

Eyes on Milan

Athletes across world bring Winter Olympic villages to life

SPORTS, PAGE 20

Major cities see improved realty market

BUSINESS, PAGE 14

Deep history

Words, drawings on tiny sheets of paper continue to resonate today LIFE, PAGE 17



香港版
HONG KONG

CHINA DAILY

中國日報

TUESDAY, February 3, 2026

www.chinadailyhk.com HK **$12**

China narrows semiconductor equipment gap

Three Chinese manufacturers ranked among world's top 20 by sales for 1st time

By MA SI
masi@chinadaily.com.cn

In a milestone for China's semiconductor industry, three Chinese equipment manufacturers have ranked among the world's top 20 by sales for the first time in 2025, according to data from Japanese research firm Global Net.

This marks an increase from just one company in the pre-stricter United States-government-restriction era of 2022, underscoring China's accelerated progress in bolstering the domestic supply chain.

The progress is an outcome of Chinese companies' hard work and big investment in beefing up technological prowess, but a gap still exists in core equipment such as lithography machines, and more efforts are needed to achieve breakthroughs, experts said.

The sales ranking reveals a climb for Naura Technology Group, which jumped from eighth place in 2022 to fifth in 2025. It now only trails global giants ASML, Applied Materials, Lam Research and Tokyo Electron.

Founded in 2001, Naura has not yet disclosed its annual revenue for 2025, and Global Net based the ranking partially on estimated data. Financial services provider Suntime compiled forecasts from multiple securities companies to estimate Naura's revenue to stand between 46.8 and 52 billion yuan ($6.74 billion-$7.49 billion) in 2025.

New to the list at 13th place is Advanced Micro-Fabrication Equipment Inc China, or AMEC, whose etching equipment comes close to the cutting edge.

See ***Ascent,*** *page 3*

Editor's note: *From our rich history to dynamic, contemporary lifestyles, we are inviting readers around the world to tune in to China's vibes, and experience unmatched travel destinations, mouthwatering food, shopping extravaganzas and colorful adventures across the country.*

'BECOMING CHINESE' TAKES SOCIAL MEDIA BY STORM

Content creators espouse the virtues of sipping ginger tea and trying acupuncture

By LI LEI
lilei@chinadaily.com.cn

Sip hot water, wear slippers at home and start the day with a bowl of comforting congee. This advice might sound too basic to Chinese people, for whom these are everyday rituals, but for a global audience curious about contemporary Chinese lifestyles, these are nuggets of wisdom.

When content creator Sherry XiiRuii started uploading humorous tutorials about everyday Chinese habits, hashtagged #BecomingChinese, on social media in late 2025, she probably did not think her videos would amass millions of views and become a viral social media trend.

Within just two months, her series of more than 20 videos — framed as a practical guide to "becoming Chinese" — averaged 1 million views each.

In the videos, the Chinese American creator, who has more than 9 million followers on TikTok, playfully explains the Chinese take on wellness and household customs. Her success has sparked a wave of imitators across TikTok, Instagram and Facebook, with creators espousing the virtues of soaking one's feet in warm water before bed.

See ***Trend,*** *page 3*

Online
See more by scanning the code.



A British martial arts enthusiast demonstrates Chinese kung fu at the square in front of the Bell and Drum Towers in Beijing on Monday.
CHEN QIANG / FOR CHINA DAILY

© 2026 China Daily, All Rights Reserved
Vol. 30— No.8966

A member of the Asia News Network





Home run

Above: Passengers fill the waiting hall at Guangzhou South Railway Station in Guangdong province on Monday, as China ushers in its largest annual population migration — 15 days before the Chinese New Year, which falls on Feb 17 this year. According to the Ministry of Transport, an estimated 188 million cross-regional trips were made nationwide on Monday, up 13 percent year-on-year. These included 12 million rail journeys, 2.19 million flights, and heavy highway traffic. Throughout the entire Spring Festival travel rush, which runs through March 13, a total of 9.5 billion passenger trips are expected, which would be a record high. PARKER ZHENG / CHINA DAILY

Left: A child is reunited with family members at the exit of Hai'an Railway Station in Nantong, Jiangsu province, on Monday.
GU BINBIN / XINHUA

HKSAR to issue first batch of stablecoin licenses in March

By WANG ZHEN in Hong Kong
akirawang@chinadailyhk.com

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region aims to grant its first batch of stablecoin-issuer licenses in March, Hong Kong Monetary Authority Chief Executive Eddie Yue Wai-man said on Monday.

Only a "very small number" of licenses will be issued in the initial round, underscoring prudence and financial stability, Yue said during a Legislative Council meeting.

He said that the HKMA has received 36 applications for stablecoin licenses in the first round and is currently conducting detailed assessments.

The HKMA has requested additional information from some applicants, including use cases, risk management strategies, anti-money laundering measures, and the backing assets of their respective stablecoins.

He said that the regulatory regime clearly stipulates that any issuers engaging in cross-border activities must comply with local regulatory requirements. For an overseas-issued stablecoin to be used in Hong Kong — particularly for retail purposes — the issuer also needs to apply for a license under the current framework. Key conditions include establishing an office and holding reserve assets within the city.

Yue said that the global stablecoin regulatory landscape remains in its nascent stage. Looking ahead, there will be discussions on the potential for mutual recognition arrangements internationally.

To consolidate its position as an international financial hub, and promote the healthy development of Web3 and virtual assets, Hong Kong launched a stablecoin-issuer "sandbox" in 2024.

The initiative aimed to explore how to integrate Web3 technologies with traditional finance to foster innovation in payments and financial markets.

Hong Kong established a stablecoin regulatory regime in August through the implementation of the Stablecoins Ordinance, requiring any individual- or entity-issuing fiat-pegged stablecoins in Hong Kong to obtain a license from the HKMA.

Positive outlook

Yue also highlighted Hong Kong's resilient economy and steady financial system over the past year. In 2025, Hong Kong recorded a GDP growth of 3.5 percent, and its stock market achieved the highest growth globally, rising about 28 percent. Asset prices, private consumption, investment, and goods exports all showed strong performance.

Looking ahead to 2026, Yue said that uncertainties in the external environment, such as the pace of the United States Federal Reserve's interest rate cuts and geopolitical factors, may still linger. However, buoyed by the rapid development of artificial intelligence, the outlook for goods exports in the Asia-Pacific region remains favorable, he said.

During the 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-30) period, the nation will continue its high-quality development efforts, which will underpin Hong Kong's steady economic growth, Yue said.

Shenzhen's Nanshan crosses 1 trillion yuan GDP threshold

By CHEN HONG in Shenzhen
and **CHEN MEILING**

Nanshan district in Shenzhen, Guangdong province, is showing how technological innovation can lead to economic growth — even with limited resources — and turn it into a sustainable driver of development.

Li Xiaoning, head of Nanshan district, recently announced that the district had surpassed the 1 trillion yuan ($143.7 billion) GDP benchmark for the first time last year to reach more than 1.01 trillion yuan.

A handful of others have done the same. In 2018, the GDP of Shanghai's Pudong New Area exceeded 1 trillion yuan. In 2022, Beijing's Haidian district joined the club. Unlike Shenzhen, however, Beijing and Shanghai are both directly administered by the central government.

The most noteworthy aspect of Shenzhen's achievement may not be the trillion-yuan figure itself but the speed at which the milestone was reached. It has been described by a scholar as "an elephant running as fast as a leopard". It took 15 years for Nanshan's GDP to reach 100 billion yuan in 2005 — up from 7.8 billion yuan in 1990. Then, it rose from 652.7 billion yuan in 2020 to last year's 1 trillion yuan, said Li, the district head.

Nanshan's economic growth rate in 2025 reached 6.3 percent, outperforming the national average of 5 percent, Guangdong's average of 3.9 percent and Shenzhen's average of 5.5 percent. Despite covering only a relatively small area of 185 square kilometers, or about one-tenth that of Shenzhen, Nanshan contributes roughly one-fourth of the city's GDP, significantly bolstering its reputation as the "Silicon Valley of China".

Nanshan, which is home to Chinese tech giants such as Tencent and ZTE Corp, as well as drone manufacturer DJI and humanoid robot maker UBTECH, has maintained a strong growth momentum since its establishment. Shenzhen, the booming city neighboring Hong Kong where Nanshan is located, is often considered a pioneer of reform and opening-up.

Guo Wanda, executive vice-president of the Shenzhen-based China Development Institute, said, "Nanshan owes its success to its strong scientific and technological innovation, as well as to the rapid development of emerging industries in the new economy." Guo said that the district has attracted many excellent and large enterprises, as well as a number of talented people, due to its concentration of high-level innovation.

He added that the most economically developed areas worldwide have broken through their growth ceilings by enhancing their innovation capacity and upgrading their industrial structures — such as New York, London and Singapore.

With 218 listed companies, Nanshan rivals some provincial-level regions. The number of national high-tech enterprises exceeds 6,000. By 2025, the number of invention patents per 10,000 residents had risen to over 860, which is about 22.9 times the national average.

Sixty percent of Nanshan's GDP comes from strategic emerging industries. Xiang Tianye, director of Nanshan's industry and information technology bureau, said the district now has more than 20 companies that can produce complete robots, as well as more than 200 upstream and downstream enterprises.

At UBTECH, a newly developed hot-swappable autonomous battery system for humanoid robots prevents mission interruptions caused by downtime for charging, while also boosting overall production efficiency. As of the end of last year, orders for the company's humanoid robots had reached nearly 1.4 billion yuan.

"We put forward our requirements in the morning, and the parts can be machined and ready for rapid verification as quickly as the same afternoon," said Jiao Jichao, the company's vice-president.

Contact the writers at chenmeiling@chinadaily.com.cn

ADDRESS: 18/F, HING WAI CENTRE, 7 TIN WAN PRAYA ROAD, ABERDEEN, HONG KONG · Tel: (852) 2518-5111 · Fax: (852) 2554-7704 · Email: editor@chinadailyhk.com · HK Edition website: www.chinadailyhk.com · Printed by: Joint Printing Company Limited, 2-3/F Hing Wai Centre, 7 Tin Wan Praya Road, Aberdeen, Hong Kong