

Macau logs this year 5th chikungunya case

Tony Wong

Macau recorded this year's fifth imported case of chikungunya fever yesterday, the Health Bureau (SSM) announced in a statement last night.

According to the statement, the patient is a 70-year-old local woman who lives in Block 3 of the Chino Plaza residential estate in Fai Chi Kei district.

The woman, a retiree, visited Lecong Town in Foshan City's Shunde District in neighbouring Guangdong Province between July 14 and 18. After returning to Macau, the statement said, she came down with joint pain in her right leg on Friday last week, but she merely took medicine to relieve the symptoms without going to see a doctor.

However, the statement said, the woman came down with a rash on her right knee and right arm on Sunday, after which she sought treatment at the public Conde de São Januário Hospital Centre yesterday where she has been hospitalised.

According to the statement, she was diagnosed with chikungunya fever by the Health Bureau's Public Health Laboratory yesterday.

The woman was in a stable condition and still undergoing hospital treatment at the time of last night's statement.

Foshan City in neighbouring Guangdong Province has been hit by an outbreak of chikungunya fever since early this month, while over the past few days, chikungunya cases have been detected in more and more cities in the province.

According to the latest data from Guangdong's health authorities, the province had recorded 4,824 confirmed cases of chikungunya fever as of Saturday, with most of them having been reported in Foshan City.

Guangdong's health authorities underlined that all of the chikungunya fever patients in the province so far merely had mild symptoms. ■ (More on page 7)

Macau Open Badminton aims to show city's 'passion for hosting sports extravaganzas'



Badminton World Federation President Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul (centre), Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Macao SAR Department of Publicity and Culture Director Wan Su Cheng (third from left), Sands China Ltd Executive Vice Chairman Wilfred Wong Ying Wai (third from right), and other representatives pose during yesterday's welcome dinner at The Venetian Macao Grand Ballroom in Cotai.

— Photo: Armindo Neves

Armindo Neves

Wilfred Wong Ying Wai, executive vice-chairman of Sands China Ltd, said yesterday he hoped that the Macau Open Badminton 2025 tournament will put the special administrative region in the spotlight as the international competition's shuttlers and media from around the world will "encounter the unique charm of Macau's East-meets-West culture and its passion for hosting sports extravaganzas."

The six-day competition starts this morning with the Qualifying Rounds and Rounds of 32.

The event's welcome dinner was held at the Venetian Grand Ballroom in Cotai last night. Wong delivered a speech at the dinner where he pointed out that for the second consecutive year his company is co-hosting the event with the Badminton Federation of Macau (BFM).

"We aim to build a top-level skills exchange platform for both local and [visiting] athletes by building on the success of our first collaboration last year," Wong said.

According to a statement released on the sidelines of the dinner, the "Sands China Ltd. Macau Open Badminton 2025" tournament comprises five events: Men's Singles, Women's Singles, Men's

Doubles, Women's Doubles, and Mixed Doubles. The total prize money for this year's tournament has been increased from US\$210,000 (1.698 million patacas) to US\$370,000 (2.992 million patacas).

Badminton World Federation President Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul, who is from Thailand, said in her speech during the dinner that Macau is an "extraordinary city that beautifully blends East and West, creating the perfect backdrop for badminton excellence in Macau."

She pointed out that Macau's "rich heritage and modern sophistication make Macau a magnificent venue where badminton traditions bloom alongside the city's unique elegance and spirit".

The tournament, the statement said, is sanctioned by the Badminton World Federation, with equipment sponsored by Felet International Holdings from Malaysia. The company describes itself as "a pioneer in badminton racket technology." The competition's semi-finals and finals will be live-streamed on the Badminton World Federation's YouTube channel, "BWF TV," allowing badminton enthusiasts worldwide to witness the tournament and the shuttlers' skills on display in Macau.

Meanwhile, Wong also underlined in his speech that while the tournament was held in September last year, this year the co-organisers decided to push it forward to this month because they were eager to attract more teenagers to watch the world-class tournament during their summer holiday, while encouraging more local residents to participate in recreational activities and also to attract more foreign visitors.

The statement said also said that public interest in this year's tournament surpassed last year. A total of 442 players from 29 countries or regions around the world submitted their entries, with 269 qualifying. The 2025 tournament line-up includes the nation's gold-medal Olympians Chen Yufei and Chen Qingchen, as well as Ren Xiangyu, a Team China player who has won multiple titles in Super Series in recent years.

Meanwhile, local players are competing in all five tournament events; the six players who qualified are Pui Pang Fong, Leong Iok Chong, Vong Kok Weng, Ng Weng Chi, Pui Chi Wa, and Chan Hao Wai.

The tournament starts today at 10 a.m. and ends on Sunday. A total of 53 matches are scheduled for today. ■



Vice Premier He Lifeng (right), also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, shakes hands with US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent prior to a new round of China-US economic and trade talks in Stockholm, Sweden, yesterday.

— Xinhua

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The Macau Post Daily

China urges Canada to stop its erroneous action: spokesperson

China is urging Canada to stop its ill-founded and erroneous action which has seriously harmed the lawful rights and interests of Chinese diplomatic and consular personnel, a Foreign Ministry spokesperson said yesterday. — Story on p. 7

Hunger must never be 'weapon of war', UN chief tells Africa food summit

UN chief António Guterres yesterday said food must not be used as a weapon of war as world leaders gathered for a food summit in Africa, where 280 million people face chronic hunger.

— Story on p. 11

How might Trump's tariffs hurt Brazil?

With Donald Trump's punitive tariffs against Brazil poised to take effect within days, Latin America's largest economy is bracing for a virtual embargo on its planes, grains, and crude oil.

— Story on p. 12

Gongbei Customs busts 2 local men smuggling 8 used smartphones in their shoes

Armindo Neves

Zhuhai's Gongbei Customs announced in a statement yesterday that its officers have caught two local men attempting to smuggle eight used smartphones into the mainland via the Macau-Hengqin joint border checkpoint.

Gongbei Customs announced the case, which was detected on July 18 and 19, respectively, in a statement yesterday.

According to the statement, on July 18 and July 19, respectively, Gongbei Customs officers at the Hengqin Port intercepted the two cases of smartphone smuggling through the "Green channel", where officers detected individuals exhibiting abnormally stiff gaits and subsequently discovered four used phones wrapped in plastic film concealed in each smuggler's shoe.

In the statement, Gongbei Customs reminded the public that according to relevant regulations,

evading customs supervision by hiding or bringing goods subject to taxes into the mainland constitutes smuggling. If the circumstances are severe enough to constitute a crime, criminal liability will be pursued.

Macau Customs busts 11 smuggling cases in 6 days

Meanwhile, the Macau Customs Service announced in a statement on Saturday that its officers busted 11 smuggling cases in six days.

In the statement, the local Customs Service said that the 11 cases involved one smuggler each, aged between 46 and 72, from Macau and mainland China.

On the afternoon of July 18, customs officers at the Barrier Gate checkpoint noticed a man and a woman exhibiting nervous behaviour during a routine inspection. Upon examination, they discovered the man had 12 used computer processors in his trouser

pockets, while the woman had 22 used mobile phones in her trouser pockets and handbag.

On the evening of July 21, customs officers at the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge checkpoint intercepted a cross-border vehicle in the inbound lane based on an alert from the cross-border "Risk Management System." An inspection revealed 75.5 kilograms of uninspected seafood and meat being smuggled into Macau.

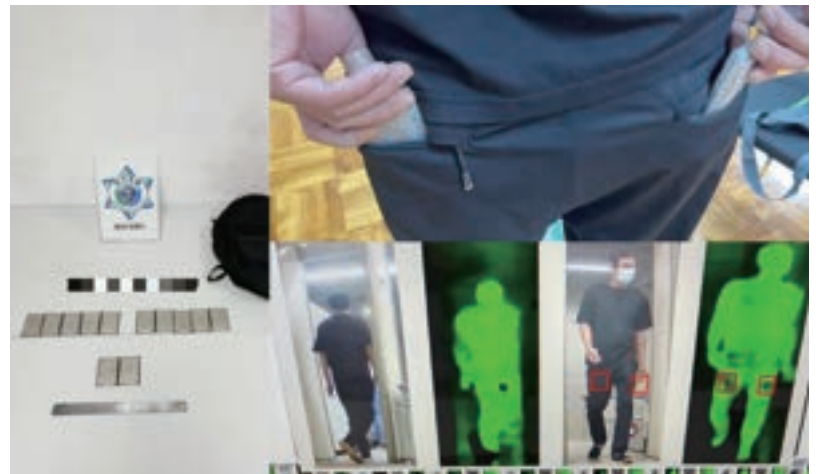
On the afternoon of July 22, customs officers at the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge checkpoint intercepted a cross-border vehicle in the inbound lane based on an alert from the "Risk Management System." Inspection revealed 25.2 kilograms of uninspected seafood, eggs and meat being smuggled into Macau.

On the morning of July 23, customs officers at the Macau-Hengqin joint border checkpoint's inbound passenger inspection zone intercepted seven female travellers for examination, discovering a total of 136.5 kilograms of uninspected flowers and plants hidden in their belongings.

According to Macau's External Trade Law, the four persons who smuggled electronic products or foodstuff face a maximum fine of 50,000 patacas each, while the seized contraband has been



This undated handout provided by Zhuhai's Gongbei Customs shows four used smartphones wrapped in plastic film hidden inside the smuggler's shoes.



This undated photo provided by Macau Customs Service shows 12 used computer processors in the smuggler's trouser pockets.

confiscated. The case involving the seven female smugglers has been transferred to the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) for further investigation and disposal of the flowers and plants. ■

Police arrest mainlander for attempted robbery

Ada Lei

A man from the mainland was arrested on Sunday for attempting to rob a gambler of his wallet, Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Ho Wai Lok said during a regular press conference yesterday.

Ho identified the suspect as a 35-year-old male surnamed Xia who claimed to be jobless.

According to Ho, the Judiciary Police (PJ) received a call on Saturday from a mainland man who said that he had been robbed in a hotel guestroom in Cotai.

Ho noted that the victim and Xia had gambled together in mid-June in a casino in Macau, where the victim won over HK\$800,000. At that time, the victim gave Xia HK\$10,000 in cash. However, Xia continued to demand HK\$200,000 from the victim, which was refused.

Last Saturday evening, Xia went to the victim's hotel guestroom in Cotai and again demanded HK\$200,000 in cash, which the victim refused again. During the argument, the suspect suddenly grabbed the victim's wallet, which contained various currencies, including US dollars, Thai baht, yuan and Hong Kong dollars, totalling about 27,000 patacas.

The victim's neck and back were injured by Xia, but the victim ultimately managed to retrieve the wallet. Xia then quickly fled the scene.

The police identified Xia as the suspect and arrested him on Sunday at his flat in the Patane area. Under questioning, Xia refused to cooperate.

Xia has been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing an attempted robbery charge. ■



Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Ho Wai Lok looks on during yesterday's regular press conference.

— Photo: Ada Lei

USJ delegation visits training centre for children with autism in Qingdao

Kristina Vallesteros

A University of Saint Joseph (USJ) delegation recently concluded a working visit to the Elim* Training Centre for Children with Autism in Qingdao City, Shandong Province, according to a recent statement on the private catholic university's website.

The exchange, held from July 21 to 24, aimed to "enhance participants' understanding of early intervention and inclusive education practices for children with autism in the Chinese mainland, while also providing future teachers and in-service educators who are passionate about special education with a concrete and in-depth cross-cultural learning experience."

The statement noted that the delegation was made up of a 10-member team, led by Assistant Professor Mo Chen and comprised graduate and undergraduate students specialising in special needs education. During their first day at Elim's Chengyang campus, participants observed classroom techniques and served as teaching assistants, witnessing the school's approach that emphasises parental involvement in early intervention programmes, according to the statement.

"We don't expect our children to outperform others – we simply hope every activity will enrich their lives," the centre's founder, Fang Jing, told the delegation, as quoted in the statement.



This undated handout photo downloaded from the University of Saint Joseph's (USJ) website last night shows Assistant Professor Mo Chen (1st row, standing, 3rd from left) and other delegation members of the private Catholic university's School of Education posing in front of Elim's Chengyang campus.

The following days included visits to Elim's specialised facilities. While touring a training centre in Qingdao's Laoshan District, which serves adolescents with developmental disabilities, its director, Zhao Liang, said that its "Sunshine Class" model integrates medical and educational support. The delegation also visited a training centre in the city's West Coast New Area. That centre's director, Huang Jinli, demonstrated their customised learning programmes for younger children.

The statement highlighted that all three campuses employ

ability-based grouping rather than traditional age-based classes. While noting the visit's success in fostering mutual understanding, the university indicated interest in continued dialogue without specifying concrete collaboration plans.

The exchange provided USJ education students with firsthand exposure to the Chinese mainland's evolving approaches to autism education, according to the statement. ■

*Elim is a place mentioned in the Bible (Exodus 15:27, Numbers 33:9) as an oasis where the Israelites camped during their Exodus. — DeepSeek

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Macau Band Fair 2025 sees outstanding performances from local, HK bands

Review by William Chan

Since April, the Macau Band Fair 2025, organised by the Macau Band Directors Association (MBDA), has hosted a series of impressive performances.

On July 19, the fair showcased the “School Band Concert,” which, despite its name, featured five bands – including two non-school ensembles: Magalo Arts Ensemble and Macau Continuo Winds – both of which I had the opportunity to interview previously.

Held at the Macau Cultural Centre’s Grand Auditorium, the concert lasted over two hours – longer than initially expected. The performers later explained that, anticipating that Typhoon Wipha would force the cancellation of their scheduled performance, they combined their Saturday and Sunday sets, resulting in a more extensive show. This allowed the bands to select their best pieces to present to the audience.

Magalo Arts Ensemble

As previously interviewed by the *Post* on May 14*, Magalo Arts Ensemble is a flexible, semi-professional group with no fixed lineup, primarily composed of wind instrument players and percussionists. The ensemble features three trumpets, a tuba, a trombone, a saxophonist, a flautist, and two percussionists. With members boasting over a decade of performance experience, Magalo’s performance stood out for its maturity and professionalism. Their small size has fostered a tight-knit, harmonious sound and engaging interaction throughout the set. They also strategically choose pieces that are more subtle and with more solo parts, providing a compelling contrast to larger bands.

Hong Kong Cognitio College Symphonic Band

With over 40 members – including secondary students as well as alumni – the Cognitio College Symphonic Band demonstrated impressive energy and vitality. Following them was the Concert Band of Our Lady of Fátima Girls’ School. Despite similarities in size and youth, each band showcased distinct characteristics: Fátima’s ensemble was cohesive, polished, and well-rounded, while Cognitio College’s band exuded vibrancy and excitement, with young performers visibly bursting with enthusiasm - understandable given their long trip to Macau.

Both performances exemplified what band music should be: fun, exciting, and educational. They serve as invaluable experiences for teenagers learning to balance enjoyment with audience awareness. In my opinion, participating in band classes is one of the most enriching skills and memories a young person can gain outside the classroom, and it’s encouraging to see students embracing this journey.

Macau Continuo Winds

Perhaps the most emotionally resonant performance came from Macau Continuo Winds, a band of experienced musicians from the Macau Band Directors Association, many of whom balance work and family commitments. I previously interviewed Kam Chon Wai, the band’s organiser, who told me that many members had missed playing in wind bands due to work commitments.** Returning to the stage reignited their passion for music, and their enthusiasm was palpable. Their body movements in sync with the music, along with their contagious joy, drew the audience in.

Technically, the band was surprisingly outstanding. It was remarkable that such a large group – over 50 members – produced cohesive and beautiful music, despite only rehearsing for just over a month. Their repertoire included a medley of 1980s and 1990s Japanese anime tunes, which evoked nostalgia and showcased excellent song selection for both the players and the audiences.

Macau Pui Ching Symphony Band

The Pui Ching Symphony Band on stage delivered an exceptional performance with great technicality. Their percussion section, in particular, demonstrated outstanding skill, highlighting the hard work and dedication of their members. Even with a two-hour programme, the concert was thoroughly enjoyable, and the band even provided an encore. The event was well attended, despite the threat of the typhoon, with the ground floor at capacity.

The “School Band Concert” is just one part of Macau Band Fair 2025, which continues to feature diverse wind instrument performances through September. For more information, visit <https://facebook.com/100063717219887>.

*<https://www.macaupostdaily.com/news/24861>

**<https://www.macaupostdaily.com/news/25353>



Magalo Arts Ensemble performs at the Macau Cultural Centre on July 19. – Photos provided by MBDA



Hong Kong Cognitio College Symphonic Band performs.



Macau Continuo Winds performs at the Macau Cultural Centre on July 19.



Macau Pui Ching Symphony Band performs.

NOVA Mall gathers 7 ‘beloved’ IPs for summer pop-up

Rui Pastorin

A total of seven “beloved” IPs are gathered at the Atrium of NOVA Mall in Taipa in a pop-up playground set up for its “Star IPs Extravaganza” campaign, with the event featuring themed prizes and activities for mallgoers.

Presented in partnership with Toys “R” Us, the IPs featured are Chiikawa, Doraemon, Frozen, Mofusand, Paw Patrol, Pokémon, and Sanrio, with the pop-up running through August 31, according to a Friday statement from the mall.

During its run, exclusive dedicated merchandise will be

available while there are also gashapon* stations and themed carnival booths offering three signature games: “Starry Rainbow”, “Starry Dice”, and “Star Fishing”, which will debut on August 15. All games, the statement said, offer themed prizes for everyone, with top winners also able to take home exclusive items.

Meanwhile, Toys “R” Us mascot “Geoffrey the Giraffe” make their appearances at weekends from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. during the campaign, the statement said.

NOVA Mall General Manager Paul Lee Yan Kwong was quoted

by the statement as saying: “As the first one-stop lifestyle and shopping destination in Macau created for local residents, NOVA Mall is committed to providing diverse entertainment and unique shopping experiences throughout the year. We are delighted to partner with Toys “R” Us this summer to bring together some of the world’s most beloved and iconic IPs across generations”.

More details can be found by visiting <https://www.NOVA.mo>. ■

*A gashapon is a type of capsule toy or collectible that is dispensed from a gashapon machine. – Source: Poe



This undated handout photo provided by NOVA Mall on Friday shows a top-down view of the pop-up set up at the mall's Atrium for the “Star IPs Extravaganza” campaign.

SJM Holdings announces acquisition details of Hengqin expansion



This photo taken earlier this year shows the property (first building from left) that will have some of its office units converted into a three-star hotel. – Photo: Tony Wong

Rui Pastorin

Following its preliminary announcement in December 2024, SJM Holdings Limited announced details in a statement yesterday of its “strategic acquisition” of an office building in Hengqin that will be converted into a three-star hotel, with the total consideration for the purchase being about 724 million yuan (819 million patacas).

According to the statement, subsidiary SJM – Investment Limited entered into an agreement with Zhuhai Hengqin Shun Tak Property Development Company Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Shun Tak Holdings Limited, to “acquire certain office properties” at Xin De Kou An Shang Wu Zhong Xin that will be converted into a three-star hotel.

According to the website of Shun Tak Hengqin, Xin De Kou An Shang Wu Zhong Xin (“Shun Tak Port Business Centre”) “is an integrated development comprising a retail mall, office tower, prestigious hotel, and a 70-year leasehold apartment complex with a luxurious clubhouse.

“Apart from the residential apartments, all properties will be managed by Shun Tak Holdings Limited.”

Conversion and renovation are expected to be completed within 24 months, the statement said, adding that the property to be acquired consists of 12 floors of strata-title* office units and a retail unit, with a total gross floor area of around 19,781 square metres.

The location is immediately adjacent to Hengqin Port (border

checkpoint), with the statement also highlighting the “strategic proximity” to the group’s core tourism assets, being around a 10-minute drive from Grand Lisboa Palace (GLP) in Cotai and a 30-minute drive from Grand Lisboa Hotel in the peninsula.

The statement said that upon completion, the hotel is expected to complement the group’s portfolio through “a capital-efficient expansion into the underserved mass market segment, broaden market reach, and generate incremental revenue streams”.

SJM Holdings Limited Chairman and SJM Managing Director Daisy Ho Chiu-fung was quoted by the statement as saying that the project represents more than an expansion of the company’s hotel portfolio, i.e., a reflection of its “strong alignment with national strategies to deepen integration between Hengqin and Macau, and our firm belief in the long-term growth potential of cross-border tourism and cooperation”.

She also noted: “Through this investment, we are taking an active role in shaping the Greater Bay Area’s [GBA] tourism future, anchored by Macau’s strength as a World Centre of Tourism and Leisure.” ■

* The term “strata-title” refers to a form of property ownership commonly used for multi-level apartment blocks, townhouses, or commercial developments where multiple owners share ownership of a building or complex while individually owning their specific unit or lot. – DeepSeek

Excessive preservatives found in Italian packaged cake: IAM

Armando Neves

The Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) discovered an imported packaged cake product sold locally that contained excessive amounts of sorbic acid preservatives through the bureau’s routine food sample testing, according to an IAM statement on Saturday.

The packaged cake, according to the statement, “CIAMBELLA Coated Cake with Banana flavoured cream filling”, was found to contain excessive amounts of sorbic acid, imported from an Italian company identified as “Massimo”.

The statement pointed out that the problematic packaged cake was found to contain 1,600 mg of sorbic acid per kilogramme.

The bureau has ordered shops to stop selling the problematic products, and it urged consumers not to eat them, the statement said, which did not elaborate on the health standards involved.

The bureau reminded traders to source food only from reliable suppliers and not to purchase and sell food if they have doubts about its hygiene and safety, while for consumers, the statement urged them to maintain a balanced diet to avoid an excessive intake of a particular substance. ■

*“Sorbic acid” is a naturally occurring organic compound used as a preservative in food, cosmetics, and pharmaceuticals due to its ability to inhibit the growth of mould, yeast, and some bacteria. – DeepSeek



This undated handout photo provided by the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) on Saturday shows the problematic packaged cakes from Italy found to contain excessive sorbic acid preservatives.

Police nab local woman & mainlander for sham marriage

Ada Lei

The Public Security Police (PSP) have busted a marriage of convenience, in which a local woman and a man from the mainland were arrested on Thursday, PSP spokeswoman Cheong Im Sim said in a regular

press conference yesterday.

Cheong identified the “couple” as a 58-year-old female surnamed Chan who claimed to be jobless, and a 62-year-old male surnamed Ye who works in an electronics factory.

According to Cheong, the Public Security Police (PSP) recently received a tip-off saying that Ye, who holds a family visit entry permit, was allegedly involved in a currency exchange fraud case. His activities in Macau appeared inconsistent with the purpose of his permit, leading to suspicions of a sham marriage.

Cheong said that Ye had married Chan, who was apprehended on Thursday in her flat in the city centre, last year.

Under questioning, Chan admitted to entering into a sham marriage with Ye in March 2024, saying that they registered their marriage in the mainland after agreeing on a payment of HK\$100,000 for the arrangement. This was intended to allow Ye to obtain a family visit entry permit to come to Macau for gambling. Chan told the police that she had received only HK\$36,000, which she had already spent. Chan also said that they had never lived together as a couple since their “wedding”. Ye refused to cooperate with the police.

The duo have been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), each facing a document forgery charge. ■



This undated handout photo provided by the Public Security Police (PSP) yesterday shows PSP officers escorting the fake marriage suspects into a police station.

Grandview Casino in Taipa to shut for good tomorrow night: govt

First of 11 'satellite casinos' to close

Tony Wong

The Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ) announced yesterday that Grandview Casino in Taipa, one of the city's current 11 "satellite casinos", will close for good after tomorrow night.

Yesterday's DICJ announcement came after the government announced early last month that all of the city's current 11 satellite casinos will close for good by December 31 this year. Grandview Casino will be the first of the 11 satellite casinos to cease operations.

The 11 satellite casinos comprise nine owned by SJM, one owned by Galaxy, and one owned by Melco, three of the city's current six gaming concessionaires.

SJM, the respective gaming concessionaire that formally owns Grandview Casino, also announced its decision to terminate the operations of the casino in a statement yesterday.

A DICJ statement yesterday underlined that SJM will be required to continue hiring all its employees working at Grandview Casino and to provide those employed by the satellite casino's third-party operator with opportunities to "transfer" to jobs available at its other gaming businesses.

The so-called satellite casinos in Macau are formally owned by gaming concessionaires but are actually run and managed by third parties as they are housed on premises that are not owned by the respective gaming concessionaires.

The satellite casinos are currently operated under partnership models where the respective gaming concessionaires and third parties share the revenues.

According to the gaming law's newly amended version, all casinos must be housed in premises that are

owned by their respective gaming concessionaires.

The new legislation amending the gaming law stipulates a three-year transition period, which started on January 1, 2023, during which existing satellite casinos can continue operating under their current partnership models.

After the three-year transition period, which is scheduled to end on December 31 this year, a satellite casino, which is housed on premises not owned by the respective gaming concessionaire, will have to be run by a "management company" to be hired by the gaming concessionaire. The management company will no longer be allowed to share the casino's revenues with the respective gaming concessionaire, which, instead, can only pay the former a management fee.

According to last month's government announcements, the three respective gaming concessionaires, SJM, Galaxy, and Melco, decided to terminate the operations of all 11 satellite casinos before the expiration of the transition period based on their respective commercial decisions, comprising Grandview, Legend Palace, Fortuna, Landmark, Ponte 16, Le Royal Arc, Emperor Palace, Kam Pek Paradise, and Casa Real owned by SJM, Waldo owned by Galaxy, and Grand Dragon owned by Melco.

The 11 satellite casinos comprise five in Zape, namely Fortuna, Landmark, Kam Pek Paradise, Casa Real, and Waldo, two in Nape, namely Legend Palace and Le Royal Arc, two in Taipa, namely Grandview and Grand Dragon, as well as Emperor Palace in Nam Van district and Ponte 16 in the Inner Harbour district.

Yesterday's DICJ statement said that after business negotiations, Grandview Casino's third-party



A car drives past Grandview Hotel yesterday where Grandview Casino is located on its ground floor.
– Photo: Tony Wong

operator and SJM decided to terminate the operations of the casino after 11:59 p.m. tomorrow, i.e., no operations from Thursday.

The statement underlined that the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau will strictly monitor Grandview Casino's process to cease its operations with the aim of ensuring that it will be carried out in a stable and orderly manner and in full compliance with all official requirements.

The statement said that at the time of Grandview Casino's closure, DICJ inspectors will conduct on-site oversight of the closure process, ensuring that SJM will terminate the operations of the casino in compliance with its plan submitted to the government. The statement said that DICJ inspectors will ensure that SJM will properly handle the cash and gaming chips stored in the casino cage, as well as the exchange of gaming chips and unredeemed cash vouchers.

According to last month's government announcements, there were about 5,600 local employees working at the 11 satellite casinos at that time, of whom around 4,800 were directly employed by the respective gaming concessionaires,

while around 800 were employed by the third-party operators.

Yesterday's DICJ statement said that the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau, in collaboration with the Labour Affairs Bureau, will ensure that SJM will fully fulfil its promise to continue employing all 159 employees working at Grandview Casino that it is directly employing, adding that SJM will be required to ensure that their current employment conditions such as salaries, benefits and other working conditions will be protected.

Moreover, the statement said, SJM will also be required to provide

all seven workers employed by Grandview Casino's third-party operator with opportunities to "transfer" to jobs available at its other gaming businesses.

SJM is planning to acquire the ownership of the hotels where two of its nine satellite casinos, Ponte 16 and Le Royal Arc, are located in order to convert them into "directly-operated" casinos after their respective closures as satellite casinos, i.e., the two casinos are slated to continue operating, but no longer as third-party managed businesses but as casinos directly operated by SJM.

Meanwhile, SJM said in its statement yesterday that all the current gaming tables in Grandview Casino, after its closure, will be relocated to several other SJM casinos.

The statement pledged that SJM will continue employing all its local employees working at Grandview Casino and arrange for them to work in gaming positions at other SJM casinos, while local employees working at Grandview Casino who are not employed by SJM "will be invited to apply for related vacancies" offered by SJM where they will be given employment priority. ■

Observatory warns of overcast skies, periodic showers & rising heat

Khalel Vallo

The days ahead will remain largely overcast with frequent afternoon showers and possible thunderstorms, the Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) said in a statement on its website yesterday.

The observatory advised residents to stay alert for high humidity and daytime temperatures climbing above

30 degrees Celsius, especially in the early part of the week.

According to SMG website, this week has kicked off with intense heat alerts. Rainfall started to become more frequent yesterday, as a broad trough of low pressure is forecast to bring afternoon showers and thunderstorms this week.

Residents should also expect

mostly cloudy skies with periodic rain, particularly heavy showers today and tomorrow. Nights are predicted to remain muggy, with lows between 26 and 28 degrees Celsius, while daytime highs are forecast to hover around 30-32 degrees, peaking in midweek. Light to moderate south-westerly winds are expected this week, according to the observatory.

The weather station said residents can expect a week of hot and humid conditions, transitioning into more days with heavy rain from midweek, with increased chances of afternoon thunderstorms and floods in some areas.

The combination of heat and storm patterns raises the risk of heatstroke, slippery conditions, and possible local flooding, the bureau warned, adding that both residents and tourists are advised to stay hydrated, minimising outdoor exposure during peak heat or storm periods, and staying updated on alerts via the official SMG website. ■



Tourists armed with umbrellas during heavy rain gather in front of the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Ruins of St. Paul's last week. – Photo taken last week by Rui Pastorin

ID hosts family sports day to promote locals' health



This handout photo taken at the Lok Yeong Fa Yuen residential building's sitting-out area shows players participating in one of the various games during Saturday's "Macau Sport For All" event hosted by the Sports Bureau (ID). – Photo: ID

Khalel Vallo

The Sports Bureau (ID) held its latest "Macau Sport For All" event on Saturday at the sitting-out area at the Lok Yeong Fa Yuen residential estate in Fai Chi Kei district, bringing together families for a fun-filled day of interactive sports activities, according to an ID statement yesterday.

The one-day event aimed to strengthen community bonds, promote physical fitness, and encourage lifelong participation in sport across all age groups, the statement said.

According to the statement, the event was attended by residents of all ages who engaged in a range of games and fitness activities. Representatives from local sports associations were on hand to demonstrate proper techniques in various disciplines, giving

attendees the chance to learn new skills in a safe and educational environment.

The statement underlined that the event included competitions with prizes, adding excitement and encouraging greater involvement, as well as emphasising social inclusion, with activities tailored for all ages, helping foster interaction between generations.

Interactive formats to raise awareness of healthy living were used in the event, in addition to building a more active lifestyle culture within the community, the statement noted.

The statement added it will continue hosting the event monthly at public parks and recreational venues across Macau.

More information can be found on the official website at www.sport.gov.mo. ■

Bridging global intelligence divide: China's solutions to making AI more inclusive

SHANGHAI – The 2025 World Artificial Intelligence Conference (WAIC), held from Saturday to yesterday in Shanghai, brought together representatives from around the world to explore avenues for the inclusive growth of artificial intelligence (AI). China's approach offered insights into how AI can deliver shared benefits and help bridge the global intelligence divide.

Under the theme "Global Solidarity in the AI Era," the 2025 WAIC attracted over 1,500 guests from more than 30 countries and regions for in-depth exchanges and high-level forums. Featuring a record-breaking 70,000-square-meter exhibition, the 2025 WAIC unveiled over 3,000 AI innovations, including over 100 global and China-first debuts, showcasing a dynamic vision for global AI cooperation.

During the opening ceremony, several key initiatives and outcomes were announced, including an action plan for global AI governance, the International Open Source AI Cooperation Initiative, and the "AI from China-Benefits the World (2025)" case collection.

MOBILIZING GLOBAL WISDOM

At the main forum of the high-level meeting on global AI governance, global leaders reflected on the profound challenge of ensuring AI develops as a force for good rather than harm. Geoffrey Hinton, 2024 Nobel Laureate in Physics, underscored that one of humanity's greatest challenges is ensuring that intelligent AI systems are not only vastly capable but also continue to be aligned with human interests.

Hinton likened the development of such systems to raising a tiger cub, highlighting the importance of guiding AI behavior before it grows beyond our control. He stressed that no single nation can tackle the risks of advanced AI alone, and that building AI that is both powerful and subservient will require sustained global cooperation.

Echoing this view, a dialogue between former Google CEO Eric Schmidt and former Microsoft Executive Vice President Harry Shum explored how competition

and cooperation must coexist in the AI era. Schmidt underlined the need for transnational cooperation to set rules for global competition and collaboration in AI.

This exchange embodies WAIC's broader mission to advance AI development that is inclusive, responsible, and beneficial for all humanity.

With vast data resources, diverse application scenarios, and surging market demand driven by accelerating digital transformation, China offers fertile ground for AI model training, iteration, and deployment, laying a strong foundation for global cooperation and scalable innovation, according to Gary Gu, technology consulting managing partner of EY Greater China.

On July 26, an action plan for global AI governance was released. The plan outlines concrete steps to foster open collaboration and inclusive innovation, encouraging bold experimentation, building international platforms for scientific and technological cooperation, and cultivating a pro-innovation policy environment.

It also calls for strengthened alignment in policy and regulation, and lower technical barriers to promote breakthroughs in AI technology innovation and widespread AI applications. Particular emphasis is placed on supporting countries in the Global South to develop AI technologies and services in line with their local needs, helping them genuinely access and apply AI.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

At the 2025 WAIC, numerous outstanding cases demonstrated how Chinese enterprises, from leading AI model developers to industrial innovators, are leveraging AI technologies to share the benefits of AI development with more countries. This embodies China's commitment to ensuring that AI serves not only as a driver for technological advancement but also as a tool for fostering inclusive growth.

At iFLYTEK's exhibition area, the Spark X1 large model unveiled on July 25 has drawn significant attention from international visitors, who asked



A fairgoer looks at a robot for live-line maintenance at the 2025 World AI Conference (WAIC) in Shanghai yesterday. — AFP

it questions in their native languages. The model now supports over 130 languages and excels in translation, reasoning, and text generation, facilitating deeper cross-border communication and cooperation.

"Our large model products are going global through intelligent terminals such as automobiles, and we are collaborating with partners in other countries on education and other fields," said Wu Junhua, vice president of iFLYTEK. "The overseas expansion of large models shows the globalization of technology. Chinese-origin large models have begun their acceleration run, empowering the world."

CITIC Dicastal's plant in Morocco was listed as a "Lighthouse Factory" in January 2025, making it the first facility in Africa to achieve such recognition in the field of intelligent manufacturing. Representing a high level of global smart manufacturing, the plant has implemented over 40 digital use cases. From raw material selection to final packaging of aluminum wheels, every step is monitored and optimized in real time by intelligent systems. This has resulted in a 17 percent increase in overall equipment efficiency, a 27 percent boost in labor productivity, and a 31 percent reduction in defect rates.

French multinational Schneider Electric has emerged as a model of collaborative AI innovation through deep integration with China's digital ecosystem. At the 2025 WAIC, Schneider Electric joined hands with several local partners to showcase

cutting-edge industrial AI applications.

These included Digital Nail Technology, which specializes in AI-powered digital planning in manufacturing and Chance Digital Science & Technology, which showcased breakthrough solutions in AI-driven digital reconstruction and twin modeling for process industries. These collaborations reflect a model of inclusive innovation, leveraging global expertise and China's vibrant AI ecosystem to accelerate real-world adoption and foster shared progress.

"China's commitment to driving high-quality development through AI and technological innovation aligns perfectly with our vision of sustainable, green productivity. By partnering with leading Chinese enterprises, we are not only bringing global best practices to China but also exporting China's vibrant AI ecosystem and innovations to the world," said Philippe Rambach, Schneider Electric's Senior Vice President and Chief Artificial Intelligence Officer. "We aim to harness AI's full potential to build a smarter, greener future – 'in China for China, in China for the world.'"

PROMISING INITIATIVES, PARTNERSHIPS

Building on its vision for inclusive AI development, China is actively promoting initiatives and alliances designed to consolidate, standardize, and promote global artificial intelligence cooperation. These efforts strongly focus on supporting developing countries as

they seek to bridge the "intelligence divide," ensuring that the benefits of AI innovation are shared equitably.

At the "Win-Win BRICS" forum held as part of the 2025 WAIC, representatives from many countries and international organizations gathered to discuss AI cooperation. The forum launched the BRICS AI Industry Cooperation Network, aimed at promoting standard alignment, policy dialogue, and practical AI collaboration.

Zhang Jun, product lead of Baidu's PaddlePaddle framework, emphasized at the forum that open-source AI plays a vital role in driving inclusive technological development by making AI benefits more accessible. He noted that many of Baidu's products and services are actively embracing large model technologies, and through open-source strategies, the company is working to extend AI capabilities to a broader user base.

Another key milestone was the launch of the Global Call for AIM Global Centers of Excellence by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), aimed at accelerating AI application in manufacturing and promoting digital transformation across developing countries. This initiative fosters international collaboration and resource sharing to catalyze industrial AI innovation worldwide.

Jason Slater, chief of division of digital transformation and artificial intelligence of UNIDO, praised China's support in Africa, especially in Ethiopia, highlighting its efforts to establish centers of excellence, expand technology access, enhance individual skills, and strengthen local innovation ecosystems – bringing AI benefits to those who need them most.

China's commitment to sharing AI governance experience and fostering international partnerships was also highlighted by the launch of "MAZU-Urban," an AI-powered early warning system for multi-hazard disaster prevention.

Donated to Djibouti and Mongolia, this system exemplifies China's approach to embedding AI solutions in global public goods, enhancing resilience in vulnerable regions. — Xinhua

Guangdong moves swiftly to combat chikungunya

GUANGZHOU – Guangdong Province has launched targeted measures, including citywide cleanup efforts, to effectively curb the spread of chikungunya fever, a mosquito-borne viral disease.

Data released yesterday by the local health bureau of Foshan, which is the city that has been hit hardest by the outbreak in Guangdong, shows that 78 percent of affected villages and communities have seen their mosquito density indexes drop to safe levels through water cleanup and mosquito eradication efforts.

Foshan, which has a population of over nine million, has designated 53 hospitals as treatment centers and expanded its number of mosquito-proof isolation beds to 7,220 to provide care for confirmed cases. As of Sunday, local health authorities had reported a total of 5,155 confirmed cases of Chikungunya fever.

To eliminate mosquitoes at their source, Foshan's Chancheng District has released over 5,000 larva-eating fish into the city's lakes since Wednesday.

In Chancheng's Longcun Village, drones have been used to detect

accumulated water on rooftops, storage sheds and other hard-to-reach areas where mosquito larvae are likely to breed. Covering the entire 2.5-square-kilometer village in just two hours, the operation provided data to prompt residents to clean up potential breeding sites.

On Thursday, Guangdong appealed to all of its residents to clean up accumulated water by inspecting containers and water-cultured plants, and to eradicate mosquitoes and avoid mosquito bites by using screens for doors and windows, and by wearing long-sleeved clothing.

Chikungunya fever is an acute infectious disease caused by the chikungunya virus, with clinical symptoms including fever, rashes and joint pains. The virus is transmitted to humans through bites from infected mosquitoes.

"There is no evidence of the human-to-human transmission of chikungunya," Duan Leilei, a researcher at the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, said at a news conference on Wednesday.

First identified in 1952, Chikungunya has since been reported in over 110 countries across Asia,

Africa, the Americas and Europe.

Guangzhou, the capital of Guangdong Province, has kicked off a weeklong mosquito eradication campaign, which will run from July 26 to August 1.

From July 20 to July 26, Guangdong reported 2,940 new local cases of chikungunya, with 2,882 cases occurring in Foshan. The reported cases have been mild, with no severe or fatal cases seen to date, according to the Guangdong Provincial Center for Disease Control and Prevention on Sunday.

— Xinhua

Xi urges all-out efforts to safeguard people's lives amid floods

BEIJING – President Xi Jinping has urged all-out efforts to ensure the safety of people's lives and property in the fight against floods and geological disasters caused by heavy rainfalls that are currently affecting some parts of China.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, has made an important instruction regarding flood control and disaster relief work.

All-out search and rescue must be conducted for those missing or trapped, Xi said, stressing that residents in flood-threatened areas must be promptly relocated and resettled to minimize casualties.

He also urged authorities to plan for worst-case and extreme scenarios, clarify responsibilities, implement flood control measures meticulously, closely monitor and reinforce vulnerable and critical areas, and allocate rescuers

and supplies based on scientific assessment.

"Emergency response must be activated and carried out at the earliest possible moment to fully protect people's lives and property," he said.

Recently, continuous heavy rainfalls have occurred in eastern, northern and northeastern regions of China, triggering floods and geological disasters and causing heavy casualties in Beijing, Hebei, Jilin and Shandong.

In his instruction, Premier Li Qiang has urged national flood control authorities to help local governments strengthen response.

Li, who is also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, called for reinforcing extreme weather monitoring, strengthening the inspection and assessment of embankments for rivers and reservoirs, and enhancing the identification of urban waterlogging risks. – Xinhua



Emergency workers are on duty at Xiaying Village of Xiaying Town, Jizhou District of Tianjin Municipality, yesterday. Houses, bridges and power lines at part of villages in Jizhou were damaged by floods inflicted by recent heavy rainfall and upstream runoff. Local emergency operations including search and rescue, evacuee transfer, and disaster relief are orderly going on. – Xinhua

China to offer nationwide childcare subsidies

BEIJING – China yesterday introduced a nationwide childcare subsidy program starting in 2025, as part of broader efforts to support families and encourage childbirth.

The program will offer families 3,600 yuan per year for each child under the age of three.

The subsidies will be exempt from individual income tax and will not be counted as household or individual income when identifying assistance recipients, such as those receiving subsistence allowances or classified as living in extreme difficulty.

The policy is expected to benefit more than 20 million families each year.

"International practices show that cash subsidies is an indispensable part of pro-birth measures," said Zhang Benbo, a researcher at a think tank under the National Development and Reform Commission.

Song Jian, a professor at Renmin University of China, noted that most developed countries that entered low-fertility stages earlier have adopted similar childcare subsidy schemes.

As one of the world's most populous countries, China is facing a dual demographic challenge: a shrinking number of newborns and a rapidly aging population.

The country's birth rate and total number of newborns declined for seven consecutive years before experiencing a modest rebound in 2024. Meanwhile, China's population aged 60 and above had reached 310 million by the end of last year.

In response to this dual challenge, China has steadily loosened its family planning policies over the past decade. It phased out its one-

child policy by allowing married couples to have two children in 2016, and announced support for couples wishing to have a third child in 2021.

The national childcare subsidy was first introduced in this year's annual government work report in March.

Multiple local governments have piloted similar programs over the last few years – some of which have offered notably generous incentives – as part of their own efforts to address these challenges.

Hohhot, the capital of north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, grants one-time subsidy of 10,000 yuan for the first child in each family. A second child receives an annual subsidy of 10,000 yuan until the age of five, and any further children are eligible for the same amount annually until the age of 10.

Shenyang, the capital of northeast China's Liaoning Province, provides a monthly subsidy of 500 yuan to local families with a third child until that child turns three.

"When our third child was born, community workers came to our home to remind us to apply for the birth subsidy. We often joke that the baby came with a salary," said Wang Lei, a mother of three from Yinchuan, northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region.

Notably, Panzhihua in southwest China's Sichuan Province – the first city in the Chinese mainland to offer such subsidies – has witnessed positive growth in its permanent resident population for four consecutive years.

Meanwhile, the county-level city of Tianmen in central China's Hubei Province saw a year-on-

year increase of 17 percent in its newborn population in 2024 – significantly higher than the national average of 5.8 percent, and ending an eight-year decline. Among the 7,217 newborns in Tianmen last year, more than half were second or third children.

"Although the subsidies couldn't cover all childcare costs, they help with essentials like baby formula and diapers, easing the financial burden," said Ma Ying, a mother in Guyuan, Ningxia.

Yang Yiyong, a researcher at the Academy of Macroeconomic Research, noted that recent pro-birth policies are beginning to show early results, and that a more supportive work environment and better job opportunities for women have also helped improve fertility plans.

Mao Zhuoyan, a professor at Capital University of Economics and Business, said that while the childcare subsidy is a key step toward easing the burdens on families, providing reassurance about having children, and optimizing the population structure, it is not a cure-all.

Mao stressed the importance of integrating it with other measures such as parental leave, childcare services, education, and housing to avoid limited impact from isolated efforts.

In a separate move, the central government on Friday issued a directive urging local governments to draw detailed plans to introduce free preschool education.

The government is also ramping up nursery care services for children under three, aiming to relieve the pressures on working parents and improve early childhood development. – Xinhua

Film on Nanjing Massacre ignites strong emotions across China

BEIJING – A harrowing new Chinese film about the Nanjing Massacre has stirred strong emotions across the country, sparking widespread reflection on a traumatic chapter in China's history.

"Dead To Rights" centers on a group of Chinese civilians who take refuge in a photography studio during the Japanese aggressors' brutal occupation of Nanjing.

In a desperate attempt to stay alive, they are forced to assist a Japanese military photographer in developing film – only to discover that the negatives contain damning evidence of atrocities committed by Japanese forces across the city. They secretly keep the negatives and risk their lives to deliver them to the outside world, in the hope that the truth would be revealed.

Recognized for its emotional weight and stark portrayal of a national trauma, "Dead To Rights" has resonated deeply with audiences. The film's Douban rating, a key gauge of public sentiment, reached 8.6 out of 10.

A popular comment on Douban observed, "The simplicity and restraint of the storytelling make every scene piercingly poignant. The few images – such as the knife held to a baby, the rolling heads, the red river of blood – are more than enough to communicate the horror. The film doesn't sensationalize; it lets these chilling images speak for themselves."

On ticketing platform Maoyan, one user shared a poignant reflection after taking two children to see the film: "At first, I was worried they'd be scared, but then I realized: if we can't face history, what will we do in

the future? I want them to understand real history, which is harsher than what's depicted in the movie. Our land must never be surrendered!"

In another post, a Maoyan user recalled a tender moment after the screening, when a young girl asked her mother if there were any "post-credit scenes." The mother replied, "The true 'post-credit scene' is when we step out of the cinema." "Indeed, the lively streets, the bustling crowd, the smell of food in the air – this is the true miracle," noted the comment. This sentiment captures the essence of the film's call to cherish the peace and vitality of modern China, all made possible by the sacrifices of the past.

Renowned director Feng Xiaoning, speaking in a video circulated widely online, shared his reaction to the film. "When the film ended, the entire audience remained seated, unmoving, until the credits had fully rolled. Everyone was lost in deep thought," he said. "I believe every Chinese person, and everyone in the world with a conscience, will be shaken by this film."

By the end of Sunday, its third day of release, "Dead To Rights" had grossed over 400 million yuan, with over 10 million admissions nationwide, according to data from Maoyan.

Largely driven by this film, China's daily box office on Sunday surpassed 300 million yuan, marking the first time in 154 days that the threshold had been crossed.

According to Maoyan's latest projection, "Dead To Rights" is expected to earn more than 3.2 billion yuan in total revenue, a substantial upward revision from earlier estimates. – Xinhua