

# TOP NEWS

## Ties: Thai farming gets boost from innovations

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China has remained Thailand's largest trading partner for 12 consecutive years and the top market for its agricultural exports and fruits, according to the Chinese embassy in Bangkok.

Bilateral trade reached \$114.3 billion in the first three quarters of 2025, up 17 percent year-on-year.

Agriculture remains central to the Thai economy, employing 12 million people and accounting for about 8 percent of GDP. With nearly half of the country's arable land still farmed traditionally, the sector has become a new testing ground for Chinese technology.

In Danmakamtia village in Kan- chanaburi Province, Somboon Song- wainiaw, a 51-year-old farmer, has seen that potential firsthand. As the owner of more than 22 hectares of farmland, he was among the first in Thailand to adopt Chinese smart farming technologies.

Two of his tractors are now equipped with intelligent steering systems made by a Chinese company. Guided by satellite navigation and sensors, the system enables autonomous operation along optimized routes for specific crops and field conditions.

"It has helped me cut costs from 1,600 baht (\$50) to 200 baht per *rai* (1,600 square meters)," Somboon said.

Inspired by the success, Somboon also began using Chinese drones for pesticide spraying. "In just four hours, a drone can spray about 40 hectares. The operation is easy, and the efficiency is remarkable," he said.

### Investing in certainty

Saravoot Yoovidhya, CEO of TCP Group, the Thai conglomerate behind Red Bull, said the company firmly believes that investing in China is investing in long-term certainty. TCP has invested 4.36 billion yuan (\$614 million) in the Chinese market over the past five years.

"China's high-quality development is injecting strong momentum into the global economy," he said. "We will remain committed to concrete actions that strengthen China- Thailand friendship and work hand in hand with partners across sectors to build a contemporary bridge of mutual understanding and deeper people-to-people ties," he added.

Korn Dabbaransi, former Thai deputy prime minister and president of the Thai-Chinese Friendship Association, said, "For decades, the saying that 'China and Thailand are one family' has been deeply rooted in the hearts and minds of both peoples."

"Our relations go far beyond friendship — we are family," Korn said. "We are now working closely in future-oriented industries such as artificial intelligence, healthcare, environmental protection and electric vehicles."

He also highlighted the high-speed railway project linking China, Laos and Thailand, expected to be completed by 2030. "Beyond boosting tourism, the project will further strengthen trade and connectivity between China and Thailand," Korn said.

"We look forward to even stronger and closer ties with China over the next 50 years, and hope to see more exchanges between our young people."

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## A link to shrink the chasm



A drone photo shows construction of the Guniu River Bridge, which is part of the Anshun-Panzhou highway, in progress on Wednesday in Guizhou province. A key component of the highway project, the bridge, once complete, will be 881.8 meters long.

YANG WENBIN / XINHUA

# Nation's tech achievements drive SAR athletes' success

## Expert hails use of supercomputer, wind tunnel simulations for training teams

By ATLAS SHAO in Hong Kong  
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Hong Kong pedal ace Ceci Lee Sze-wing's successful title defense in the women's road cycling individual event during the ongoing 15th National Games has once again turned the spotlight on the city's cycling team, which is known for its stellar show in premier tournaments.

Lee's gold is the second for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region so far in this year's games, and she is also the third athlete from the SAR to triumph more than once at the National Games after Asian cycling legend Wong Kam-po and Olympian Sarah Lee Wai-sze.

While hard work and discipline form the mainstay of Hong Kong cycling team's medal-winning performances, the application of cutting-edge sports technologies developed through the joint efforts of the Chinese mainland and Hong Kong has been a significant contributor to its success.

A central research facility at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, which specializes in developing high-tech aerodynamic and acoustic surroundings, boasts a low-noise wind tunnel that can simulate a cycling race environment.

This facility, when further empowered by the nation's Tianhe 2 supercomputer in Guangzhou, Guangdong province, can not only improve cyclists' riding postures, but also assist in the development of the most suitable bike design and cycling bodysuit for them.

Zhang Xin, director of the university's Aerodynamics and Acoustics Facility, highlighted the importance of using a supercomputer to develop sports technologies. As human muscle tissues and physical conditions constantly change, the computation process is complex and requires the use of a supercomputer, he said.

Athletes of the Hong Kong cycling team have worn aero-speed suits developed and tested in the wind tunnel to compete at various major sports events, including the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games and the 2022 Asian Games in Hangzhou, Zhejiang province. These bodysuits, tailor-made for each athlete, are estimated to reduce wind drag by an impressive 3 percent.

Other sports disciplines, such as windsurfing and triathlon, have also employed simulations developed using the supercomputer and the wind tunnel to optimize the postures and movements of athletes.

During training sessions in Stanley on Hong Kong Island, sensors developed by the university recorded athletes' physical data, which

was subsequently analyzed using the supercomputer.

According to Zhang, the Tianhe 2 simulated the wind conditions at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games and provided the information to head coaches of the windsurfing and sailing teams. The supercomputer helped to enhance athletes' posture optimization, as well as design and select equipment, he said.

Sports technology cooperation between the mainland and Hong Kong has deepened in recent years, with more agreements signed for further development, serving both professional athletes and the public.

In September, Hong Kong Polytechnic University and mainland sportswear brand Li-Ning signed a memorandum of understanding to establish the Li-Ning-PolyU Joint Research Centre for Sports Science, which aims to enhance technological application and promote industrial transformation in the sports and health sectors.

In Guangzhou, the Nansha Sub-Center of National Supercomputer Center provides the mainland's first supercomputer direct network line for Hong Kong. A dedicated high-speed fiber-optic network from the Tianhe 2 supercomputer is used to link Guangdong and Hong Kong's scientific innovation capabilities, enabling Hong Kong users to swiftly utilize the nation's supercomputing resources. The center has continuously provided support for technological innovation in Hong Kong and Macao.

For athletes from Macao and Hong Kong, traveling to the main-

land for training and using sports technologies to improve their skills have become common.

Macao athlete Chan Man-hin, who participated in the National Games sailing event last month, said he was equipped with a high-end GPS tracker when he trained on the mainland. The device collected his performance data, including instantaneous speed and direction during sailing, for further analysis to help improve performance, he said.

"The piece of equipment allowed me to analyze all the training data and adjust my strategy for the day of the competition," Chan said.

The nation's support for sports development in its special administrative regions extends beyond hardware to include talent cultivation.

At Guangzhou Zhongshan Whampoa School for Hong Kong and Macao Students, a base has been established to provide a professional training platform for students from Hong Kong. Selected student athletes receive targeted training in five disciplines — fencing, swimming, equestrian, shooting and running.

These athletes also get more opportunities to participate directly in competitions at provincial, national and even international levels. By undergoing scientific and systematic training, they can gain recognition of the Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China, and have the chance to register as Hong Kong athletes, potentially becoming the city's elite sports representatives.

## Political Lens

### Xi, Comorian president hail ties of 50 years

President Xi Jinping and Comorian President Azali Assoumani on Thursday exchanged congratulatory messages on the 50th anniversary of diplomatic ties between the two countries.

Noting that China was the first country to establish diplomatic ties with the Comoros, Xi said that over the past half a century, no matter how the international situation has changed, China-Comoros relations have always developed healthily and steadily.

In recent years, political mutual trust between the two countries has been continuously consolidated, and exchanges and cooperation in various fields have achieved fruitful results, setting a model of equal treatment, solidarity and mutual assistance between countries of different sizes, he said.

Xi said he attaches great importance to the development of China-Comoros relations and expressed readiness to work with President Azali to take the 50th anniversary of diplomatic ties between the two countries as an opportunity to carry forward the traditional friendship.

In his message, Azali said since the establishment of diplomatic ties 50 years ago, the Comoros and China have maintained mutual respect and trust, standing together in solidarity and building a strong, enduring friendship. The fruitful results of bilateral cooperation have profoundly changed the lives of the Comorian people, he added.

The Comorian side appreciates China's vision of building a peaceful, just and multipolar world, and stands ready to work with China, under the guidance of the vision of a community with a shared future for humanity, to continue promoting sustainable and inclusive development, and make due contributions to promoting solidarity, cooperation and common prosperity between Africa and China, he said.

### Premier to visit Russia, Zambia and South Africa

Premier Li Qiang will kick off a weeklong trip to Russia, Zambia and South Africa, starting from Monday.

At the invitation of Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin, Li will attend the 24th Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in Moscow on Monday and Tuesday.

At the invitation of the government of the Republic of Zambia, Li will pay an official visit to the African country on Wednesday and Thursday.

In the last leg of this trip, Li, at the invitation of the government of the Republic of South Africa, will attend the 20th G20 Summit in Johannesburg from Nov 21 to 23.

XINHUA — CHINA DAILY

## Consumption: High-quality new demands in key focus

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Latest data reflected this sentiment. China's total retail sales of consumer goods rose 4.5 percent year-on-year to 36.59 trillion yuan (\$5.15 trillion) between January and September, with the pace of growth 1 percentage point faster than in 2024, data from the Ministry of Commerce showed.

Also, consumer spending contributed 53.5 percent of total economic growth during this period.

Continuing recovery was evident in the consumer sector of China's A-share market on Thursday. The Wind Consumer Sector Concept Index ended at 2,562.97 on Thursday, up 1.04 percent from the previous close and 9.48 percent higher so far this year.

Such momentum has reinforced policymakers' focus on consumption as a core driver of growth. In a meet-

ing held earlier this week, the Ministry of Commerce stressed the need to introduce more detailed measures to vigorously boost consumption and to formulate a series of high-quality special plans for the commerce sector.

In a report released on Tuesday, CITIC Securities noted that the combination of low valuations and a stabilization trend in resilient consumption is expected to enhance investor preference for consumer assets. Based on industry observations, the securities company recommended that investors should focus on inflection-point opportunities that are driven by the wealth effect and supply-side optimization in 2026.

The opportunities include higher-end consumption areas likely to benefit from the capital market's wealth effect transmission, such as duty-free shopping and outbound tourism. Sub-sectors with relatively consolidated supply, improving

demand and sound industry structures, such as hog farming and dairy products, also stand to benefit.

Shao Ke, head of the banking and integrated operations team at BOC Research Institute — the in-house think tank of Bank of China — said that the recently announced recommendations for formulating the 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-30) emphasized the interaction and positive feedback between supply and demand.

Efforts to promote consumption will, on the basis of traditional demand, focus more on personalized, diversified and high-quality new demands arising from people's income growth and consumption upgrading, said Shao.

John Quelch, executive vice-chancellor and a professor of social science at Duke Kunshan University, said that China has an opportunity to redefine what modern consumption means.

"Modernization does not neces-

sarily mean copying the Western consumption model," said Quelch. "It means redefining prosperity for an era of constraint, where balance, moderation and foresight become the hallmarks of progress."

In the area of green consumption, global companies are also seeing new opportunities. Asia Pulp and Paper, an Indonesia-based paper product manufacturer, will roll out a range of application-oriented products in China in the coming years, including biodegradable paper tableware such as paper knives, forks and spoons.

Zhai Jingli, deputy CEO of Sinar Mas Group-APP, the parent company of APP China, said China's fast-rising green consumption trend will open opportunities for global companies to advance product innovation and expand their exports to the market.

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## Nature's own light show



A photography enthusiast admires the dazzling aurora display on Wednesday night in Heihe, Northeast China's Heilongjiang province. From Wednesday night to the early hours of Thursday, auroras were observed in multiple locations in northern China due to a geomagnetic storm. QIAN BOYU / XINHUA