

Macau confirms its 1st Zika fever case

Armando Neves

The Health Bureau (SSM) announced in a statement last night that Macau confirmed its first imported case of Zika fever yesterday.

The bureau identified the patient as a 32-year-old non-resident-worker (NRW) from the Philippines who lives in Son Hoi Building on Rua do Matapau in the city centre and works in Lun Seng Building on Rua do Tarrafeiro in the Inner Harbour area.

The patient, according to the statement, was in the Philippines from August 23 to September 2 and returned to Macau on September 2. Last Saturday, she began experiencing pain in the joints of her limbs, a rash developed on Monday, and on Wednesday she went to the public Conde de São Januário Hospital Centre for medical attention and a blood test. The test result was positive for the Zika fever virus.

The patient was in a stable condition last night, and all co-habitants remained asymptomatic, the statement said.

Based on the patient's travel history, the statement said, the timing of symptom onset, and the

laboratory test results, this case has been classified as an imported case of the Zika virus. It is the first imported Zika virus case confirmed in Macau.

The bureau said it will dispatch personnel to the patient's residence and the vicinity of her main activity areas in Macau to conduct inspections for mosquito breeding sources and carry out preventive mosquito control measures.

According to the statement, the Zika virus is primarily transmitted through the bite of an infected Aedes mosquito. It can also be spread through sexual contact, blood transfusion, and from mother to foetus during pregnancy.

Most infected individuals do not show obvious symptoms. Common symptoms, when they occur, include fever, rash, conjunctivitis, muscle and joint pain, and headache. The illness is typically mild in nature, the statement said.

Details in English about Zika can be found at: <https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/healthtopics/content/24/43088.html>

According to DeepSeek, the virus was first identified in 1947



Image courtesy of Frisco Women's Health



an infant's head is significantly smaller than the heads of other children of the same age and sex. This smaller head size is due to the brain not developing properly during pregnancy or stopping growing after birth. There is no cure for microcephaly itself, and the condition is lifelong.

While Zika virus infection is typically mild for most people, it can be lethal, but this is rare and primarily affects specific, vulnerable groups, such as unborn babies, according to DeepSeek. ■

in the Zika Forest near Entebbe, Uganda. Brazil was the epicentre of a major Zika virus epidemic that began in 2015. This outbreak gained international notoriety not for the mild illness it typically

causes, but for its devastating link to severe birth defects, particularly microcephaly, and other neurological complications.

Microcephaly is a rare neurological condition where

UK ambassador to US sacked over links with Epstein

LONDON – British Ambassador to the United States Peter Mandelson was sacked yesterday following revelations about his friendship with convicted sex trafficker Jeffrey Epstein.

The recently released Epstein's 50th "birthday book" contains a letter from Mandelson, who called Epstein his "best pal."

Epstein, who had extensive connections with US political and business elites, was arrested on sex crime charges and died in prison in August 2019. His death was officially ruled a suicide.

Details revealed by the media show that Mandelson told Epstein to "fight for early release" in their email correspondence when Epstein faced charges over soliciting a minor.

"I can still barely understand it. It just could not happen in Britain," Mandelson wrote to Epstein in his email.

"The emails show that the depth and extent of Peter Mandelson's relationship with Jeffrey Epstein is materially different from that known at the time of his appointment," said Britain's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office in a statement.

"In particular, Peter Mandelson's suggestion that Jeffrey Epstein's first conviction was wrongful and should be challenged is new information. In light of that, and mindful of the victims of Epstein's crimes, he has been withdrawn as Ambassador with immediate effect," it added. – Xinhua

Netanyahu vows 'there will be no Palestinian state'

JERUSALEM – Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed yesterday that there would be no Palestinian state, speaking at a signing ceremony for a major settlement project in the occupied West Bank.

"We are going to fulfil our promise that there will be no Palestinian state, this place belongs to us," Netanyahu said at the event in Maale Adumim, an Israeli settlement just east of Jerusalem.

"We will safeguard our heritage, our land and our security... We are going to double the city's population." The event was streamed live by his office.

Israel has long had ambitions to build on the roughly 12 square kilometre tract of land known

as E1, but the plan had been stalled for years in the face of international opposition.

The site sits between Jerusalem and the Israeli settlement of Maale Adumim, near routes connecting the north and south of the Palestinian territory.

Last month, Israel's far-right Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich backed plans to build around 3,400 homes on the ultra-sensitive parcel of land.

His announcement drew condemnation, with UN chief António Guterres saying the settlement would effectively cleave the West Bank in two and pose an "existential threat" to a contiguous Palestinian state.

All of Israel's settlements in

the West Bank, occupied since 1967, are considered illegal under international law, regardless of whether they have Israeli planning permission.

Several Western governments, including Britain and France, have announced they intend to recognise the State of Palestine at the United Nations later this month.

Britain has said it will take the step if Israel fails to agree to a ceasefire in the devastating Gaza war, triggered by Palestinian militant group Hamas's October 2023 attack.

Far-right Israeli ministers have in recent months openly called for Israel's annexation of the territory. (More about Israel on p.10) – AFP

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The Macau Post Daily

China hopes Mexico to exercise caution on tariff adjustment: commerce ministry

China hopes Mexico will exercise caution and think twice before making any tariff adjustment, the country's commerce ministry said last night.

– Story on p. 7

Charlie Kirk killer at large as police find gun

The gunman who shot dead US right-wing youth leader Charlie Kirk in a targeted killing on Wednesday remained at large yesterday but authorities said they have video images of the suspect and have recovered a "high-powered" rifle.

– Story on p. 11

Bolsonaro judge criticizes trial, warns of 'political' verdict

The third of five Brazilian judges deciding the fate of ex-president Jair Bolsonaro on Wednesday sharply criticised the trial, arguing that the Supreme Court should not issue a "political" verdict.

– Story on p. 12

2 young mainlanders lose 6 million patacas in 'fake police' scam

Ada Lei

A young man and a young woman from the mainland who live in Macau have separately fallen victim to "fake police" scams, losing a total of 6 million patacas, Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Cheong Kim Fong said during a regular press conference yesterday.

According to Cheong, the young woman received a call on June 27 from someone speaking Putonghua who claimed to be a "staff member of the local Immigration Department." The caller accused her of being involved in a phone scam in the Chinese mainland, and then transferred the

call to another line. The second person impersonated a "mainland police officer" and accused her of not only participating in a phone scam but also of money laundering, insisting that she cooperate with an investigation.

Following the caller's instructions, the woman downloaded an app for video calls. During the so-called "investigation," the scammer sent her fake notices and an "arrest warrant." The woman then transferred HK\$1.7 million (1.75 million patacas) to a designated account for a "funds review." Between July 24 and September 2, she made a total of 12 transfers, amounting to HK\$2.7

million and 2 million yuan to various accounts. On Tuesday, the woman read news reports about similar scams. Realising she had been deceived, she reported a total loss of 5.05 million patacas to the police on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Cheong noted that the young man received a similar call on the morning of July 27, during which the caller again posed as "immigration staff". Using similar tactics, the scammer tricked him into transferring a total of HK\$870,000 to designated accounts in two transactions. Last Thursday, while browsing online, he came across news reports about similar scams. Upon realising he had been

scammed, he reported a loss of 896,000 patacas to the police on Wednesday.

Cheong noted that the scammers in both cases impersonated "immigration personnel" and transferred the call to a "mainland police officer", requiring video calls, screen sharing, logging into bank accounts – all under the pretext of a "funds review" to lure the victims into transferring money to so-called "safe accounts."

Cheong added that two similar scams were reported on Wednesday and Thursday. In both cases, the victims, having previously come across anti-fraud information, remained vigilant and suffered no losses. ■



Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Cheong Kim Fong looks on during yesterday's regular press conference.

– Photo: Ada Lei

Tickets now on sale for 2nd GEG Macao Int'l Shorts Film Festival



This poster taken from the official website of the Macao International Short Film Festival (MISFF) yesterday promotes the "2nd Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG) MISFF", which will be held from this Sunday to September 21.

Khalel Vallo

The Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) announced in a statement yesterday that the 2nd Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG) Macao International Short Film Festival will run from this Sunday through September 21, aiming to showcase international and local short films, with the tickets now on sale.

Organised by the bureau and GEG, this year's festival will feature five sections, including "Macao Shorts," where 10 local films will compete for the "Macao Unit Award" and "Jury Special Mention" award, the statement said, adding that the jury for this section includes Icelandic-German Director Gunnur Martinsdóttir Schlüter, Danish Director Lasse Lyskjær Noer, and Belgian distributor Ben Vandendaele.

The statement added that the festival will also feature "New Voices from Horizon," a collection of 26 international short films, competing for "Best Short Film," "Best Director," "Innovative Storytelling

Award," and "Jury Special Mention".

Notable jury members for this section include Isabelle Glachant, Yov Moor, and Phạm Thiên An, the statement noted, adding that the "East Asia Panorama" section will highlight 10 outstanding short films from East Asia, competing for the "East Asia of Tomorrow Award".

Film screenings will be held at Galaxy Cinemas in the integrated resort of Galaxy Macau and Cinematheque•Passion. Tickets are now on sale through the Enjoy Macau Ticketing at ticketing.enjoymacao.mo. Various discount packages are available, including a 50 percent discount for holders of valid Student Card and elderly aged 65 or above, and a 20 percent discount for members of the public who purchase 10 or more tickets.

In addition to screenings, the festival will host lectures, industry forums, and workshops by renowned filmmakers and experts, the statement said. More information can be found via the festival's official website at www.macaouisff.com ■

AI seminar discusses applications & cyber security, incl Agentic AI

Ida Cheong

Aiming to further promote artificial intelligence (AI) industry interaction and exchange, while encouraging more enterprises to actively pursue digital transformation and leverage technology to optimise workflows, as well as alleviate employee stress, a seminar titled "Empowering Business with AI Innovation, Security and Insights" took place yesterday.

The one-day seminar, jointly organised by HKBN JOS (Macau) and Microsoft Hong Kong, was held at Vista in MGM MACAU.

The event attracted several industry representatives who attended and spoke about their experiences as well as case studies on topics such as artificial intelligence, data security, and practical business applications, showcasing the latest commercial applications and solutions, including how Agentic AI* can transform business models, enhance security governance, and ensure data privacy.

Hong Kong Broadband Network (HKBN) JOS Macau General Director Ng Ho Man told the *Post* that AI applications



Hong Kong Broadband Network (HKBN) JOS Macau General Director Ng Ho Man poses after a Post interview at MGM MACAU in Nape yesterday.

– Photo: Ida Cheong

are rapidly expanding in Macau, offering broad prospects, adding that cybersecurity remains the primary risk accompanying AI development. Malicious actors are leveraging AI technology to target enterprises and individuals, beyond technological application, so greater attention must be paid to AI management, cybersecurity, and risk prevention, Ng said.

Ng pointed out that security issues persist wherever network and IT technologies are used. The key lies in effective management

and defence, adding that identifying AI applications that deliver genuine value and efficiency to businesses while balancing security and productivity poses a greater challenge, such as AI customer service and automated document processing effectively, significantly reducing time while enhancing efficiency and accuracy. ■

*Agentic AI is an autonomous system that uses a large language model as its core reasoning engine to plan, execute actions with tools, and achieve complex, multi-step goals. – DeepSeek

Police nab drunk driver for evading responsibility

Ada Lei

The Public Security Police (PSP) apprehended a local man on Monday for drunk driving and evading responsibility, with his blood alcohol concentration standing at 3.14 grams per litre, PSP spokesman Wong Wai Chon said during a regular press conference yesterday.

Wong identified the suspect as a taxi driver surnamed Lam who is in his thirties.

According to Wong, the Public Security Police (PSP) received a report about a car accident at noon on Monday from a staff member of a golf course on Rua das Lótus (蓮花路) in Cotai. Upon arrival, the police discovered that a car had crashed into the golf course's fence and had entered the muddy area of the course.

Through their citywide CCTV surveillance, the police identified

Lam as the suspect, who had left the scene after crashing into the golf course early Monday morning. The police arrested Lam in his flat in Seac Pai Van (石排灣) on Monday afternoon. A breathalyser test indicated that his blood alcohol concentration was 3.14 grams per litre, confirming a drunk-driving offence.

Under questioning, Lam admitted to drinking alcoholic beverages at home early Monday morning because he was in a bad mood. He claimed that he drove his car intending to look for a parking spot near Cotai's go-kart track. However, he also claimed that he had experienced a "blackout" and could not recall the details of how his car crashed into the golf course.

Lam has been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing charges for drunk driving and evading responsibility. ■



This undated handout photo provided by the Public Security Police (PSP) yesterday shows a PSP officer escorting the drunk-driving suspect into a police station.

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MACAU POST

Macau Weather

VERY HOT.
FINE APART FROM CLOUDY PERIODS.
FORCE 2 TO 3 SOUTH TO SOUTHEASTERLY WINDS.
RELATIVE HUMIDITY WILL RANGE BETWEEN 60% AND 95%.



26°C~32°C

Source: SMG

14 candidates vying for 2025 indirect election's 12 seats

Tony Wong

A total of 14 candidates fielded by six electoral groups are vying for the 12 seats at stake in the 2025 indirect Legislative Assembly (AL) election on Sunday, as two indirect election candidacy groups comprising four candidates are competing for the labour sector's two seats, while only one candidacy group is running for each of the other four sectors.

The legislature's 12 indirectly-elected seats comprise four seats representing the city's industrial, commercial and financial sector, three seats from the professional sector, two seats from the labour sector, two seats from the cultural and sports sector, and one seat from the social services and educational sector.

The labour sector is the only sector where more than one group is running this time.

The number of candidates fielded by each indirect election group must be the same as the respective sector's number of seats.

Consequently, while the four candidates from the two groups for the labour sector are competing for the sector's two indirectly-elected seats, all candidates of the other four sectors' electoral groups are slated to be elected uncontested on Sunday.

In the 2021 indirect election, only one candidacy group ran for each of all five sectors, meaning that all of the then 12 candidates were elected unopposed.

For the 2025 indirect election of the four seats in the industrial, commercial and financial sector, the Union of Macau Business Interests list has fielded two of its sitting lawmakers as its candidates, while Kou Hoi In and Wang Sai Man did not seek re-election this time.

Kou, 72, who is currently the legislature's president, was the group's first-ranked candidate four years ago, while Wang was its fourth-ranked candidate.

This will also mean that the legislature will have a new president in the upcoming new four-year term.

The Union of Macau Business Interests group has fielded José Chui Sai Peng, 65, and Ip Sio Kai, 64, who were the second and third-ranked candidates in the indirect election four years ago, as its first and second-ranked candidates for the 2025 indirect election, while it has fielded incumbent directly-elected lawmaker Si Ka Lon, 47, as its third-ranked candidate.

The group has fielded local businessman Kevin Ho King Lun, 49, as its fourth-ranked candidate.

For the 2025 indirect election of the professional sector's three seats, the three sitting lawmakers, Chui Sai Cheong, Vong Hin Fai and Chan Iek Lap, who were the three candidates of the Union of Macau Professionals' Interests group in the indirect election four years ago, did not seek re-election.

Chui Sai Cheong is currently the legislature's vice-president.

Instead, the Union of Macau Professionals' Interests group has fielded incumbent



A man looks at indirect legislative election groups' campaign posters on a board near a recreational area in Lam Mau Tong district yesterday.

— Photo: Maria Cheang Ut Meng

appointed lawmaker Iau Teng Pao, 61, as its first-ranked candidate for the 2025 indirect election, while it has fielded newcomers Vong Hou Piu, 62, and Wong Chon Kit, 47, as its second and third-ranked candidates.

Iau is an associate professor in the public University of Macau's (UM) Faculty of Law. He is also one of the faculty's two associate deans.

Vong is an accountant by profession, while Wong is a dentist whose father was a well-known journalist.

The two groups running in the 2025 indirect election of the labour sector's two seats comprise the Joint Candidacy Committee of Employees' Associations and the Union of Workers' Associations.

The Joint Candidacy Committee of Employees' Associations group ran in the indirect election four years ago, while the Union of Workers' Associations group is running in the indirect legislative election for the first time.

While there are two groups competing for the labour sector's two seats, all four candidates are senior board members of the influential Macau Federation of Trade Unions (commonly known as Gung Luen in Cantonese).

The Joint Candidacy Committee of Employees' Associations group has fielded incumbent lawmaker Lam Lon Wai, 49, for the 2025 indirect election, but sitting legislator Lei Chan U, who was the group's second-ranked candidate four years ago, did not seek re-election this time. Lei is also a Gung Luen senior board member.

Instead, the group has fielded Kong Ioi Fai, 52, as the second-ranked candidate this time.

The new Union of Workers' Associations group has fielded Leong Pou U, 51, and Kelvin Choi Kam Fu, 47, as its first and second-ranked candidates.

Lam, Kong, and Leong are currently

three of the Gung Luen vice-chairmen, while Choi is currently one of the Gung Luen vice-presidents.

Lam is one of the current three vice-principals of Lou Hau High School, which is run by the Macau Federation of Trade Unions.

For the 2025 indirect election of the cultural and sports sector's two seats, the Rising Sun Cultural and Sports Union group has fielded sitting lawmaker Angela Leong On Kei, 64, as its first-ranked candidate, while restaurateur Andrew Chan Chak Mo did not seek re-election this time.

Four years ago, Andrew Chan was the group's first-ranked candidate, while Angela Leong was the second-ranked candidate at that time.

The group has instead fielded current appointed lawmaker Ma Chi Seng, 47, as its second-ranked candidate.

For the 2025 indirect election of the social services and educational sector's only seat, the Social Service and Education Promotion Association group has fielded sitting lawmaker Alan Ho Ion Sang, 63, as its candidate.

Ho, who had been a directly-elected lawmaker since 2009, became an indirectly-elected legislator representing the social services and educational sector in the indirect election four years ago.

Ho is currently one of the vice-chairmen of the influential Macau General Union of Neighbourhood Associations (commonly known as Kai Fong in Cantonese).

In addition to this time, the number of candidates also exceeded the number of seats at stake in the 2017 indirect election since 2001 when the Macau Special Administration Region (MSAR) held its first indirect legislative election.

In the 2017 indirect election, two indirect election candidacy groups comprising six candidates were competing for the professional sector's three seats.

Proportional representation system

Macau's legislative elections are based on the proportional representation system. There are no political parties in Macau. Customarily, community organisations set up ad hoc candidacy groups in the run-up to the elections that are held every four years. Voters cast their ballots for groups, not individual candidates.

Key features of Macau's proportional representation system

1. One single constituency

Macau treats the entire territory as one single constituency for its direct elections. This means every voter in Macau votes from the same list of candidate groups.

2. Closed list system

Political groups (parties or associations) submit closed lists of candidates. Voters cast their vote for one entire group; they cannot change the order of candidates on the list or select individuals from different lists. The order of candidates on each list is fixed by the group itself.

3. Method for seat allocation

This is the mathematical formula used to distribute the 14 seats among the candidacy groups, based on the "highest averages" method designed to favour larger groups. Here's how it works:

Step 1: Each group receives a No. of votes.

Step 2: The total votes for each group are divided by a series of divisors (1, 2, 4, 8, 16, etc.).

Step 3: The resulting quotients from all groups are ranked from highest to lowest.

Step 4: The 14 highest quotients each win a seat for the group that produced that quotient.

The direct and indirect elections will be held from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Sunday. Public transport (public buses and LRT) will be free of charge. Provisional election results are expected for early Monday at the earliest. ■

'Very hot' weather on Sunday for polling day: SMG

Armindo Neves

The Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) forecast in a statement yesterday that the weather on Sunday, polling day for this year's direct and indirect Legislative Assembly election, will be "very hot".

The statement predicted that due to the influence of an upper-level anticyclone, with light winds over the next few days, hot

weather will affect Macau during daytime. The maximum temperature is forecast to reach 33 degrees Celsius, while urban areas may record temperatures even one to two degrees higher than that, the statement said.

Although there might be a few occasional showers early on Sunday, the observatory forecast that the weather will remain sunny and very hot during polling day. As a result,

the weather station urged the public to take necessary precautions against the heat.

Macau's polling stations will open at 9 a.m. and close at 9 p.m. on Sunday.

Meanwhile, the observatory said, according to current numerical model predictions, the probability of a tropical storm or stronger tropical cyclone developing in the South China Sea to the northwest Pacific

region and affecting the Guangdong coast in the next few days is relatively low.

However, the observatory forecast that the tropical cyclone activity may become more active again by mid to late September. The bureau said it was closely monitoring the latest developments and urged the public to stay updated on its most recent weather information, the statement said. ■



‘ZODIAC WITH YOU’: A TRIBUTE TO LIFE’S COMPANIONS

Khalel Vallo

Local artist and oil painter Sharon Van’s (溫雪嫻) “Zodiac With You” exhibition, which is on display through October 31, celebrates the connections made over a lifetime, using oil paintings to blend animals and humans as symbols of different life stages.

Held daily at 10 Fantasia’s Gallery C03 on Calçada da Igreja de S. Lázaro (瘋堂斜巷) from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. (closed on Mondays) with free admission, the exhibition draws on the theme of the Chinese zodiac, with each of the 11 animals and one mythical creature – the Dragon – representing different qualities of life, according to the information board at the gallery.

Exhibitiongoers are invited to reflect on personal relationships and experiences, including the perceived wit of the Rat, resilience of the Ox, and compassion of the Sheep, according to the information board’s text. Van’s work, which was developed through nearly eight years of oil painting, combines portraits, animals, and landscapes to express emotions linked to her personal and professional journey, the text adds.

The exhibition honours those who have accompanied her through life, particularly during her time in social work, the text says, adding that each zodiac sign’s symbolic qualities are poetically reborn through vibrant colours, aiming to create a rich visual tribute to life’s companions.

The exhibition aims to provide the opportunity to experience Van’s artistic tribute with the exhibits on display for nearly two months, the text points out, adding that art lovers are encouraged to visit and immerse themselves in the emotive power of the artwork.



Wynn Signature – 2025 Hypercar Exhibition to open on Sept 29

Rui Pastorin

The free-admission “Wynn Signature – 2025 Hypercar Exhibition” is set to take place from September 29 through November 16 at Wynn Macau and Wynn Palace, during which over 20 supercars will be on display.

According to a Wednesday statement by the integrated resort operator, the exhibition will feature “exclusive collaborations between automotive legends and luxury powerhouses”.

The exhibits to be displayed at Wynn Palace in Cotai include the Macau premiere of a Formula 1 car, as well as the Lamborghini Huracán GT3 featuring Roger Dubuis Colours and the Pagani Utopia debuting a limited-edition collaboration between the Pagani and BAPE. The legendary vintage Mercedes 300SL Gullwing will also be on display alongside a collection by Swiss luxury jeweller and watchmaker Chopard.

Meanwhile, at Wynn Macau, the Aston Martin Valkyrie Spider will be on display, according to the statement, while there will also be electric supercars from the Chinese mainland’s leading EV manufacturers that also demonstrate “how Chinese innovation is



This poster provided by Wynn on Wednesday promotes the upcoming “Wynn Signature – 2025 Hypercar Exhibition”.

reshaping the automotive landscape”.

Other activities running alongside the exhibition are a live spray-painting of a McLaren 600LT by Swiss artist Saïff Vasarhelyi on September 29, F1 racing simulators and the “Hyper Shop” popup store at Wynn Palace, according to the statement.

With the exhibition running until November 16, it will also coincide with this year’s Macau Grand Prix, which is scheduled to take place from November 13-16. ■

First online meeting solves Shenzhen consumer’s dispute: CCM

Ida Cheong

The Macau Consumer Council (CCM) announced in a statement yesterday that it recently collaborated with the Shenzhen Consumer Committee to provide cross-border arbitration services via a video meeting for the first time, resolving a consumer dispute between a Shenzhen consumer and a local merchant, which marked a new milestone in the deepening cooperation between consumer protection organisations in Macau and Shenzhen.

According to the statement, a consumer from Shenzhen got into a dispute with a local merchant during a shopping trip to Macau. The statement did not say when the dispute erupted.

After receiving the complaint, the CCM intervened and proposed submitting the case to the Macau Consumer Dispute Mediation and Arbitration Centre (CCMAC) for arbitration.

The statement did not say when the CCM received the complaint.

Through coordination between the consumer protection organisations of Macau and Shenzhen, the consumer from Shenzhen, who was not identified by the statement, was able to participate remotely via a video conference in the arbitration meeting held in Macau. The meeting was presided over by an arbitrator from the CCMAC, with the merchant involved in the dispute

also attending. Ultimately, the two parties reached a settlement agreement through communication, resolving the cross-border consumer dispute effectively, the statement said.

According to the statement, with the implementation of the “Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area” (GBA), cross-border consumption has become a new norm, with increasing personnel exchanges and economic interactions within the region.

Meanwhile, the CCMAC has been providing cross-border mediation and arbitration services and has established an online cooperation mechanism with consumer organisations in other Greater Bay Area (GBA) cities as well as the Guangdong-Macao In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, the statement noted.

The statement pointed out that in recent years, consumer protection organisations in Macau and Shenzhen have continuously deepened their collaboration, building on strengthened sharing of consumer information resources, joint comparative product testing, and optimised cross-border dispute resolution mechanisms, and they have now introduced cross-border video arbitration services for the first time, providing convenient and efficient resolution for consumers, adding that this approach significantly reduces the



This image shows the Macau Consumer Mediation and Arbitration Centre’s official logo.

cost of safeguarding consumer rights.

The statement stressed that as consumption interactions between residents of Macau and Chinese mainland cities grow increasingly close, the CCM will further actively promote cross-border mediation and arbitration services.

Moreover, according to the statement, the successful model of cooperation between Macau and GBA consumer protection organisations will be extended to more mainland cities and potentially even to overseas consumer protection organisations, the CCM is aiming to safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of consumers and enhance tourists’ confidence in purchasing products and services in Macau through professional and efficient services. ■



Sands China Nurtures Film Talents

International Film Camp Winners Shine at Global Film Festivals

With the full support of Sands China, the Asian Film Awards Academy inaugurated the International Film Camp (IFC) in Macao last year. This groundbreaking cross-border collaboration between Hong Kong and Macao brought together government and industry resources from both regions to create a platform for guidance and exchange for the next generation of Asian filmmakers, laying a solid foundation for the sustainable development of the film industry. After a rigorous selection process, a professional jury chose the top 16 finalists to participate in the camp. Among them, eight projects were selected to receive guidance from professional mentors throughout the production process and a sponsorship of HKD 300,000 each to complete their short films. Many of these projects have since gained recognition at international film festivals.

This year’s camp is taking place Sept. 10-16 in Macao again. Let us revisit last year’s outstanding projects!

Once Upon A Time There Was A Mountain

Set on the last day of summer break, the film follows a group of primary school students roaming the city in search of a football pitch. Through their childlike eyes, it reflects the quiet resilience of Hongkongers after years of turmoil, and subtly mirrors how adults navigate narrow spaces — both literal and emotional — in the urban landscape.

Director: To Chun Him
Scriptwriter: To Chun Him
Producer: Lam Kee To
Mentor: Ding Yui Shan



Recognition

The film has been selected for the International Kids’ Film Competition – KIDDO 2025 at the 48th Drama International Short Film Festival (DISFF). The film has also been invited to the shorts strand of the 48th Asian American International Film Festival (AAIFF). DISFF is one of Europe’s oldest Oscar-qualifying showcases; its Kiddo section spotlights stories told from a child’s point of view, with winners gaining direct eligibility for Academy Awards consideration. AAIFF, established the same year, is the United States’ longest-running festival devoted to Asian and Asian-American cinema. The short had its world premiere at Italy’s Udine Far East Film Festival, where enthusiastic audience response signalled the global potential of new local storytelling.

To Chun-him (Hong Kong SAR)

“Participating in the International Film Camp was a cross-cultural interaction that made me realise creation is not merely a solitary personal practice, but a possibility for dialogue with the world. This realization, far more unexpected than winning the award itself, has had a lasting impact on me.”



Learn more



Sands China's bilingual publication wins PATA Gold Award

Rui Pastorin

Integrated resort operator Sands China's bilingual (Chinese & English) publication "In Search of Its Roots – An Illustrated History of Rua das Estalagens" was recognised with a PATA Gold Award for the "Best Printed Marketing Campaign (Industry)" category during the PATA Gold Awards 2025.

The ceremony was held on August 28 in Bangkok.

According to a statement earlier this week, the publication, written by Siguo Chen with illustrations by Shirley Lu, is an initiative of the company's community revitalisation programme. It was led and produced by Sands China in conjunction with a team of local cultural and artistic professionals, including the Macao Artist Society, that handled every aspect of the publication.

"The project brought together the strength of the Macau community to tell the story of Rua das Estalagens ("Streets of Inns")* through the voices of its people. The author conducted in-depth interviews with neighbourhood associations, merchants, and residents, capturing vivid oral histories that portray the street's past characters, historical moments, and treasured cultural anecdotes", the statement said, serving as a "lasting record".

Sands China Executive Vice Chairman Wilfred Wong Ying-wai was quoted by the statement as saying: "Our initial purpose



Guests and representatives, including those from integrated resort operator Sands China and Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) Director Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes (second from right), pose after the "Best Printed Marketing Campaign (Industry)" award presentation during the PATA Gold Awards 2025 ceremony on August 28 in Bangkok. – Photo: Sands China

in publishing 'In Search of Its Roots' – part of Sands China's revitalisation initiatives for Rua das Estalagens – was to harness community strength to record the rich cultural atmosphere and unique neighbourhood stories of this historic street, reignite the district's century-old prosperity, and rediscover the enduring cultural heritage of the area".

He added that the booklet "demonstrates Macau's cultural and creative strengths on a global

stage by telling a fascinating story about the city to the world" and "broadens public understanding of our history".

The statement said that the publication has been added to Macau's school and public library collections. Moreover, a digital edition is available on <https://assets.sandsresortsmacao.cn/ebook/SCL/revitalization-of-rua-das-estalagens/index.html>. ■

*The street's Chinese name is 草堆街 ("Haystack Street")

Technology breathes new life into traditional Chinese medicine

Analysis

HEFEI – As night fell in Bozhou, Anhui Province, many locals strolled through a night market that is both ancient and futuristic.

Here, people sip herbal teas, experience acupuncture and consult with traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) practitioners. But alongside these centuries-old practices, new technologies are also drawing big crowds.

At one stall, people were seen lining up to try a smart device, dubbed "smart TCM practitioner," to check their body condition. The machine mimics the pulse-taking method of TCM doctors by collecting data from acupuncture points on the wrists and ankles. It then generates a detailed health analysis within moments, according to Deng Junmei, a doctor at Bozhou Hospital of Traditional Chinese Medicine.

"The device uses smart software for TCM diagnosis. The health report can provide people with a scientific and practical reference for their physical condition," Deng said.

In a healthcare and wellness commercial complex in Bozhou, dubbed the capital of the Chinese medicinal herb industry and home to the country's largest medicinal herbs market and distribution center, a "TCM AI tongue diagnosis device" is also an attraction.

The device scans tongues and faces, collects certain body data and listens to customers before giving health advice, thus employing the four fundamental diagnostic methods of TCM – inspection, auscultation and olfaction, inquiry and palpation.

"It is like having a consultation with a veteran TCM doctor – as the device combines the clinical experience of nearly 100 TCM experts and is powered by an AI large language model," said Zhang Shuai, a staff member at the healthcare and wellness complex.

Notably, the device can assess more than 500 conditions and provide suggestions for maintaining health, while also helping doctors with their diagnosis.

Such smart tools epitomize how the TCM industry across the country is empowering ancient medical practices via the latest smart technologies.

Some TCM hospitals in Beijing and Wuxi, located in east China, have deployed applications and robots powered by AI large language models to help with diagnosis. In addition, many smart devices have entered China's health and wellness market.

Beyond hospitals and the wellness market, smart technologies are also transforming the production of herbal medicine and even the breeding of medicinal herb seedlings.

On the factory floor of Huatuo Traditional Chinese Medicine Co, Ltd. in Bozhou, few workers were in sight – as its smart systems allow full autonomous production in almost all processes.

"Our core product, a heart rescue pill, still follows the ancient formula of Hua Tuo, one of the most renowned doctors in ancient China," said Guo Defeng, deputy general manager of Huatuo Traditional Chinese Medicine Co, Ltd. "Smart production means higher quality with precise temperature control in extracting active ingredients from medicinal herbs."

Bozhou has invested heavily in digitizing its TCM industry – having launched four smart factories and 11 digital workshops, along with an industrial internet platform, to support local companies at a digital industrial park.

At a vertical seedling farm of Bozhou Xinghe Agricultural Development Co, Ltd., herbs grow on rotating sacks that resemble small Ferris wheels. Sensors track conditions in real time, while the smart system adjusts light and temperature to mimic seasonal changes and also provides the most suitable water and soil environment.

"AI has taken our seed breeding to a new level," said Zhou Xuejuan of Bozhou Xinghe Agricultural Development Co. – Xinhua

Andaz Macau marks 2nd anniv with Sino-Luso Gastronomic Bazaar

Rui Pastorin

Andaz Macau hotel at Galaxy Macau in Cotai will mark its second anniversary with the return of the Sino-Luso Gastronomic Bazaar tomorrow, according to integrated resort operator Galaxy Macau.

The event will take place at Andaz Kitchen from noon through 10 p.m., featuring culinary teams from Andaz Macau and Galaxy Macau, with the bazaar set to showcase "a journey across Portugal's diverse regions and China's culinary heartlands from Trás-Os-Montes to the Pearl River Delta".

The statement said that Executive Chef André Lai will lead his team to present signature Portuguese fare, while chefs from Galaxy Macau's Bei Shan Lou, Spicy Sichuan, and Pak Loh Chiu Chow Restaurant will offer Northeast Chinese and Sichuan, as well as Chiu Chow dishes.

There will also be live music, an art-filled ambiance, and a marketplace of artisanal produce on showcase, according to the statement.

Meanwhile, a celebratory four-hand dinner by Executive



This undated handout photo provided by Andaz Macau on Wednesday shows Andaz Kitchen.

Chef Chek Keong Chan of Feng Wei Ju, the nine-consecutive-year 2-Michelin starred Hunan and Sichuan cuisine sanctum at StarWorld Hotel, and Chef André Lai is also set to take place, the statement said.

"The bazaar serves as both a celebration and a bridge, spotlighting the city's ambition as the 'World Centre of Tourism

and Leisure' and a nexus for Sino-Portuguese exchange", the statement said.

The entry to the bazaar is free while one can purchase dining tokens in exchange for dishes and beverages of your choice, according to the statement. One token is priced at 38 patacas, while token packages are available at 168 patacas for 5 tokens, and 328 patacas for 10 tokens. ■



A fairgoer poses for a selfie with a humanoid robot at the 2025 China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) in Beijing yesterday. The 2025 CIFTIS opened yesterday, themed "Embrace Intelligent Technologies, Empower Trade in Services." – Xinhua

China's leapfrog progress from generic to innovative drugs, medical equipment

Analysis

BEIJING – Beyond its well-known strengths in manufacturing, artificial intelligence (AI) and robotics, China is also carving out an edge in the sphere of pharmaceuticals.

At a press conference on the country's progress in the health sector during the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025) yesterday, health officials highlighted an array of homegrown drugs, indicating the country's rising capabilities in health technology, as well as its broader surge in sci-tech innovation.

The release of medicines such as Sugemalimab and Ensartinib, both used to treat lung cancer, has filled gaps in China's portfolio of homegrown therapies, said Guo Yanhong, deputy head of the National Health Commission.

She also singled out Zanubrutinib, a medication used to treat blood cancer, noting that it has been approved in many other countries.

China has risen to second place globally in the development of new medications, with Chinese drugs under development accounting for over a fifth of the global total, according to the official.

Once seen as the poster child for generic drugs, Chinese pharmaceutical companies are now quietly rising in terms of rapid, efficient drug innovation, analysts say.

From the beginning of this year to Aug. 27, the total value of disclosed domestic out-licensing deals was US\$84.53 billion, according to data from Pharmcube and Huatai Securities. This accounts for about half of the global total of US\$163.4 billion.

Notably, these deals included 17 blockbuster overseas transactions, which are deals with a total value exceeding US\$1 billion or upfront payments above US\$200 million.

Ran Mingdong, head of the Academy of Healthcare Security Reform and Development in central China's Hubei Province, said that Chinese companies enjoy advantages in technological innovation, clinical resources and cost control. However, they still need to catch up with respect to platform technologies, global commercialization and cross-border regulatory compliance.

Gary Rieschel, a founding managing partner of Shanghai-based Qiming Venture Partners,

said that the gap between China and the United States in the development of first-in-class drugs has narrowed from 20 years a decade ago to two or three years.

When measured over a decade, this is an astonishing compression of time, he said.

At yesterday's press conference, Guo also highlighted China's innovations in medical devices and equipment. In one cited example, a homegrown photon-counting CT scanner offers up to three times the resolution of conventional machines.

"It scans faster, exposes patients to less radiation, and excels in both efficiency and effectiveness," Guo said.

China has also successfully developed its own orthopedic and endoscopic soft-tissue surgical robots, which provide greater surgical precision and reduce patient trauma.

Domestically developed ECMO machines, artificial hearts, and proton and heavy-ion therapy systems have been applied in clinical settings, according to the official.

Patients can now access a greater range of domestically produced medical equipment that is both affordable and cutting-edge, she added. — Xinhua

China hopes Mexico to exercise caution on tariff adjustment: MOC

BEIJING – China hopes Mexico will exercise caution and think twice before making any tariff adjustment, the country's commerce ministry said last night.

A spokesperson for the Ministry of Commerce (MOC) made the remarks when responding to media reports that Mexico is planning to increase import tariff rates on about 1,400 items from countries that have not signed free trade agreements with it, including China.

China will closely monitor Mexico's tariff moves and carefully evaluate any final measures, said the spokesperson, noting that China and Mexico are each other's important economic and trade partners and China does not want to see such cooperation affected.

Given widespread global opposition to the unilateral tariff impositions by the United States, all countries should strengthen communication and coordination to jointly defend free trade and multilateralism, the spokesperson said, stressing that third-party interests must not be sacrificed under pressure from external coercion. — Xinhua

In this context, any unilateral tariff measures taken by Mexico, even if within the framework of World Trade Organization rules, will be regarded as appeasement and compromise towards unilateral bullying, the spokesperson said.

Once implemented, such measures will not only harm the interests of relevant trading partners, including China, but also severely undermine the certainty of Mexico's business environment and reduce enterprises' confidence in investing in Mexico, according to the spokesperson.

China has consistently advocated for resolving economic and trade disputes through equal dialogue and consultation, the spokesperson noted. "We oppose all forms of unilateralism, protectionism and discriminatory measures, as well as any actions that harm China's interests."

China will take necessary measures based on actual circumstances to resolutely safeguard its legitimate rights and interests, the spokesperson added.

— Xinhua

Chinese brands shine at German auto show

Analysis

MUNICH – Chinese automakers and suppliers drew great attention at the 2025 IAA Mobility, one of the world's largest auto shows, by rolling out advances in electric vehicle (EV) and smart-car technologies. European manufacturers also showcased new models featuring Chinese-made batteries, driver-assistance systems and connected-car features.

The biennial event, running from Tuesday through Sunday in Munich, brings together global carmakers and suppliers to showcase new vehicles and technologies, with this year's spotlight on electrification and digital innovation.

Analysts say the relationship between Chinese and European players is shifting from a sales-driven dynamic to deeper cooperation in technology, product development and supply chains – a trend accelerating the industry's global transition and creating opportunities for both sides.

CHINA'S PRESENCE

More than 100 Chinese automakers and suppliers are exhibiting at this year's show. Their products range from vehicles to batteries and chips, underscoring China's rising strength in power storage, smart cockpits, autonomous driving and connectivity.

XPeng unveiled five models at a futuristic booth featuring a suspended flying car and a humanoid robot; Leapmotor presented compact EV hatchback Lafa5 and SUV B10; and Changan launched the Deepal S05 in Europe, a solid-state battery vehicle that drew long queues for test drives.

On the supplier side, battery giant CATL introduced its Shenxing Pro battery, designed specifically for European needs. The company said the model prevents smoke or fire in thermal runaway, offers long service life, recharges rapidly and remains stable in low temperatures.

Horizon Robotics showcased its Journey 6 series, a smart-driving platform to support functions from basic assistance to citywide autonomous driving. A live demo showed how the system could adapt quickly and safely.

Other suppliers, including Momenta, displayed new technologies, underscoring the depth of China's auto supply chain. The China Association of Automobile Manufacturers said exports are shifting from single products to full "ecosystem exports" that span the industry.

Test drives drew strong local interest, with visitors praising Chinese EVs for cockpit design and driver-assistance features. "This is already ahead of many traditional European brands," said one Munich resident, adding that novelty was "turning into trust."

Registrations of Chinese-brand cars in Germany topped 35,000 in the first eight months of 2025, according to Germany's motor vehicle authority, a sharp increase from a year earlier. Analysts said Chinese firms are moving beyond simply going global to establishing deeper roots through innovation, higher quality and local service.

TECH PARTNERSHIP

Many European models at this year's IAA Mobility featured



Zhu Lingbo, chief technology officer of CATL's international business unit, speaks at the launch of its new electric vehicle (EV) batteries in Munich, southern Germany, on Sunday. China's CATL, the world's largest battery maker, on Sunday unveiled its latest generation of EV batteries in the Bavarian capital for the European market, highlighting a growing presence and commitment in the region. — Xinhua

Chinese technology. What once were largely separate operations are now closely linked partnerships between Chinese suppliers and European automakers.

BMW unveiled its Neue Klasse iX3, developed with Chinese partners and equipped with systems tailored to local digital ecosystems. BMW CEO Oliver Zipse described China as a source of innovation in many fields, saying combining German engineering with Chinese supply creates a new formula.

Audi's Q6L e-tron, launched in August, features Huawei's "Qian Kun" driver-assistance platform, enabling map-free, end-to-end smart driving. Audi CEO Gernot Doellner said cooperation with Chinese suppliers facilitates the integration of leading technologies while meeting the specific demands of the Chinese market.

Partnerships now extend beyond models to production and supply. Stellantis is working with CATL on a battery plant in Spain. XPeng is expanding R&D and sales in Europe through its Volkswagen China partnership. Horizon Robotics has set up a joint venture with Continental to test advanced driver-assistance systems across multiple regions.

A survey by the German Association of the Automotive Industry (VDA) found that nearly 70 percent of respondents plan to increase investment in China, with more than three-quarters prioritizing R&D. Experts described the trend as the start of a "Joint Venture 2.0" era focused on research.

Analysts noted that cooperation is improving efficiency. By leveraging Chinese strengths in electrification and intelligent systems, European automakers

are cutting costs and accelerating model launches. Their strategy is shifting from "in China, for China" to "in China, for the world."

MUTUAL BENEFIT

A report by Germany's Center of Automotive Management said five Chinese companies rank among the world's top 10 most innovative automakers, citing their progress in EVs, autonomous driving and in-car electronics.

The center's head Stefan Bratzel highlighted BYD as an example of vertical integration, combining vehicle production with battery technology, which allows faster development and quicker market response.

Hildegard Muller, president of the VDA, said that the strong presence of Chinese firms at the expo reflected genuine internationalization and that some plan to build plants in Europe. She added that the gathering of Chinese and German manufacturers offered a valuable platform for dialogue and cooperation.

German automotive expert Ferdinand Dudenhöffer offered a more forward-looking perspective, saying that China's scale in battery technology has already strengthened German competitiveness, and closer cooperation with German automakers could yield mutually beneficial results, with China playing a central role in the industry's future.

Experts noted that Chinese automakers, once focused on individual products abroad, are now moving toward full-chain capabilities and technology, signaling a new phase in their presence in Europe. — Xinhua