

Xi says ready to work with Trump to steer China-US ties on steady course

WASHINGTON – President Xi Jinping said yesterday that he is ready to work with US President Donald Trump to steer the giant ship of China-US relationship on a steady course toward the future.

Addressing an arrival ceremony at the White House, Xi said that he is visiting the United States at Trump's invitation to carry on their friendship, expand cooperation and promote the well-being of the two peoples.

China and the United States should strengthen communication, cooperate with sincerity and coexist in peace, he noted.

Xi said he and Trump encourage government departments, such as those in charge of foreign affairs, economic matters, financial cooperation, law enforcement and people-to-people exchanges, to catch up on strengthening contact.

China-US cooperation may not solve every problem in the world, but without it, it would be hard to solve many of the world's problems, Xi said.

China keeps its door wide open, welcomes American companies wanting to invest and do business in China, Xi said. "We hope Chinese companies are treated fairly here in the United States. Working together, we can lengthen the list of cooperation and shorten the list of issues."



President Xi delivers a speech at the White House yesterday in the presence of his wife, Peng Liyuan (left), President Donald Trump (right) and Melanie Knauss Trump (second from left). – Xinhua

Both China and the United States are leading nations in artificial intelligence (AI), Xi said, noting that the two countries have both the capability and responsibility to develop and manage AI for good and ensure that the development of AI is always under human control and

serves the well-being of the people.

On counternarcotics and law enforcement, the Chinese side is willing to strengthen cooperation with the United States, Xi said. "Our two sides may also increase direct flights to facilitate two-way travel and trade."

China and the United States

do not need to avoid mentioning competition, but the competition should be a healthy one and should be kept within bounds, he said, adding that it should be a race of catching up with one another, not a wrestle in which one either wins or loses.

China and the United States



must hold the line of no conflict and no confrontation, Xi said. "We can certainly find the right path for our two great countries to get along on this planet we both call home."

The Chinese and US militaries should maintain regular dialogue and improve mechanisms for crisis communication and prevention, Xi said, adding that the Thucydides Trap can be overcome.

Xi announced an invitation for 100,000 young Americans to visit China for exchanges and study in the coming five years. He also declared that in a few days, a pair of pandas will come to their new home in Zoo Atlanta and meet with the American people. (Full speech on p.7) – Xinhua (More on page 7-9)

CNN, MS NOW, Politico allowed back in White House after judge's order

WASHINGTON – CNN, MS NOW and Politico were allowed back into the White House yesterday, six days after being banned by President Donald Trump, after a federal judge ordered that the journalists have their access restored.

District Judge Timothy Kelly ruled overnight that revoking the White House press credentials of the three media outlets "likely violated their constitutional due process rights."

Reporters for CNN, MS NOW

and Politico who attempted to return to the White House early yesterday ahead of a visit by President Xi Jinping were initially turned away by the Secret Service but were allowed in later around midday.

Journalists from other outlets surrounded CNN's tent on the White House driveway and filmed reporter Betsy Klein as she reported live following her return. "Welcome back," several journalists said.

CNN, MS NOW and Politico

had requested an urgent court hearing yesterday after their reporters were initially barred from the White House despite the judge's order.

In his ruling, Kelly took issue with how the White House went about expelling the three news organisations.

"The 'general rule' is that 'individuals must receive notice and an opportunity to be heard before the Government deprives them' of a constitutionally protected interest," the judge said. – AFP



US President Donald Trump's wife Melania (left) and Peng Liyuan, wife of President Xi Jinping, pose with children during a visit to the Smithsonian's National Museum of Asian Art in Washington, DC, yesterday. – AFP

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Portugal to join EU cross-border autonomous vehicle testing network

Portugal will sign a joint declaration of intent to join the European Union's cross-border testing network for autonomous vehicles next week, the government has announced.

– Story on p. 12

São Tomé and Príncipe voters want to stop exodus of 'neglected' youth

In São Tomé and Príncipe (STP), one issue towers above all others ahead of Sunday's elections in the tiny island nation in the Atlantic Ocean's Gulf of Guinea: how to stop young people from leaving.

– Story on p. 12

Dolly Parton's nephew ordered to stay away from estate staff, properties

Late US singer-songwriter Dolly Parton's nephew has been ordered to stay away from employees and properties of her estate, US media reported yesterday.

– Story on p. 15

Macau & mainland police bust cross-border prostitution ring, arrest 47, intercept 30

Sherwin Hng

The Judiciary Police (PJ) and the mainland's Public Security Bureau (PSB) have dismantled a cross-border prostitution ring that used social media groups to arrange sexual services, resulting in the arrest of 47 people and the interception of 26 prostitutes and four clients, PJ spokesman Ho Wai Lok said during a special press conference yesterday.

The operation, codenamed "Operation Monsoon," saw Macau police arrest 16 suspected ring members, including 14 Chinese mainland and Hong Kong residents and a Nepalese non-resident worker (NRW). Local police also intercepted 11 women involved in prostitution and four clients. Chinese mainland police arrested 31 suspected ring members, including two Macau residents – one of whom is a 39-year-old local female kingpin surnamed Yao, who was responsible for managing the online ring – and intercepted another 15 women involved in prostitution in Guangzhou, Foshan, Shenzhen, Zhongshan and Zhuhai.



This undated handout photo provided by the Judiciary Police (PJ) yesterday shows local and Chinese mainland police officers holding a meeting to discuss a cross-border prostitution ring case.

According to Ho, the mastermind was a 39-year-old mainland woman surnamed Yi, who created and managed online groups used to arrange prostitution services. The ring members included several pimps who solicited clients around hotels in Macau.

Ho added that the investigation discovered that the group recruited women to come to Macau for prostitution and charged them a

fee of 200 yuan per seven days to join its online groups. When a pimp introduced a client, Yi would arrange for nearby prostitutes to go to the client's hotel for the client to choose. The women were required to charge a minimum of HK\$1,000 per transaction, while the pimps took an 88 percent share of any amount charged above the minimum.

The group also recruited a 37-year-old Nepalese hotel security guard, surnamed Kunwar, who was tasked with providing information about hotel operations, police patrols and helping the ring members avoid detection.



Judiciary Police (PJ) officers escort 16 hooded suspects, who face charges of organised crime membership and pimping, to two police buses outside the PJ headquarters in Zape yesterday.

– Photo: Sherwin Hng

The Judiciary Police began investigating the case after receiving intelligence in July and subsequently established a joint task force with Chinese mainland's Public Security Bureau, Ho said.

According to Ho, the Judiciary Police believe the group had been operating since March, with about 300 members in its online groups and transactions involving about HK\$5.3 million.

Ho also said the mastermind required the ring's members and prostitutes to regularly delete communication records, while the members would alert each other

about police patrols.

The Judiciary Police deployed about 110 officers in Wednesday's operation, making arrests around several hotels in Cotai and intercepting the ring's prostitutes and clients in Taipa. Officers seized mobile phones, cash, and prostitution-related items such as condoms and intimate apparel.

The 16 suspected ring members arrested in Macau were transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) yesterday, facing charges of organised crime membership and pimping, according to Ho. The investigation is continuing. ■

Macau police probe student injury after fake online arson claims

Sherwin Hng

The Judiciary Police (PJ) are investigating an incident in which a local male student was slightly injured at a school in the northern district yesterday, after claims circulated online alleging that a student had set a fire and attacked someone with a knife, PJ spokesman Cheong Kim Fong said during a regular press conference yesterday.

According to Cheong, police received a report around noon concerning an injury case at a school in the northern district. The injured student was taken to hospital for treatment and was discharged after receiving medical attention.

Cheong said that officers found no evidence of arson in the incident.

At the time of the press conference, the Judiciary Police had not yet obtained further details about the student's injuries, age, the identity of the alleged attacker, or the circumstances surrounding the incident, Cheong said, adding that the

case remained under investigation.

Meanwhile, the Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ) said in a statement it had been notified of the incident and immediately sent officials to hold an emergency meeting with the school. The bureau said the school provided immediate treatment and accompanied the injured student to the hospital.

The bureau added that it was highly concerned about the incident and would coordinate with the school and counselling organisations to provide support to the student and his family.

It also confirmed that the incident did not involve arson and has been referred to the PJ for investigation.

The DSEDJ urged young people to strictly abide by the law and think twice before acting on impulse. Students or parents requiring assistance can contact its Centre of Psycho-Pedagogical Support and Special Education on 2840 1010. ■

High-risk individuals can get free flu jabs from Tuesday: SSM

Armindo Neves

The Health Bureau (SSM) announced in a statement yesterday that high-risk residents, as well as certain non-resident workers (NRWs), can receive free flu vaccines starting next Tuesday.

The bureau emphasised that vaccination is the most effective way to prevent influenza. It reduces the risk of infection and complications, and lowers the risk of hospitalisation and death among high-risk individuals, the statement said. It added that to ensure an adequate vaccine supply, the Health Bureau has procured 215,000 doses of trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine this year, produced by three pharmaceutical companies (Abbott Laboratories, Sanofi, and GSK). All the vaccines comply with the composition recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and can effectively protect against two strains of influenza A and one strain of influenza B, the statement noted.

The various batches of vaccines will be delivered to Macau progressively; the first batch has already arrived and passed acceptance inspection, and the bureau is now rolling out this year's vaccination programme, according to the statement.

The Health Bureau reminded the public in the statement that the antigen composition of the 2026–2027 seasonal influenza vaccine

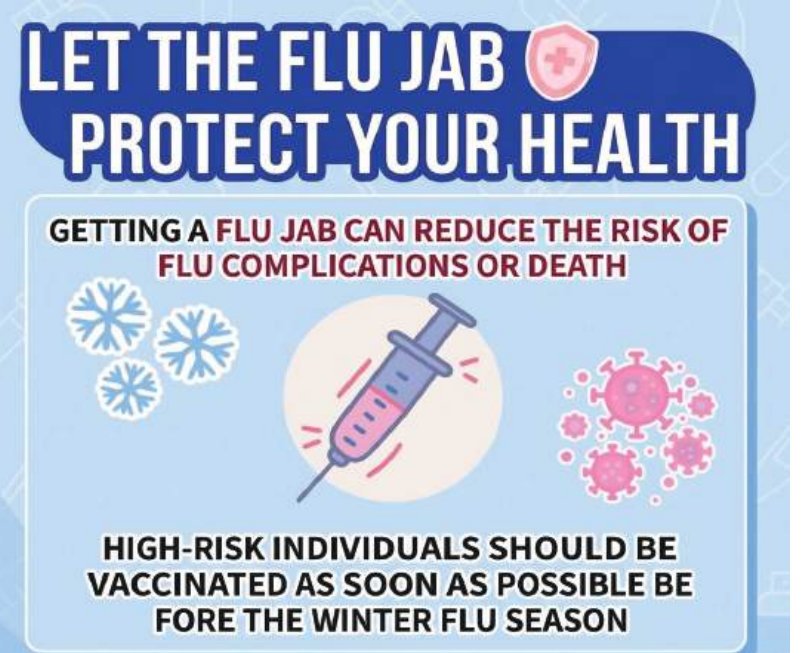
has been updated and is expected to provide a better match for the viruses circulating this winter. As it generally takes about two to three weeks after vaccination for sufficient antibodies to develop, the bureau urges high-risk groups – including pregnant women, young children, the elderly, and those with chronic illnesses – to complete their vaccination before the winter influenza peak.

The following groups are eligible for priority vaccination:

Macau residents: Persons aged 6 months to under 18; persons aged 50 or above; pregnant and breast-

feeding women; all persons with chronic illnesses; persons who are obese (i.e. those with a body mass index (BMI) of 25 or above); and employees working in integrated tourism and leisure enterprises.

Macau residents and NRWs working at the following institutions: students and teaching staff of nurseries, kindergartens, primary, secondary, and higher education institutions; service users and staff of residential care homes; healthcare workers; public sector employees; border checkpoint staff; and cross-border passenger transport staff. ■



This image provided by the Health Bureau (SSM) yesterday urges members of the public to receive their annual flu jab; translation from Chinese arranged by the Post.

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MACAU POST

Macau Weather

FINE APART FROM CLOUDY PERIODS.
FORCE 2 TO 4 EAST TO SOUTHEASTERLY WINDS.
RELATIVE HUMIDITY WILL RANGE BETWEEN 60% AND 90%.



26°C~31°C

Source: SMG

Melco, Fu Luen launch 11-school theatre tour on invisible bullying



This handout photo provided by Melco Resorts & Entertainment on Wednesday shows Melco Chairman and CEO Lawrence Ho Yau Lung addressing the premiere of *Invisible Bullying* held in Fu Luen School's theatre.

Khalel Vallo

Melco Resorts & Entertainment and the Women's General Association of Macau (known as Fu Luen, its short name in Cantonese) launched an 11-school tour called "Invisible Bullying" on Wednesday, using campus theatre to raise awareness of less visible forms of school bullying and promote mental wellness among young people, according to a Melco statement.

The premiere of *Invisible Bullying*, held at Fu Luen School, was attended by about 250 teachers and students and marked the start of the school theatre tour under the sixth-year "Feel Better Mental Wellness Programme", the statement said.

The production was jointly developed by Melco and the Women's Association after gathering views and experiences from young people in the local community, the statement said, adding that it portrays psychological experiences of victims, bystanders and bullies, focusing on bullying behaviours that can be overlooked in everyday school life.

Through the theatre production, the organisers aim to help students identify bullying, understand its psychological effects and learn appropriate ways to seek assistance, the statement said, noting that the production also highlights the potential long-term psychological

impact of bullying and promotes a more inclusive and respectful school environment.

At the premiere, Melco Chairman and CEO Lawrence Ho Yau Lung and Women's Association Chairwoman Lau Kam Ling reviewed the programme's work in providing mental health support services, the statement said, noting that since its launch in 2021, the programme has benefited close to 7,000 participants through some 1,500 activities. They said the theatre format could help students better understand the harm caused by bullying, recognise potential risks and learn safe and practical self-protection and help-seeking methods, the statement underlined.

This year's "Feel Better Mental Wellness Programme" comprises five projects, including at least 200 individual psychological support sessions, 12 mental health promotion workshops, six parenting workshops and four film-sharing sessions, according to the statement.

The *Invisible Bullying* school theatre tour is the programme's key focus project this year, with 11 performances planned at the participating schools, the statement said, adding that the initiative aims to bring mental health education directly to students while providing different forms of mental wellness resources for local residents. ■

Applications open for food vendors at upcoming culture-fest in Nam Van

Ida Cheong

An open call for food and beverage (F&B) operators has been launched to provide catering services for the "Art Everywhere – Cultural Vibes at the Weekend" stalls programme, with applications closing at noon on Tuesday, according to a statement released yesterday by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC).

The catering services will run from October through December on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and during special event sessions

at Anim'Arte NAM VAN, the statement said, adding that a total of two F&B booths will be set up on-site. Selected operators will operate on a self-financing basis and are responsible for handling any necessary licence applications in accordance with current laws.

For application regulations and evaluation criteria, please visit the IC website at www.icm.gov.mo. For enquiries, please contact Ms Zhou or Ms Lau on 8399 6289 or 8399 6296 during office hours. ■



This undated handout photo provided by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) on Wednesday shows revellers at a previous edition of "Art Everywhere – Cultural Vibes at the Weekend".



澳門旅遊大學
UNIVERSIDADE DE TURISMO DE MACAU
Macao University of Tourism

www.utm.edu.mo

Recruitment of Rector of Macao University of Tourism (Reference no.: 001/REC-RO/2026)

The Macao University of Tourism (UTM), established in 1995, is a public university in Macao. UTM offers degree programmes, as well as professional training in a wide range of culture, tourism and hospitality management related disciplines such as hospitality, tourism, cultural and heritage, creative and cultural studies, events, leisure and entertainment, sports and recreation, culinary arts, food and beverage, smart technologies, business, marketing and brand, communication, and language. UTM is committed to providing quality tourism education to its students, while striving to become a globally recognised higher education institution of excellence in tourism.

UTM was the first institution accredited by the UN Tourism.TedQual Certification System for tourism education. The University has achieved prominent position in QS World University Rankings by Subject "Hospitality & Leisure Management". It has been recognised as one of the best higher education institutions worldwide in tourism management. UTM focuses on the holistic development of its students, striving to enhance their competitiveness and entrepreneurship skills. For more information about UTM, please visit <https://www.utm.edu.mo/>.

To implement the Macao SAR Government's policy objectives of "Education to Prosper Macao and Talents to Shape Macao", and to align with the international development of higher education, UTM has been advancing internationalisation through its educational provision, expanding its international student body and teaching team, and contributing to Macao's development into a hub for high-calibre international talent. In accordance with the relevant provisions of the personnel ordinance of UTM, the UTM Council launches a global recruitment for the position of Rector.

Major Responsibilities:

- (1) To lead the academic and administrative management of the Macao University of Tourism;
- (2) To ensure that the University fulfils its objectives and discharges its duties;
- (3) To formulate the University's overall policies and development plans, and submit them to the University Council for approval;
- (4) To oversee the operation of academic units, training units and support units, and ensure coordination among them;
- (5) To formulate the University's annual activity plan and submit it to the University Council for consideration;
- (6) To prepare the University's annual activity report;
- (7) To propose the creation, modification, suspension and discontinuation of higher education programmes in light of the University's long-term development needs and financial viability;
- (8) To strive to enhance the quality of teaching and research;
- (9) To actively foster cooperation with renowned universities and industry organisations in Mainland China and overseas, thereby supporting the University in achieving its internationalisation goals;
- (10) To strengthen industry-academia-research collaboration, enhance the University's capacity for social services, and increase its social impact.

Candidates Should Meet the Following Essential Requirements:

- (1) Possess a doctoral degree;
- (2) Be a Full Professor of a higher education institution, or possess substantial professional experience and recognised professional qualifications in the field of education;
- (3) Be of good civic character.

Preferred Requirements:

- (1) At least eight years of teaching and academic research experience as a professor, or in a position equivalent to professor, in disciplines related to cultural tourism and hospitality management, with significant contributions to teaching and academic research;
- (2) Not less than ten years of administrative management experience in higher education, preferably with experience serving as a vice-rector, dean, or in an equivalent position;
- (3) Extensive networks in the academic, higher education, cultural tourism and hospitality professional fields, and the public sector at both global and national levels; preference will be given to candidates currently or previously holding key positions in such institutions;
- (4) Familiarity with, and research experience in, economic development strategies relating to the cross-sector integration of cultural tourism and hospitality with other industries, as well as the transfer of research outcomes; ability to promote interdisciplinary integration and development within the University;
- (5) Familiarity with development trends in higher education in Macao, Mainland China and overseas, with an international outlook and a forward-looking philosophy of university governance;
- (6) Forward-looking thinking and outstanding leadership abilities, with the capacity to lead the University in achieving substantial development in teaching, research, internationalisation and social services;
- (7) Fluency in Chinese and English for communication and professional exchange.

Taxable Remuneration and Benefits:

The university will offer a competitive salary based on the appointee's qualifications and relevant professional experience. Currently, the professional tax rate in Macao ranges from 7% to 12%. In addition, the university provides comprehensive benefits, including provident fund, housing allowance, family allowance, holiday allowance, and medical benefits, among others.

Application Procedure:

UTM has appointed Asianet Consultants (H.K.) Limited to provide consultancy services for the recruitment of this position. Applicants or persons wishing to nominate candidates for this position should submit an application letter, a detailed curriculum vitae in English and other relevant documents as early as possible before the application deadline to the address below, quoting the reference number 001/REC-RO/2026:
Address: Room 05, 29/F, Infinitus Plaza, 199 Des Voeux Road Central, Central, Hong Kong
Email: utm@asianetconsultants.com

For enquiries, please contact Mr. Peter Liu at +852 2530 0130.

Detailed information on the vacancy is available at:

<https://www.utm.edu.mo/visitors/job-vacancies> or scan the QR code

** Applicants who are not invited for an interview within three months after submission of their applications may consider their applications unsuccessful **

** Personal data provided by applicants will be kept confidential and used only for recruitment purposes. **

** Preference will be given to Macao permanent residents with equal qualifications and experience. **

Application closes on 26 October 2026 (Macao Time)



UTM Job Vacancies

Int'l Film Camp enables filmmakers to go further

Interviews by Rui Pastorin

After five days of the “International Film Camp”, the eight outstanding short film projects chosen by an expert panel of judges were unveiled on Tuesday night, with each creator going on to receive a total of HK\$300,000 to make their visions come true.

Sponsored by Sands China and organised by the Asian Film Awards Academy, the camp at The Venetian Macao in Cotai was held from September 18 to 22 and was themed “When Strangers Meet”. It enabled a total of 16 participants to receive expert mentoring to refine

their short film concepts and pitches, join masterclasses, and network, among others.

With the funding, the eight chosen recipients each have until December to finish short films spanning 15 to 20 minutes.

Speaking with the *Post* in individual and group interviews on Tuesday, fellow awardees Chan Chon Sin from Macau and Kyrgyzstan’s Ilimbek Maksatbekov highlighted how the overall experience was not only helpful, but serves as an important opportunity for filmmakers.

‘I feel like I can finally execute my project more freely’

Feeling both honoured and excited about his win, local filmmaker Chan said that the initiative opens up opportunities given the fact that the city does not have much funding for film projects.

“As a Macau creator, it’s kind of hard to find our funding through our different platforms or areas”, he said. “We need to go to different countries, reaching out to different platforms for our funding”.

He added that Macau does not have a “formal film industry”, requiring filmmakers to create projects in a more “indie film” or “run-and-gun shoot” style. With the funding, he noted: “I feel like I can finally execute my project more freely” and have more freedom to have what he wants in his film, executing according to his vision.

The project he wants to bring forth? A short film called “Tower”, which incorporates the city’s “spectacle landmarks”. Telling a very local story, Chan described it as “a ridiculous dark comedy” that also shows the real Macau. “I want to really tell a Macau story to the global audience”

Moreover, Chan noted a positive camp experience, pointing out that he was particularly grateful for the recommendations for script adjustments made by experienced Hong Kong director and screenwriter Heiward Mak.

“She’s a great mentor, to be honest, and she’s very selfless”, he said, sacrificing a lot while always making time to make necessary adjustments to each pitch and script. “I really appreciate my mentor’s hard work”.



Macau local Chan Chon Sin (centre) holds his award while posing with Asian Film Awards Academy Chairman Wilfred Wong Ying-wai (left) and International Film Camp (IFC) Ambassador, actress, writer and director Fala Chen. – Photos taken during Tuesday’s awards and closing ceremony at The Londoner Macao by Rui Pastorin



Kyrgyzstan’s Ilimbek Maksatbekov (centre) poses with IFC Ambassador Fala Chen and Asian Film Awards Academy Chairman Wilfred Wong Ying Wai during Tuesday’s ceremony.

‘Even if you don’t win, you get to know your story better’

For Kyrgyzstan’s Maksatbekov, he admitted that he initially didn’t know much about the programme, but after being drawn by the prospect of learning from filmmaking veterans and industry experts, it sounded “too compelling not to apply”.

“I think it’s a huge platform, especially like the range of countries and regions it takes, it’s quite amazing. And especially in our region, it’s not that easy to get significant support, especially for short films, so I think it’s a quite unique opportunity that we’ve been given here”, Maksatbekov pointed out.

Maksatbekov, whose project is entitled “We Came Back to Strangers, Dad”, also noted that just being able to take part in the camp itself to network and learn was already an “extraordinary opportunity”.

“I think one of the most important things is that even if you don’t win, you really get to know your story better, and it’s going to be easier to go to pitch in some other places, or even just to execute and have the idea, it really helps” he said, highlighting that participants got to learn how to communicate the core vision behind each story.

“Most of us, we worked through the nights and just really trying to figure out what our story is about, how to make it better, so I feel like [it was an] intense period of learning”, he added.

A way to enter film production

Meanwhile, aside from the 16 film campers, participants including Achilles Lei (李振華), who is joining the Sands China-sponsored “New Art Studies in Filming – Micro Movie Support Programme”, was also able to sit in on the camp.

Speaking with the *Post*, the camp, he said, works not only for him, but also for youngsters hoping to enter film production as although one might graduate with a degree and has acquired a lot of knowledge, the fact is they don’t know how to apply it.

“They are not involved in the industry. They just know how to do it, but they’ve never done it”, Lei, who also emphasised the microfilm programme’s ability to develop the skills of its participants, said.

Therefore, Lei pointed out: “I think this type of financial support [the micro movie support programme] and the film camp brings a lot of experienced directors and producers in front of us so that we can ask them questions”, as well as about the problems they are facing, answering all of the questions through a lens of understanding. “They used to be green just like us, so I think that would be very helpful”.



Macau filmmaker and “New Art Studies in Filming – Micro Movie Support Programme” participant Achilles Lei poses after speaking with the *Post* prior to Tuesday’s awards and closing ceremony.

IAM to host 'Animal Protection Fun Day' Oct 4

Khalel Vallo

The Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM), along with 14 local organisations, will host "Animal Protection Fun Day" ("動物保護同樂日") on Sunday, October 4, in Praça do Tap Siac, featuring pet-friendly activities, games, workshops and performances to raise public awareness of animal welfare and promote adoption over purchasing, according to an IAM statement on Wednesday.

The statement said that the event will run from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and feature a dedicated pet play area, a pet obedience competition and sessions by dog trainers, allowing pets and their owners to take part in activities and exchange pet-care experiences.

Pet owners can also make paw-print artwork with their pets and take instant family photographs together, the statement noted.

Stage programmes will include magic and dance performances, as well as a music session featuring animal-themed songs during the evening, the statement said, adding that the activities aim to promote the message that mutual companionship between people and pets can benefit physical and mental wellbeing.

An animal adoption information area will also be set up, alongside a rabies vaccination service, the statement underlined, noting that pet owners can make appointments through the Macao One Account to receive free vaccination at the event.

The opening ceremony will feature a police dog skills demonstration, showcasing the abilities of K-9s, the statement said. The bureau and local organisations will also organise prize-winning booth games featuring information on the Animal Protection Law and pet-keeping knowledge, the statement pointed out.

Moreover, animal-themed drawing and handicraft workshops will also be available for families and members of the public. Places are limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

The bureau previously joined the Everyone Stray Dogs Macau Volunteer Group and the Macau Photographic Society (PSM) to organise the "Animal Protection and Healthy Companionship" photography competition, promoting animal protection and healthy relationships between people and animals, the statement said, adding that winning entries from the competition will be displayed and an award ceremony will be held during the Animal Protection Fun Day, with the public welcome to attend and view the works. ■



This poster provided by the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) on Wednesday promotes the upcoming "Animal Protection Fun Day" ("動物保護同樂日") which will be held on October 4 in Praça do Tap Siac.

Mid-Autumn, National Day market to boost northern district economy: Ma

Armando Neves

Industry and Commerce Association of Macau Northern District (AICZNM) Director General Ma Kin Cheong announced during an opening ceremony at yesterday's Macao Northern District Market that the two-segment event aims to boost the local community economy.

According to a statement released during the ceremony held in Praça dos Lótus, Ilha Verde, the market has built a strong brand reputation and become a key platform for driving economic development in the northern district and showcasing community character, as it enters its sixth consecutive year thanks to a rich programme of activities closely tied to residents' daily lives.

The event continues to revitalise commercial resources in the northern district's older areas, consolidate stable development in the local economy, and steadily build up exclusive brand value for the "Macao Northern District Market" intellectual property, thereby raising the district's profile in cultural tourism, the statement said.

The market runs from today until Sunday, and again from next Thursday to next Sunday, operating daily from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The statement added that 45 specially curated stalls are featured on-site across three main sections: local cuisine, trendy retail, and fun games. Activities include lantern riddle guessing, a special "Little Cavalry" themed event, spending lucky draws, interactive stage games, and cultural performances.

According to Ma, the event takes advantage of the National Day and Mid-Autumn Festival holidays by integrating themes of family reunion and national pride into the streets of



Children and parents participate in the Little Cavalry game held yesterday at the market in Praça dos Lótus. – Photos: Armando Neves



Industry and Commerce Association of Macau Northern District (AICZNM) Director General Ma Kin Cheong addresses yesterday's Macao Northern District Market opening ceremony in Praça dos Lótus, Ilha Verde.

the northern district. It is hoped this will draw crowds, stimulate consumer spending, boost trade for local merchants, and revitalise business in the older neighbourhood.

Ma added that the chamber will continue to build the "Macao Northern

District Market" brand, elevating the northern district's standing in cultural tourism and attracting both residents and visitors to spend time and money there, thereby laying a solid foundation for regular community economic activities. ■

IC to restore historic courtyard gate

Ida Cheong

The Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) will start restoration work on the historic gate of the "Pátio das Palmas (棕櫚葉園 - "Courtyard of the Palms") on Calçada de S. Francisco Xavier this year, which served as the entrance to the former Leong Veng Heng Incense Factory*, IC President Deland Leong Wai Man announced in a press conference yesterday.

Leong made the announcement after the government-appointed Cultural Heritage Council held its fourth plenary meeting of this year at the Macao Cultural Centre (CCM).

Leong noted that the restoration project for the gate was unanimously approved by the committee yesterday. The work is expected to get off the ground this year, with its cost estimated at around 200,000 patacas.

Leong pointed out that the building is located within the core zone of the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Historic Centre of Macao, situated on public land with no private owner. The plot is affected by issues such as wall cracks, missing components, and overgrown weeds, making repairs necessary.

Built between 1875 and 1908, the gate bears witness to the history of the incense-making industry, which was one of Macau's four major handicraft industries, Leong pointed out, adding that it possesses both architectural artistry and historic value, and its restoration will enhance the streetscape and visual landscape of the historic city centre.

The property is located in close proximity to one of Macau's two Na Tcha temples, the Ruins of St Paul's and the Chi Lam Vai heritage walled village.

Committee member Luk Nam Tak underlined that Macau currently preserves more than 200 enclosed neighbourhood remnants of varying historic value, adding that the committee will gradually add explanatory plaques and QR code navigation signs to these historic remnants to promote relevant historical knowledge, thereby enriching cultural tourism's characteristic elements. ■

*Leong Veng Heng Incense Factory (梁永馨香莊), established during the reign of Emperor Guangxu (1875-1908) in the Qing Dynasty, it was recognised as one of the major traditional incense manufacturers in

Macau (alongside rival businesses like Chan Luen Hin), operating well-known factories and expanding its footprint with branches in regions like Hong Kong and Guangzhou. – Gemini, MPD



This undated file photo shows the historic gate to Pátio das Palmas (棕櫚葉園) on Calçada de S. Francisco Xavier.

– Photo courtesy of TDM

Dora Ng vows to grasp Hengqin opportunities to achieve Macau's leapfrog development

Tony Wong

The Macau government held a meeting yesterday to brief association representatives on Macau's 3rd Five-Year Plan regarding Macau's participation in Hengqin's development, during which Secretary for Economy and Finance Dora Ng Wai Han underlined the local government's commitment to firmly grasping the opportunities presented by Hengqin's development so as to achieve Macau's leapfrog development.

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

Yesterday's meeting came after the Macau government had held five meetings to brief association representatives about the 3rd Five-Year Plan since late last month. These five meetings respectively focused on the portfolios of Macau's five policy secretaries.

The 106-square-kilometre Hengqin island in Zhuhai City has been officially known as the Guangdong-Macao In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin since its inauguration in September 2021. The adjacent island is three times the size of the Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR).

The zone's governance consists of a management committee and an executive committee.

The management committee is the zone's

top decision-making body run under a dual-director system, jointly led by the governor of Guangdong Province and the chief executive of the MSAR. The zone's executive committee is the body tasked with the zone's daily functioning and execution of tasks.

There are nine bureaus administered under the zone's executive committee.

Dora Ng heads the zone's executive committee, which has five deputy directors comprising three officials from Guangdong and two officials from Macau.

In addition to Ng, yesterday's meeting was also attended by Secretary for Administration and Justice Wong Sio Chak, the five deputy directors of the zone's executive committee – Nie Xiping, Fu Yongge, Li Chong, Cao Jinfeng, and Cheong Kok Kei – and Hengqin Administration and Legal Bureau Director Carmen Maria Chung. Chung is a civil servant posted by the Macau government to Hengqin.

Wong is the executive deputy director of the zone's management committee, which has five deputy directors comprising three officials from Guangdong and two officials from Macau.

Yesterday's meeting was open to the media when Ng delivered her opening speech and Li Chong, one of the five deputy directors of the zone's executive committee, gave a presentation on the 3rd Five-Year Plan regarding Macau's participation in Hengqin's development. Afterwards, the meeting was held behind closed doors while attendees gave their opinions and

officials answered their questions.

The Macau government published the final version of the 3rd Five-Year Plan last month.

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

Delivering her speech, Ng noted that the establishment of the In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin and its development is a major decision personally planned, deployed, and promoted by President Xi Jinping. From the outset, the original intent to develop Hengqin has been closely centred on promoting Macau's appropriate economic diversification and making it more convenient for Macau residents to work and live in Hengqin, she underlined.

Critical period for Macau's transformation

Ng stressed that the next five years represent a critical period for Macau's transformation and breakthrough. To achieve leapfrog development, participate more deeply in the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA), and better integrate into the nation's overall development, Macau must firmly grasp the new strategic positioning of "Macau + Hengqin" and fully capitalise on the opportunities presented by Hengqin's development, she said.

Ng noted that the nation's 15th Five-Year Plan outlines Macau-Hengqin integrated

development, marking the first time a national five-year plan has incorporated this initiative, serving as a major measure by the central authorities to support Macau's long-term development from a top-level design perspective.

Ng noted that to thoroughly implement the spirit of Xi's important instructions concerning Hengqin's development while closely aligning with the nation's 15th Five-Year Plan, Macau's 3rd Five-Year Plan has a dedicated section for Hengqin's development, outlining systematic and comprehensive planning for Hengqin's development over the next five years across three major dimensions: deepening the integrated development of "Macau + Hengqin", promoting Macau-Hengqin industrial synergy, and fostering deep integration of residents' daily life matters between the two places.

Ng noted that Macau's 3rd Five-Year Plan sets a goal for reaching a combined value added of 65 percent or more of Hengqin's gross domestic product (GDP) in 2030 from cultural tourism, MICE, commerce, traditional Chinese medicine and big health, modern finance, and sci-tech research and high-end manufacturing.

Ng also noted that the 3rd Five-Year Plan sets various other goals including: improving Hengqin's public services and social security systems, achieving sustained growth in the number of Macau residents and enterprises in Hengqin, and achieving fresh results in promoting Macau's appropriate economic diversification. ■

Sam seeks support from nation's top court for Macau's legal modernisation

Tony Wong

Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai has met with the director of the Political Department of the Supreme People's Court, Sun Zhenping, where they exchanged views on deepening judicial exchanges and cooperation between the Chinese mainland and Macau, and joint efforts to enhance legal guarantees for the Guangdong-Macao In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin.

According to a statement by the Macao Government Information Bureau (GCS) on Wednesday night, the meeting was held at Government Headquarters earlier that day.

Welcoming Sun and his delegation to Macau, Sam expressed his gratitude to the Supreme People's Court for its long-standing and firm support for the Macao Special Administrative Region's (MSAR) judicial work and the training of legal professionals.

Sam noted that the MSAR Government is advancing the implementation of Macau's 3rd Five-Year Plan in close alignment with the nation's 15th Five-Year Plan. As part of this effort, the local government will promote the modernisation of Macau's legal system and enhance judicial efficiency, he said.

Sam noted that Macau's 3rd Five-Year Plan also outlines the local government's commitment to advancing Hengqin's high-quality development, including initiatives to deepen the alignment of rules and mechanisms between Macau and Hengqin, accelerate Macau-Hengqin integrated development, better facilitate Macau's appropriate economic diversification, and strengthen Macau's participation in the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA).

Sam said that during the 3rd Five-Year Plan period, the MSAR Government expects the Supreme People's Court to



Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai (right) meets with Supreme People's Court Political Department Director Sun Zhenping at Government Headquarters on Wednesday.

– Photo: GCS

continue to provide guidance and assistance, helping Macau improve its legal system and strengthen its legal talent pool, so as to enhance Macau's law-based governance effectiveness, serving as a key pillar for achieving the goals outlined by the 3rd Five-Year Plan. The Supreme People's Court's support will also provide robust legal guarantees for Hengqin's ongoing development, Sam said.

During the meeting, according to the GCS statement, both sides agreed that judicial exchanges and cooperation between Macau and the Chinese mainland rest on a solid foundation. They said that the MSAR Government and the Supreme People's Court will maintain close contact to jointly drive new progress in judicial cooperation. ■

GEG donates 1 million patacas to UTMDF

Rui Pastorin

Integrated resort operator Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG) donated 1.0 million patacas to the Macao University of Tourism Development Foundation (UTMDF) during a donation agreement signing ceremony held at the public university's Taipa campus yesterday.

The event is the second in a series of donation ceremonies with integrated tourism and leisure enterprises.

The donation, according to a UTM statement yesterday, aims to support UTM's academic development and institutional advancement, including "optimising the learning environment, enhancing teaching and research quality, and expanding international cooperation".

The donation agreement was signed by UTMDF Executive Committee Chair Cheung Kin Chung and GEG Director Philip Cheng Yee Sing.

In his speech, Cheung, as summarised by the statement, highlighted that GEG has "long been committed to corporate social responsibility". He added that the donation will "further deepen the strategic university-enterprise collaboration. It is expected to integrate industrial resources into teaching, translate academic research into benefits for the industry, facilitate the exchange of knowledge, talent and industrial resources, and achieve a win-win scenario covering talent cultivation, talent pooling and industrial advancement".

GEG Director Cheng was quoted by the statement as saying: "Through this donation of 1.0 million patacas to the UTMDF, GEG hopes to support UTM in enhancing its teaching and research capabilities, expanding international exchanges, and cultivating more outstanding professionals who can meet the evolving needs of the industry, thereby contributing talent-driven momentum to Macau's development as a 'World Centre of Tourism and Leisure'."

The first donation to the foundation was made by integrated resort operator MGM earlier this month. Read more on: <https://www.macaupostdaily.com/news/29330>. ■

Mid-Autum Festival holiday notice

Due to it being the Mid-Autumn Festival public holiday tomorrow, *The Macau Post Daily's* editorial team will be off on Sunday, returning to work on Monday so the print edition of your favourite newspaper will be on the newsstands and delivered to your homes and offices on Tuesday.

However, our website <https://www.macaupostdaily.com/> will be updated 24/7.

We wish all our readers, advertisers, distributors and contributors a restful break.

All government offices and banks will be closed on Monday returning to work on Tuesday.

Xi's remarks at arrival ceremony at the White House

WASHINGTON – President Xi Jinping yesterday gave remarks at the arrival ceremony at the White House in Washington, D.C., the United States.

The following is the full text of the remarks:

Honorable President Donald J. Trump and Mrs. Melania Trump,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Friends,

I'm very glad to pay a state visit to your beautiful country, the United States of America. Thank you, President Trump and Mrs. Trump, for the warm hospitality you have extended to me and my wife. On behalf of the 1.4 billion and more Chinese people, I wish to begin by extending sincere greetings to the American people and warm congratulations on the 250th anniversary of the US independence.

Both China and the United States are great countries, and both the Chinese and American peoples are great peoples. I am visiting the United States at President Trump's invitation to carry on our friendship, expand cooperation, and promote the well-being of both our peoples.

Facing the changes in our world, in our times, and of historical significance today, China and the United States, as two major countries, shoulder a historic responsibility of advancing human development and progress.

Mr. President, during your visit to China this year, we agreed to build a constructive China-US relationship of strategic stability, and this is widely welcomed by the people of our two countries and the international community. I am ready to work with you to steer the giant ship of China-US relationship on a steady course toward the future.

– We should strengthen communication. China and the United States are different in national conditions, but through candid, in-depth and continued dialogue, our two countries can understand each other better, seek common ground while shelving differences, and build up mutual trust. President Trump and I have respect for each other. We have built personal rapport and stayed in touch. We encourage our government departments, such as those in charge of foreign affairs, economic matters, financial cooperation, law enforcement and people-to-people exchanges, to catch up on



President Xi Jinping (second from left), his wife Peng Liyuan (left), US President Donald Trump (second from right) and his wife Melanie Knauss Trump attend yesterday's official welcoming ceremony at the White House in Washington, DC.

– Xinhua

strengthening contact, and we support our legislative bodies in increasing exchanges.

– We should cooperate with sincerity. The interests of China and the United States are deeply intertwined, and there is plenty of room for us to work together. China-US cooperation may not solve every problem in the world. But, without our cooperation, it would be hard to solve many of the world's problems. China keeps its door wide open, welcomes American companies wanting to invest and do business there. We hope Chinese companies are treated fairly here in the United States. Working together, we can lengthen the list of cooperation, and shorten the list of issues. Both China and the United States are leading nations in artificial intelligence. We have both the capability and responsibility to develop and manage AI for good, and ensure that the development of AI is always under human control and serves the well-being of the people. On counternarcotics and law enforcement, the Chinese side is willing to strengthen cooperation with the United States.

Our two sides may also increase direct flights to facilitate two-way travel and trade.

– We should coexist in peace. As I have said many times, China and the United States, as two major countries, stand to gain from cooperation and will both lose in confrontation. We do not need to avoid mentioning competition, but our competition should be a healthy one and should be kept within bounds. It should be a race of catching up with one another, not a wrestle in which one either wins or loses. China and the United States must hold the line of no conflict and no confrontation between us, and we can certainly find the right path for our two great countries to get along on this planet we both call home. Our two militaries should maintain regular dialogue, and improve mechanisms for crisis communication and prevention. The Thucydides Trap can be overcome.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Friends,

During the Second World War, Chinese and Americans fought shoulder to shoulder

against fascist aggression. Chinese people have never forgotten that part of history, nor have the American people. The hope of the China-US relationship lies in our people, and its future lies with the young. I am glad to announce an invitation for 100,000 young Americans to visit China for exchanges and study in the coming five years.

The giant panda has been an envoy of friendship between the Chinese and Americans. Here, I have a piece of good news. In a few days, two pandas, Ping Ping and Fu Shuang, will come to their new home in Zoo Atlanta and meet with the American people.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Friends,

Achieving the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation and making America great again can go hand in hand. Let us meet the people's expectation and show our historical initiative. Let us keep advancing the cause of friendship between our two peoples and work together to build a better world!

Thank you.

– Xinhua

Xi urges translating vision of a constructive China-US relationship of strategic stability into action

WASHINGTON – President Xi Jinping yesterday called for translating the new vision of a constructive China-US relationship of strategic stability into action and creating a more stable, healthy and sustainable future for bilateral ties.

Xi made the remarks when meeting with

US President Donald Trump at the White House.

The new vision reflects the reality of China-US relations, embodies expectations for the future, and is an important step forward for the two countries to find the right way to get along, he said.

– Xinhua

Xi says building constructive China-US relationship of strategic stability not expedient measure

WASHINGTON – Building a constructive China-US relationship of strategic stability is neither an expedient measure nor something that can be achieved overnight, President Xi Jinping said yesterday.

In his talks with US President Donald Trump at the White House, Xi said that

departments, sectors and levels of both countries should all get involved.

The two sides should not refrain from doing a good deed because it is too small, nor commit a bad deed because it is too small, and should implement the consensus reached by both sides with the spirit of driving the nail, Xi said.

– Xinhua

Xi urges US, Iran to get back on track with negotiations

WASHINGTON – President Xi Jinping said yesterday he hopes the United States and Iran will return to the track of resolving issues through dialogue and negotiation as soon as possible.

In his talks with US President Donald Trump at the White House, Xi said China has always believed that the sovereignty and security of all countries should be respected, and has consistently played a constructive role in easing tensions and de-escalating situation.

China has encouraged relevant parties to stay committed to peaceful solutions and maintain the momentum of talks, he said.

Xi also said China supports the United States and Iran in returning to the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding.

He also voiced the hope that the two countries will ultimately reach a comprehensive agreement covering the nuclear issue and other matters, and achieve peace at an early date.

– Xinhua

Xi says China hopes US to handle Taiwan question with prudence

WASHINGTON – President Xi Jinping said yesterday that China hopes the US side will adhere to the correct position of opposing “Taiwan independence,” and handle the Taiwan question with prudence to lay a solid foundation for bilateral strategic cooperation and the development

of China-US ties.

In his talks with US President Donald Trump at the White House, Xi also said China's position on safeguarding its national unity and territorial integrity is crystal clear.

– Xinhua

Xi kicks off highly-anticipated US visit in grand welcome

WASHINGTON – President Xi Jinping arrived at Joint Base Andrews on Wednesday afternoon for a state visit to the United States at the invitation of US President Donald Trump.

The visit has drawn wide attention as the two countries seek to stabilize their relationship, deepen cooperation and work together to address global challenges.

RARE PLANESIDE WELCOME

Xi and his wife, Peng Liyuan, received a rare planeside greeting by Trump and his wife, Melania Trump, upon their arrival. After Xi and Peng descended from their plane, the two presidential couples shook hands and exchanged greetings on the tarmac.

A red carpet was rolled out for the Chinese presidential couple, with honor guards lining up on both sides to pay their respects. Two American children presented bouquets of flowers to Xi and Peng.

The welcome ceremony also included a 21-gun salute, the playing of the national anthems of both countries and a military flyover.

The 21-gun salute is among the highest military honors accorded to a visiting head of state, but is rarely rendered at an airport.

The gesture is notable even by broader diplomatic standards, as the arrangement has been described by US media as a “rare” and “unusual” departure from protocol, as US presidents typically receive visiting foreign leaders at the White House rather than greet them at the airport.

Xi’s arrival kicked off a three-day state visit to the United States, which comes just months after Trump’s China trip in May. The exchange of visits between the two heads of state within six months is of historic and milestone significance, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said on Monday.

PARTNERS, NOT RIVALS

In a written speech upon his arrival, Xi extended sincere greetings and best wishes to the US people on behalf of the Chinese people.

China and the United States are both great countries, and the two peoples are both great peoples, Xi said, adding that the two peoples have maintained friendly exchanges for a long time and their interests are deeply intertwined.

China and the United States should be partners, not rivals, he said, noting that the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation and making America great again can go hand in hand, and that the two countries can help each other succeed and advance the well-being of the whole world.

Xi noted that he and Trump agreed to build a constructive China-US relationship of strategic stability during Trump’s visit to China in May, which has provided strategic guidance for the future development of bilateral ties.

China and the United States should work in the same direction and promote a stable relationship featuring cooperation as the mainstay, moderate competition, manageable differences and promises of peace, Xi said.

He said China and the United States, as two major countries, should find a right way to get along in the new era.

Xi emphasized that the world is developing and times are changing, but the historical logic of peaceful coexistence between China and the United States has not changed, the goodwill of friendly exchanges between the two peoples has not changed, and the general expectations of the international community for China and the United States have not changed.

Xi said he looks forward to having in-depth exchanges with Trump on major

issues concerning bilateral relations and the world situation, constantly enriching the constructive China-U.S. relationship of strategic stability, and expanding the space for exchanges and cooperation in various fields between the two countries.

With joint efforts, Xi said he believes the visit is sure to be fruitful, and will enhance the well-being of the two peoples and add hope for world peace.

WIDE EXPECTATIONS

It is a very important visit, coming at a very important time and against the backdrop of a particularly difficult global political landscape, said Roland Henwood, a lecturer and political commentator at the Department of Political Sciences at the University of Pretoria.

The significance of the visit extends well beyond bilateral ties, as what happens between China and the United States affects the whole world, said Henwood.

Noting that the two leaders have a good relationship and hold regular contacts and good communication, he said that it is vital to have sustained engagement at the presidential level to provide strategic direction and stability for the bilateral ties.

Erastus Mwencha, former deputy chairperson of the African Union Commission, said the state visit sends an important signal – diplomacy remains available as an instrument for managing differences and preventing miscalculation.

It should also be read as part of a sequence rather than an isolated event – the Busan meeting, Trump’s state visit to China in May, and now this reciprocal visit – each building the kind of sustained contact that a single meeting cannot provide, said Mwencha.

Beyond high-level diplomacy, experts pointed to several areas where continued China-U.S. cooperation could have broader international implications.

Artificial intelligence (AI) is one such area. China and the United States have the technological capabilities and international influence to play an important role in addressing the potential risks posed by AI, said Pascal Sery, a financial expert and former member of the National Assembly of Cote d’Ivoire.

They can strengthen dialogue and cooperation on AI safety, governance, ethics and international rules, and work toward broader international consensus, he said.

Abu Bakr al-Deeb, an advisor at the Cairo-based Arab Center for Research and Studies, said counternarcotics is one of the areas where cooperation between China and the United States can produce very practical results.

Drug trafficking and other forms of transnational crime do not stop at national borders, so countries have a common interest in sharing information and coordinating their efforts, he said.

There have already been concrete examples of cooperation this year as Chinese and U.S. authorities have worked together on drug-related cases, including cases involving trafficking and new psychoactive substances, he added.

Experts also pointed to the broader role the two countries can play in addressing global challenges. Cavince Adhere, a Kenya-based international relations scholar, said the two countries, as the world’s two largest economies, have a responsibility to reduce friction and help safeguard the stability of the global economy and supply chains.

Achieving stability of their relationship is “a public good,” he said. “Reduced U.S.-China friction lowers the risk of global supply chain fragmentation.”

– Xinhua

Head-of-state diplomacy provides strategic guidance for stable Sino-US ties

China Daily editorial

President Xi Jinping arrived in Washington on Wednesday for a state visit to the United States at the invitation of US President Donald Trump. The visit comes about four months after Trump’s state visit to China in May. The reciprocal visits by the two heads of state are of major significance for the stable development of China-US relations.

Xi and his wife, Peng Liyuan, were warmly greeted by Trump and his wife, Melania Trump, at Joint Base Andrews in a rare planeside welcome. The grand reception highlighted the importance the US side attaches to the visit.

In his written speech upon arrival, Xi underscored the two countries’ long-time friendly exchanges and deeply intertwined interests and expressed the hope that the two countries will be partners, not rivals.

Xi pointed out that the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation and making America great again can go hand in hand, and that the two countries can help each other succeed and advance the well-being of the whole world.

Noting that he and Trump agreed on a vision of a constructive China-US relationship of strategic stability in May, which has provided strategic guidance for the future development of bilateral ties, Xi stressed that China and the US should work in the same direction, promote a stable relationship featuring cooperation as the mainstay, moderate competition, manageable differences and promises of peace.

Xi’s visit will help the two sides strengthen strategic communication and translate the important vision into concrete actions in different fields.

Economic and trade cooperation provides a strong foundation for such efforts. More than 7,000 Chinese enterprises operate in the US, while over 84,000 US enterprises operate in China. Two-way trade and investment support large numbers of jobs in both countries.

A US-China Business Council survey found that 95 percent of US respondents considered their China operations as being “somewhat to very important” for their global competitiveness.

The interests of the two economies are deeply intertwined. Turning trade and economic relations into unilateral instruments does not make either side safer or stronger. It risks disrupting supply chains,

distorting markets and raising costs for businesses and consumers.

The multiple rounds of China-US economic and trade consultations — the latest of which began in New York on Sunday — have demonstrated that differences can be managed through dialogue based on equality, mutual respect and mutual benefit. Such mechanisms not only help stabilize bilateral economic relations, but also provide greater certainty for the markets and the global economy.

The in-depth exchanges between Xi and Trump on major issues concerning bilateral relations and the world situation will be conducive to deepening mutual understanding and expanding the space for engagement in various fields between the two countries.

Stability does not mean the absence of competition. The key is to prevent competition from turning into confrontation. That means respecting each other’s core interests and major concerns.

In this regard, the US side must handle the Taiwan question, the most important and sensitive issue in Sino-US ties, with extra prudence and caution. Adhering to the one-China principle and the three China-US joint communiques, as well as honoring the commitments made by previous US administrations on the Taiwan question, are international obligations that the US must fulfill and a necessary prerequisite for the sustainable development of China-US relations and safeguarding peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait.

The development of Sino-US relations since 1979 clearly shows that a stable relationship between the two countries serves their common interest and that of the world.

As Xi remarked, the world is developing and times are changing, but the historical logic of peaceful coexistence between China and the US has not changed, the goodwill of friendly exchanges between the two peoples has not changed, and the general expectations of the international community for China and the US have not changed. Against this backdrop, China and the US have a shared responsibility to find the right way to get along.

That is in the fundamental interests of both peoples. It is also what the international community expects from the world’s two largest economies.

– Courtesy of China Daily



President Xi Jinping (left) and US President Donald Trump walk along the Colonnade on their way to participate in a military review in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington, DC, yesterday.

– AFP



US President Donald Trump (front, right) walks with President Xi Jinping after showing him the new helipad on the South Lawn of the White House after their bilateral meeting, in Washington, DC, yesterday. Xi's three-day state visit to the US ends today. — AFP



Supporters of President Xi Jinping wave national and US flags and display placards at Freedom Plaza during his state visit in Washington, DC, yesterday. — Xinhua

China and the US should be partners, not rivals: *Global Times* editorial

Both China and the US are great countries, and the two peoples are both great peoples. The year 2026 is a "big year" for China-US relations.

President Xi Jinping's state visit to the US will undoubtedly continue to steer the giant ship of China-US relations forward on a steady course.

President Xi Jinping yesterday morning attended a welcome ceremony held by US President Donald Trump at the White House. President Xi gave remarks at the arrival ceremony, noting that both China and the US are great countries, and both the Chinese and American peoples are great peoples. President Xi said that he is visiting the US at Trump's invitation to carry on their friendship, expand cooperation and promote the well-being of the two peoples. China and the US should strengthen communication, cooperate with sincerity and coexist in peace, he profoundly pointed out. This provides important guidance and injects strong confidence for building a constructive China-US relationship of strategic stability.

Head-of-state diplomacy plays an irreplaceable role in providing strategic guidance for China-US relations. In May this year, President Xi and President Trump held a successful meeting in Beijing. The most important political consensus reached is to establish the new positioning of building a constructive China-US relationship of strategic stability, which provides strategic guidance for the future development of China-US relations.

President Xi's visit provides an important opportunity to further keep the relationship on the right course, expand consensus, remove disruptions and accelerate progress, thereby advancing China-US relations. The two sides should meet each other halfway and foster a stable relationship characterized by cooperation as the mainstay, measured competition, manageable differences and prospects for peace, while exploring the right way for China and the US, as two major countries, to get along with each other in the new era.

Finding the right way for China and the US to get along serves the aspirations of both sides and the expectations of the international community. Facing the changes in our world, in our times, and of historical significance today, China and the US, as two major countries, shoulder a historic responsibility of advancing human development and progress. China-US cooperation may not solve every problem in the world, but without it, it would be hard to solve many of the world's problems. Whether promoting global economic recovery, addressing regional

hotspots, or improving governance rules for emerging fields such as artificial intelligence, cyberspace and outer space, a stable, healthy and sustainable China-US relationship is indispensable.

Just as President Xi noted, China and the US do not need to avoid mentioning competition, but the competition should be a healthy one and should be kept within bounds; it should be a race of catching up with one another, not a wrestle in which one either wins or loses. China and the US must hold the line of no conflict and no confrontation, and we can certainly find the right path for our two great countries to get along on this planet we both call home. In the past decade, China-US relationship has experienced ups and downs, adjusting through friction and dialogue while accumulating consensus amid competition. It has traversed an extraordinary journey. The facts have repeatedly proven that zero-sum games lead nowhere and that conflict offers no winners; dialogue and cooperation are the only right paths forward for China and the US. The proposal for a constructive relationship of strategic stability indicates that China hopes to achieve peaceful coexistence, risk management, and collaborative progress through a more resilient and sustainable model. This approach does not avoid contradictions, nor does it seek to return to the past. Instead, it is grounded in reality and focused on effectiveness, reflecting the

mature confidence of Chinese diplomacy.

China and the US should be partners, not rivals. The great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation and making America great again can go hand in hand, complement each other and benefit the world. This is both a historical insight and a current necessity.

As of July this year, the number of foreign-invested enterprises established by the US in China has exceeded 84,000. A report released by the US-China Business Council shows that 92 percent of surveyed American companies reported being profitable in China in 2025, and 95 percent considered China "somewhat to very important" for staying globally competitive. These impressive data sets confirm that the idea of "mutual success and shared prosperity" between China and the US is a tangible reality. China keeps its door wide open, welcomes American companies wanting to invest and do business in China. We hope Chinese companies are treated fairly in the US. Working together, the two sides can lengthen the list of cooperation and shorten the list of issues.

People-to-people connectivity is the deepest source of strength for relations between major countries. On September 24, President Xi announced that 100,000 young Americans would be invited to visit China for exchanges and study over the next 5 years. The hope of the China-US relationship lies in the people, its foundation is in our societies,

its future depends on the youth, and its vitality comes from exchanges at subnational levels. From "ping-pong diplomacy" where a small ball moves a big ball, to pickleball exchanges that enhance friendship among the youth; from the stories of Guling that carry a century-old deep friendship, to the enduring spirit of the Flying Tigers; from mutual visits with the old friends in Iowa, to the "50,000 in Five Years" initiative being realized two and a half years ahead of schedule... Recent polls in the US show a rebound in public opinion regarding China, and in the first half of this year, the number of American tourists to China ranked first among non-neighboring countries. The continuous streams of exchanges and friendship between the Chinese and American people are gradually converging into a vast river of mutual understanding and closeness between the two nations.

The year 2026 is a "big year" for China-US relations. President Xi's state visit to the US will undoubtedly continue to steer the giant ship of China-US relations forward on a steady course.

We look forward to jointly promoting the establishment of a constructive relationship of strategic stability under the guidance of the two heads of state. This will not only bring tangible benefits to the peoples of both countries but also respond to the eager expectations of the international community.

— Courtesy of *Global Times*



US President Donald Trump (centre, right) and President Xi Jinping (centre, left) hold a bilateral meeting in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, DC, yesterday. — AFP

Olympic champion Yulo completes gymnastics gold collection at Asian Games

NAGOYA – Double Olympic champion gymnast Carlos Yulo said he was “overwhelmed” yesterday after winning Asian Games floor gold in Japan to complete his collection of major titles.

Yulo became the only multiple Olympic gold medal-winner in Philippines history when he won the floor and the vault in Paris two years ago.

The 151cm Yulo sealed his first Asian Games gold with a score of 14.666 to complete a clean sweep of Olympic, World, Asian and South-East Asian Games titles.

“Having this in my collection ... it’s all complete now,” said the 26-year-old, who will go for a second gold in the vault today.

“We can just relax and hope for the best tomorrow. I will make sure I enjoy tomorrow’s competition,” he added.

“I’m just overwhelmed right now. I can’t process it yet.”

Yulo, who shot to fame in Paris, is the first Philippines gymnast to win an Asian Games gold.

“It feels like it’s kind of the



Carlos Yulo of the Philippines competes during the men's floor exercise final of Artistic Gymnastics at the 20th Asian Games Aichi-Nagoya 2026 in Nagoya, yesterday. — Xinhua

Olympics for me,” he said.

“It’s my first time winning the Asian Games, and I’m really happy and excited to go home and share this blessing to the people in the Philippines.”

Yulo was especially pleased his breakthrough Asian Games gold came in Japan, where he spends much of his time training.

“Competing here feels home to me,” said Yulo, whose brother Karl was

also competing in the floor exercise final, finishing in seventh place.

“I’m really comfortable here, doing my gymnastics. Maybe because I stayed here for a long, long time and trained with them.

“It’s nothing new for me to perform my best here. The challenge is just to perform well. It came today. It was a good routine for me today.” (More on the Games on pages 14 & 16) — AFP

Ocean drones deployed to monitor Southern Ocean carbon uptake

CANBERRA – A new fleet of uncrewed surface vehicles (USVs) has been deployed from Australia’s Hobart to monitor the Southern Ocean and improve understanding of how much carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the atmosphere is absorbed by the ocean surface.

The USVs will be deployed every quarter over five years to circumnavigate Antarctica, operating in the challenging conditions of the Southern Ocean, according to a statement released yesterday by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO), Australia’s national science agency.

The USVs are autonomous mobile research platforms, powered by wind and solar energy, and will operate in remote waters for months at a time, recording data in real time to better understand ocean carbon sinks, the statement said.

Each deployment is expected to cover about 22,000 km in the Southern Ocean, specifically to acquire data in seasons and regions where ship traffic is limited, said CSIRO Principal Research Scientist Elizabeth Shadwick.

The project is an international collaboration involving CSIRO, the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, South Africa’s

Southern Ocean Carbon-Climate Observatory, among other partners.

Ocean sinks store about a third of the CO₂ absorbed from the atmosphere each year, with the Southern Ocean accounting for 40 percent of global ocean CO₂ uptake, according to CSIRO.

The USVs will collect continuous atmospheric and oceanographic observations, including atmospheric CO₂, wind, temperature, sea surface temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen and seawater CO₂, it said, adding that the research will contribute to the annual Global Carbon Budget, which quantifies sources and sinks of CO₂ emissions. — Xinhua

Indonesian court cuts tech founder’s graft sentence on appeal

JAKARTA – An Indonesian appeals court cut the corruption sentence of Nadiem Makarim yesterday by a year, but the tech founder vowed to have the Supreme Court quash his conviction entirely.

Nadiem, the co-founder of ride-hailing app Gojek and a former education minister, was sentenced to 10 years in June for graft tied to procurement of laptops for schools during the pandemic.

An appeals court in the capital Jakarta reduced his sentence to nine years and cut the amount of restitution Nadiem must pay from 809 billion rupiah (US\$45 million) to 549 billion rupiah.

Nadiem, who is seeking to have

his conviction overturned, told media after the ruling that he would take his case to the Supreme Court.

“We will immediately file an appeal as soon as possible,” Nadiem said.

“I will not give up, and I will not receive any result other than acquittal.”

Nadiem, a 42-year-old Ivy League graduate, quit Gojek to become one of Indonesia’s youngest cabinet members in 2019, and served as education minister until 2024.

He was found guilty of corruption and abuse of authority by changing tender requirements to favour the purchase of Google Chromebooks for schools to aid remote learning during COVID-19, resulting in around

US\$120 million in state losses.

Prosecutors argued that Nadiem’s acts were linked to Google’s investment in Gojek.

The appeals court upheld the lower court’s decision to hand him a separate one-billion-rupiah fine. Nadiem faces an additional prison term if he does not comply with the financial penalties.

Google was not charged in the case, and the company has denied any wrongdoing.

GoTo Group, created in 2021 after a merger of Gojek and e-commerce platform Tokopedia, said Nadiem had no decision-making role since his resignation from the company in 2019. — AFP

N Korea test-fires guided rocket artillery: KCNA

SEOUL – North Korea conducted tests this week of “updated 240 mm-calibre controlled multiple-launch rockets”, state media reported yesterday.

The tests conducted on September 22 were “guided” by Second Economy Commission chairman Ko Pyong Hyon and “overseen” by several military officials, including Marshal Pak Jong Chon, the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said.

It did not mention the presence of leader Kim Jong Un, who often oversees important weapons tests.

KCNA said that an “autonomous pinpoint guide system” had been applied to the rockets, which are “capable of striking the targets 100 km away in a trajectory flight mode and those 115 km away in a combined glide mode”.

“The leading cadres expressed their unanimous view that the development of range-extended rockets assures them of a significant change in the firepower readiness along the southern border,” KCNA reported.

Marshal Pak, while citing general directives from Kim, “stressed the need to concentrate the deadliest and destructive attack forces on (the) southern border,” KCNA said.

He also “underscored the need to make the enemy aware of the fact that we have replaced all our armed forces’ long-range strike means with the latest ones at the earliest date.”

A separate KCNA report said that the same day, Kim and Pak had watched a football match between North Korea’s Missile Administration and the Second Economy Commission.

It did not say whether the match took place before or after the rocket artillery tests, but the team from the Missile Administration won, 4-1.

Nuclear-armed North Korea has conducted a long series of weapons tests this year, including two ballistic missile launches on Sunday that analysts said appeared to be a hypersonic weapon. — AFP

Malaysia intensifies efforts against online child sexual exploitation

KUALA LUMPUR – Malaysia is intensifying its efforts to combat the misuse of network services for the purpose of online child sexual exploitation through collaboration between its regulator, the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC), and the Royal Malaysia Police, Malaysian Communications Minister Fahmi Fadzil said yesterday.

The MCMC, as the technical agency, would continue to play an important role in assisting the police, especially its D11 Division (sexual, women and child investigation) of the Criminal Investigation Department, in tracking down those who misuse network services and subsequently bringing them to justice, Fahmi

told a press briefing.

“The MCMC’s role is to ensure that anyone who misuses network services can be traced, arrested and brought to justice, especially those who prey on children and women,” he said.

Fahmi also said the MCMC was placing emphasis on the safety aspects of social media platforms through the legal framework related to online safety.

“Through the Online Safety Act, we are also emphasizing to social media platforms the need to ensure that the environment or platform itself remains safe, especially for women and children. Notably, those below the age of 16 are not allowed to open social media accounts,” he said.

— Xinhua



Demonstrators march along a main thoroughfare during a labour rally in Jakarta yesterday.

Thousands of workers gathered to demand the government enact labour protection laws, abolish outsourcing and unpaid internship systems, protect gig and platform workers and guarantee fair living wages. — AFP

Sri Lanka protests oppose contentious judicial reforms

COLOMBO – Sri Lanka’s main opposition took to the streets yesterday to protest against judicial reforms, including raising the retirement age for judges, that the government says are needed to reduce legal delays.

Opposition leader Sajith Premadasa told thousands of supporters outside parliament that the legislation proposed by President Anura Kumara Dissanayake’s left-wing administration would “annihilate” judicial independence.

The government unveiled two bills last month to increase the number of courthouses, create new appellate courts outside the capital, raise the retirement age of all judges by two years and recruit additional magistrates and staff.

Increasing the mandatory retirement age of superior court judges requires a constitutional amendment, which can be passed by a two-thirds parliamentary majority that Dissanayake’s government enjoys.

A vote has been scheduled for today after two days of debate.

“The 22nd Constitutional Amendment is being executed to destroy democracy in our country and completely annihilate the



Sri Lanka’s Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) party supporters protest near the parliament in Colombo, Sri Lanka yesterday against a constitutional amendment proposed by the government to extend the retirement age of judges. – AFP

independence and freedom of the judiciary,” Premadasa said.

He said he was joining other opposition parties in seeking to defeat the constitutional amendment “in the minds of the people”, even if they do not have the votes in parliament to achieve it in practice.

The government has argued that the

reforms are necessary to clear a backlog of 1.1 million cases. Criminal proceedings usually take more than 17 years, while civil cases can take generations to conclude.

Sri Lanka’s influential Bar Association has also opposed the constitutional amendment, calling it an attempt to prolong the tenure of Chief Justice Preethi Padman Surasena.

Surasena, 64, is due to retire in November unless his term is extended under the 22nd Amendment.

Dissanayake told the association last month that he planned to recruit 10,000 police constables, hundreds of forensic staff and court clerks in a bid to speed up the criminal justice system.

“This is part of a much broader process,” Dissanayake said. “It forms part of an approach that looks at the entire process, beginning with investigations and continuing through the judicial process.”

Several opposition parties have accused Surasena, who was elevated to chief justice last year, of being biased in favour of the government.

Dissanayake’s administration denies the claim, as well as accusations that it seeks to influence the judiciary, saying that the changes are needed to improve efficiency and reduce delays.

The judicial overhaul comes as authorities intensify corruption investigations involving former president Mahinda Rajapaksa and members of his family. They deny any wrongdoing. – AFP

Rapper-turned-PM faces first big test after Nepal’s disaster

Paavan Mathema

KATHMANDU – Nepal’s rapper-turned-prime minister swept to power six months ago on a wave of youth-led anti-corruption protests, buoyed by optimism for change.

Now Balendra Shah faces his biggest test as his country’s leader after a catastrophic flood on the China-Nepal border killed more than 1,400 people and left thousands missing.

The disaster has pushed climate diplomacy to the centre of the 36-year-old’s premiership, overshadowing the anti-corruption agenda that powered his rise to office.

Shah is due to address the United Nations General Assembly this week, using his first foreign trip as prime minister to press Nepal’s case for greater international support to recover from a disaster scientists have linked to climate change.

Shah has called the “unimaginable and heartbreaking” flood “not an ordinary” event, warning that it demonstrates the growing dangers facing communities across the Himalayas.

“It is now time for us to strongly raise with the international community the issue of the disasters we are experiencing as a result of climate change,” he said, after visiting affected areas last month.

The tsunami-like floodwaters tore through mountain districts, destroying roads, bridges and hydropower projects while killing at least 1,494 people in Nepal and China’s Tibet region. More than 6,000 people remain missing.

Shah has warned the disaster shows “that the risks we face in the Himalayan region are increasing alongside climate change.”

Nepal, a country of around 30 million people that contributes only a fraction of global greenhouse-gas emissions, estimates reconstruction will cost US\$4.78 billion.

Better known as Balen, the ex-music star – often seen in a sharp black suit and sunglasses – celebrated his March election victory with a song declaring that “unity is my national power”.

He unseated veteran Marxist leader and four-time prime minister KP Sharma Oli in his own constituency, with the centrist Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) winning a landslide parliamentary majority.

His rise capped a rapid political ascent that began with an upset victory as Kathmandu mayor in 2022.

‘No greater pain’

Born in Kathmandu in 1990, he was a schoolboy during Nepal’s 1996-2006 Maoist civil war, which killed thousands and eventually ended the monarchy.

A civil engineer by training, he first gained national attention through Nepal’s underground hip-hop scene, using his songs to rail against corruption and inequality.

His music drew millions of views online and helped him build a devoted following on social media – a platform he continues to favour over traditional outlets for communicating with supporters.

That popularity translated into a political shock in 2022, when Shah became the first independent candidate elected mayor of Kathmandu, stunning Nepal’s entrenched political establishment.

As mayor, he built a reputation as a blunt and often confrontational reformer through campaigns targeting tax evasion, traffic congestion and mismanagement.

But his tenure also attracted criticism for heavy-handed tactics and for bypassing journalists in favour of broadcasting directly to followers.

Shah emerged as a central figure during the anti-corruption protests that swept Nepal in September 2025.

Initially sparked by youth anger over a brief ban on social media platforms, the demonstrations escalated into a broader movement against corruption and economic stagnation.

The unrest quickly spread nationwide. Parliament and government offices were set ablaze, and Oli’s government collapsed.

More than 70 people were killed during the unrest.

“Gen Z’s number one demand is good governance, because there is a high level of corruption in the country,” Shah said while campaigning earlier this year.

He described a vision of “a liberal economic system with social justice”, including free education and healthcare for the poor.

The flood disaster has put a new and unexpected burden on a leader who built his political career on promises to shake up Nepal’s establishment and deliver better governance – forcing climate change to the centre of the national agenda.

“There can be no greater pain than losing loved ones, homes and livelihoods,” he said. – AFP

Taliban govt says Pakistan strikes kill 4 civilians in Afghanistan

AFGHANISTAN – Afghanistan’s Taliban government said yesterday that Pakistani airstrikes on several provinces had killed four civilians, days after another deadly bombardment and a militant attack in Pakistan.

The latest targets included the southern province of Kandahar, seat of the Taliban government’s supreme leader, Hibatullah Akhundzada.

Islamabad’s information minister said Pakistani forces had struck 10 targets in Afghanistan – without specifying where – accusing its neighbour of allowing “terrorist sanctuaries” on its soil.

Taliban government spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said in a post on X that “the Pakistani military regime once again committed aggression and conducted aerial bombardments against Afghanistan’s Kandahar, Paktia and Khost provinces”.

“Four civilians were martyred in this criminal act of aggression,” he added, vowing to deliver an “appropriate response”.

The foreign ministry said it had summoned Pakistan’s charge d’affaires in Kabul to protest “the issue of the violation of Afghanistan’s airspace and the Pakistani army’s airstrikes on a number of the country’s provinces”.

The raids come days after a deadly bombardment in eastern Afghanistan and nearly a week after a militant attack on a police headquarters in northern Pakistan that killed at least 31 people.

A Kandahar resident told AFP yesterday they heard a jet, then a large explosion, followed by a fire in the centre of the city.

Hours later, Pakistan’s Information Minister Attaullah Tarar confirmed “precision aerial and drone strikes”, in a post on X.

“The strikes were deliberate, precise, calibrated, and proportionate, and strictly limited to identified military objectives directly linked to the attempted attacks against Pakistan,” he said.

At least three civilians were killed in the strikes on eastern Afghanistan earlier this week, the United Nations reported. Pakistan said 28 militants had been killed.

Yesterday, local officials told AFP that Pakistan had struck eastern Afghan provinces overnight.

In Paktia, jets bombed the Afghan army’s 203rd Mansouri Corps, said the provincial

governor’s spokesman Mohammad Rasool Ahmadi, without providing any information on casualties.

Airstrikes also targeted Khost province without causing casualties, said Mustaghfa Gurbaz, the governor’s spokesman there.

Salamat Khan, 66, the landlord of a damaged house in Khost, told AFP there had been “no military, no militants” in the building.

‘Escalate the situation’

While violence has repeatedly flared in the border area, strikes on Afghan cities are rare.

Both Kandahar and the capital Kabul were hit when Afghanistan and Pakistan went to war in late February, with weeks of violence killing hundreds of Afghan civilians, according to the UN mission UNAMA.

The neighbouring countries had agreed a ceasefire in March, but international mediation has failed to produce a lasting resolution.

UNAMA said in July that cross-border armed violence between Taliban government forces and Pakistani security forces killed at least 499 civilians and wounded 1,216 others between October 2025 and June 2026.

Security issues have proved a sticking point in any push for de-escalation, especially Pakistan’s demand that Afghanistan curb the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) militant group.

Islamabad accuses the Taliban government of sheltering militants behind a surge in attacks, particularly the TTP, which has waged a violent campaign against Pakistan for years.

“For years, Pakistan has repeatedly conveyed its grave concerns to the Afghan Taliban regime and its interlocutors regarding the continued presence of terrorist sanctuaries and their support networks on Afghan soil,” Tarar said on X yesterday.

“Instead of dismantling these networks... the Afghan Taliban regime has chosen to escalate the situation through hostile drone operations against Pakistan.”

Afghan officials deny the charge and counter that Pakistan harbours hostile groups and does not respect its sovereignty.

A group linked to the TTP has claimed the attack on a police headquarters in northern Pakistan last Friday that killed at least 31 people. – AFP

São Tomé and Príncipe voters want to stop exodus of ‘neglected’ youth

SÃO TOMÉ – In São Tomé and Príncipe (STP), one issue towers above all others ahead of Sunday’s elections in the tiny island nation in the Atlantic Ocean’s Gulf of Guinea: how to stop young people from leaving.

From market stalls to taxi ranks, voters across the archipelago of 210,000 inhabitants say they want the next government to create jobs and opportunities for a generation increasingly looking overseas for its future.

In the small parliamentary democracy, often regarded as one of Africa’s more stable political systems, the legislative vote is the contest that matters most.

Outside the bustling central market in the capital São Tomé, three young motorcycle taxi drivers debated whether voting was even worth it.

“Since I was born, nothing has changed in this country,” said Miguel, who plans to stay home on election day and like other locals interviewed declined to give his full name.

Ericson was undecided, while Nilson said he would vote in the hope that “these elections will create jobs”.

One point they all agree on is that too many young people see no future at home.

“We need investment, new businesses, a new port and a new airport,” Nilson said, arguing that young people often ended up in his job because there were few alternatives.

Nearby, giant screens looped campaign videos from the ruling



People walk below an election campaign billboard at a street market in São Tomé on Wednesday.

– AFP

Independent Democratic Action (ADI) party.

Across the street, supporters of its main rival, the Movement for the Liberation of São Tomé and Príncipe (MLSTP), handed out leaflets.

‘Lack of opportunities’

Seven parties are competing for the 55 seats in parliament.

Yet politics in STP is often shaped less by ideological battles than by “converging interests” and personal networks, former parliament speaker Arzemiro dos Prazeres told AFP.

For some voters, it is transactional. Leaving an ADI campaign event, one man in his fifties told AFP he had received

money in exchange for his vote.

Others simply want change.

Bruno, a 25-year-old unemployed IT graduate, said this time he would back the MLSTP, which ruled the country before multi-party politics was introduced in 1990.

“Young people are neglected. They have neither jobs nor leisure opportunities. There’s nothing to do here apart from parties and drinking,” he said.

“Many young people leave because of the lack of opportunities,” he added, saying he too had thought of moving but lacked the means.

Youth exodus

The numbers show the scale of

the problem.

A 2025 World Bank report estimated at least 18 percent of the country’s population, nearly 40,000 people, lived abroad.

Emigration has surged in recent years, driven largely by young people seeking work and better prospects.

Portugal, the former colonial power, remains the main destination, followed by Angola and Gabon.

“The whole economy is suffering from this,” said former prime minister Gabriel da Costa, who pointed to labour shortages in sectors such as construction.

Young people cite a familiar list of reasons for leaving: limited job prospects, rising living costs and

crumbling public services.

“The hospital is in terrible condition. It needs to be renovated,” said Aizy, a 38-year-old cleaner holding her newborn baby, recalling the state of the maternity ward where she gave birth.

Frequent power cuts remain another major concern, despite recent improvements. Many residents still remember spending much of the 2025 holiday season without electricity.

Attracting investment

Whoever wins Sunday’s election will face the challenge of convincing young people from STP that they can build a future at home.

All major parties agree that attracting investment is essential.

“Our entire policy is aimed at creating the conditions needed to attract investors,” said Foreign Minister Ilza Amado Vaz, an ADI candidate.

The goal, she said, was to reduce the country’s dependence on foreign partners, including Portugal, the EU, Brazil, China, and the United States.

Amado Vaz also hopes to expand “high-quality tourism that respects biodiversity” in the island nation, whose beaches and ecosystems have earned UNESCO biosphere reserve status.

However, the young democracy also faces the prospect of a low turnout.

Numbers have tumbled in recent elections and nearly six out of 10 voters stayed away from the polls in July’s presidential vote. – AFP

Brazil cuts growth forecast, projects slower recovery

BRASÍLIA – Brazil cut its 2026 GDP growth forecast from 2.3 percent to 2.0 percent on Tuesday, while anticipating a more gradual interest rate-cutting cycle and weaker economic activity during the second half of the year.

In a Macro-Fiscal Bulletin, the Finance Ministry’s Economic Policy Secretariat ascribed the downgrade to a slowdown in the services and

industrial sectors, partially offset by the performance of the agricultural sector.

Regarding inflation, the ministry lowered its 2026 forecast from 5.1 percent to 4.9 percent after price increases in July came in lower than expected, particularly for food and services.

For 2027, it cut its GDP growth forecast from 2.5 percent to 2.3 percent and raised its inflation estimate

from 3.6 percent to 3.8 percent, citing factors such as the potential impact of the El Nino weather phenomenon on agricultural production.

The government noted that the reduced economic momentum reflects an interest rate-cutting cycle that is “marginally more gradual than previously anticipated,” which would push back part of the economic recovery to subsequent years. – Xinhua

Portugal to join EU cross-border autonomous vehicle testing network

LISBON – Portugal will sign a joint declaration of intent to join the European Union’s cross-border testing network for autonomous vehicles next week, state secretary for mobility Cristina Pinto Dias announced on Tuesday.

“Next week I will sign the joint declaration of intent on the creation of an EU cross-border test area for the deployment of automated vehicles,” Pinto Dias said, adding that Portugal needs “a very integrated, competitive and above all sustainable ecosystem.”

The declaration will be signed during the Connecting Europe Days 2026 alongside Slovakia and Norway, bringing the total number of signatories to 21. Eighteen EU member states had already joined the initiative in June.

The network aims to create a large European testing zone spanning roads and cities across multiple countries, where autonomous vehicles can operate across borders without having to complete separate authorization processes in each member state.

Participating countries commit to adopting common technical requirements for automated vehicles and systems, coordinated type-approval and authorization processes, and shared rules for the circulation and provision of services using autonomous vehicles.

Pinto Dias noted that Portugal’s domestic legislation permitting autonomous vehicle tests on public roads entered into force earlier this year, and said the regulatory framework is now in place to attract investment and provide stability for companies, investors and consumers.

The Institute of Mobility and Transport (IMT) confirmed it has already received multiple requests for preliminary meetings from companies seeking clarification on the legal regime for licensing tests of automatic driving systems, describing the interest as evidence of strong sector demand for the new framework. – Xinhua

Fuel prices hit record highs in Portugal despite tax discounts

LISBON – Fuel prices in Portugal reached all-time highs on Monday, with diesel and petrol prices rising by approximately 6.5 euro cents (US\$0.07) and 5.0 euro cents per liter respectively, even after the application of the government’s ISP* fuel excise tax discount mechanism, Portuguese media reported.

Since the start of the Middle East conflict, the price of diesel has risen by more than 60 euro cents per liter and petrol by around 44 euro cents, driven by the war in Iran, geopolitical tensions in the region, the closure of

the Strait of Hormuz, through which 20 percent of global oil and gas trade passes, and attacks on refineries in the context of the war in Ukraine.

Finance Minister Joaquim Miranda Sarmento acknowledged that fuel support measures will remain in place “for some time,” conditioning any reassessment on the evolution of the Middle East conflict. He defended income support measures over cuts to energy VAT.

The government has extended a 10 euro cents per liter subsidy on professional diesel through the end of the year and relaunched targeted support for

taxis, firefighters and the social sector in a package of 38 million euros.

It also plans to propose to parliament the extension through December 31 of the temporary regime allowing ISP rates on petrol and diesel to be reduced to offset the additional VAT revenue generated by higher fuel prices. – Xinhua

*. *Imposto sobre os Produtos Petrolíferos e Energéticos (Fuel & Energy Tax). The abbreviation refers to Portugal’s special indirect tax levied on petroleum, electricity, and other energy products. – Gemini*

Mancini's Italy facing battle to 'win back' dispirited fans

Jérôme Rasetti

COVERCIANO, Italy – Roberto Mancini embarks on his bid to turn around Italy's fortunes for a second time as coach this week, but he also needs to win over sceptical fans left apathetic towards the Azzurri after an unprecedented series of setbacks.

The four-time world champions, for so long the sporting pride of the nation, have hit one embarrassing low after another, while the likes of tennis world number one Jannik Sinner, runaway Formula One championship leader Kimi Antonelli and Italy's Olympic athletes have delivered history-making successes.

The men's national football team failed to qualify for the past three World Cups, having not missed out previously since 1958.

Luigi Giaquinto wistfully watched a video of Giorgio Chiellini lifting the European Championship trophy five years ago three times on a loop.

"It all feels like so long ago," says the 27-year-old Italy supporter and electrician at the national team's museum in Coverciano, near Florence.

"It's incredible to think that our national team won the Euros just five years ago, yet failed to qualify for the last World Cup. It's tough being an Italy fan."

Alessandro Maurillo, who accompanied Giaquinto to the small museum next to the Italian football federation's national training centre, used to follow "international football more than club football", until recently.

Italy have not even played a World Cup knockout match since winning the 2006 final against France, and also suffered a last-16 exit at the hands of Switzerland at Euro 2024.

The one bright spot during their miserable 10-year stretch was the brilliant Euro 2020 triumph, with Mancini at the helm, as part of a then-world record unbeaten run of 37 matches.

Mancini has admitted that his team need to "win back" supporters, starting with today's Nations League match against Belgium in Rome.

The former Manchester City boss will also have some personal persuading to do, after abruptly ending his first spell as coach in 2023 to take over the Saudi Arabia national side.

"We will achieve this by taking the national team back to where it deserves to be, by playing with enthusiasm, and by giving our all," Mancini said.

But recent results have shattered fans' optimism.

The Euro defeat by the Swiss was disappointing, but losses in qualifying play-offs for the 2022 and 2026 World Cups, by North Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina respectively, were real low points.

"When you can't beat so-called 'small' teams like Switzerland and Bosnia, there's a problem," says Maurillo, pointing out the Azzurri pale in comparison to the country's other sports teams "where Italy excels".

Barely half of tickets sold

Italian clubs have also struggled to scale previous heights in recent years - a Serie A team has not won the Champions League since Inter Milan's 2010 victory under Jose Mourinho.

"The problems facing the national team - and Italian football more broadly - mirror those of Italian society," added Maurillo, a 29-year-old insurance agent.

"Young people aren't given a chance. Young players struggle to break through because they get little to no playing time in Serie A.

"It's a bit like the job market, where many young people are forced to go abroad to find work."

As he examines one of the earliest official Italy jerseys, a woollen one worn in 1928 by Elvio Banchero, Giacomo Benevento criticises the lack of character among the key players.

"Players like (Nicolo) Barella and (Gianluigi) Donnarumma - the experienced ones - don't have the balls that Chiellini, (Andrea) Barzagli, or (Gennaro) Gattuso had," bemoans the 57-year-old physiotherapist.

"They don't bring that extra spirit to the pitch, they don't strike fear into their opponents."

Supporters may be about to vote with their feet, as only 32,000 of the 70,000 tickets available for today's Group A1 game against Belgium at the Stadio Olimpico had been sold as of Wednesday.

Italy face a daunting trip to Turkey on Monday before hosting France, then play the reverse fixture against the Turks to conclude the expanded international break. — AFP

Kane relishing chance to become England's most-capped player



LONDON – Harry Kane is in line to move level with Peter Shilton as England's most-capped player over the next fortnight, but is wondering why the record of 125 appearances for the national side is not higher.

Kane is currently four short of Shilton's haul but a quartet of Nations League fixtures against Spain, Croatia and the Czech Republic (two) could allow him to equal the celebrated goalkeeper's record.

"Growing up, the dream was just to play for England and being most capped was never even in my mind at that stage," said Kane, the Three Lions' all-time top goalscorer.

"The journey has been incredible to this stage, and we have achieved so much as a group and personally achieved so much and been in finals, taking the England team to a level that it hasn't been for a long, long time.

"So, to be four away from the all-time is just incredible and hopefully I am able to play the four games and then be back in November and be able to break it."

Kane is just one of 10 men to have reached a century of caps for England.

By contrast, Cristiano Ronaldo has represented Portugal a world-leading 233 times, with contemporaries Lionel Messi (Argentina) and Luka Modric (Croatia) also having passed 200 caps for their respective countries.

Kane's former Tottenham teammates Christian Eriksen, Jan Vertonghen and Ivan Perisic are among a variety of modern-day players to have featured in



England's defender Marc Guehi (left), England's midfielder Morgan Gibbs-White (centre) and England's striker Harry Kane take part in a training session at St George's Park in Burton-upon-Trent, central England, on Wednesday, ahead of their UEFA Nations League group stage football match against Spain tomorrow. — AFP

over 150 internationals.

"It makes you wonder why (not) as well with England," added Kane. "Is it a cultural thing? Is it a mentality thing? Is it maybe the pressure from the outside?"

"Why have some of our great England players not reached that 160, 170, 180 (caps) like some of the other nations?"

"From my point of view, it will be an honour but ultimately there is still a long way to go and still hopefully a lot more caps I can achieve."

Despite his prolific record of 85 international goals, a major tournament victory is the one thing missing from Kane's England career.

A home Euros in two years' time could present his final opportunity and he is targeting tomorrow's clash against world champions Spain at Wembley as a chance to lay down a marker.

"Look, we're playing the reigning European champions, the reigning world champions, so it doesn't get any tougher in terms of who we're going to face," he added.

"But ultimately if we want to be Nations League champions, European champions in a couple years, we're going to have to beat teams like Spain and Croatia and the bigger nations. It's good for us to test ourselves, test the group." — AFP

Brazil & Australia meet in double-header to start rebuilds

Football

TOWNSVILLE, Australia – Carlo Ancelotti's Brazil and hosts Australia will use their friendly double-header as the first stage of a rebuilding process following the World Cup.

Brazil take on the Socceroos in Townsville today before a second clash in Brisbane on Tuesday.

It will be both countries' first outings since their World Cup campaigns ended in July.

The Socceroos bowed out in the round of 32 while five-time champions Brazil suffered a shock loss to Norway in the last 16.

Brazil coach Ancelotti has responded by selecting only nine players from their World Cup squad for the two Australian matches and a friendly against India in Kolkata on October 3.

Chelsea forwards Joao Pedro and Estevao were recalled, while Ancelotti has included several new faces, among them goalkeepers Pedro Morisco and Otavio, defender Mauro Junior, and midfielders Breno Bidon and Gabriel Bontempo.

Several of Brazil's established stars will be in action, including forwards Vinicius Junior and Raphinha, Arsenal midfielder Bruno Guimaraes and central defenders Gabriel Magalhaes and Marquinhos.

Guimaraes said this week that it was important that new faces had been included.

"We are constantly refining talent in our country," he said.

"It's crucial to have that solid



Brazil's Raphinha attends a training session at Ballymore in Brisbane yesterday, ahead of their friendly football match against Australia today. — AFP

foundation, so the coach can keep discovering new talent.

"Of course we respect Australia and hope we have a great game," he added.

"Things haven't been great recently, but from my perspective, the only way to turn the situation around is by playing well and winning games."

Australian coach Tony Popovic also swung the selection axe, omitting 10 players from the Socceroos' World Cup squad, including veteran goalkeeper and captain Mat Ryan, and striker Cristian Volpato, who was fined this month after testing positive for cocaine.

Popovic named seven uncapped players in the 25-man squad, which was rocked by the injury-forced withdrawal

of in-form Norwich City striker Mohamed Toure.

Australia are building towards the Asian Cup in January-February.

Experienced midfielder Jackson Irvine said the two Brazil matches were a good chance for new players to prove themselves on a big stage.

"I think it's a really exciting one for us, to come off the back of the World Cup and progress even further with our football, with new players, a chance to take the next step again," he said.

"We need to take another step.

"We did amazing things over the summer, but we've got another tournament coming and for us to grow, we have to look to progress." — AFP

Japanese teen smashes swim world record as Asian Games complaints mount

NAGOYA – Japanese 17-year-old Shin Ohashi smashed a swimming world record at his home Asian Games yesterday, as several teams rounded on organisers over problems dogging the continent’s biggest sporting spectacular.

Home hope Ohashi scorched to gold in the men’s 200m breaststroke in 2min 04.83sec, less than two years out from the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

The teenager with a fondness for junk food cut more than half a second off the previous mark, held by China’s Qin Haiyang since July 2023.

Ohashi had already won the 100m breaststroke gold this week in Tokyo after a dead heat with China’s Dong Zhihao.

“My target has always been to break the world record and I’m so happy to have done it,” said Ohashi.

“My next goal is to win gold at next year’s world championships and then go on to win gold at the Olympics,” he added.

“I don’t want to be satisfied and I want to feel these emotions again.”

Previous world record holder Qin did not swim the 200m at this year’s Asian Games.

Three sports, including swimming, are taking place in Tokyo but the main competition is in the city of Nagoya and the Aichi prefecture.

No traditional athletes’ village has been built to save money.

Teams have instead been staying in temporary container-style huts, hotels and the Costa Serena cruise ship moored in Nagoya port.

There have been numerous complaints about a shortage of rooms, with organisers stretched to the limit to accommodate the more than 17,000 competitors and officials.



Gold medallist Japan’s Shin Ohashi celebrates after breaking the world record while competing in the final of the men’s 200m breaststroke swimming event during the 2026 Asian Games at the Tokyo Aquatics Centre in Tokyo yesterday. – AFP

“It remains a problem from the beginning until now,” Chalitrat Chandrubeksa, deputy secretary general of the National Olympic Committee of Thailand, told AFP.

“The number of (rooms available on the) cruise ship and hotels does not match our actual number of athletes,” he added.

“It’s like musical chairs,” he said.

More than 4,000 people are staying on the ship and 2,000 in the huts, called “villas” by organisers.

There are also mounting complaints about

shuttle buses for athletes turning up late or not at all.

South Korea have consistently criticised the organisers and said the problems were “affecting athletes’ performances”, the news agency Yonhap reported.

Aiming renewed fire at local organisers, Ryu Seung-min, president of the Korean Sport and Olympic Committee, added: “If I were to give them a grade, it would be an F.”

Eel-powered whizz-kid wows

China embellished their haul when Yang

Yang finished ahead of North Korea’s Pang Un Chol and Thailand’s Silachai Theerapong in the men’s 60kg class in weightlifting.

Yang raised 138kg in the snatch and 166kg in the clean and jerk for a total of 304kg, 3kg better than Pang (127kg/174kg/301kg).

The North Korean matched his own clean and jerk world record at 174kg, but could not manage the four extra kilogrammes that would have given him victory with his final attempt.

North Korea turned the tables in the men’s 65kg event, Pak Myong Jin winning with a 182kg final lift of the competition and 328kg total to relegate China’s world record holder He Yueji to silver by 1kg.

China swatted aside the hosts 3-0 to win women’s team gold in badminton.

Japan’s 11-year-old eSports whizz-kid Yuki Kurihara crushed the competition, beating opponents almost three times his age.

The bespectacled primary school student, who says he eats eel to prepare for contests, is the youngest athlete at the Games.

He competes in Puyo Puyo Champions, a puzzle game where players try to clear their screen of coloured blobs by lining them up and popping them.

Kurihara beat all four opponents he faced to top Group A and put him on track for gold.

The men’s cricket began with hosts Japan losing to Afghanistan by 48 runs and Malaysia crushing Hong Kong by eight wickets in preliminary group matches.

Favourites India and fellow Asian heavyweight Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Bangladesh are seeded directly into the quarter-finals next week. – AFP

Japan shines in table tennis and swimming as China’s gold rush continues

Li Jia

NAGOYA – The 2026 Asian Games witnessed a day where host nation Japan delivered historic breakthroughs, while China maintained its gold medal march yesterday.

Japan ended China’s quest for a ninth consecutive title in the men’s table tennis team final following a narrow 3-2 win, clinching its first gold medal in the event since 1966.

The team tie was ultimately decided in the fifth match, where 19-year-old Wen Ruibo fell 3-1 to fellow teenager Sora Matsushima. Earlier in the contest, China faced strong resistance from Japan’s Tomokazu Harimoto. Harimoto defeated Wen 3-1 and later swept Wang Chuqin 3-0 to level the overall score at 2-2.

However, China women’s table tennis team quickly restored order, sweeping Japan 3-0 to claim the women’s team title. Sun Yingsha, Wang Manyu, and Kuai Man all secured victories in their respective matches.

Japan also shone in the pool as Shin Ohashi shattered the men’s 200m breaststroke world record in 2:04.83, trimming 0.65 seconds off Qin Haiyang’s previous mark. His compatriot Kotomi Kato triumphed in the women’s 200m breaststroke in 2:22.57.

China’s young swimmers made waves as 19-year-old Zhang Zhanshuo claimed his sixth Asiad gold, winning

the men’s 800m freestyle in a Games-record 7:42.49. He then helped China win the men’s 4x100m freestyle relay with an Asian-record 3:10.60, ahead of South Korea and Japan. China also dominated the women’s 4x200m freestyle relay in 7:49.37, beating Japan by 10.16 seconds.

Wu Qingfeng won the women’s 50m freestyle in a Games-record 23.98, missing the Asian record by just 0.01 seconds. Bahrain’s Mikhail Arkhangelskiy won the men’s 50m butterfly with an Asian-record 22.91, followed by Japan’s Shoon Mitsunaga and China’s Wang Changhao. This was also Bahrain’s first gold at the Games.

Also in the pool, China beat Japan to win the women’s water polo title.

China reclaimed the Asiad badminton women’s team title with a 3-0 sweep of Japan, ending a gold-medal drought that spanned the last two editions of the Games. In the men’s team final, China suffered a 3-2 defeat to Indonesia, missing out on the gold medal.

Out on the water, China claimed two golds and two silvers in the canoe sprint. In the women’s kayak double 500m, Yin Mengdie and Yu Shimeng took gold with a time of 1:45.010, finishing 3.130 seconds ahead of Kazakhstan. Meanwhile, Ji Bowen and Wu Shengyue secured the men’s canoe double 500m title

in 1:40.741, beating Uzbekistan by 2.137 seconds. In rowing, China won nine out of 14 gold medals on offer.

China’s Wu Zhifan and Liang Zhenglan finished 1-2 in the women’s mountain bike cross-country. Since the event became an official Asian Games sport at Bangkok 1998, China has won all available gold medals in the women’s cross-country.

Across other venues, Chinese shooters added two gold medals to the tally, winning the men’s 10m air pistol team and the mixed skeet team.

In gymnastics, China’s Qiu Qiyuan won the women’s uneven bars, while Lan Xingyu topped the men’s rings. In weightlifting, China’s Yang Xingu won the men’s 60kg title, while He Yueji broke the men’s 65kg snatch world record but settled for a silver.

In athletics, China’s Huang Yingying and Li Yi took silver and bronze in the women’s triple jump respectively. The gold medal went to Uzbekistan’s Sharifa Davronova with a personal best of 14.35 meters.

China secured a 1-2 finish in men’s discus throw, with Aduduaini Tuerhong winning gold with 64.26m and Wu Nanjun taking silver with 61.58m.

Bahrain’s Winfred Yavi claimed the women’s 10,000m title in 32:39.18.

– Xinhua

Games photos on page 16

20th Asian Games Aichi-Nagoya 2026					 20th Asian Games Aichi-Nagoya 2026	
Medal table					   ToTal	
1		People's Republic of China	80	30	20	130
2		Japan	20	34	37	91
3		Republic of Korea	10	12	28	50
4		Kazakhstan	8	8	9	25
5		Uzbekistan	6	12	8	26
6		Islamic Republic of Iran	6	10	4	20
7		Thailand	5	4	7	16
8		Hong Kong, China	4	10	9	23
9		Democratic People's Republic of Korea	3	3	3	9
10		Bahrain	3	2	0	5
11		Malaysia	3	1	5	9
12		Kuwait	2	1	2	5
13		Qatar	2	1	1	4
13		Tajikistan	2	1	1	4
15		India	1	7	9	17
16		Indonesia	1	4	15	20
17		Macao, China	1	4	1	6
18		Chinese Taipei	1	3	11	15

Dolly Parton’s nephew ordered to stay away from estate staff, properties

LOS ANGELES – Dolly Parton’s nephew has been ordered to stay away from employees and properties of her estate, US media reported, after the manager for the late country music legend alleged an “escalating campaign of threats” to extort money from the vast enterprise.

Chancellor I’Ashea L. Myles of Nashville Chancery Court issued the temporary restraining order on Wednesday, citing emails and other communications between the pair which involved “threats with demands for payment,” *Rolling Stone* magazine reported.

Parton’s longtime manager Danny Nozell requested the restraining order, accusing the artist’s nephew, Bryan Seaver, of attempting to extort money from the estate, which includes an amusement park, a hotel and a soon-to-be-opened museum.

Myles ordered Seaver to stay at least 300 metres from estate employees and business partners, remain off private property owned by the estate, and refrain from disruptive or harassing conduct, reported, citing the ruling.

Seaver’s statements were



A view of the stage during the tribute to Dolly Parton at the 78th Primetime Emmy Awards, held at the Peacock Theater in Los Angeles, California, last Monday.

– AFP

significant “not merely because of their language in isolation, but also because they were made in conjunction with statements threatening specific individuals and business interests associated with Ms. Parton’s professional property and estate,” Myles wrote.

Myles has scheduled a hearing for

October 7, according to the Davidson County Chancery Court website.

Seaver, who broke the news of the singer’s death last month in an emotional video, had provided security for Parton for years but was abruptly fired last week, TMZ reported.

That caused Seaver to criticize

Nozell, with the outlet quoting Seaver as saying he was “dismayed by the unexpected and, so far, unexplained actions.”

Court papers filed on Tuesday allege that Seaver sent threats including a text message warning he would become “the hand of retribution for my entire family,”

The New York Times reported.

The paper said the request for a restraining order was filed in Nashville – Parton’s longtime home – by She’s Alive, the organisation run by Nozell that manages her business empire.

In a message sent to *The New York Times*, Seaver, who describes himself as a military contractor and international arms dealer, said he was carrying out his own probe into how his aunt’s affairs were being managed at the time of her death.

Parton died last month aged 80, sparking mourning around the world for the singer who rose from grinding poverty to become a rhinestone-studded icon with hits like “Jolene” and “I Will Always Love You.”

She also starred in Hollywood films and donated millions of US dollars to charities. Her business empire is worth hundreds of millions of US dollars and includes her popular Dollywood theme park, cosmetics, pet apparel, baking mixes and even a truck stop.

The Dollywood theme park in Tennessee attracts around four million visitors a year and employs 4,000 people.

– AFP

Marion Cotillard fears being moved by AI actress

SAN SEBASTIÁN – French actress Marion Cotillard said yesterday she feared the day she might be emotionally moved by an actor created by artificial intelligence, as debate grows over AI’s impact on film and the wider creative industries.

“I think I would be very afraid the day I was moved by an AI actor. For now, I find that they act like potatoes, and that reassures me,” the 50-year-old Oscar winner told reporters at the San Sebastián Film Festival in Spain.

Cotillard, who won the best actress Oscar in 2008 for her portrayal of French singer Edith Piaf in “La Vie en Rose”, said she wondered whether AI actors could eventually become convincing enough to fool audiences.

“I wonder if one day that will happen, if one day I would be fooled by an actor,” she said. “I have to admit that it’s something that makes me think and that can frighten me.”

Cotillard is in San Sebastián for the world premiere of Nicole García’s “7 h 40 ce matin-là”,

which is competing for the festival’s top prize.

She plays Alice, a former revolutionary activist who is released after 20 years in prison and attempts to reconnect with her son.

“After spending 20 years in prison, the only thing she really has left is not her desire for revolution, but the fact that she is a mother,” Cotillard said.

A total of 17 films are vying for the top awards in the official section of festival, which wraps up tomorrow.

– AFP



French actress Marion Cotillard poses during a photocall to promote the film “7 h 40 ce matin-là” (“7:40 a.m. that morning”) during the 74th San Sebastián International Film Festival in the northern Spanish Basque city of San Sebastián yesterday. – AFP

Met Opera to give New Yorkers free tickets in affordability push

NEW YORK – New York’s Metropolitan Opera will give away thousands of tickets to open the prestigious cultural institution up to people who could not otherwise afford it, Mayor Zohran Mamdani announced yesterday.

The “Opera for All” initiative will see the Met distribute 70,000 tickets each season via a lottery system for New Yorkers as part of a partnership with the city council.

Typically, around a third of Met Opera tickets cost less than US\$100, according to the venue, but prices can soar for seating close to the stage.

“Opera is one of the greatest art forms we have, and there is no better place to experience it than the Metropolitan Opera House,” said Mamdani, who campaigned on cost-of-living pledges.

“But art should not be reserved for those who can afford it,” he added in a statement.

“Every New Yorker should have the opportunity to sit in these seats, hear these voices and experience this stage, no matter what’s in their bank account.”

The Met Opera, based at the Lincoln Center in Manhattan, is one of the world’s most prominent opera houses – currently running performances of “Macbeth” and “La Bohème.”

“The Met is not just a globally recognised cultural icon; it is also New York’s opera house, an essential institution that truly belongs to the city’s residents,” the institution said on its website.

The free tickets will be available in every section of the Met Opera, excluding standing room.

Mamdani has also this year announced free or discounted tickets initiatives for Broadway shows, as well as the US Open and the World Cup.

– AFP

World Weather

CHINA	ASIA-PACIFIC	WORLD	LUSOPHONE
Beijing 16°C~27°C	Manila 23°C~32°C	New York 16°C~23°C	Lisbon 18°C~31°C
Shanghai 23°C~32°C	Bangkok 24°C~29°C	London 14°C~25°C	Rio de Janeiro 19°C~26°C
Hong Kong 23°C~30°C	Tokyo 18°C~26°C	Frankfurt 7°C~21°C	Luanda 20°C~23°C
Taipei 22°C~33°C	Singapore 25°C~33°C	Vancouver 9°C~14°C	Maputo 16°C~28°C
Guangzhou 23°C~33°C	Kuala Lumpur 24°C~33°C	Paris 13°C~28°C	Dili 22°C~32°C
Nanjing 21°C~33°C	Jakarta 24°C~35°C	Moscow 6°C~14°C	São Tomé 25°C~28°C
Guilin 22°C~34°C	Seoul 17°C~26°C	Las Vegas 22°C~36°C	Praia 25°C~31°C
Xi'an 16°C~22°C	Sydney 15°C~25°C	Monte Carlo 20°C~26°C	Bissau 24°C~31°C



Wang Chang/Liang Weikeng (left) of China compete against Alfian Fajar/Muh. Shohibul Fikri of Indonesia during the men's team final of badminton at the 20th Asian Games Aichi-Nagoya 2026 in Ichinomiya of Aichi Prefecture, yesterday. – Xinhua

Bahrain's Winfred Yavi reacts after winning the women's 10000m final during the 2026 Asian Games at Nagoya City Mizuho Park Athletic Stadium in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture yesterday. – AFP



Alisher Turdiev (left) of silver medalist team Uzbekistan looks at the gold medal of Bian Shihao of team China during the awarding ceremony after the men's four final of Rowing at the 20th Asian Games Aichi-Nagoya 2026 in Kaizu of Gifu Prefecture, yesterday. – Xinhua



North Korea's Pang Un Chol celebrates as he competes in the men's 60kg weightlifting final at the 2026 Asian Games in Nagoya yesterday. – AFP



Kazakhstan's Mariya Yefremova competes in the women's triple jump final during the 2026 Asian Games at Nagoya City Mizuho Park Athletic Stadium in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture yesterday. – AFP



Iran's Fatemeh Mohitizadeh competes in the women's heptathlon shot put event during the 2026 Asian Games at Nagoya City Mizuho Park Athletic Stadium in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture yesterday. – AFP