coastal city of Tianjin, as the United Nations marked its 80th anniversary.

The initiative has received support from nearly 160 countries and international organizations. The Group of Friends of Global Governance has been established in New York, Geneva and Vienna. The World Artificial Intelligence Cooperation Organization, the world's first intergovernmental international organization on AI, has been launched in Shanghai for AI governance. These efforts help turn the GGI into concrete actions.

Put forward by Xi, the Global Governance Initiative (GGI), along with the Global Development Initiative (GDI), the Global Security Initiative (GSI), and the Global Civilization Initiative (GCI), has



President Xi Jinping holds talks with Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, last Monday.

– Xinhua

been widely acclaimed, said SCO Secretary-General Nurlan Yermekbayev.

"This is a complementary system of ideas and practical approaches aimed at addressing pressing contemporary challenges and building a just, peaceful, and sustainable world order," he said.

During this trip, the Chinese president sought to promote peace, development and prosperity in both international and regional arenas.

At SCO meetings, Xi outlined four proposals for advancing the organization's high-quality development and three suggestions for enhancing its role.

During his state visit to Kyrgyzstan, Xi signed a bilateral treaty on permanent good-neighborliness, friendship and cooperation with his Kyrgyz counterpart.

In Egypt, Xi proposed a four-point approach to building a new Middle East security architecture.

DEVELOPMENT FOR THE PEOPLE

In his talks with Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov, Xi called for efforts to advance the building of a China-Kyrgyzstan community with a shared future and better benefit the people of both countries.

He urged high-quality construction of the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway, a flagship Belt and Road project linking China with Central Asia.

Addressing the SCO summit, Xi called on the SCO to put development first and open up the prospects for shared prosperity.

The SCO, Xi said, should champion a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization, consolidate cooperation in traditional areas such as trade and investment, connectivity, energy and resources, and expand cooperation in emerging areas such as artificial intelligence, digital economy, green industry and green mining.

The same emphasis on development and people's wellbeing was evident during Xi's visit to Egypt. In a joint communique, China praised Egypt's Decent Life Initiative for its efforts to improve people's living standards, while Egypt expressed appreciation for the Global Development Initiative.

As Xi once put it, "People's sense of gain should be the goal of domestic governance and global governance, and we should continue to provide confidence and stable expectations for the people."

MUTUAL LEARNING

In a signed article published ahead of

his visit to Kyrgyzstan, Xi wrote about the ancient Silk Road as a witness to the long-standing friendship between the two peoples, citing the stories of historical figures such as diplomat Zhang Qian, monk Xuanzang and poet Li Bai, whose legacy is seen as promoting civilizational exchanges between China and Kyrgyzstan.

During his visit to Egypt, Xi, accompanied by Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, visited the Grand Egyptian Museum, where the legacy of ancient Egypt unfolds against the backdrop of the millennia-old pyramids.

Xi and Sisi, together with their spouses, spent more than one hour touring the museum, home to more than 100,000 precious artifacts.

They toured the grand galleries, posing for a photo before a towering statue of Ramses II, one of the most famous pharaohs of Egypt, as curators delivered a swift primer on pharaonic history.

"This museum is a book with endless pages," Xi said.

The museum visit also underscored Xi's longstanding emphasis on exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations.

Over the years, Xi's overseas trips have taken him to museums and historic sites, from the Amir Timur Museum in Uzbekistan to the ancient Maya ruins of Chichen Itza in Mexico. At home, he also invited foreign leaders to visit China's historic sites, ranging from the Forbidden City to the ancient irrigation system Dujiangyan and the over 600-year-old Temple of Heaven.

At the Grand Egyptian Museum, Xi called on the two countries to promote inclusive coexistence and mutual learning among different civilizations, and pool greater strength from civilizations to advance the building of a community with a shared future for humanity.

The remarks echoed Xi's message to Sisi on the museum's opening last year, in which Xi highlighted the vibrant cultural and people-to-people exchanges between the two countries, citing the successful exhibition on ancient Egyptian civilization in Shanghai and joint archaeological exploration into the pyramids at Saqqara, located south of Cairo.

"It is encouraging to see the two ancient civilizations reaching out to each other, with the two peoples growing ever closer through mutual understanding and affinity," Xi said.

– Xinhua

China services trade fair showcases innovation, promotes openness

BEIJING – The 2026 China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) opened yesterday in Beijing, as China steps up efforts to expand opening-up in services trade at the outset of the 15th Five-Year Plan period (2026-2030).

Running through Sunday at Shougang Park, a former industrial site and venue for the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics, the fair has drawn participants from 90 countries, regions and international organizations, with over 1,800 companies exhibiting on-site. Among them are 473 Fortune Global 500 firms and other industry leaders, including Honeywell, Johnson & Johnson and Siemens.

Themed “Global Services, Shared Prosperity,” this year’s CIFTIS features a Global Trade in Services Summit, co-hosted by the Ministry of Commerce (MOC) and the Beijing municipal government, together with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). A series of forums and business matchmaking activities will also be held during the fair.

During the summit, Zimbabwean Vice President Constantino Chiwenga said the CIFTIS is expected to create many investment opportunities across conferencing, exhibition, infrastructure, and digital services, adding that it will help Zimbabwe identify opportunities for trade in services, build export capacity, and attract credible partners across technology, finance, tourism, education and health care.

Alexander Poulev, deputy prime minister and minister of Economy, Investment and Industry of Bulgaria, said at the summit that trade in services is an important pillar of the China-Bulgarian relationship. “We want to see more Bulgarian products reaching the Chinese market and more Bulgarian companies building long-term partnerships with Chinese businesses,” he said.

More than 100 new products and services will make their debut at the fair, covering fields



An exhibitor introduces products via live-streaming at the booth of Australia at the 2026 China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS), in Beijing, yesterday. The five-day 2026 CIFTIS opened yesterday. – Xinhua

such as information and communications, fintech, and digital and intelligent healthcare.

Another highlight is a new overseas expansion services roadshow area, which offers Chinese companies one-stop professional support to enter foreign markets and expand the global footprint of Chinese services.

“Going global today is no longer just about competitive pricing, but also about adapting to different rules, managing compliance and navigating risks,” said Li Yao from KPMG China, adding that the new service area comes at an opportune time.

The core exhibition area also debuts a showcase of more than 140 innovation cases spanning all 12 categories of services trade, including artificial intelligence, large language models, and intelligent agents, offering a glimpse of where China’s services sector is headed.

Advancing trade in services and promoting opening up and cooperation in the services

sector is not only China’s choice but also a global necessity, Chinese Vice Premier Ding Xuexiang said in a keynote speech at the summit. He noted China’s efforts in actively promoting trade in services and opening up its services sector wider, which are creating more opportunities for countries and businesses around the world.

The fair itself offered a glimpse of that openness in action. Norway, this year’s guest country of honor, presented a pavilion featuring a wide range of exhibits, including health and nutrition, green transition, and design and lifestyle.

Henning Kristoffersen, commercial counselor of the Norwegian Embassy in Beijing, said the opportunity allows Norway to show a much broader picture of its commercial relationship with China. “What we want to do at CIFTIS is to broaden it further into services, technology, culture and knowledge-based cooperation,” he

said. China is Norway’s largest trading partner in Asia, with around 160 Norwegian companies operating in China, he added.

Klaus Hoseth, CEO of Hoseth Technology, a Norwegian fish-processing technology firm, is attending CIFTIS for the first time and looking to cooperate with Chinese robotics and AI companies. “We hope to improve automation and efficiency in our production line, and leverage Chinese open-source AI technologies to make factory systems smarter,” he said. He also noted the strong potential for cooperation between China’s vast market and Norway’s marine food industry.

The interest shown by international participants comes as China’s services trade continues to grow.

China has posted rapid growth in services trade, with strong exports of knowledge-intensive services supported by the country’s IP and innovation ecosystem, said WIPO Director General Daren Tang in his video address to the summit.

Latest official data showed that in the first seven months of this year, China’s services trade totaled nearly 4.45 trillion yuan, up 8.3 percent year on year.

A report released at CIFTIS yesterday also highlighted the growing strength of China’s services brands. China ranks second globally with 21 brands in the world’s 100 most valuable trade in services brands, with a combined worth of US\$876.8 billion, according to the report titled “Trade in Services 100 2026” released by Brand Finance, a leading brand valuation consultancy.

Advancing high-quality development of services trade is a key task in the outline of China’s 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-2030), which calls for intensified efforts to optimize negative list management of services trade, ease cross-border restrictions, encourage services exports, and foster knowledge-intensive services trade. – Xinhua

China recognizes 11 new occupations as new industries create fresh roles

BEIJING – China yesterday officially recognized 11 new occupations and 23 new specialties under existing occupations, reflecting evolving labor demand driven by technological advances, industrial upgrading and shifting consumer needs.

The new occupations, released by the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security and other government departments, include shore-based ship management engineering technicians, embodied intelligence robot technicians and sports data analysts.

Authorities also revised information concerning six existing occupations or specialties, including agricultural product brokers.

The recognition of the new occupations and specialties will help promote employment and entrepreneurship, offer workers more diverse career paths and better match talent supply with job demand.

Five of the newly recognized occupations are classified as digital occupations and three as green occupations, bringing the respective totals in China to 113 and 142.

A ministry official said China is expected to face a sizable shortage of workers with digital skills for some time, adding that the recognition of the new occupations would spur training and open up broad employment prospects.

The latest additions also highlight the continued expansion of modern services.

Some of these new occupations focus on business development and industrial upgrading,

including corporate sustainability planners, airport obstacle-clearance inspectors, and artificial intelligence (AI) agent developers. Others respond more directly to people’s demand for higher-quality services, including incense-making artisans, smart furniture assembly and commissioning workers, and fresh-cut flower processing workers.

More modern service occupations are expected to emerge amid the increasing specialization and upgrading of producer services and improvements in the quality, diversity and convenience of consumer services, the official said.

New specialties under existing occupations include community workers, low-altitude logistics operators and age-friendly renovation designers.

Since 2019, China has released eight batches of 121 new occupations.

Of these new occupations, 60 percent were service-related, while professional and technical occupations and manufacturing-related occupations each accounted for 17 percent.

By industry, 43 percent of the new occupations were in modern services, while 34 percent were in advanced manufacturing.

The ministry said it will formulate national standards for the new occupations to guide vocational education, skills training and talent assessment.

During the 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-2030) period, China aims to explore new employment space in the digital economy, green economy and silver economy. – Xinhua

China, CEE countries unveil 2030 vision for innovation cooperation

NINGBO – China and Central and Eastern European countries (CEEC) unveiled a vision for innovation cooperation through 2030 yesterday, alongside a report reviewing a decade of collaboration in the field.

The announcements were made at the 2026 China-CEEC Conference on Innovation Cooperation, which opened in Ningbo, Zhejiang Province. The three-day event is co-hosted by the Ministry of Science and Technology (MST) and Slovakia’s Ministry of Economy.

Around 450 government officials, diplomats, researchers, academics, entrepreneurs and young science and technology professionals from China and CEEC are attending the conference, which runs in both Ningbo and Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, under the theme “A Decade of Innovation, Building the Future Together.”

The conference features a ministerial meeting on science and technology innovation, as well as forums on artificial intelligence and robotics, biotechnology and green energy.

At the opening ceremony, organizers released a 10-year report on China-CEEC innovation cooperation and a

2026 index measuring open innovation cooperation between Chinese cities and CEEC. Eleven agreements on industry-university-research collaboration and joint development of innovation platforms were signed, and the second China-CEEC Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurship Competition was launched.

At a ministerial meeting later Wednesday, senior representatives discussed cooperation opportunities in key fields and proposed the China-CEEC innovation cooperation 2030 vision.

Representatives from countries including Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Slovenia attended the conference. Experts called for stronger cooperation among young researchers, more joint laboratories and concrete channels for collaborative research.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the conference. Since its launch in 2016, the event has been held five times in China, Slovakia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Serbia, promoting policy dialogue, joint research, personnel exchanges and technology cooperation. – Xinhua

Philippine high court dismisses Imelda Marcos graft case

MANILA — The Philippine Supreme Court tossed out a graft case against former first lady Imelda Marcos that had languished in the courts for years, documents released yesterday show.

Marcos, 97, fled to the United States in 1986 with husband Ferdinand Marcos, who, along with his cronies, was accused of pilfering US\$10 billion from the Philippines after a people's uprising ended his 20-year rule.

The former dictator died in 1989 while still in exile, but his heirs later returned to the country, allowing Imelda to see son Ferdinand Marcos Jr. become the country's president in 2022.

The 2018 verdict from the anti-graft Sandiganbayan court had ordered her to serve a minimum of six years behind bars over charges that the Marcoses funnelled roughly US\$200 million through Swiss foundations decades ago.

The former first lady, famed for her lavish lifestyle, swiftly filed an appeal.

Yesterday, court documents revealed the Supreme Court dismissed the case more than two months ago.

"In sum, the relevant Swiss documents were not properly authenticated," the court said in its ruling dated June 10.

"The prosecution was not able to present any credible witness who could have attested to the genuineness and due execution of the documents."

The case is not the first against Imelda Marcos to be overturned by the Supreme Court.

In 1993, it overturned a 24-year jail sentence - also on graft charges. She went on to run for Congress and win while her appeal was underway.

The family's notoriety stems back to Ferdinand Marcos declaring martial law in 1972. That allowed him to shutter the legislature, muzzle the free press and jail or kill those who dared to oppose his dictatorship.

In the decades since Marcos's ouster, the effort to recover the pilfered money has been halting and uneven.

— AFP

Rescuers comb the seas for missing Indonesian journalists on volcano mission

JAKARTA — Indonesian rescuers combed the waters and islands around an active volcano yesterday for a missing speedboat carrying eight people including five journalists sent to cover a volcanic eruption.

The second day of the search has come up empty-handed, the Basarnas national search and rescue agency said.

The group set out on a speedboat from an area west of Jakarta on Monday afternoon, but the crew lost contact with the boat owner soon after, according to rescuers.

The five Indonesian journalists were on a mission to capture photos and video of the eruption of Mount Anak Krakatau, which for days paralysed several airports and blanketed cities including Jakarta in volcanic ash.

They were accompanied by two boat crew members and a guide.

The search effort launched on Tuesday afternoon but paused hours later due to high waves and poor visibility.

Rescuers have combed through an area of more than 270 nautical miles, including islands near the volcano, in an operation involving dozens of police officers, soldiers, fishermen and volunteers, the Basarnas agency said in a statement.

"So far, the search result is zero," local Basarnas head Al



This undated picture taken by a boat crew member shows the five journalists posing on the boat that would take them to cover the eruption of Mount Anak Krakatau in Lampung, before they were reported missing.

— AFP

Amrad said yesterday afternoon.

The operation has been suspended for the day and will resume today, he told AFP.

Rescuers were proceeding cautiously as Anak Krakatau continued to spew thick volcanic ash, he added.

"The search will continue to be carried out according to conditions on the ground," Al Amrad said.

The agency said it had deployed high-speed search and rescue vessels, inflatable boats and thermal drones in the search.

The journalists are employed by local and international media, including state news agency Antara, Turkish state-run news

agency Anadolu and local website iNews.

One of the journalists contacted a colleague and gave his location at 3:00 p.m. [local time] on Monday, but has not been heard from since, the rescue agency said.

Marine accidents are a regular occurrence in the Southeast Asian archipelago, due in part to lax safety standards and inclement weather.

In January, three Spanish tourists died when their boat sank off eastern Indonesia, and a 10-year-old boy was listed as officially missing, presumed dead, after authorities ended the search.

— AFP

Policeman kills teacher wife at Thai school, kids safe: officials

BANGKOK — A police officer shot dead his teacher wife at the kindergarten where she worked in Thailand yesterday but all the children are safe, officials said.

The gunman returned home after the shooting in Chonburi province, southeast of Bangkok, where police were negotiating his surrender.

The incident is the latest shooting to rock Thailand, a month after a teenager shot his grandparents and then five staff and a pupil at his school, before killing himself.

Thailand has one of the highest rates of gun ownership in the region, and past promises of tightening gun laws have not prevented repeated shootings.

Sayan Klomaon, chairman of Nong Pla Lai sub-district council, told AFP the gunman — a policeman local to the area — went to the school at about 10:30 a.m. [local time] and talked with his wife before shooting her.

No students saw the incident, as it happened outside the classroom, he said, adding that the gunman then left to go home, and since then all the children had been picked up.

In a statement on Facebook, Chonburi Governor Naris Niramaiwong confirmed that all 44 children were safely evacuated along with three teachers and three other staff members.

He said police had surrounded the house where the gunman was and were negotiating his surrender.

The motive remains unclear.

Naris ordered the kindergarten closed and said psychological support will be provided to children and staff who witnessed the incident.

In 2022, an ex-policeman armed with a gun and a knife stormed a nursery in northern Thailand and killed 24 children and 12 adults, in one of the country's deadliest massacres.

— AFP

Thailand investigates after Briton dies from penis enlargement

BANGKOK — Thai authorities said yesterday they are investigating a Bangkok clinic where a Nigerian-born British businessman and influencer underwent a penis enlargement procedure that led to his death.

A coroner in London last month ruled that the March 6 death of Igho Ubiribo, 43, in the Thai capital was caused by the hyaluronic acid injection he received hours earlier.

The case has reignited debate about medical tourism, with Thailand a leading destination for visitors from abroad seeking healthcare, including aesthetic procedures.

Ubiribo, reportedly known as "Tiny" and "Ego", had 185,000 followers on Instagram, regularly posting pictures with his wife Danielle enjoying a luxury lifestyle.

Thailand's health ministry ordered an investigation into his death and officials on Monday visited the central Bangkok clinic where Ubiribo was treated.

Authorities are looking into whether it holds a valid licence and followed health and safety protocols, a health ministry official told AFP.

He was having a massage after receiving the filler when he complained of chest pains and collapsed, according to an August report from the UK coroner, which formally determines cause of death.

He was taken by ambulance to hospital, suspected of having a pulmonary embolism, but lost consciousness before he could have a CT scan.

Medics tried to resuscitate him for over 100 minutes but he was declared dead around 1:00 a.m. [local time]

"Post-mortem examination and toxicology determined the cause of death to be due to the hyaluronic acid injection," the report said.

Senior Bangkok police official Utit Soodjai told AFP his officers were also investigating.

"When it comes to medical procedures, we advocate for the highest level of caution," Thai health minister Pattana Promphat told reporters.

The probe was intended "to ensure fairness for everyone and to reassure both local and international patients that they are receiving safe, high-standard

and valuable care in Thailand", he added in a statement.

According to the health ministry, the clinic's managers said Ubiribo had been a regular patient since 2024 and had undergone five penile enlargement injections.

The first four procedures took place in 2024 and 2025, while on his fifth visit on March 5 he received 40 millilitres of filler.

The doctor had recommended splitting the procedure into two sessions, but Ubiribo requested that the entire amount be injected in one session, clinic management told investigators.

Hyaluronic acid fillers are widely used in aesthetic medicine, considered minimally invasive and relatively low risk.

Thailand has a reputation for excellent healthcare and has long been a centre for medical tourism, while the aesthetic market is booming.

As of 2024, official figures showed it had 7,000 aesthetic clinics, including 2,000 in Bangkok, and forecast a market worth US\$7.51 billion in 2027 — three times the size in 2020.

— AFP



Philippine army personnel from Task Force Marawi aboard their Armoured Personnel Carriers (APC) drive past an election poster as they patrol in Marawi City, Lanao Del Sur province, on the southern island of Mindanao yesterday, ahead of elections in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) on Monday.

— AFP

The round-the-clock monitors protecting Bhutan from glacier risk

Sara Hussein

WANGDUE PHODRANG, Bhutan – In a humble control room a few hours from Bhutan’s capital, a team works around the clock to monitor the risks of the Himalayan country’s rapidly melting glaciers.

The glacial collapse that caused deadly floods on the Nepal-Tibet border late last month is a stark reminder of the dangers faced by Bhutan, which has over 600 glaciers nestled in the mountain ranges across its north.

As climate change melts these ancient ice rivers, they can form glacial lakes held back by fragile debris walls. When these collapse, the lakes burst and flood communities downstream.

The threat is not theoretical. In 1994, a so-called glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) killed 21 people along Bhutan’s Punatsangchhu river, also known as the Sankosh.

The risk has increased exponentially since then.

“The Thorthormi glacier, due to climate change, it has fully transformed into a glacial lake,” said Dechen Peldon, junior engineer at the GLOF emergency warning facility in Wangdue Phodrang region.

“Now we have to be more vigilant and more concerned.”

The warning centre began work in 2011, as part of a push for better monitoring after the 1994 GLOF.

It oversees a network of sensors that detect changes in water levels at glacial lakes and downstream rivers, and sirens that warn communities to evacuate.

There are over 600 glacial lakes in Bhutan, with 17 considered potentially dangerous.

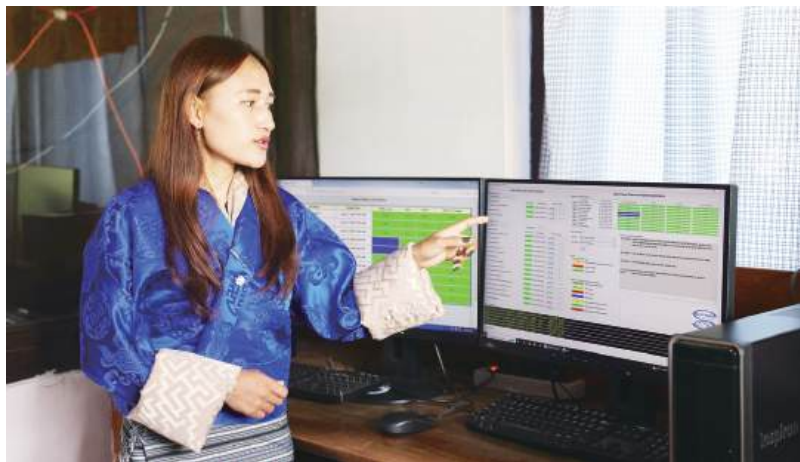
Some of those considered most dangerous sit at the head of a river feeding into the Punatsangchhu.

Four glacial lakes have formed, with two only separated from each other by a fragile debris dam.

In a “worst-case scenario”, the wall separating the lakes would collapse, unleashing an estimated 53 million cubic metres of water downstream.

‘More vigilant’

The nearest communities would



This photograph taken last week shows junior engineer Dechen Peldon speaking about the water level status and station operations on a computer screen at the Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) emergency warning facility in Bhutan’s Wangdue Phodrang region.

– AFP

have just minutes to evacuate, so sirens there are automatically triggered if water level changes suggest a potential GLOF.

Sirens further downstream are triggered manually by Dechen’s team, which works 24 hours a day, if a dangerous change in water levels is detected.

Though the recent disaster in neighbouring Nepal involved a glacier collapse, rather than a GLOF, it has reinforced the urgency of the job, said Dechen.

“I’m more alarmed and taking this more seriously,” she said.

“We, the control room operators, are more vigilant than we were before.”

Working with the disaster agency, the facility organises mock drills and information sessions, but nearby cafe owner Pushpa Karki admitted she was not sure what the siren outside her business even sounds like.

“I’ve never have been part of any drill,” the 30-year-old told AFP.

“They talk about mountain areas being prone to floods, so we are cautious. But I don’t know about the glacier-related flood risk.”

Around 70 percent of Bhutan’s settlements are along rivers, and the government is trying to tackle the risk upstream.

In 2008, the country began a years-long project to dig out and widen a channel from the Thorthormi glacier lake. The gruelling, high-altitude work gradually lowered the level of the lake by five metres,

reducing the pressure on the debris dam keeping it in place.

But continuous melt has filled the lake again, and now experts are trying to siphon water out, explained Bhutan’s leading glaciologist, Karma, who uses a single name.

‘So sad’

“Our glaciers are melting at a very alarming rate,” he told AFP at his office in the capital Thimphu, where he works as a specialist for the National Centre for Hydrology and Meteorology.

Bhutan’s largest glaciers are retreating 30-35 metres a year, he said, while smaller glaciers are receding around 12-16 metres.

That is professionally concerning, but also personally painful for Karma, who decided to become the country’s first glaciologist after accompanying Japanese experts surveying the region.

“I could literally climb on the glaciers,” he said.

“But now you cannot do that... it’s so sad actually.”

Karma feels Bhutan’s experience on the frontlines of climate change is especially unfair, given it absorbs more planet-warming carbon that it emits, partly because its laws require forest cover across 60 percent of its territory.

“The fear, the risk, which is being brought to the communities in Bhutan are not from our fault,” he said.

“I would like to appeal to the rest of the world to take responsibility.”

– AFP

Nepal seeks survivors 2 weeks after deadly floods

KATHMANDU – Nepali rescuers clung to hopes of finding survivors trapped in hydropower tunnels yesterday, two weeks after deadly flooding triggered by a glacial mountain collapse.

The August 26 tsunami-like surge of water, mud and debris, which began on the China-Nepal border, has killed more than 1,410 people and left 5,651 missing.

“The rescue and search work in the tunnels at Trishuli 3A, 3B and Chilime hydropower projects is ongoing,” Nepal Army spokesman Raja Ram Basnet told AFP.

In Nepal, 1,367 bodies have been recovered and 5,132 people are missing, its disaster authority said yesterday.

In China, 43 people are dead and 519 are missing, according to state media.

Hundreds of foreigners are among the missing, as well as hundreds of hydropower workers.

Three people were rescued from deep inside tunnels – two Nepalis on Friday and a Chinese man on Saturday.

But there has been no official confirmation of further survivors since then.

Thousands of people displaced by the disaster are living in camps, and the charity Save the Children

said as many as 540 children had been separated from their parents.

Nepal police said they were taking extra care to ensure the safety of children and women in relief camps.

“We have become more vigilant in temporary holding centres in the affected areas where there are children, women or minority groups who could be victims of sexual abuse,” said Nepal Police spokesman Abi Narayan Kafle.

“We have also started providing psychosocial counselling in different camps,” he told AFP.

While the exact cause of the glacial collapse is unclear, climate change is accelerating glacial melt worldwide and increasing the risk of such disasters.

Nepal, a largely rural nation of 30 million people that has contributed little to the greenhouse gas emissions driving global warming, has said reconstruction could cost billions of dollars.

Kafle said security personnel have involved community members to search for bodies feared buried under debris.

“We have started a special search campaign for missing bodies all across the Bhotekoshi river corridor,” he said.

“We are also using drones to search for bodies.”

– AFP

5 baby orangutans found in India, trafficking suspected

NEW DELHI - Indian officials rescued five baby orangutans in an eastern forest on Tuesday, a state minister said, with authorities suspecting they were trafficked into the country from Southeast Asia.

The orangutans, native only to the islands of Borneo and Sumatra and known for their shaggy red fur, were found in Balasore district of Odisha state.

They were “found when the Forest Department was patrolling in the Udaipur section under the Jaleswar range in Balasore district,” Odisha Environment Minister Ram Singh Khuntia told the IANS news agency.

Khuntia said investigators

were trying to establish how the rare apes reached India, adding that the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau would probe the case.

“We suspect that an international racket might be involved in this,” Singh said.

The animals have been placed in quarantine at a zoological park in Odisha.

According to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), around 104,000 orangutans remain in Borneo and Sumatra, down from more than 230,000 a century ago.

The Tapanuli orangutan, a third species, is classified as critically endangered, with fewer than 800 believed to survive in the wild. – AFP



This handout photograph taken on Tuesday and released by the Odisha Forest Department shows orangutans sitting next to bananas upon their rescue by officials at the Ranakatha Protected Reserved Forest in Balasore district, in India’s Odisha state.

– AFP

Japan’s main opposition party collapses after 8 months

TOKYO – Japan’s fragmented political opposition sank into deeper disarray yesterday as its main party announced that it would disband, following a failed effort to counter Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi’s highly popular administration.

The Centrist Reform Alliance will terminate its activities, its chief Junya Ogawa told a press conference, ending an eight-month attempt to create an effective political counterweight to Takaichi’s Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

“Once we settle outstanding payments, we will dissolve the party,” he said.

The Centrist party was formed hastily in January as an attempt to merge two major opposition groups and build a stronger, more unified movement against Takaichi.

Those groups were the Komeito – the LDP’s former coalition partner – and the Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan.

But the new party suffered a crushing defeat in February’s general election, securing only 49 seats in the 465-seat lower house, and unseating more than 100 of its own incumbents seeking re-elections.

The LDP added more than 100

seats, winning 316 in total.

Some members of the Centrists are expected to return to their old parties or form new ones.

Despite the party’s collapse, its members are expected to form a lower-house caucus to continue pushing for a viable alternative to the LDP, Ogawa said.

Pacifist Komeito, backed by a lay Buddhist organisation, ended its 26-year coalition with the LDP in October last year, saying its partner had refused to strengthen regulations on political donations in the wake of a fundraising scandal.

– AFP

Netanyahu on Syria visit says 'very close' to toppling Iran's Islamic republic

JERUSALEM – Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said during a visit to Israeli troops in southern Syria yesterday that Iran's Islamic republic was on the verge of collapse, as fighting in the six-month Middle East war intensifies.

"There is still work to be done – the main task is to bring down the terror regime in Iran. We are very close to that," he said on the Syrian side of Mount Hermon on the Israel-Syria border during a visit with Defence Minister Israel Katz.

"We know that the entire axis will ultimately collapse," he added, referring to Iran's allies in the Middle East.

In southern Syria, Israeli forces have been stationed in a "security zone" since the fall of longtime ruler Bashar al-Assad in December 2024.

They occupy what was previously a buffer zone patrolled by the United Nations that had separated Israeli and Syrian forces in the Israeli-occupied Golan since 1974.

"We will not allow any terrorist army to establish itself on our border," Netanyahu reiterated yesterday.

The premier was accompanied by Defence Minister Israel Katz, who addressed Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa in a video message filmed atop Mount Hermon, vowing that troops would not withdraw.

"We are here sending a very strong and clear message to the President of Syria, who sits 35 kilometres away down there in his palace in Damascus: we are here on Mount Hermon, we are in the security zone, and we are not

moving from here," he said.

Katz also threatened arch-foe Iran.

"Iran is in the background; we struck it twice, and when necessary we will strike it a third time, in order to continue thwarting the threats," he said.

Netanyahu had already visited troops in Syria at least twice in the past, once in December 2024, shortly after Israel took control of the buffer zone, and in November 2025.

Katz visited Israeli troops stationed in southern Syria two weeks ago, prompting condemnation from Damascus, which denounced a "flagrant violation of the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity".

Syria had been a staunch ally of the Islamic Republic under the leadership of Hafez al-Assad and his son Bashar, and hosted pro-Iranian paramilitary groups, but the alliance came to an end with Bashar's fall.

Israel has carried out hundreds of strikes in Syria since Islamist leaders took over from Assad, and has made repeated incursions into Syrian territory.

Officials have also repeatedly vowed to keep troops in the security zone, where Israel is seeking a broader demilitarised area.

Netanyahu's threats against Iran come as Tehran and Washington are locked in a stalemate over the strategic Strait of Hormuz, with both sides trading attacks in the past week, six months into the war that the US and Israel launched against the Islamic Republic at the end of February.

– AFP

Israeli settlement winemaker defiant after UK-led trade sanctions

Alice Chancellor

PSAGOT WINERY, Palestinian Territories – Britain has said it will have nothing more from Israeli settlement businesses like Psagot winery in the occupied West Bank.

But yesterday, as the clink of bottles mingled with chatter from customers, some armed with automatic weapons, the owners were defiant.

Britain a day before led allies in a ban on exports from Israeli settlements in the West Bank, which are illegal under international law, accusing settlers of "ethnic cleansing" through their rising attacks on Palestinians.

Despite Britain being an important export market for the Psagot winery, co-founder Yaakov Berg downplayed the economic impact of sanctions, vowing to stay on the land and grow his business.

"Of course, we'll lose some sales, but in the long term, I promise you, you come here in a year and in two years and you will see that Psagot winery sales will go more and more and more," he told AFP in the Israeli settlement of Shaar Binyamin.

"The impact of that stupid and really cruel decision will be for the English people much more than us. The English people will suffer from that decision," he added.

Britain, France and Canada on Tuesday said they were imposing trade curbs on Israeli settlements in response to rampant violence by settlers against Palestinians in the West Bank.

The move comes as Israeli settlement construction soars in the Palestinian territory, which the Western allies said posed an urgent threat to a two-state solution to the conflict.

Nine other European countries joined a statement saying they planned to introduce or support restrictions on trade with settlements.

Israeli settlements mainly export agricultural products, as well as wine, Dead Sea cosmetics and industrial products.

There is no precise public data in Israel on settlement exports, and their products are generally



Israeli settlers taste wine at a winery in the Israeli settlement of Sha'ar Binyamin in the occupied West Bank, southeast of Ramallah, yesterday. – AFP

counted among Israel's foreign trade, making their origin difficult to trace.

According to *Calcalist*, Israel's leading business daily, settlement exports account for less than one percent of Israel's total exports of goods and services.

'Build more homes'

At the Psagot winery yesterday, business was buzzing.

Customers, some armed, milled among tables pushing babies in prams, while an employee carefully packed boxes with wine.

Berg, who started Psagot winery some 20 years ago, said the business exports about 60 percent of its production, with trade in Britain, the United States, Europe, South America and elsewhere.

"You can find our wines really almost everywhere on Earth," he said, noting that exports to the UK accounted for around US\$1 million a year.

Berg said his business had faced boycott calls since it launched and he was "not afraid" of the latest measures.

"You're not going to change us because of some dollars," he told AFP.

"We came to our homeland... and we believe in what we're doing," he added.

"We didn't come here for some dollars, so we're not going to move because of some dollars."

More than 500,000 Israelis live among some three million Palestinians, with settlement approval soaring under Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's right-wing government.

From a sunny gravel seating area at Psagot winery, the Palestinian village of Mikhmas could be seen on the neighbouring hillside.

Mikhmas and the surrounding area have been subjected to several attacks by settlers since the beginning of this year.

A nearby Bedouin community was displaced from the area in February, citing sustained harassment from settlers.

Berg questioned the soaring levels of violence in the territory and slammed the sanctions by the UK and allies as "pure antisemitism".

The move appeared if anything to have galvanised his resolve to stay and expand Israel's presence.

Addressing British Foreign Secretary Ed Miliband, who unveiled the sanctions on Tuesday, Berg vowed to put his money "in the land".

"We'll grow more grapes, and we'll build more homes, and we'll stay here," he said. – AFP

US had warmest summer on record: climate agency

WASHINGTON, DC – The contiguous United States endured its hottest summer since modern records began, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said yesterday, in the latest sign of a warming trend driven by human-caused climate change.

Average temperature for the meteorological summer, defined as the June-to-August period, was 74.4F (23.6C), exceeding previous records, set in 1936 and 2021, by 0.4F.

That means that four of the hottest summers on record occurred within the past five years, with 2022 and 2024 taking fourth and fifth place respectively, with human-caused climate change, due mainly to the burning of fossil fuels, looming large over the trend.

The so-called "Dust Bowl summers" of the 1930s – especially

that of 1936 – were fuelled by drought and extreme heat combining with overploughing across the Great Plains.

This year also saw the warmest August since records began in 1895, with average temperatures of 75.6F.

Most of the mainland United States experienced above- to much-above-average August temperatures, with near-average conditions seen only in parts of the northern Plains and Midwest, NOAA said.

It comes as a strengthening El Niño pattern, expected to be the most intense in decades, has begun unleashing extreme weather across the globe.

It is predicted to bring record heat to 2027, but could also help make 2026 the hottest year on record, surpassing 2024.

– AFP

Yield on 10-year US Treasury bond jumps to highest level since 2023

NEW YORK – The yield on the 10-year US Treasury note surged yesterday to its highest level since 2023 on worries about higher energy prices and following a disappointing government bond auction.

Near 15:20 GMT, the 10-year yield was at 4.85 percent, a peak since November 2023.

Yields also jumped on the 30-year bond after the Treasury Department announced it was tripling buybacks of long-term Treasury bonds to US\$6 billion.

Higher borrowing costs are a drag on economic growth and can weigh on equity prices.

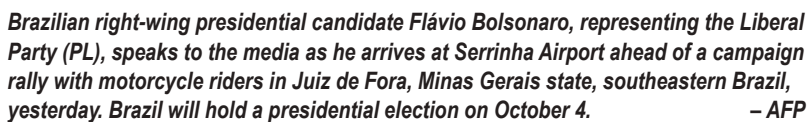
After the yield on the 30-year bond jumped to near two-decade highs in August, US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent announced plans to "at least double" government bond buybacks under a Treasury programme meant to guarantee sufficient market liquidity.

On August 20, Bessent told CNBC that the spike in yields was exacerbated by thin market

trading in the sleepy summer period and "don't reflect the underlying fundamentals."

Analysts have seen the jump in yields as reflective of several dynamics, including high oil prices due to the Iran war, a surge in costly AI investment and a flood of US government issuance because of the deficit.

Yesterday, Brent oil prices jumped above US\$100 a barrel for the first time since late July on escalations in the US-Iran war. – AFP



Chief executive Oscar García Maceiras hailed in the statement “excellent results” that were achieved “in a highly complex

“By continually investing in our stores, our global online channel and our centralised logistics platforms, with an accompanying focus on sustainability, we will continue to generate long-term growth,” the group said. —*AFP*

AEMET said the 10 hottest summers on record in Spain have

The extreme heat has been linked to tens of thousands of excess deaths across Europe, upended daily life for millions in ill-adapted regions and disrupted the economy through drought and low river levels.

According to the European Forest Fire Information System, almost 296,000 hectares have gone up in smoke in Spain this year as of September 2.

—AFP

“Our message remains clear: we are committed to combat illegal migration and ensure the

Most of the migrants who entered Ceuta have returned to Morocco, but thousands have remained in often dire living conditions, increasing tensions

But Spain's government says there is no "solid proof" the surge was planned by Morocco, with which it has spent years trying to improve historically complicated relations.

—AFP

The 60 votes from Chega deputies, whose party is the second-largest political force in the 230-seat legislature, were not enough to pass the motion, which called for “the end of a government without authority”.

Prime Minister Luis Montenegro has refused to heed calls to sack Neves who is under fire for having an illegal swimming pool built at a second home by a

Montenegro has praised Neves's "exemplary" work. —*AFP*

Supreme Court Justice Flávio

Dino ordered police director-general Andrei Rodrigues to return to his duties, overturning a decision on Tuesday by Justice André Mendonça, who had suspended him after accusing the police of illegally spying on him.

Scandal has engulfed the court ahead of October presidential elections after it emerged last week that a disgraced banker charged with fraud apparently asked one of its judges for help, days before his arrest.

—AFP

Rumo à Escuridão Radiante

MACAO& Series, in Lisbon 2026

Into the Radiant Darkness

Inauguration / Opening
10/09/2026 11:00
20:00 Performance - Inês Zinho Pinheiro

Local / Venue
Procurarte
Rua Neves Ferreira,
8B 170-274 Lisboa
tar - sat / tue - fri
15:00 - 19:00

Tang Kuok Hou (MO)
×
Inês Zinho Pinheiro (PT)
Representação e duas visitas
Representation and two visits
Curating / Curated by
Pai Lok Chok, Wary Wong

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Compartido Subida a Conversa (20) / Shared-Work & Conversations (20)
11/09/2026 18:00-20:00
vagas limitadas / limited capacity

Inscrições ou informações / Registration or Enquiries
mylandculture
Email: info@mylandculture.com

10/09-09/10
/2026

Organizador / Organizer

澳門特別行政區政府
文化發展基金會
Governo do Região Administrativa Especial de Macau
Fundo do Desenvolvimento da Cultura

Patrocinador / Sponsor

hojomaçau

TRINHA

MIMOPORT

porto final

Organizações de apoio / Supporting Organisations



Polish referee Szymon Marciniak tries to separate the fighting Manchester City's Norwegian forward Erling Haaland (front right) and FC Porto's Dominicans midfielder Pablo Rosario during the UEFA Champions League first round day 1 match between FC Porto and Manchester City at Dragao stadium in Porto on Tuesday. Manchester City won the match 2-0. — AFP

Football shorts

Roma to wear jersey supporting Nepal in Champions League match

ROME — Roma said yesterday they will play this week's Champions League match against Fenerbahce in jerseys supporting the relief effort in Nepal, after being banned from displaying their usual sponsor in Turkey.

A flash flood on August 26 caused by a glacier and rockslide, which began on the China-Nepal border, has left at least 1,410 people dead and 5,651 missing.

"The visitors will take to the pitch with the World Food Programme (WFP) logo on the front of their shirts," the Italian club said ahead of today's game in Istanbul.

Roma's usual shirt sponsor is a sports betting company which is banned from advertising under Turkish law.

The one-off jersey bearing the logo of the WFP, a Rome-based agency of the United Nations, will also feature the message "Together for Nepal".

"The shirts worn by Gian Piero Gasperini's players during the match will be auctioned, with all funds raised going towards supporting the people of Nepal through the WFP's relief efforts," Roma added.

The game will be played at 12:45 a.m. tomorrow morning Macau time. — AFP/MPD

Australian World Cup star Volpato fined over positive cocaine test

SYDNEY — Australian World Cup star Cristian Volpato has been fined after failing a roadside test for cocaine, police and media reports said yesterday.

Volpato was reported in July to have allegedly tested positive for cocaine after he was pulled over for speeding in Sydney.

New South Wales police said yesterday that a second sample taken at the time had also tested positive.

They said a 22-year-old man - widely identified as Italy-based Volpato by local media - was fined Aus\$722 (US\$522).

His driving licence has also been suspended since July.

Volpato, an attacking midfielder for Serie A side Sassuolo, made three appearances at the World Cup after switching his international allegiance from Italy to Australia shortly before the tournament.

He was born and raised in Sydney before moving overseas and represented Italy at various youth levels. — AFP

Courtois to put Belgium career on hold

BRUSSELS — Goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois said in quotes published yesterday he has decided to put his Belgium career on standby until September 2027.

The 34-year-old made the last of his 115 international appearances at this summer's World Cup but will only return to the Red Devils set-up for Euro 2028 qualifiers next year.

The Real Madrid 'keeper will miss the upcoming Nations League campaign under new boss Mark Van Bommel starting with a game against Italy on September 25.

Van Bommel told Courtois beforehand he was unable to guarantee him the starting No. 1 shirt.

"I have made the choice not to play the entire Nations League campaign with the Red Devils," Courtois told Belgian newspaper *Het Laatste Nieuws* after Madrid's 2-1 Champions League win over Inter Milan on Tuesday.

"Unless the national coach runs into injury problems; then I can be called up exceptionally," he added.

Options for Van Bommel in goal in Courtois' absence include Manchester United's 24-year-old Senne Lammens and Chelsea's 21-year-old Mike Penders.

"I am making myself available again for the European Championship qualifiers," Courtois said.

"If the goalkeeper playing in the Nations League performs well, Van Bommel might continue with him.

"However, I want to fight for my place. I want to prove that I can be the first-choice keeper again," Courtois added. — AFP



Players observe a minute of silence in remembrance of the victims of the recent devastating floods in Nepal, before the start of the UEFA Champions League first round day 1 match between FC Barcelona and Feyenoord at Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona yesterday. — AFP

Carrick confident Man Utd can go far in 'magical' Champions League

Kieran Canning

MANCHESTER — Michael Carrick believes Manchester United are strong enough to compete with Europe's best on their return to the Champions League for the first time in three years.

Carrick earned his position as permanent United boss after leading the Red Devils to third place in the Premier League in his interim spell last season.

Having secured a place in Europe's elite club competition, United kick off their league phase campaign today when they face Azerbaijani champions Sabah at Old Trafford.

"It's a magical competition. It's where we all want to be. When you're out of it, you realise how special it is and when you're in it, you want to make the most of it," Carrick told reporters yesterday.

"I think we've all seen some special, special nights and felt some special things in this competition over the years. It's the best competition to challenge yourself and to push against the best.

"We're delighted to be here, but we're not here to just enjoy the occasion. We're here to do business and go as far as we possibly can."

In two of their last three appearances in the Champions League, the three-time European champions have crashed out at the group stage and have not progressed beyond the last 16 since 2019.

United have also made a slow start to the Premier League season, taking just four points from fixtures against Hull, Ipswich and Everton.

However, many of their better performances under Carrick have come against stronger opposition.

United beat Arsenal, Manchester City, Liverpool and Chelsea in the second half of last season.

"I think we're capable of doing some really good things in this competition and going further down the line in this competition," Carrick said.

"Certainly not getting ahead of ourselves because some part of it is a new experience for some of the players.

"But the boys are used to playing European football for the

most part in different competitions and we'll take that forward and we've got a squad that's strong enough to compete."

In contrast to the record-setting spending by many of their Premier League rivals, United were only able to strengthen their midfield in the transfer window.

United benefited last season from only playing 40 games - their lowest total since the 1914/15 campaign.

Carrick, though, said his players had to embrace the challenge of a heavier workload.

"We play Thursday, Sunday, Wednesday and it's what we're here for. It's about managing the group and having trust in everyone able to play," he said.

Benjamin Sesko is in contention for his first start of the season after coming off the bench to score in Sunday's 2-2 draw at Everton.

Carrick confirmed Matthijs de Ligt is also nearing a comeback after nearly a year out with a back injury.

The game will be played at 3:00 a.m. tomorrow morning Macau time. — AFP/MPD

'Our year': Kane and Bayern primed for Champions League tilt

Daniel Wighton

MUNICH — Bayern Munich have made it clear their main goal this season is to win the Champions League after recent near-misses, with Harry Kane saying "it has to be our year".

Bayern fell agonisingly short against eventual champions Paris Saint-Germain in a wild semi-final last campaign.

PSG won a manic first leg 5-4 and then frustrated Bayern in a 1-1 draw in the second in Munich to advance to the final, where they beat Arsenal on penalties to win a second straight title.

Bayern start their latest tilt at a seventh European Cup at home against Norwegians Bodo/Glimt today.

Those around the club, such as former midfielder and 2013 winner Bastian Schweinsteiger, believe only a lack of squad depth in what will be another a punishing season could derail Bayern's hopes of winning the trophy for the first time since 2020.

Coach Vincent Kompany has made the Champions League the team's target, alongside Bayern's almost default domestic dominance.

"The goals with Bayern are always the highest: winning the Bundesliga, winning the Pokal (German Cup), winning the Champions League — and maybe even winning every game," Kompany told the club magazine in August.

Bayern have twice made the Champions League semi-finals in Kane's three years at the club, but no further.

Bayern were within touching distance of the final in 2023-24, but became the latest victims of a smash and grab from a title-bound Real Madrid.

Kane was substituted with Bayern holding a one-goal lead with six minutes remaining in the second leg, only for the Spanish giants to score twice in the space of three minutes to turn the tie on its head.

"Yes, we're really close," Kane told TNT Sports on Monday of Bayern's chances this season.

"I think last year was the finest of margins - to go out to a team who has won the Champions League back-to-back. There's no shame in that.

"We're coming into this season now saying that it needs to be our year. We need to find a way to get it done."

'Luck at the right moment'

The England captain has been part of plenty of near-misses in his career for club and country.

Long derided for a lack of team trophies, Kane has five since arriving at Bayern — including two Bundesligas and a German Cup — and said he now knows what it takes to win.

"It is not just about being the best team. Sometimes you also need a bit of luck at the right moment," Kane said.

Fortune with injuries could define Bayern's season.

Bayern made two major additions in the summer, opting for depth and versatility in what will be a punishing campaign.

In came Ismael Saibari,

who can play anywhere across the forward line, along with Germany's Nathaniel Brown, who has been shifted between left-back and midfield this season.

Schweinsteiger said Bayern "will dominate the Bundesliga" but depth may still be a concern, particularly with the uncertainty around Jamal Musiala.

After collapsing in pre-season games, Musiala revealed he is suffering from a neurological disorder which can lead to seizures, but he was able to return without incident in Saturday's scoreless draw at Schalke.

"We have to see. There are some suggestions they may still be one or two players short," Schweinsteiger told AFP.

"The situation with Jamal Musiala is difficult, so it will be interesting how Bayern Munich manage it, because over the course of a season you need strong options from the bench.

"When I think back to the matches against PSG, their options from the bench made a difference in the second leg.

"Luis Enrique made excellent tactical adjustments in the second half of the match in Munich to win and progress.

"In matches like those, Bayern Munich may need to adapt their style of play, because PSG's attacking players, and indeed the team as a whole, pose a different challenge from those Bayern Munich usually face in the Bundesliga."

The game will be played at 3:00 a.m. tomorrow morning Macau time. — AFP/MPD

Kuai Man, Wang Yidi suffer shocking exit in WTT Macao Champions round of 32

MACAO – Chinese paddlers Kuai Man and Wang Yidi suffered shock exits in the women's singles round of 32 at the WTT Macao Champions here yesterday.

World No. 4 Kuai lost 3-2 to Germany's Han Ying in their first international meeting. After taking the opener 11-6, the 22-year-old Chinese dropped the next two games 8-11 and 3-11. Kuai saved match point to take the fourth 12-10, but Han led throughout the decider and closed it out 11-6 to eliminate the No. 2 seed.

"Overall, I played well in this match. My performance improved from the second game onward; I didn't adapt to the rhythm in the first game. I have no burdens; the Chinese team players are young and full of energy, so I treated it as practice. Going into the second game I thought that playing it safe would still lose, so I decided to go all out," said the 43-year-old Han.

Yesterday had already seen a number of high-profile exits. World No. 5 Wang Yidi was beaten 11-7, 11-7, 9-11, 11-7 by world No. 35 Dina Meshref of Egypt, while world No. 9 Sabine Winter of Germany was upset 11-9, 11-9, 11-13, 11-1 by Romania's Bernadette



Sweden's Truls Moregard hits a return during the men's singles round of 32 match against Patrick Franziska of Germany at the 2026 World Table Tennis (WTT) Champions Macao in Macao, yesterday. — Xinhua

Szocs, ranked world No. 24.

"It definitely means so much to me, this victory, winning against the Chinese again in, like, two or three months. It's something I never imagined that would happen. I'm very, very happy with it. I'm so grateful," said Meshref, who beat then-world No. 14 Shi Xunhao at US Smash 2026 in July.

China's youngster Huang Youzheng also failed to reach the men's round of 16 after losing 11-7, 11-9, 7-11, 9-11, 11-6 to Kanak Jha

of the United States.

In other matches, Sweden's Truls Moregard completed a comeback against Germany's Patrick Franziska 5-11, 8-11, 11-5, 11-9, 11-9 to reach the men's round of 16, while Japan's Sora Matsushima advanced comfortably after beating England's Tom Jarvis in straight games 11-4, 12-10, 11-7.

Today will see China's Chen Xingtong face Germany's Nina Mittelham, while Zhou Qihao takes on Germany's Qiu Dang. — Xinhua

Shelton stuns Alcaraz in 3:34 a.m. US Open finish, Sabalenka battles on

Rebecca Bryan



NEW YORK – Ben Shelton stunned holder Carlos Alcaraz in an epic US Open quarter-final that ended at 3:34 a.m. [local time] yesterday, breaking the record for the latest finish in Flushing Meadows history.

The big-hitting Shelton won 6-7 (5/7), 6-1, 6-3, 1-6, 7-6 (10/7) on Arthur Ashe stadium in a 4hr 28min classic, ending the Spaniard's hopes of retaining his title in his first tournament back after a four-month injury absence.

On a marathon day that stretched well into the early hours, two-time defending champion Aryna Sabalenka earlier beat Wimbledon winner Linda Noskova 7-6 (7/1), 3-6, 7-6 (10/7) in another match for the ages.

The Belarusian will now face Jessica Pegula, who had to come from a set down to beat fellow American Emma Navarro 3-6, 6-4, 6-3, for a place in the final.

Shelton will have an all-American last-four meeting with Frances Tiafoe, who came from two sets down to beat compatriot Alex Michelsen 5-7, 3-6, 7-5, 6-3, 7-6 (10/6) in another match that went the full distance.

It ensures a US player will be in the final - no American man has won the US Open since Andy Roddick in 2003.

"It's incredible," said Shelton as he thanked the New York crowd for staying so late.

"I always say that this is the greatest sports city in the world. I say that this is the greatest stadium in the world.

"To be here in front of you guys tonight is an absolute honour.

"Sharing the court with Carlos is an absolute honour, and I cherish every moment that I have out here."

Alcaraz was disappointed to go out but also happy with his performance following the long injury layoff.

"I'm just proud about myself, about how I fought," he said, calling his opponent "a beast" physically.

"It was close. It was close. So I'm just not going to be disappointed about not getting the win at the end," he said.

"Shelton is an unbelievable player, powerful. He just managed

how to play really, really well in every situation, so credit to him."

'What a battle'

Sabalenka had to dig deep against her 21-year-old Czech opponent Noskova.

"What a battle," Sabalenka told the crowd. "I was pushing myself to the limit, especially in the third set.

"I honestly thought that was it, the match was over, and that's what helped me to feel loose and go for my shots," she added after trailing 4-2 in the third set on the back of two double faults.

Sabalenka beat Pegula in the 2024 US Open final - still the American's only appearance in a Grand Slam title match - and beat her again last year in the semi-finals.

Sabalenka looked headed for another Grand Slam disappointment in a season in which she has so far been unable to add to her stash of four major titles.

Clearly frustrated, she nevertheless regrouped and broke Noskova to love to pull level at 4-4.

They hurtled into a 10-point tiebreak where Sabalenka finally sealed victory with a second-serve ace.

The victory was Sabalenka's first win over a top-10 player since she beat Coco Gauff in the Miami final in March.

American 11th seed Tiafoe also came back from the brink after Michelsen, ranked 46th, served for the match at 5-4 in the third.

"He gave me some gifts, a couple of double faults there," Tiafoe said.

"But then I slowly started to get my rhythm there, snuck out third set and slowly started playing better and better.

"But he is a hell of a player," Tiafoe added of Michelsen, who wept in Tiafoe's arms as they met at the net after 4hr 38min.

"He should have easily won today."

Third-seeded Pegula needed two hours and 20 minutes to get past Navarro.

"It was really tough," Pegula said after a match featuring nine breaks of serve.

"It was physical, humid. I wasn't exactly serving my best and I was fighting a lot of demons out there today."

— AFP

Vuelta debutant Brennan claims 5th victory on stage 17

Cycling

SEVILLE, Spain – Sprint king Matthew Brennan claimed a fifth Vuelta a Espana stage victory yesterday as he edged a bunch sprint in Seville to win the 17th stage.

The 21-year-old Grand Tour debutant crossed the finish line ahead of Jordi Meeus and Magnus Cort Nielsen.

General classification leader Enric Mas moved one step closer to claiming a first Grand Tour victory as he maintained his 2min 6sec lead on Felix Gall, with four-time Vuelta winner Primož Roglič a further four seconds behind.

The stage was set up for the bunch sprint finale, without a single climb on the long, flat, 185

kilometre ride from Dos Hermanas to the Andalusian capital.

Sinuhe Fernandez and Enzo Paleni formed a two-man break early on, whipping up a gap of more than four minutes on the peloton, who were moving at a leisurely pace on another hot day with temperatures over 30C.

The gap extended to over five minutes around the halfway point, with Visma then working hard to reduce it.

Groupama FDJ-United rider Paleni dropped Fernandez but was absorbed by the peloton with just three kilometres remaining after a monumental effort.

Young star Brennan came around Danish rider Cort to claim the sprint victory, holding off Belgium's Meeus

who crossed the line second.

As with his other stage victories, the Briton raised his hand to the air, this time with all of his fingers up to represent his five victories.

Brennan's victory puts him in a small bracket of riders, including Tadej Pogacar - who was overwhelming favourite to win this year's Vuelta before he suffered a season-ending injury in a crash in stage eight - to claim five or more stages at a single Grand Tour.

Today, riders take on a 32.1km individual time-trial from El Puerto de Santa Maria to Jerez de la Frontera in stage 18, which is one of the last chances for Mas's general classification contenders to cut down the gap on the Spaniard.

— AFP

McIlroy predicts player exodus after LIV files for bankruptcy protection

Golf

LONDON – Rory McIlroy predicts players will opt to leave LIV Golf after the breakaway tour filed for bankruptcy protection, saying the upheaval could be positive for the sport's "ecosystem".

The filing at a New Jersey court indicates LIV, which abruptly lost its deep-pocketed Saudi investors earlier this year, intends to restructure and return in a new form.

But documents show LIV, launched in 2022, owes between US\$500 million and US\$1 billion in

estimated liabilities to at least 1,000 creditors, including star players such as Bryson DeChambeau and Jon Rahm.

Widespread reports have linked several stars with potential returns to the US PGA Tour and other series, though the PGA said it currently has no plans to offer LIV players a pathway back.

"I am not in their shoes, but LIV at the start looked a lot more attractive than what LIV 2.0 might be from a financial standpoint," McIlroy told reporters yesterday ahead of his Irish Open defence at Doonbeg.

"I am not trying to predict the future, but I would predict that you will see some guys leave."

He added: "I think that means other tours have decisions to make, and obviously there's a lot of players on LIV that can strengthen golf tournaments and make them more competitive, so I would see that as a good thing for the DP World Tour (European Tour)."

The six-time major champion added: "Overall, I think with the way things are working out, it is a very good thing for the golf ecosystem. I think it only makes these tournaments stronger with

more competitive players in them."

The LIV rebel tour has bitterly divided the world of golf, recruiting a string of top players with the lure of huge rewards.

Tour officials have previously pledged that a "2.0" version of the tour will re-emerge under new investors next season, with a shorter schedule and reduced prize money.

Further details emerged on Tuesday. LIV intends to host tournaments across five continents, in locations including Australia, South Africa, Mexico, England, Hong Kong and the United States.

Tuesday's filing confirmed LIV

has partnered for the restructuring effort with British investment group BC Partners – long rumoured to be the tour's mystery new "lead investor".

Defending champion McIlroy heads a strong field at the Irish Open, which is being played at Donald Trump's Doonbeg golf course in County Clare, also including major winners Rahm and Shane Lowry.

The US president is expected to attend the tournament during his upcoming visit to Ireland, where he is set to meet Irish President Catherine Connolly and prime minister Micheal Martin. — AFP

Workers, migrants focus of documentaries by Oscar winners at Venice

Alexandria Sage

VENICE – Fifty years after Barbara Kopple first tackled the topic of labour rights, workers in the United States are still struggling to get their due, the filmmaker said as her latest film premiered at the Venice Film Festival.

“Union Town,” which debuted yesterday at the festival, is the third in a trilogy about worker struggles by the Oscar-winning US director, following 1976’s “Harlan County U.S.A.” and 1990’s “American Dream.”

“People are still fighting for the right to have a union, the union of their choice, the right to have a decent pay, the right to work in a safe place and to be respected,” the

director, 80, told AFP on Tuesday.

“And that has never changed. That’s what they’re fighting for now.”

Kopple’s latest film centres on New York City union efforts to pressure multinational giants from UPS to Amazon for better wages and benefits for their employees and part-time workers.

“We shouldn’t have to fight them. They have the money,” a leader from the Teamsters union says about UPS in the film.

“But they just choose not to.”

Delivery riders’ perils

The documentary also follows the labour movement’s latest underdogs – riders for delivery apps like GrubHub and DoorDash

– who remain largely invisible.

Hot warehouses and delivery trucks, heavy lifting, and no time off for family issues are some of the complaints voiced by workers at UPS and Amazon. For riders, dangers encountered on the street range from muggings to hit-and-runs – some of them fatal.

One GrubHub rider from Bangladesh describes how he was hit by a car during a delivery, which landed him in the hospital for two days. The company deactivated his account.

“If they get hit by a car, they go to the hospital, they have to pay. They have to buy their clothes, their bikes, everything. And I didn’t want them to be silent. I didn’t want them

to be invisible,” Kopple said.

In Venice with Kopple was Antonio Rosario, a Teamster for 31 years seen throughout the film trying to educate often fearful or reluctant workers about their rights. He called labour law in America today “like the wild, wild West”.

“People are tired of being treated without dignity, without respect. And these companies are making an obscene amount of money,” he said at a press conference yesterday, before breaking down in tears.

“People are tired of these trillionaires and billionaires making all this money and not sharing that wealth with the working people that make it for them.”

Crackdown

The US Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s (ICE) deployment to Minneapolis in January is the subject of another documentary screening at Venice: “They’re Here” by Oscar-winning Laura Poitras and Rachel Lauren Mueller.

Besides showing residents’ grassroots efforts, such as sophis-

ticated tracking systems to locate ICE teams, it was essential that the 25-minute film also include the “immigrant perspective”, Mueller said.

“The immigrant community was in hiding, staying at home, fearing for their safety, fearing for the separation of their families,” she told a press conference.

One fearful migrant worker in the film chose to hide in the trunk of his car in order to get to work, driven by his son through the city’s ICE-filled streets.

The filmmakers were “pretty blown away that this is the United States, that somebody is just trying to go to their job, and this is the kind of situation that he is being put into,” Mueller said.

The film will be released in the United States ahead of the US midterm elections, Poitras said.

Poitras won the Golden Lion at Venice in 2022 for her documentary “All the Beauty and the Bloodshed”, which dealt with the US opioid crisis.

– AFP

Japanese director Kore-eda’s manga film charms critics in Venice



Japanese director Hirokazu Kore-eda (centre) poses with actresses (from left to right) Furi Nanase, Rokka Okada, Aju Makita and Natsuki Deguchi during the red carpet event of “Look Back” presented in competition at the 83rd International Venice Film Festival, at Venice Lido on Monday.

– AFP

Juliette Rabat and Esther Sánchez

VENICE – A manga film adaptation by acclaimed Japanese director Hirokazu Kore-eda has emerged as one of the frontrunners for prizes at the Venice Film Festival this week.

“Look Back” by the arthouse director, whose past work includes 2018 award-winner “Shoplifters”, tells the story of two school friends who dream of becoming manga artists.

The tender coming-of-age tale is based on a popular story by Tatsuki Fujimoto which manga-loving Kore-eda discovered by accident during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“After reading this manga, it was as if someone had pushed me to move forward, had somehow encouraged me,” the director told reporters on Monday.

Judged by the reviews of international critics at the festival, “Look Back” has emerged as a

favourite alongside “Possible Love” by South Korea’s Lee Chang-dong and “Wild Horse Nine” by Irish-British director Martin McDonagh.

Film magazine *Variety* called “Look Back” a “moving tribute to friendship” while the IndieWire website said it drew “rich and dazzling new textures from manga and anime.”

Not everyone was convinced, with a review from *Screen* magazine saying it was “overly sentimental”.

In total, 21 productions are vying for the Golden Lion prize for best film at the Venice Film Festival, with others to come before the closing ceremony on Saturday.

Festival favorite

Kore-eda is looking to benefit from a global surge in the popularity of manga by choosing the commercially successful work of Fujimoto whose other leading titles include “Chainsaw Man”

and “Fire Punch”.

“When I was a child, we were told that if all we read was manga, we wouldn’t grow up properly. Now, these days, manga is spreading everywhere ... so we can read it without anyone criticising us,” he told a press conference.

The hard-working 64-year-old is a favourite on the European festival circuit.

He presented “Sheep in the Box” at the Cannes Film Festival in May about a grieving Japanese couple who welcome a humanoid robot into their home, but he went home empty-handed on awards night.

“Usually in my head, I’m already preparing for about three movies at a time,” he told AFP and other journalists on Tuesday.

He is best-known for his stories about struggling ordinary people, often inspired by real events, including “Like Father, Like Son” or “Nobody Knows”.

– AFP

Affleck family affair at Venice for Casey’s latest film ‘Company’

VENICE – Hollywood actor-director Casey Affleck cast his two sons in his latest movie “Company” and invited brother Ben to the red-carpet premiere at the Venice Film Festival.

The brothers were all smiles as they attended the family reunion on Tuesday night, but Casey also revealed they had lost both their parents this year.

“I lost both my mom and my dad this year and they’re very important to me,” he told a press conference on Tuesday. “I really wanted to show this movie to them and I didn’t get to. I think they would have liked it.”

“Company” is a complex low-budget gothic drama that features several interlocking stories.

It is Affleck’s third effort behind the camera as a director, with the work drawing mixed reviews from critics.

One of the biggest surprises was the casting of his son Indiana in his first film role, with the 22-year-

old bearing more than a passing semblance to superstar Timothee Chalamet.

Affleck, who earned an Oscar for best actor in “Manchester by the Sea”, said that Indiana and younger son Atticus, 18, were initially reluctant to take part, but ended up agreeing to join the family business.

“They were amazing and it made it the best professional experience of my life by far because I got to go to work every day with my kids and hang around,” the 51-year-old told reporters.

“Company” is in the running for the Golden Lion best film prize at the Venice Film Festival which will be handed out on Saturday.

Britain’s *The Guardian* newspaper said the movie “entertains us with creepy campfire tales” but the *Hollywood Reporter* called it a “dull existential drama” while *The Wrap* website described it as a “frustrating slog”.

– AFP

World Weather			
CHINA	ASIA-PACIFIC	WORLD	LUSOPHONE
Beijing 15°C~30°C	Manila 24°C~28°C	New York 21°C~31°C	Lisbon 17°C~30°C
Shanghai 21°C~29°C	Bangkok 24°C~34°C	London 15°C~21°C	Rio de Janeiro 21°C~27°C
Hong Kong 23°C~30°C	Tokyo 18°C~22°C	Frankfurt 10°C~23°C	Luanda 19°C~23°C
Taipei 22°C~29°C	Singapore 25°C~33°C	Vancouver 11°C~19°C	Maputo 14°C~27°C
Guangzhou 22°C~31°C	Kuala Lumpur 25°C~34°C	Paris 14°C~22°C	Dili 22°C~32°C
Nanjing 19°C~26°C	Jakarta 23°C~33°C	Moscow 13°C~25°C	São Tomé 24°C~32°C
Guilin 17°C~28°C	Seoul 14°C~25°C	Las Vegas 27°C~41°C	Praia 24°C~32°C
Xi'an 14°C~19°C	Sydney 11°C~18°C	Monte Carlo 19°C~25°C	Bissau 23°C~32°C

1. Windsurfing into the sunset

A water sports enthusiast windsurfs in the Russian Far East city of Vladivostok, on Tuesday. — Xinhua

2. In memory of

Visitors attend a press preview of the exhibition dedicated to Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama (1929-2026) at Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam yesterday. — AFP

3. Psychedelic sky show

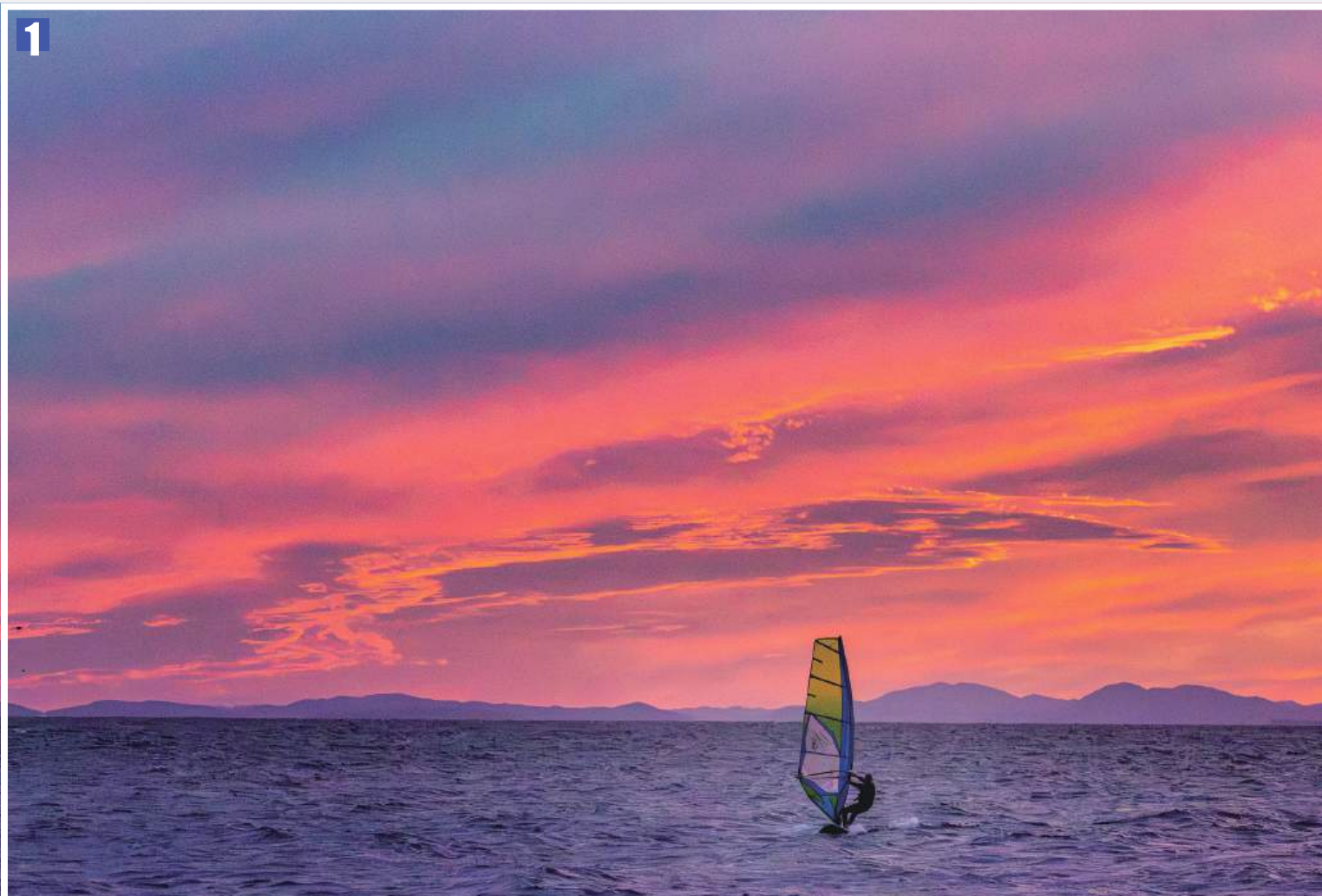
An aerobatic plane makes a show with coloured smoke during the fourth day of Rock in Rio music festival at Rio 2016 Olympic Park in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on Monday. — AFP

4. Bit overdressed!

Japan's Naomi Osaka arrives to play Kazakhstan's Elena Rybakina in their singles round of 16 match at the US Open tennis tournament at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in New York on Monday. — AFP

5. Stay in the box!

A woman interacts with an AI toy at the booth of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region during the 2026 China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) at Shougang Park in Beijing, yesterday. — Xinhua



6. Sitting pretty

A woman arranges a figure of the Virgin of Regla (Yemaya, in the Yoruba religion) during her feast day in Havana, Cuba on Monday. — AFP

