

## NGO says starving Gaza children too weak to cry

UNITED NATIONS – The head of Save the Children described in horrific detail yesterday the slow agony of starving children in Gaza, saying they are so weak they do not even cry.

Addressing a Security Council meeting on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the president of the international charity, Inger Ashing, said famine – declared by the UN last week to be happening in Gaza – is not just a dry technical term.

“When there is not enough food, children become acutely malnourished, and then they die slowly and painfully. This, in simple terms, is what famine is,” said Ashing.

She went on to describe what happens when children die of hunger over the course of several weeks, as the body first consumes its own fat to survive and when that is gone, literally consumes itself as it eats muscles and vital organs.

“Yet our clinics are almost silent. Now, children do not have the strength to speak or even cry out in agony. They lie there, emaciated, quite literally wasting away,” said Ashing.

She insisted aid groups have been warning loudly that famine was coming as Israel prevented food and other essentials from entering Gaza over the course of two years of war triggered by the Hamas attack of October 2023.

“Everyone in this room has a legal and moral responsibility to act to stop this atrocity,” said Ashing.

The United Nations officially declared famine in Gaza on Friday, blaming what it called systematic obstruction of aid by Israel during more than 22 months of war.

A UN-backed hunger monitor called the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Initiative said famine was affecting 500,000 people in the Gaza governorate, which covers about a fifth of the Palestinian territory including Gaza City.

The IPC projected that the famine would expand by the end of September to cover around two-thirds of Gaza. – AFP

## 80 pct schools to start new academic year on Monday



Parents buy school uniforms for their kids before the new academic year, which for most students starts on Monday, in a shop on Rua dos Mercadores yesterday. – Photo: Armindo Neves

Armindo Neves

The Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ) announced in a statement yesterday that around 80 percent of Macau’s kindergartens and primary and secondary schools will begin the new academic year on Monday, September 1.

The statement said that it, together with the Transport Bureau (DSAT) and the Public Security Police (PSP), co-hosted yesterday a meeting with the city’s two public bus company Transmac (新福利) and TCM (澳巴), aiming to ensure the safety and smooth transportation of teachers, students, and parents.

According to the statement, the Transport Bureau has arranged cooperation mechanisms with the two bus companies and the Light Rapid Transit (LRT) operator to increase service frequency during peak hours, adding that Transmac, TCM and LRT will enhance their rush-hour schedules by around 10 to 15 percent.

The Transport Bureau said that it is also cooperating with the Public Security Police to arrange standby towing services for buses, ensuring a quick response to any unexpected road incidents.

Meanwhile, the Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ) announced in a separate statement yesterday that in order to proactively implement preventive measures against dengue fever and chikungunya, it invited representatives from the Health Bureau (SSM) to conduct two lectures early last week, which was attended by 90 school staff members.

The lectures, which took place last Monday and Tuesday, according to the statement, aimed to enhance schools’ understanding of both dengue fever and chikungunya, enabling them to proactively plan and efficiently implement schoolyard cleaning and preventive measures before the new academic term begins, thereby reducing the

risk of mosquito-borne transmission.

Following the lectures, the statement said, the participating schools have progressively initiated various preventive and mosquito control actions, aiming to thoroughly eliminate mosquito breeding sources in their schoolyards prior to the start of the academic year.

Some parents told the *Post* yesterday that they have already bought school supplies for their children, such as satchels, textbooks, stationery, and uniforms. Regarding the prevention of dengue fever and chikungunya, parents also said that they would equip their children with mosquito repellent spray, anti-mosquito patches, and other protective items. As for transportation, some parents said that on Monday, the first “back-to-school” day, they would leave home 15 to 30 minutes earlier, while others noted that their children’s school is within walking distance from their home. ■



Visitors look at a limousine at the booth of China’s legendary Hongqi (“Red Flag”) carmaker, at the 15<sup>th</sup> China-Northeast Asia Expo in Changchun, capital of Jilin Province, yesterday. The 15<sup>th</sup> China-Northeast Asia Expo kicked off yesterday. – Xinhua

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### Legacy of WWII concentration camp honors friendship, peace

Eighty years ago, Charlie Stanley was just three years old when he and his parents were imprisoned in a concentration camp in Weifang City, Shandong Province, during World War II.

– Story on p. 7

### Israel ups pressure on Gaza City as Trump eyes post-war plan

The Israeli military pressed operations around Gaza City yesterday, as US President Donald Trump prepared to host a White House meeting on post-war plans for the shattered Palestinian territory.

– Story on p. 10

### Shooter kills 2 children in Minneapolis church, 17 people injured

A gunman opened fire yesterday on school children attending church in Minneapolis, killing two students and wounding 17 people, police said, in the country’s latest violent tragedy.

– Story on p. 12



# Police arrest local woman for sexually harassing female pianist

Ada Lei

A local woman was arrested last Thursday for sexually harassing a female pianist in a hotel lounge in Cotai, Public Security Police (PSP) spokesman Wong Chi Weng said during a regular press conference yesterday.

Wong identified the suspect as a female in her fifties, surnamed Chan, who works as a human resources manager. The victim is a foreign national in her thirties who is a non-resident worker (NRW) working as a pianist in the hotel lounge.

According to Wong, the police received a report on August 20 from the victim who said that she had been sexually harassed by Chan while she was playing the piano in the lounge the day before.

According to the victim's statement to the police, on August 19,

at 9 p.m., Chan suddenly stepped onto the stage and hugged her from behind. While the lounge staff were trying to separate them, Chan repeatedly touched her chest and inner thigh. Feeling sexually harassed, the victim reported the case to the police the following day.

Through their citywide CCTV surveillance, the police identified Chan as the suspect and apprehended her last Thursday in central Taipa.

Under questioning, Chan claimed that she had drunk too many alcoholic beverages that night and could not remember what had happened on that day. She refused to assist in the investigation.

Chan has been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing a charge of sexual harassment. ■



This undated handout photo provided by the Public Security Police (PSP) yesterday shows PSP officers escorting the sexual harassment suspect into a police station.

## Expect showers, thunderstorms today & tomorrow: observatory

Rui Pastorin

The local observatory announced on a statement on its website last night that Macau is expected to be affected by heavy showers and thunderstorms today and tomorrow.

According to the Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) statement, a low-pressure area located west of Luzon in the Philippines is expected to develop into a tropical cyclone within 800 kilometres of the city over the period, adding that it is anticipated to move towards the waters near Hainan Island later this week.

The thunderstorms and heavy showers over these two days are expected due to the combined influence of the low-pressure area and high-pressure ridge.



Rain pours as a street cleaner walks past tourists as they take photos on the steps of the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Ruins of St. Paul's.

— Photo recently taken by Rui Pastorin

The statement said that the bureau is monitoring the developing situation, reminding

members of the public to pay attention to updates and adjust travel plans accordingly. ■

# Police nab 2 mainlanders for casino loansharking

Ada Lei

The Judiciary Police (PJ) arrested two mainland men on Tuesday for engaging in casino loansharking activities, PJ spokesman Chao Teng Hin said during a special press conference yesterday.

Chao identified the suspects as a 34-year-old male surnamed Zhao and a 37-year-old male surnamed Zhang, who told the police that they are jobless.

According to Chao, the Judiciary Police (PJ) received a report on Tuesday from the security department of a casino in Nape about a casino loansharking case. PJ officers later apprehended Zhao and Zhang at the casino.

Chao noted that the victim met Zhao and Zhang on Monday, along with a man who was still at large at the time of the press conference.

The suspects persuaded the victim to engage in gambling activities using a "chip runner"\* method. Specifically, both the victim and Zhao contributed HK\$120,000 each, totalling HK\$240,000 for the victim to gamble, with the suspects taking 20 percent of the betting money from each winning round as "interest."

After agreeing to the loan

terms, the victim handed over HK\$120,000 in cash to Zhang, who then exchanged the money for gaming chips, providing the victim with HK\$240,000 in chips for gambling. Throughout the gambling process, the suspects continuously collected "interest" from the victim. This continued until Tuesday, when the victim had a row with the suspects over the collected "interest," drawing the attention of security personnel. During the verbal dispute, one of the suspects seized the opportunity to flee the scene, while the victim's friend, who held the victim's chips worth HK\$170,000, had already left before the police arrived.

Chao did not elaborate on the whereabouts of the victim's friend and the chips.

Chao added that the victim was charged a total of HK\$20,000 in purported "interest". Under questioning, Zhao and Zhang refused to cooperate. The police seized a mobile phone from Zhao.

The duo were transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) yesterday, each facing a charge of usury. ■

\*Known in local Portuguese as "bate-ficha" - DeepSeek



Judiciary Police (PJ) officers escort the hooded usury suspects to a PJ van outside the PJ headquarters in Zape yesterday.

— Photo: Ada Lei

## Police bust illegal currency exchange dealer

Ada Lei

The Judiciary Police (PJ) arrested a woman from the mainland on Tuesday for engaging in illegal currency exchange activities, PJ spokesman Chao Teng Hin said during a special press conference yesterday.

Chao identified the suspect as a 50-year-old female surnamed Wu who claimed to be jobless.

According to Chao, PJ officers on patrol in a casino in Zape on Tuesday saw Wu alongside a female gambler appearing to engage in an illegal currency exchange deal. The officers witnessed Wu displaying a QR code to the gambler before handing her HK\$20,000 in cash. The police then intercepted the gambler as she attempted to place a bet after buying gaming chips worth HK\$7,000. Wu was later apprehended in the casino.

Chao noted that Wu had exchanged HK\$20,000 for 18,800

yuan with the gambler, earning 400 yuan from the deal. The police seized a mobile phone, HK\$86,000 in cash and HK\$5,700 in chips from Wu, along with the HK\$7,000 in chips from the gambler.

Under questioning, Wu admitted to having engaged in

illegal currency exchange activities since the beginning of August, claiming to have earned a total of 10,000 yuan.

Wu was transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) yesterday, facing an illegal currency exchange charge. ■



Judiciary Police (PJ) officers escort the hooded currency exchange suspect to a PJ van outside the PJ headquarters in Zape yesterday.

— Photo: Ada Lei

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Source: SMG



## MICAF holds charity session of 'Slava's Snowshow'

**Khalel Vallo**

As part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Macao International Children's Arts Festival (MICAF), the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) arranged a charity session of "Slava's Snowshow" last week at the Macau Cultural Centre (CCM) Grand Auditorium, sharing the joy of the arts with local social welfare associations, according to an IC statement earlier this week.

Organised under the patronage of the Secretariat for Social Affairs and Culture, the charity session was arranged in collaboration with the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS), in addition to the originally scheduled performances, the statement said.

This initiative allowed members of different social welfare associations to share in the joy of culture and the arts, in line with bureau's efforts to make art accessible to all sectors of the community, the statement added.

The performance brought together over 650 participants from nearly 20 social welfare associations, who experienced the warmth and energy of theatre in a lively atmosphere, according to the bureau.

Slava's Snowshow was conceived by renowned Russian master clown Slava Polunin (born in 1950), the statement said, added that the performance enchanted the audience with physical artistry, poetry, tragicomedy and circus elements, extending the drama beyond the stage through spectacular props such as giant balloons, falling snow and a massive spider web.

Returning to Macau for the second consecutive year, Slava's Snowshow staged four performances last week. Through the charity session, MICAF reaffirmed its objective to bring the transformative power of the arts to wider audiences, aiming to create lasting memories for over 650 participants from diverse community groups, the statement said. ■

## Only 17.1 pct of Macau's clerical staff understand Labour Relations Law: survey



Representatives from the Macau Federation of Trade Unions (aka Gung Luen) and the Macau Clerical Employees General Association look on during yesterday's press conference, including lawmaker Lei Cheng I (second from left). – Photo: Gung Luen

**Armindo Neves**

The Macau Federation of Trade Unions (aka Gung Luen) co-hosted a press conference in conjunction with the Macau Clerical Employees General Association to announce that the findings of their latest survey show that a mere 17.1 percent of clerical staff understand what the "Labour Relations Law" is all about.

The press conference was held at the latter's office on Rua do Campo.

The survey was carried out between January and August this year, involving 1,510 local clerical staff aged 16 and above.

The survey aimed to conduct an in-depth analysis of several key aspects affecting local clerical staff, including their career development and training opportunities, work environment and overall job satisfaction, sources of stress and professional challenges, as well as their awareness and utilisation of employment benefits and rights.

The survey revealed that only 27 percent of clerical workers feel optimistic about their career prospects.

According to the Labour Affairs Bureau's statistics on the number of non-resident workers (NRWs) and enterprises/entities by industry, as of June 2025, sectors such as finance employed 900 non-resident workers in clerical positions, over half of whom held non-professional positions.

The survey's findings highlight that, actually, there exists significant room for expansion in career advancement channels and the localisation of management positions for clerical employees.

Based on the findings, the association recommended during yesterday's press conference that the government implement a "locals-first" employment policy, clarify procedures for the phased reduction of NRWs, and establish specific targets for the localisation of management roles in sectors such as finance and clerical occupations.

The findings show that over 40 percent of respondents said they experience stress due to tight deadlines, heavy workloads, and limited promotion opportunities. Additionally, 43 percent reported that their physical and mental health has been adversely affected by work-related pressure. However, only 18 percent of companies provided psychological support services, according to the findings, while nearly 60 percent lacked relevant measures to address these issues.

The association recommends that the government strengthen institutional guidance and supervision by establishing a long-term monitoring mechanism and promoting a "Dynamic Workload Management System."

It also suggested incorporating mental health into corporate social responsibility evaluation frameworks. Furthermore, the association emphasised that enterprises should ensure competitive compensation and develop salary adjustment mechanisms based on scientific assessments. ■

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Photos: Rui Pastorin



## ‘Sails of Legacy’ exhibition aims to promote local shipwright’s art

**Rui Pastorin**

Nine local artists are presenting works related to ship-building and sailing in a marine-themed exhibition titled “2025 Art Power Jamming – ‘Sails of Legacy’” located at the 10 Fantasia gallery on Calçada da Igreja de S. Lázaro (瘋堂斜巷).

The exhibition, organised by the Ark-Association of Macau Art (AAMA), is now in its final three days, with members of the public able to view the works through Saturday. Those visiting will find wooden model ships, along with paintings, and mixed media works.

A statement displayed at the gallery highlights Macau’s once booming shipwright’s art, which existed in Macau for many centuries and had a key role in the city’s economy, achieving its golden era in the 1980s when shipyards constructed fishing vessels and cargo ships, as well as building government vessels.

However, with increased competition in neighbouring areas as well as a downturn in fishing, the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) noted on their website that the industry began to decline in the 1990s. All local shipyards are now closed.

The statement noted, however, that Macau’s remaining shipbuilders, thanks to government support, have been invited to pass on the craft to members of the public by teaching them how to make model ships over the past decade. And with the ongoing exhibition, the statement said, it aims to provide everyone with an understanding of the history of local shipbuilding, adding that viewing works related to the craft as well as sailing can “help transmit the skills in a new way”.

Art lovers, enthusiasts and other members of the public may catch the exhibition at Room C03, open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.





## 40<sup>th</sup> issue of 'Books and the City' comes out

**Khalel Vallo**

The Public Library of the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) has released the 40<sup>th</sup> issue of its trilingual "Books and the City" magazine, themed "Cultural Macau", guiding readers to explore Macau's "World Heritage", "Intangible Cultural Heritage", and unveiling the city's unique cultural DNA, according to an IC statement yesterday.

The free magazine's texts are published in Chinese, Portuguese, and English. The magazine is available in print and online.

The latest issue highlights a variety of cultural perspectives. The "Library Handbook" revisits the "Reading Month in the City of Macao 2025" activities, reflecting the Macau's reading culture, the statement said.

Meanwhile, interviews with participants in the "Book for Book" initiative tell touching stories of community exchanges, the statement noted, as well as recommending the "Thematic Exhibition of Books from the Collection of the Public Library" which introduces readers to the poetic grandeur of West Lake.

The West Lake (Xihu) is located in Hangzhou.

The bureau added that in the "Author's Say" section, readers are invited into the creative world of the interactive game book "Little Explorers – A Place of Discoveries", encouraging them to uncover Macau's streets and stories as city explorers.

The section "New Launch" presents recent publications, while 10 concise reviews in Chinese, Portuguese, and English feature works from the Chinese mainland, Japan, South Korea, and Macau, underscoring Macau's role as a "Culture City of East Asia", according to the IC statement.

A total of 3,000 free copies of the 40<sup>th</sup> issue are now available at IC libraries, higher education institutions, Tap Seac Gallery, selected bookstores, and local cultural and art venues, the statement said, adding that the online version can be accessed via the public library's website at [www.library.gov.mo](http://www.library.gov.mo). ■



*This image provided by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) earlier this week shows the front cover of the 40<sup>th</sup> issue of the Books and the City published by the bureau's Public Library.*

## MUST team wins awards at National Undergraduate Medical Innovation Competition

**Rui Pastorin**

A team from the private Macau University of Science and Technology's (MUST) Medical Sciences Division (MSD) has recently won the Silver Award in the Belt and Road International Track and the Best Teamwork Award during the 11<sup>th</sup> National Undergraduate Medical Innovation Competition and the 2025 Belt and Road International Competition in Jinan, capital city of Shandong Province.

According to an MUST statement on Tuesday, the event was held from August 15 to 19, with the team winning the awards for their project "The Potential of Algal Polysaccharides as Cisplatin Chemo-Sensitisers: A Combined Therapy Strategy for Gastric Cancer". The award focused on "cutting-edge topics in basic medical sciences", the statement said.

Algal polysaccharides, according to AI chatbot Poe, refers to complex carbohydrates that are extracted from algae. These polysaccharides are made up of long chains of sugar molecules and serve various functions in the algae, including structural support, energy storage, and protection.



*This undated handout photo provided by the Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) earlier this week shows Medical Sciences Division (MSD) students Wong Keng Hin, He Xielin, and Xiong Jinghui during the finals of the 11<sup>th</sup> National Undergraduate Medical Innovation Competition and the 2025 Belt and Road International Competition held in Jinan. The caption provided by the university did not identify the trio's respective positions.*

The statement noted that the team, guided by Assistant Professor Wong Io Nam and PhD candidate Zhong Jing from the Faculty of Medicine, comprised Wong Keng Hin from the Faculty of Medicine, and He Xielin as well as Xiong Jinghui from the Faculty of Chinese Medicine. The award "highlights the research depth of the MSD and its innovative vitality in related fields", the private university said in the statement.

The statement said that

the recently held competition was organised by the National Demonstration Centre for Experimental Education in Higher Education. It is one of the nation's highest level and influential life science events in the field of basic medical sciences.

The competition drew in over 4,000 faculty and students from more than 200 universities across 10 countries and regions, with over 820 project submissions, setting new records. ■

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CTM



# Govt launches tender for central library's superstructure

**Tony Wong**

The government has launched a public tender for the construction of the superstructure of its ongoing new central library project on the site of the long-defunct Hotel Estoril.

The tender was announced in a notice published by the Public Works Bureau (DSOP) in the Official Gazette (BO) yesterday.

The project is being carried out in two phases. The first phase got off the ground in June last year, comprising the demolition of the former Hotel Estoril and putting

in the new library building's pile foundation and basement work.

The new library building's basement work is now being carried out after the completion of its pile foundation work early this year and the demolition of the derelict Hotel Estoril on the site last year.

According to the DSOP website, the ongoing first phase is now scheduled to be completed in December this year.

After the first phase's completion, the library project's second phase, namely superstructure work, will

start, a public tender for which was announced yesterday.

The project's first phase is currently being carried out by Ming Shun Construction and Property Investment Limited for a price tag of 69.78 million patacas.

The bureau did not launch a public tender for the project's first phase. Instead, the bureau launched a tender by invitation early last year when it asked seven construction companies, including Ming Shun, to bid for the library project's first phase. All seven companies submitted their respective bids, which were unsealed by DSOP officials in March last year. Afterwards, the bureau commissioned Ming Shun, which offered the lowest price – 69.78 million patacas, to carry out the central library project's first phase.

According to the notice gazetted yesterday, potential bidders are required to submit their quotations for the central library project's superstructure work by October 8. The bureau will unseal the submitted bids the next day.

The winning bidder will be required to complete the superstructure within 620 working days.

The bureau also updated details of the central library project on its website yesterday.

According to the DSOP website, the site where the new central library will be located, i.e., the plot where the now-defunct Hotel Estoril once stood, covers 2,960 square metres.

The future central library, according to the updated details, will have four storeys, plus a basement area to be used for storerooms. The new building will have a gross floor area of 13,800 square metres.

The new central library will include facilities such as an auditorium, newspaper and



**This artist's rendition released by the Public Works Bureau (DSOP) yesterday shows the future central library.**

magazine reading areas, an adults' library, a children's library, a youth library, and meeting rooms, according to the DSOP website.

The government decided in 2020 to redevelop the long-abandoned Hotel Estoril opposite Praça do Tap Seac into the city's new central library. The government then invited four architectural design teams – from Finland, Ireland, the Netherlands and Switzerland – to submit concept designs for the project, after which the government announced in 2021 that it had chosen the concept design from the Netherlands' Mecanoo team for the central library project.

The Dutch team's concept

design proposes to relocate the mosaic mural on the old Hotel Estoril's façade to the future library building's atrium, while the other three teams all proposed to keep it on the future library's façade.

The city's central library is currently housed in a listed building in Praça do Tap Seac, just across the square from the long-defunct Hotel Estoril.

When announcing its new central library project on the former Hotel Estoril plot in 2020, the government was aiming to complete the project in 2024 at the earliest.

The government said in 2020 that the library project was preliminarily estimated to cost 500 million patacas. ■



**A motorcycle is driven past the construction site of the ongoing new central library project on Avenida de Sidónio Pais yesterday.** – Photo: Tony Wong



**This aerial photo taken in June and downloaded from the Public Works Bureau's (DSOP) website yesterday shows the basement work of the ongoing new central library project, which is being carried out on the site of the former Hotel Estoril.**

## Gongbei Customs seizes 3 endangered tortoises at HZMB

**Khalel Vallo**

Gongbei Customs said in a statement yesterday that its officers have seized three endangered live tortoises hidden inside a dual-plate passenger vehicle at the Zhuhai Port of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB).

According to the statement, the case occurred around noon on August 3, when officers inspected an inbound dual-plate passenger vehicle and discovered abnormalities in the driver's luggage.

Further inspection revealed three large tortoises concealed in

a backpack and two black bags inside the car, the statement said, adding that each tortoise measured about 50 centimetres in length and weighed over 15 kilograms.

The driver was unable to provide legal documentation and admitted to receiving a fee to transport the reptiles across the border, the statement noted.

Identification conducted by the South China Wildlife Species Identification Centre (华南野生动物物种鉴定中心) confirmed the specimens as sulcata tortoises.

The sulcata tortoise, also known

as the African spurred tortoise, is the largest mainland tortoise species in Africa, and the third-largest tortoise species in the world, behind the Galápagos tortoise and the Aldabra giant tortoise, according to Wikipedia.

The statement said that the tortoises are listed in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and are classified as national second-class protected wildlife in the Chinese mainland. The three tortoises are currently being cared for by a professional organisation, the statement added.

Gongbei Customs stressed that, according to CITES, the "Wildlife Protection Law of the People's Republic of China", and the "Regulations of the Import and Export of Endangered Wild Animals and Plants", it is illegal to carry endangered species or their products across the border without proper certificates, adding that serious violations may constitute a crime and carry criminal liability. ■



**This undated handout photo provided by Gongbei Customs yesterday shows 3 tortoises seized by customs officials at the Zhuhai Port of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge on August 3.**

## Macau logs 3<sup>rd</sup> Mpox case: Health Bureau

**Tony Wong**

Macau recorded a Mpox case yesterday, which came after two cases were reported here in 2023, the Health Bureau (SSM) announced in a statement last night.

Last night's statement noted that the Mpox case reported yesterday is the third one since Macau recorded its first two cases in 2023.

The Health Bureau classified the Mpox case announced yesterday as imported.

According to the statement, the patient is a 29-year-old local man. He came down with a fever, sore throat and diarrhoea on Saturday last week, after which he sought treatment at a hospital in the mainland.

After the man returned to Macau on Tuesday night, he sought follow-up treatment at the public Conde de São Januário Hospital Centre where he was diagnosed with Mpox after testing positive for the monkeypox virus.

Previously, the viral illness was known as monkeypox.

The man was in a stable condition at the time of last night's statement, which, however, did not elaborate on whether he was in hospital isolation.

The statement said that the patient had engaged in high-risk sexual practices during the incubation period outside Macau. However, according to the statement, the patient told the Macau Health Bureau that he did not engage in high-risk sexual practices when he was in Macau, neither had he engaged in such activities after

coming down with Mpox symptoms.

The statement said that the man had not been vaccinated against Mpox.

The statement noted that previously Mpox had primarily been prevalent in Africa, before the disease started spreading quickly in Europe and North America in May 2022. Mpox infections have now been reported in various countries and regions worldwide, the statement said.

Macau recorded its first Mpox case in September 2023, and another case three months later.

### One more imported chikungunya case

Meanwhile, Macau recorded one more imported case of chikungunya on Tuesday night, raising the total number of such cases to 10 this year, the Health Bureau announced in a separate statement yesterday.

The patient is a 67-year-old local man who lives in Patane district. He visited Jiujiang Town in Foshan City's Nanhai District between Wednesday last week and Sunday. After returning to Macau, he came down with muscle and joint pain in his arms and legs on Monday, after which he sought treatment at the public Conde de São Januário Hospital Centre on Tuesday where he was hospitalised.

He was diagnosed with chikungunya fever by the Health Bureau's Public Health Laboratory on Tuesday night. ■



# Pro-consumption policies underpin industrial firms' profit recovery in July

BEIJING – China's major industrial firms saw continued profit recovery in July, with profit declines narrowing further, driven by stable industrial output growth and measures to boost consumption in the world's second-largest economy, official data showed yesterday.

Major industrial firms with an annual main business revenue of at least 20 million yuan saw their combined profits reach 4.02 trillion yuan during the January-July period, down 1.7 percent year on year, per data released by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

The rate of decline during the period narrowed by 0.1 percentage points compared to the first half of 2025, indicating improving profitability, according to NBS statistician Yu Weining.

In July, the profits of major industrial firms declined 1.5 percent compared to a year earlier. However, that decline narrowed 2.8 percentage points from the June figure.

The NBS data also showed that these firms saw operating revenues rise by 2.3 percent year on year in the first seven months of 2025, and by 0.9 percent year on year in July.

Yu noted that this sustained revenue growth has created favorable conditions for the recovery of corporate profits.

In an analysis, Yu said that fast profit growth in the manufacturing and high-tech manufacturing industries has contributed greatly to the recovery of corporate profits among industrial firms.

The data showed that corporate profits in

the manufacturing sector increased 6.8 percent in July, accelerating from a rise of 1.4 percent in June. Raw materials manufacturing firms saw their profit surge by 36.9 percent, compared with a decline of 5 percent in June. Among them, steel and oil refining firms turned losses into profits.

Yu said that the country's policies aimed at shoring up consumption and domestic demand yielded significant results in driving profit growth.

Since the beginning of 2025, China has expanded the coverage of its equipment upgrade and consumer goods trade-in program, leading to notable profit improvements in related industries. Boosted by these measures, the specialized equipment manufacturing sector for electronics and electrical machinery

saw profits increase by 87.9 percent in July.

Wednesday's data also showed that private industrial enterprises reported a profit increase of 2.6 percent year on year in July, 4.1 percentage points higher than the average level of all major industrial firms.

Looking ahead, Yu emphasized the need to bolster domestic demand and steadfastly develop new quality productive forces for the industrial economy.

Yu stressed the need to maintain policy consistency and stability, strengthen innovation-driven development, promote the transformation and upgrading of traditional industries, and advance the sustained and sound growth of the industrial economy.

– Xinhua



A journalist looks at his smartphone while visiting the Museum of the War of Chinese People's Resistance Against Japanese Aggression in Beijing yesterday. Nearly 200 journalists joined a tour of the museum for interviews yesterday. The participating journalists came from more than 130 domestic and international media organisations in over 60 countries and regions.

– Xinhua

## Legacy of WWII concentration camp honors friendship, peace

JINAN – Eighty years ago, Charlie Stanley was just three years old when he and his parents were imprisoned in a concentration camp in Weifang City, Shandong Province, during World War II.

"Because I was so young, I don't have many personal memories of the camp. But I have heard stories and read books about those experiences," recalled the 83-year-old American, who recently returned to Weifang for an exchange event on WWII concentration camps in Asia.

Weifang, once known as Weihian or Weihsien, was home to the "Courtyard of the Happy Way," a compound built by Americans in 1882. For decades, it functioned as a church, hospital and school.

However, from March 1942 to August 1945, the compound was converted by the Japanese invaders into the Weihsien concentration camp. The camp was used to detain over 2,000 expatriates, including over 300 children, from the United States, Britain, Canada and other countries.

"At that time, heat and clothing were scarce and nobody ever got enough to eat," Stanley said. Fortunately, some local Chinese found ways to deliver food to the internees, and his father was able to get eggs to feed him.

Historical records show that many Chinese risked their lives to break through Japanese blockades, delivering messages and providing food and medical supplies to the internees. Tragically, some even lost their lives in these efforts.

On Aug. 17, 1945, two days after Japan's surrender, the camp was liberated by a rescue team parachuted in by American forces in China.

In 2021, Weifang was designated an "International City of Peace." The former camp has been transformed into a museum to commemorate peace and friendship.

Seven historic buildings now form the main part of the museum, housing personal belongings once used by the internees, such

as kerosene lamps, water bottles and clocks.

At the monument bearing the names of those who were detained, Stanley located his own name as well as those of his parents and other relatives. "As long as these names remain, our story endures," he said.

The history has left a lasting impact on Stanley's family: his son developed a deep interest in modern Chinese history, while his brother was once a history professor at the University of Hong Kong.

"My family is an example of the very strong and long-lasting friendly connections that have developed between China and foreign countries," he said.

During the event, Stanley met Han Chongbin, an 80-year-old whose father once aided expatriates at the Weihsien concentration camp.

"At that time, out of pity for the internees, my father spent his own money to buy candy and brought eggs from home, managing to send them into the concentration camp. In return, the internees dismantled an iron bed and sent it out," Han said. "He never expected that his help would be 'rewarded.'"

In 2019, Han donated the iron bed to the museum. Now a museum volunteer, he shares stories about that period of history with visitors.

With the help of translators, he and Stanley shared a heartfelt conversation, holding hands like old friends. "Peace is our common aspiration," Stanley said.

"Remembering suffering is not perpetuating hatred; it is igniting the beacon of hope for the future," said Ayo Ayoala-Amale, vice chair of the governing council of International Cities of Peace.

"Weifang's commitment to preserving this legacy – establishing the camp's memorial museum, inviting descendants of survivors to return, and educating younger generations with truth – epitomizes the deepest practice of peace. Such courage deserves global recognition," she said.

– AFP

## China's digital publishing revenue hits new high in 2024

ZHENGZHOU – China's digital publishing industry revenue reached another new high of 1.75 trillion yuan in 2024, according to an annual report on the industry released yesterday.

This figure represents an 8.07-percent increase year on year, with the digital revenue from books, newspapers and magazines showing steady progress, said the report unveiled in Zhengzhou, capital of Henan Province, ahead of the 15<sup>th</sup> China International Digital Publishing Expo (CDPE).

Emerging sectors continued to develop strongly – with the revenue growth of the online gaming, online education and online animation sectors proving particularly significant, the report revealed.

The report also showed that last year, the total revenue of China's online literature reached 49.55 billion yuan, which was up 29.37 percent year on year, while the cumulative number of online literature readers totaled 638 million, up 16 percent year on year.

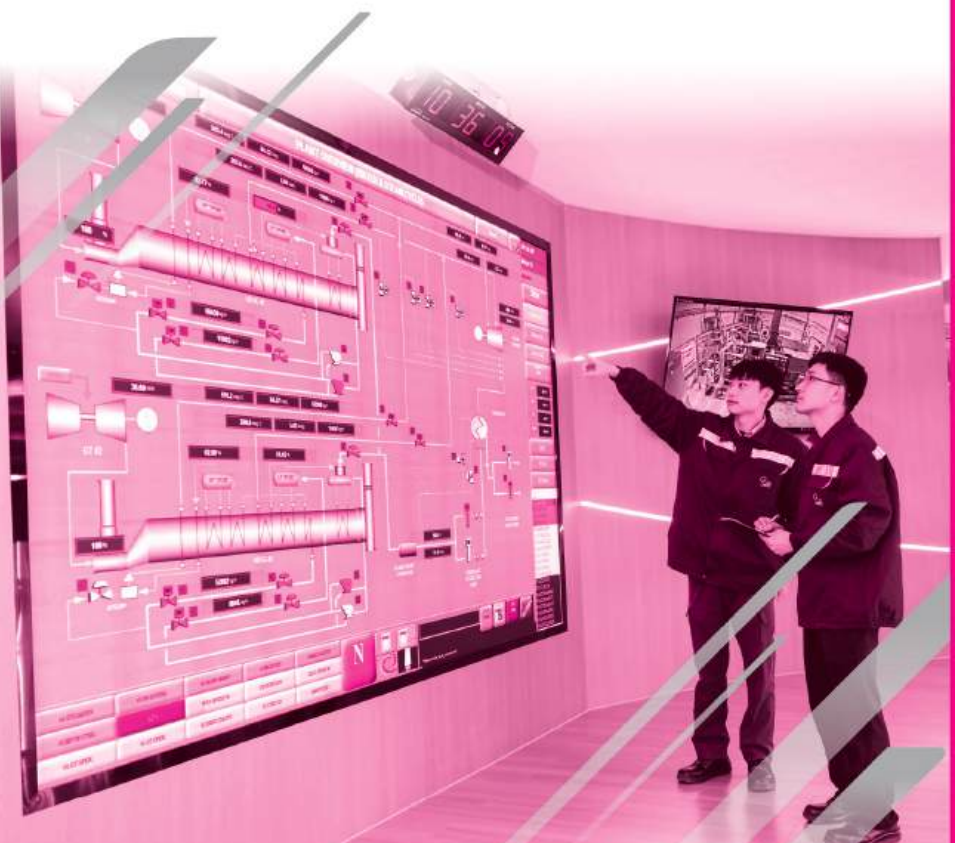
Highlighting the global push of Chinese content, the report noted that 2024 saw 30 million new registered readers of online Chinese literature overseas, bringing the total number of active overseas readers of online Chinese literature to approximately 200 million.

Hosted by the Chinese Academy of Press and Publication, the 15<sup>th</sup> CDPE will take place in Henan from today to Sunday.

– Xinhua



**Congratulations**  
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