

New Govt Service Centre in Areia Preta to open Monday



Macau Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) President Chao Wai Ieng looks on during yesterday's press conference at the current Government Service Centre in Areia Preta district. — Photos: Armindo Neves

Vehicles drive past the new Government Services Centre, scheduled to open next Monday, on Avenida de Venceslau de Morais (慕拉士大馬路) yesterday.



Armindo Neves

Macau Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) President Chao Wai Ieng stressed yesterday that the new Government Service Centre in Areia Preta will be located in a government-owned social housing complex so there is no longer the need to pay around 20 million patacas in rent per year.

The social housing estate stands on plot of land previously occupied by a power station of electricity utility CEM.

Chao made the remarks during a press conference which was also attended by Social Security Fund (FSS) President Chan Pou Wan, Legal Affairs Bureau (DSAJ) Deputy Director

Lou Soi Cheong, Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau (SAFP) Deputy Director Chan Chi Kin, Identification Services Bureau (DSI) Deputy Director Chan Un Lai, Public Security Police (PSP) Deputy Commissioner Ng Sou Peng, and Financial Services Bureau (DSF) Acting Deputy Director Kuok Iat Hoi.

The one-hour press conference was held at the current Government Service Centre on Rua Nova da Areia Preta in Areia Preta district.

Chao said that the current service centre, which commenced operations in 2009, has recorded over 10 million users in the past 16 years. The centre provides residents with more than a hundred “essential services”,

such as the issuing of proof-of-life certificates, processing of the government's wealth-sharing scheme, social security matters, and ID card processing.

In order to offer more convenient and high-quality public services to residents, the service centre will be relocated from Rua Nova da Areia Preta (黑沙環新街) to Avenida de Venceslau de Morais (慕拉士大馬路), where it will start operating on Monday, October 6.

According to a IAM statement, the new service centre will be equipped with 57 counters, providing more than 300 services from 24 public entities. The services cover a wide range of areas, including identity

documentation, public works and commercial registry procedures, “comprehensive” municipal and social affairs, social security matters, as well as a range of other kinds of registration, taxation, residency and stay-permit affairs, the statement said.

The statement pointed that through the “Macao One Account” app, appointments and queue tickets can be arranged digitally, but residents can also get various kinds of tickets in person at the centre. Besides, residents can enter their smartphone number at the centre's ticketing kiosks to receive an e-ticket number and queue updates via SMS.

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Portugal tightens immigration laws with far-right support

LISBON – The Portuguese government yesterday adopted stricter immigration laws that make it harder to enter the country, pushed through with the support of the far-right.

The reforms, supported by the right and far-right, are an amended version of a text approved by parliament last July, but vetoed by President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa over the Constitutional Court's objections to its family reunification provisions.

Government spokesman António Leitão Amaro has defended the reform, saying

“the time of irresponsible immigration is over” and underlining what he called a need to “control and regulate flows in order to integrate with humanity”.

From now on, the right to family reunification for immigrants will only apply after at least two years of legal residence in Portugal.

But the amended reform includes exceptions that allow for a shorter period, particularly for married couples, or even eliminating it altogether for minor children.

Only highly skilled workers are eligible for job search visas.

Brazilians, Portugal's largest migrant population, will no longer benefit from a regularisation mechanism after entering the country with a tourist visa.

The raft of measures voted in July also stipulated the creation of a new police unit tasked with combating irregular migration and deporting people.

Lawmakers are still debating another element of the reform regarding conditions

for acquiring Portuguese nationality.

Last year, the minority rightwing government revoked a provision that allowed migrants to apply for regularisation by proving that they had worked and contributed to social security for at least one year, even if they had entered Portugal with a tourist visa.

By the end of 2024, there were more than 1.5 million non-Portuguese people living in the Iberian country – around 15 percent of the total population and nearly four times more than in 2017.

— AFP

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Xi calls for forging ahead with determination in advancing Chinese modernization

President Xi Jinping yesterday called on the nation to keep on working hard and forge ahead with determination in advancing Chinese modernization.

— Story on p. 13

Trump gives Hamas ultimatum on Gaza deal

US President Donald Trump yesterday gave Hamas an ultimatum of “three or four days” to respond to his plan to end the war in Gaza, as the militant group reviewed the proposal backed by Israel.

— Story on p. 16

Creator says AI actress is ‘piece of art’ after backlash

The creator of an AI actress who exploded across the internet over the weekend has insisted she is an artwork, after a fierce backlash from the creative community.

— Story on p. 19

National Day Holiday Notice

This is to inform our readers that we will be taking a day off today to join all of you in celebrating National Day, which marks the 76th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC). We wish everyone a meaningful and pleasant holiday. Our team will be back to work tomorrow, so the *Post's* next print edition will be published on Friday. However, our website, as always, will be updated 24/7.

Police nab local woman for stealing 2 smartphones

Ada Lei

A local woman was arrested on Friday for stealing two smartphones, worth 12,400 patacas in total, from a shop, Public Security Police (PSP) spokeswoman Kong Chi Ian said during a regular press conference yesterday.

Kong identified the suspect as a female in her forties, surnamed Ng, who told the police that she's jobless.

According to Kong, the police received a report on June 18 from the owner of a shop on Rua Três do Bairro Va Tai (華大新村第三街). The owner told the police that he had placed two smartphones on a table at the entrance of the shop while inventorying goods, and later discovered that both phones had vanished. Using the shop's surveillance footage, the victim discovered that a woman had stolen the phones while he was distracted. The victim then immediately reported a total loss of 12,400 patacas to the police.

Through their citywide CCTV surveillance system, the police

identified Ng as the suspect and summoned her to a police station on Friday. Under questioning, Ng admitted to stealing the phones out of greed, and claimed that she had the two phones at her home.

Ng has been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing a theft charge. ■



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

Govt Headquarters to hold Open Day this weekend

Ida Cheong

The Macau SAR Government Headquarters Open Day will be held on Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., according to a statement released by the Government Information Bureau (GCS) yesterday.

The statement said that this year's floral arrangements for the two-day event are themed "15th National Games", and landscaping has used a wide array of flowers and plants, aiming to create a festive and vibrant atmosphere, and encourage public engagement with the upcoming National Games, and representing its unique elements.

The 15th National Games will take place in Guangzhou, Hong Kong and Macau on November 9-21.

The Open Day activity will be held at the local government headquarters on Avenida da Praia Grande, featuring large scale themed display areas setup in the mansion and its grounds and gardens, according to the statement.

The statement noted that during the event, residents and tourists will have the opportunity to visit the headquarters' Multi-Purpose Room, Lotus Room, Grand Hall,



This undated handout photo provided by the Macau Government Information Bureau (GCS), shows the Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR) Government Headquarters on Avenida da Praia Grande.

Green Hall, Yellow Hall and Blue Hall.

Moreover, a garden tour, starting with the lotus pond, where large floral arrangements and decorations will be set up as photo spots, and performances by the Macau Police Band and Macau Conservatory students, will be provided.

Meanwhile, souvenirs will be offered to visitors while supplies last to commemorate the Open Day, the statement said, adding that the Macau Post and

Telecommunications Bureau (CTT) will set up a temporary postal counter near Nam Van Lake, offering commemorative postmark services and philatelic products related to the event, the statement said.

The statement highlighted that selfie sticks, umbrellas, drinks and food are not permitted, and neither are pets allowed.

For more information, please visit openday.dsasg.gov.mo or contact 2872 6886 during office hours for enquiries. ■



DSI launches online application for NRW's Certificate of Criminal Record

Khalel Vallo

The Identification Services Bureau (DSI) announced in a statement that it launched a new service on the "Macao One Account" app yesterday, allowing non-resident workers (NRWs) to apply online for the Certificate of Criminal Record for non-first-time application.

Prior to the launch, according to the official Macau Government website (www.gov.mo), if a non-Macau resident wants to apply for the Certificate of Criminal Record, the applicant can lodge an application at DSI by producing proof of residence/stay in Macau and other valid identification documents, for instance the original copy of his or her "Non-Resident Worker's Permit" and a valid travel document or a notice of residence permit issued by Public Security Police (PSP).

According to the bureau, the new service enables holders of a NRW ID, who have previously applied for the certificate, to complete the process through the "Certificate of Criminal Record" service on their One Account app.

Applicants are required to authorise the bureau to obtain their personal data from the Public Security Police, before completing identification procedures and



This infographic provided by the Identification Services Bureau (DSI) yesterday shows the new service launched on "Macao One Account" for non-resident workers (NRWs) to apply for their Certificate of Criminal Record.

making an online payment, the statement said.

Applicants can choose to receive the certificate in either paper or electronic format, the statement said, adding that a transfer service is also available, allowing the bureau to send the

certificate directly to a designated government entity of their choice, the statement added.

The initiative aims to streamline administrative formalities, reduce the need for in-person counter services, and improve convenience for the public, the statement said. ■

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As we honor The National Day of the People's Republic of China, Wynn takes inspiration from the Peace Dove – the inaugural national gift designed by renowned Chinese traditional artisan Master Chang Shana – as we share our best wishes for enduring prosperity and harmony. This masterpiece is now residing in Wynn's art collection.



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'Swan' presents acrobatic show at The Venetian Theatre

Rui Pastorin

The "Commemorative Performance of the 76th Anniversary of the National Day of the People's Republic of China and the Haojiang Moonlight Night - New Acrobatic Show 'Swan'" was performed at The Venetian Theatre in Cotai last night, with the around two-hour show delivering a story of courage and determination.

The first of the two shows at the theatre, "Swan" was created by Guangzhou Acrobatic Arts Theatre Co. Ltd and incorporates drama, acrobatics and ballet, among others. It also draws inspiration from the "timeless melodies" of Western ballet classic "Swan Lake", according to a recent Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) statement.

Featuring a top artistic team, the story follows acrobat Yu Meng, focusing on the character's growth throughout her journey. "Through the interweaving of the 'reality' and 'dream' narratives, it portrays Yu Meng's unparalleled courage in the face of adversity and her unwavering faith despite perplexity", according to the Enjoy Macao Ticketing website.

The show, divided into two acts, was directed by choreographer Zhao Ming in conjunction with artistic director Wu Zhengdan, a performer and founder of Shoulder Ballet, the IC statement said. It has been chosen for the National Arts Creative Fund Programme and honoured with the "Outstanding Production Award", the statement added.

Another show is scheduled for tonight at 8 p.m., with the bureau noting in a statement last night that a limited number of tickets are still available. Prices range between 200 patacas and 400 patacas.



-Photos: Rui Pastorin

Australian Wine Tasting Showcase debuts in Macau



Sommeliers and aficionados engage with wine sales reps during Macau's first Australian Wine Tasting Showcase at Mandarin Oriental hotel in Nape yesterday. – Photo: Khalel Vallo

Khalel Vallo

The first Australian Wine Tasting Showcase in Macau was held yesterday at Mandarin Oriental Macau hotel in Nape between 1:30 p.m. and 6 p.m., featuring over 25 wineries from across Australia and drawing sommeliers and oenophiles from the Greater Bay Area (GBA).

Organised with the support of the Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade), the showcase brought together wineries from South Australia, New South Wales, Victoria, and Western Australia.

Austrade Hong Kong Senior Business Development Manager Wilson Tang (鄧永基) told the *Post* that the one-day event aimed “to show that Australian wine is not only of high quality but also offers excellent value, with a wide range of tastes shaped by different climates and altitudes,” adding that this was the first time such a showcase had been held in Macau.

The wineries featured in the event included Hardys Wines, Grant Burge, and Auld Family Wines.

According to Jock Auld of Auld Family Wines, his family has been making wine in

South Australia for seven generations. Based in Hong Kong, Auld distributes wines across Asia, ranging from everyday value options to premium labels. He emphasised that a common misconception was that Australian wine is only cheap. “Australians make fantastic quality wines with world-class stories and world-class heritage,” he said, adding that his objective was to surprise drinkers with quality and value rather than unexpected styles.

Meanwhile, Ronald Sit, marketing manager of HK-based Vinarchy, highlighted the sustainability efforts behind Australian winemaking. He said that vineyard management throughout the growing season was aimed to ensure quality, while natural farming practices and reduced glass bottle weight help minimise environmental impact. “Sustainability is part of everything, from crop management to packaging,” he said.

With its debut in Macau, the Australian Wine Tasting Showcase introduced both vintners and aficionados to the diversity and value of Australian wines, with the aim of underlining Macau's growing role as a platform for international food and beverage (F&B) exchange. ■

‘Laahn Gwai Lau’ resident, barista pan Golden Week pedestrianisation

Vox pop by *Armindo Neves*

According to a statement by the Economic and Technological Development Bureau last week, in order to manage the expected increase in pedestrian and traffic flow in Old Taipa Village and the Ruins of St Paul's area during the National Day/Mid-Autumn Golden Week, both areas will temporarily be pedestrianised, from today through October 7 between noon and 7 p.m.

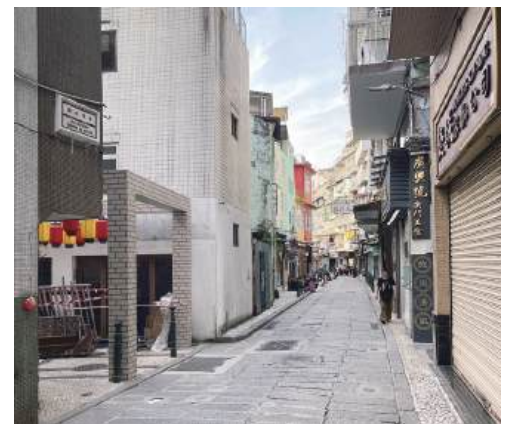
In the peninsula's old quarters, the pedestrianisation will cover the entire Rua de Nossa Senhora do Amparo (關前後街) during the eight-day period, when a section of Rua dos Mercadores (營地大街) and Travessa do Armazém Velho (爛鬼樓巷) will be closed to vehicular traffic and all parking spaces in the area will be suspended between 12 p.m. and 7 p.m. every day. Additionally, parking spaces in the area have already been suspended since Sunday, September 28 and will remain so until October 8.

Rua de Nossa Senhora do Amparo (關前後街) is a street in a neighbourhood colloquially known in Cantonese as “Laahn Gwai Lau” (爛鬼樓 – “Dilapidated Ghost Building”).

A male resident told the *Post* yesterday that the designation of “Laahn Gwai Lau” as a pedestrianised area would make it inconvenient for parking his motorcycle. The resident, who asked not to be named, said that he will need to move his motorbike elsewhere once the pedestrianisation begins and will only be able to retrieve it in the evening. In his opinion, the measure will have only a limited effect on boosting the local economy, as most pedestrians just pass through the area

quickly without spending money in shops there. He voiced a sense of resignation about the vehicular traffic control measures.

A woman working in the area as a barista told the *Post* that while she expects the pedestrianisation to increase foot traffic, the actual benefits to local businesses would remain limited, as most tourists pass through the neighbourhood quickly without stopping to spend. She highlighted the practical inconvenience caused by the policy, noting that her employer now has to park his car at the rather distant “Pak Kong Carpark” near Ponte 16 Hotel. Criticising the government's pedestrianisation planning as inadequate, she said that the lack of on-the-ground assessment of local needs had resulted in a superficial policy that failed to effectively revitalise the community economy. ■



Pedestrians walk past shops on Rua de Nossa Senhora do Amparo in the UNESCO-listed Historic Centre of Macau's “Laahn Gwai Lau” neighbourhood yesterday. – Photo: Armindo Neves

Police bust illegal currency exchange dealer

Ada Lei

The Judiciary Police (PJ) arrested a man from the Chinese mainland on Monday for engaging in illegal currency exchange activities, PJ spokesman Cheong Siu Keong said during a regular press conference yesterday.

Cheong identified the suspect as a 41-year-old male surnamed Yao who claimed to be jobless.

According to Cheong, PJ officers on patrol outside a casino in Cotai on Monday witnessed Yao engaging in an illegal currency exchange deal with a middle-aged male gambler. The gambler then entered the casino with HK\$2,000 in chips for gambling. The police intercepted the gambler and later apprehended Yao in the casino.

Cheong noted that Yao had exchanged HK\$2,000 in chips for 1,990 yuan with the gambler. The police seized HK\$71,000 in chips from Yao, along with HK\$500 in cash from the gambler.

Under questioning, Yao admitted



Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Cheong Siu Keong looks on during yesterday's regular press conference. – Photo: Ada Lei

to having engaged in illegal currency exchange activities since the beginning of September, claiming to have earned a total of 6,000 yuan.

Yao has been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing an illegal currency exchange charge. ■

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China & PSCs' culture-fest with 80 sessions starts this month

Ida Cheong

The 7th "Encounter in Macao – Arts and Cultural Festival between China and the Portuguese-speaking Countries" will be held between this month and December, featuring over 80 sessions in seven series in diverse forms, including visual arts, films, music, picture books and carnivals, Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) President Deland Leong Wai Man announced at a press conference.

Yesterday's press conference was held at the Macau Cultural Centre (CCM).

Leong noted that in this year's event, over 780 artists and performers from home and abroad will participate, offering a cross-regional cultural feast for residents and tourists from around the world.

Meanwhile, the event will be held in parallel with the "GEG Lusofonia Festival" from October 24 to November 2 at the Taipa Houses complex, featuring cultural booths from 10 Portuguese-speaking communities, as well as the Macanese community, with a focus on Angolan culture, including music, gastronomy, handicrafts and games, and showcasing the vitality and splendour of Chinese and Lusophone cultures, Leong said.

Customarily, the term "Macanese" denotes Macau's



Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) President Deland Leong Wai Man address 7th "Encounter in Macao – Arts and Cultural Festival between China and the Portuguese-speaking Countries" press conference at the Macau Cultural Centre (CCM) yesterday. – Photo: Ida Cheong

community of mixed Portuguese and Asian descent, and its diaspora.

The Portuguese-speaking communities represented at the event comprise Angola, Brazil, Cabo Verde (Cape Verde), Damão, Diu and Goa of the Republic of India, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal, São Tomé and Príncipe, and Timor Leste (East Timor).

Leong added that the 7th "China and the Portuguese-speaking Countries Film Festival", themed "Transcending Boundaries", will be held in conjunction with the programme

of the "Culture City of East Asia", showcasing outstanding works and films from the Chinese mainland, including the opening film "Green Wave", directed by Xu Lei, which will be screened at Galaxy Cinemas in Cotai on November 14, followed by nearly 30 film screenings at Cinematheque•Passion (戀愛·電影館) from November 15 to December 5.

Meanwhile, art groups from the Chinese mainland and eight of the world's nine Portuguese-speaking countries will present music and dance performances in various districts during the event, including Iao Hon Market Park (祐漢街市公園), Lok Yeung Fa Yuen (綠楊花園), and Flower City Park (花城花園) in Taipa, enabling residents and tourists to immerse themselves in the vitality and charm of Chinese and Portuguese-speaking cultures.

Moreover, three Handbrewing Coffee Workshop sessions, the Annual Arts Exhibition between China and the Portuguese-speaking Countries, Chinese and Portuguese Picture Book Fair, and Sino-Lusophone Concert, as well as several wine tasting workshops, will be held during three-month event.

For more information, please visit the event's official website at www.icm.gov.mo/FCP. ■

IC unveils 1st round of activities, performers for hush!

Rui Pastorin

The Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) unveiled in a Monday statement the first round of activities and performers for the upcoming "hush! Beach Concerts x Urban Sports Wellfest 2025" slated for October 18 and 19 at Hac Sa Beach and the adjacent Temporary Green and Leisure area.

The two-day event is organised by the bureau in conjunction with integrated resort operator MGM.

The beach concerts, the main event, marks its 20th edition and features East Asian performers, namely the Chinese mainland's new-generation rock band "SUMMERWARZ", South Korean music group "Balming Tiger", Japanese rapper "Shing02", Taiwanese musical prodigy "Feng E", South Korea's bassist "H.J.Freaks", emerging Japanese rock band "muque" and the all-female metal band "MakeMake" from Taiwan.

Moreover, the statement said that "Shing02", "Feng E" and "H.J.Freaks" will be presenting prelude concerts, for which registration is open, as well as rap and instrument workshops.

The statement said that the event will also feature outdoor fitness challenges and a sports zone on the lawn.

The "Urban Sports Wellfest" will

feature Hong Kong artist and dance mentor Fatboy@ERROR, champion of the "Physical: 100 Season 2" and South Korean CrossFit superstar Amotti, popular dance instructor Gun Gun from Thailand, and acclaimed Hong Kong yoga instructor Alex Lam as workout instructors guiding participants across a range of intensities and categories.

Other sport and wellness-related activities scheduled include an outdoor HYROX PFT (aka the HYROX Physical Fitness Test), fitness and dance classes, morning gong baths, stretching courses and Pilates classes, the statement said.

The hush! Kids Sports Playground that integrates elements like music, workouts and the arts are also to be set up, along with on-site workshops, the statement said.

Admission to the concerts is free, with registration required for some of the events and activities, which can be done via the Macao One Account until 11:59 p.m. on Sunday.

Tickets for the Urban Sports Wellfest 2025, meanwhile, are priced from 240 patacas, and are available on the MGM website and the MGM Cotai box office, among other platforms.

More details are available on www.icm.gov.mo/hush and www.mgm.mo. ■



This photo provided by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) on Monday shows a previous show being held at the "hush! Hot Wave Main Stage".

Macao SAR gov't, commissioner's office of Chinese foreign ministry strongly oppose US so-called trafficking report

The Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) government and the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China in the Macao SAR yesterday expressed firm opposition regarding the US Department of State's so-called 2025 Trafficking in Persons Report, which ranked Macao Tier 3.

The security authority of the Macao SAR government noted that Macao has rigorously implemented the Law No. 6/2008 "Combat the Crime of Trafficking in Persons," fully implemented international conventions applicable to the Macao SAR, and actively prevented and deterred human trafficking crime.

Macao's Human Trafficking Deterrent Measures Concern Committee brings together government departments and NGOs to fight trafficking and related crimes,

the authority said, adding that through joint efforts, cases of human trafficking in Macao remain extremely rare or zero, underscoring the city's reputation as one of the safest in the world.

The SAR government condemned the so-called report as a smear, saying it ignores facts and interferes in Macao's internal affairs. It vowed to continue working with the community, judicial authorities, and international partners to strengthen prevention strategies and eradicate trafficking and exploitation.

The commissioner's office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China also voiced strong dissatisfaction and firm opposition. A spokesperson said the US so-called report disregards Macao's long-standing and effective efforts against trafficking, denies widely recognized progress, and rudely interferes in Macao's affairs

and China's internal matters.

Since Macao's return to the motherland, the spokesperson noted, the SAR government, backed by the central government, has actively advanced prevention, victim protection, and international cooperation, keeping trafficking cases at an extremely low or even zero level.

The spokesperson added that Macao's stable society, inclusive culture, and well-regulated labor environment are broadly acknowledged by the international community, attracting more global talent to live and work in the city. The United States turns a blind eye to these facts and repeatedly issues biased reports. Instead of pointing fingers at others, the spokesperson urged Washington to examine itself against the "highest standards" it claims to uphold. – Xinhua

HK remains 4th largest global foreign exchange center: survey

HONG KONG – A survey released yesterday by the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) showed that Hong Kong remained the fourth largest global foreign exchange center and the top global offshore Renminbi business hub.

The BIS published the results of the 2025 Triennial Central Bank Survey of Foreign Exchange and Over-the-counter (OTC) Derivatives Markets Turnover.

According to the survey results, the average daily turnover of foreign exchange transactions in Hong Kong increased by 27.2 percent to US\$883.1 billion in April 2025 from US\$694.4 billion in April 2022.

Hong Kong retained the top spot as the largest offshore Renminbi foreign exchange and OTC interest rate derivatives center. The average daily turnover of Renminbi foreign exchange transactions grew by 64.8

percent to US\$315.1 billion in April 2025 from US\$191.2 billion in April 2022.

As regards OTC interest rate derivatives, the average daily turnover in Hong Kong was US\$84.1 billion in April 2025, with US dollar, renminbi (yuan) and Australian dollar OTC interest rate derivatives being the most actively traded in the Hong Kong market.

– Xinhua, MPD

New Govt Service Centre in Areia Preta to open Monday

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In order to further enhance self-service and cross-border services, the statement underlined, the centre has expanded the government's 24-hour self-service centre, providing over 50 self-service options from various government entities. Additionally, a new "Cross-Border Self-Service Area" will be available on the centre's new premises, providing convenience for residents and businesses to handle more than 200 frequently used services, including retirement, employment, taxation, transportation, and housing-related matters.

In order to enhance the user experience, the statement stressed, the service centre is designed in soft colours with open spaces, aiming to shorten the distance between service staff and the public, and

facilities such as waiting and rest areas, a self-service photocopying area, parent-child public toilets and a nursing room have also been added. After relocation to its new location, the office hours, telephone and fax numbers, website and email address of the Government Services Centre will remain unchanged, the statement said.

According to the statement, the service centre will open next Monday at 12 noon for business. After the Mid-Autumn Festival, a public holiday, next Tuesday, the new centre's operating times will remain unchanged, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. between Monday and Friday. It will be closed on Saturdays, Sundays, and public holidays.

Meanwhile, the current Government Service Centre on Rua Nova da Areia Preta will close on Friday at 6 p.m. for good. ■

Galaxy's 2025 Dec 7 marathon places rise to 1,800

Tony Wong

The 2025 Galaxy Entertainment Macao International Marathon will be held on Sunday, December 7, with the total number of places available for this year's event, comprising marathon, half-marathon and mini-marathon, to remain unchanged at 12,000 from last year's edition, but the number of places for the marathon will be increased by 200 to 1,800 this time from the 1,600 places available in last year's edition, the co-organisers announced during a press conference yesterday.

As last year, the 2025 edition of the event is jointly organised by the Macau Sports Bureau (ID), Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG), and the General Association of Athletics of Macau (AGAM).

After its inception in the early 1980s, Macau's annual marathon will be held for the 44th time this year.

The event had been title-sponsored by GEG every year since 2004, but the gaming operator has only been one of the organisers since 2023.

According to a statement handed out during yesterday's press conference, 12,000 places will be available for this year's event, comprising 1,800 for the marathon, 4,800 for



Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG) Director Philip Cheng Yee Sing (from left to right), Sports Bureau (ID) Vice President See Lei Si Leng, and General Association of Athletics of Macau (AGAM) President Chan Pou Sin pose for a group photo after yesterday's press conference at the Galaxy International Convention Centre (GICC) in Cotai.

– Photo: Tony Wong

the half-marathon, and 5,400 for the mini-marathon.

The 12,000 places available for last year's event comprised 1,600 for the marathon, 4,800 for the half-marathon, and 5,600 for the mini-marathon.

This means that there will be 200 more

places for the marathon available for registration this year compared to last year, but 200 fewer places for the mini-marathon this time.

According to yesterday's statement, the registration for the marathon and the half-marathon this time will open from 9 a.m. on Saturday, October 11, while the registration for the mini-marathon will start at 9 a.m. on Sunday, October 12. As in recent years, the registration can only be made online, on the event's official website (<https://www.macaomarathon.com>), or via its dedicated mobile app "Macao International Marathon". Both are available in Chinese and English.

As last year, this time the races will start at the Olympic Sports Centre's stadium in Taipa, with both the marathon and half-

marathon races to commence at 6 a.m. and the mini-marathon race to start at 6:15 a.m. The marathon and half-marathon courses will cross the Governor Nobre de Carvalho Bridge (colloquially known as the "Old Bridge"), past the UNESCO World Heritage-listed A-Ma Temple and across Sai Van Bridge, on the way to the finish line, according to the statement.

Delivering a speech during yesterday's press conference, held at the Galaxy International Convention Centre (GICC) in Cotai, ID Vice President See Lei Si Leng said that thanks to close collaboration of the three co-organisers, the event this year could be expected to be even more spectacular and attract more foreign runners, consolidating the status of the Macao International Marathon as a signature sporting event in the city, and contributing to the city's appropriate economic diversification drive.

Also delivering a speech, GEG Director Philip Cheng Yee Sing noted that GEG has been involved in the event for 22 consecutive years, serving as one of the organisers since 2023, with this year marking the third consecutive year to retain the role.

Also delivering a speech, AGAM President Chan Pou Sin noted that this year the event will be in its 44th year, approaching half a century.

Chan underlined that the organisation of this year's event is now vigorously underway, where a "professional" team of over 1,000 members has been set up, with the team members tasked with different types of work.

More information about this year's edition of the event can be checked on: <https://www.gov.mo/en/news/369990/> as well as on the event's official website. ■

Licences of 100 'blue' radio taxis expire



This file photo taken in June shows a "blue" radio taxi travelling along Avenida do Dr. Rodrigo Rodrigues in Zape. – Photo: Maria Cheang Ut Meng

Tony Wong

There are no more operations of the 100 "blue" radio taxis from today as their licences expired last night, while the 200 "red" radio taxis continue to be in service.

The Transport Bureau (DSAT) issued a statement on the matter yesterday.

The government granted two concessions for the city's radio taxi services, which were granted to the same company, Macao Radio Taxi Services Limited, at two different times. The first concession, with 100 radio taxis (blue), commenced on April 1, 2017 and was scheduled to expire on September 30 this year, while the second concession, with 200 radio taxis (red), began on December 1, 2019 and is now scheduled to end on May 31, 2028.

The "blue" taxis, unlike their "red" counterparts, had a calling fee of 5 patacas.

The company's taxis are not allowed to pick up those hailing a cab in the street. To use the company's ride-hailing service, prospective passengers can phone its call centre or use its own mobile ride-hailing app.

The company's radio taxis are officially known as "special taxis".

Common taxis – as opposed to special radio taxis – are colloquially known as "black taxis" ("hak dik" in Cantonese), as the colour of common taxis is black.

Yesterday's statement noted that after the expiration of the "blue" radio taxi agreement, there are currently still over 1,400 taxis in service in the city in total, comprising common taxis as well as the 200 "red" radio taxis.

According to data on the bureau's website, at the end of the second quarter, there were 1,583 taxis in service in the city,

comprising 1,283 "black" taxis and 300 "special" taxis.

Yesterday's statement also said that the Macao Radio Taxi Services Limited has arranged for about 70 percent of its "blue" taxi drivers to work for its fleet of "red" taxis.

Before the expiration of the "blue" radio taxi agreement, according to the statement, about 200 drivers worked for the company's fleet of "blue" taxis.

The statement also said that some of the remaining 30 percent of "blue" taxi drivers want to continue to work as cabbies, because of which the bureau is asking companies operating "black" taxis in the city to provide their respective job vacancy information to them.

In addition to being allowed to pick up passengers while travelling around the city, "black" taxis are also legally allowed to provide a radio taxi service.

According to the current law regulating the city's taxi sector, which took effect in June 2019, only companies are allowed to bid for a licence to operate "black" taxis.

Yesterday's statement also noted that with the aim of increasing the number of "black" taxis in the city more rapidly, the government has decided to grant two more company licences to operate common taxis without launching a public tender, enabling 100 new taxis to hit the road by the second quarter of next year.

Following a public tender process, the government granted 10 company licences last year to operate common taxis, valid for eight years, with each company to operate 50 vehicles. The 500 new common taxis have gradually come into service since late last year. ■

Macao Water Celebrates the 76th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China



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Xi calls for forging ahead with determination in advancing Chinese modernization

BEIJING – President Xi Jinping yesterday called on the nation to keep on working hard and forge ahead with determination in advancing Chinese modernization.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks at a reception held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing to celebrate the 76th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

China's National Day falls on October 1.

Li Qiang presided over the reception. Zhao Leji, Wang Huning, Cai Qi, Ding Xuexiang, Li Xi and Han Zheng attended the event along with around 800 Chinese and foreign guests.

"Achieving the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation is an unprecedented cause," Xi said in his address. "Both aspirations and challenges inspire us to seize every moment and persevere with unwavering vigor."

Xi noted that over the 76 years since the founding of New China, the CPC has led the people to score splendid accomplishments through a spirit of self-reliance and continuous efforts.

Not long ago, China commemorated the

80th anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War, which has inspired patriotism across the nation and pooled the strength for endeavor, Xi said.

He emphasized the importance of continuing to draw on historical experience to achieve greater national development.

Amid a complex situation this year, China has made new progress and achievements in further comprehensively deepening reform, promoting high-quality development, improving the people's wellbeing, and advancing full and rigorous Party self-governance, Xi said.

Noting that the fourth plenary session of the 20th CPC Central Committee is scheduled for next month to study suggestions on the formulation of the 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-2030) for national economic and social development, Xi urged sound planning and implementation of the goals, tasks and strategic measures for the five-year plan to ensure decisive progress toward basically achieving socialist modernization.

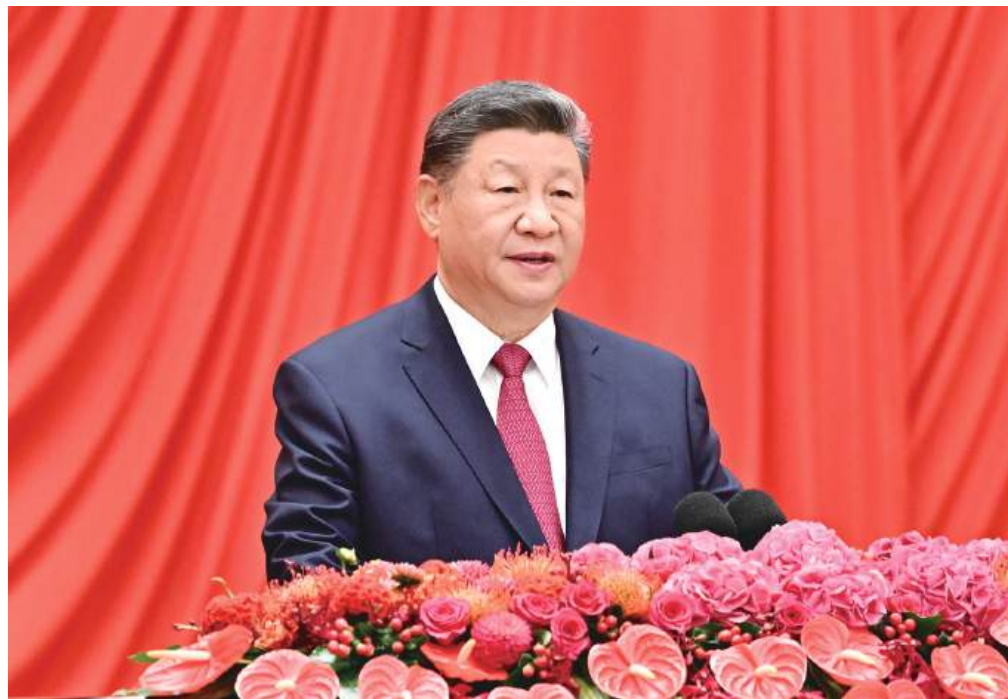
He underscored the need to unswervingly implement the "one country, two systems" policy,

and support Hong Kong and Macao special administrative regions in better integrating into the country's overall development, as well as in growing their economies and improving the people's wellbeing.

Efforts should be made to deepen exchanges and cooperation across the Taiwan Strait, resolutely oppose "Taiwan independence" separatist activities and external interference, and firmly safeguard national sovereignty and

territorial integrity, Xi noted.

Against the backdrop of rapid global changes unseen in a century, "we must practice true multilateralism, promote the implementation of the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, the Global Civilization Initiative and the Global Governance Initiative, and work with other countries to build a community with a shared future for humanity," Xi said. – Xinhua



President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, delivers an important speech at a reception to celebrate the 76th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing yesterday. – Xinhua

Xi pays tribute to national heroes on Martyrs' Day

BEIJING – President Xi Jinping and other leaders of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the state attended a ceremony yesterday morning at Tian'anmen Square in central Beijing to present flower baskets to fallen national heroes.

The event was held to mark Martyrs' Day, a day ahead of the National Day in China. This year marks the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War.

The other leaders included Li Qiang, Zhao Leji, Wang Huning, Cai Qi, Ding Xuexiang, Li Xi and Han Zheng. They were joined by representatives from all walks of life at the ceremony.

At 10 a.m., all attendees sang the national anthem, followed by a moment of silence in tribute to the heroes who sacrificed their lives for the liberation of the Chinese people and the development of the People's Republic of China.

Nine large flower baskets were placed in front of the Monument to the People's Heroes.

Xi and other leaders walked up to the foot of the monument, where he straightened the ribbons on the baskets. Then, they walked around the monument to pay their tributes.

The baskets, with ribbons reading "Eternal Glory to the People's Heroes," were presented in the name of the CPC Central Committee; the National People's Congress Standing Committee; the State Council; the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference; the Central Military Commission; non-Communist parties, the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce, and patriots without party affiliations; people's organizations and people from all walks of life; veterans, retired senior officials and the relatives of martyrs; and Chinese Young Pioneers.

The ceremony was presided over by Yin Li, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and secretary of the CPC Beijing Municipal Committee. – Xinhua



Xi Jinping straightens the ribbon on a flower basket during a ceremony to present flower baskets to fallen national heroes at Tian'anmen Square in Beijing yesterday. The event was held to mark Martyrs' Day, a day ahead of National Day. – Xinhua

Congratulations on
the 76th anniversary
of the establishment of
the People's Republic of China



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Better well-being stems from targeted actions

China Daily Editorial

People-centered governance is the defining attribute of both China's governing principle and its governing approach. In order to better ensure that the people enjoy the fruits of development, a balance must be struck not only between different regions and sectors, but also between quantity and quality, growth and fairness, and development and stability.

The achievements China has made in advancing people's well-being since 2021 are encapsulated in a report released by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) on Sunday.

The report on social and livelihood development since the implementation of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-25) clearly shows how the improved well-being of the people is not only "the greatest political achievement" of the Communist Party of China and the government, but also of "the utmost importance" for Chinese modernization, as President Xi Jinping said.

For instance, the per capita disposable income reached 41,314 yuan (US\$5,747) in 2024, up 5.3 percent year-on-year in nominal terms, with rural incomes growing faster than urban ones, which has helped to narrow the gap between regions. Public services such as education and healthcare have become more balanced and accessible, with gross preschool enrollment reaching 92 percent, 6.8 percentage points higher than 2020, and the average life expectancy rising to 79 years, 1.07 years higher than 2020, and five years higher than the global average.

That China has steadily improved people's well-being during this period, despite the challenges and headwinds it has encountered, testifies to the effective leadership of the CPC.

The pragmatism, pertinence and responsiveness of policymakers – coupled with the efficient implementation of their policies – are evident in areas such as

employment, healthcare, housing, education, public cultural services and social security.

Advances in technology, the growth of the green economy and the pursuit of sustainable development have all been aligned with the promotion of urbanization and the continuation of reform and opening-up in sectors directly or indirectly related to people's livelihoods.

The comprehensive policy framework and systematic approach explain why broad-spectrum improvements have been achieved simultaneously across relevant sectors.

For example, the number of practicing doctors per 1,000 people rose from 2.9 in 2020 to 3.4 in 2024, while cultural participation expanded dramatically, with 1.07 billion people now regularly using online video platforms. Such progress reflects the synergy between social development and economic modernization.

The progress China has made

in improving people's well-being since 2021 not only lays a solid foundation for further advancement in the years ahead but also provides valuable experience and reference for the design and implementation of the 15th Five-Year Plan (2026–30), which the CPC Central Committee Political Bureau discussed at a meeting on Monday.

As the NBS report rightly notes, the next five years might present more challenges, from further balancing regional disparities to addressing the evolving needs of an aging society. Nevertheless, the meeting reiterated the importance of adhering to the people-centered principle in the blueprint for addressing major issues related to national economic and social development over the coming five years.

Social and livelihood development are the bedrock and barometer for the country's progress. As the NBS report highlights, the steady rise in incomes, expanded access to education and healthcare,

improved protection for vulnerable groups, and enhanced cultural and living standards all point to a society that is becoming more inclusive, sustainable and equitable.

With the momentum already generated, China is now better-positioned than it was five years ago to seek high-quality development step by step – in which stability, fairness and prosperity are not abstract goals but increasingly the lived reality of the people.

History shows that as long as the country upholds the leadership of the Party and adheres to the people-centered development philosophy, relevant work will continue to break new ground and create fresh opportunities.

Looking ahead, the country should be confident that the Party and the government will continue to strive to ensure that the advancement of the country's modernization translates into a greater sense of fulfillment, happiness and security for the people.

– Xinhua



Students attend a commemorative event at a cemetery for martyrs in Rongcheng, Shandong Province, yesterday. China observed its 12th Martyrs' Day yesterday with commemorations held across the country to honor fallen national heroes. – Xinhua

China's Global Governance Initiative injects new momentum into multilateral cooperation: former UN official

Interview

BRUSSELS – "China's Global Governance Initiative (GGI) is injecting new momentum into multilateral cooperation and South-South collaboration," former United Nations Under-Secretary-General Erik Solheim has said.

In a recent interview with Xinhua, Solheim said that the GGI marks a decisive step toward modernizing the system of international cooperation, adding that the initiative advocates true multilateralism, based on sovereign equality, respect for international law and broad-based consultation – moving beyond an era dominated by a handful of Western powers.

Amid rising geopolitical uncertainty, he stressed that China's initiative points the way

toward inclusivity, partnership and practical problem-solving. By targeting fundamental needs, it restores confidence that global institutions can be fair, responsive and capable of meeting today's complex challenges.

"What makes the initiative truly significant is its practical focus on translating high ideals into real-world improvements," said Solheim, who currently serves as president of the Europe-Asia Center.

The world order is undergoing a profound transformation, Solheim said, stressing that the old system can no longer address new challenges. "True leadership is not about tearing down the house, but about renovating and improving it so that it better fits the multipolar reality of today's world and responds

effectively to people's needs."

"Through technical cooperation and people-to-people exchanges, we can reduce frictions and build trust," Solheim noted, calling for stronger city partnerships, deeper research collaboration and more exchanges among the Global South, especially in clean energy, environmental protection and climate adaptation.

The GGI, together with other China-proposed initiatives, offers a clear framework for international cooperation in the new era, he said.

"By fostering dialogue, development and collaboration, China's GGI is helping the Global South speak with a stronger voice in international affairs and contribute to building a fairer, more inclusive and sustainable world order." – Xinhua

China's 'Golden Week Plus' highlights global tourism impact: UN tourism chief

MADRID – As China prepares for its "Golden Week Plus" holiday starting October 1, Secretary-General of UN Tourism Zurab Pololikashvili highlighted the country's role in the global travel market as well as tourism's broader economic and cultural significance.

"The sheer numbers of people moving over such a short space of time never fails to impress me," Pololikashvili said in a recent written interview with Xinhua.

China is expected to see about 2 million daily border crossings and roughly 2.36 billion passenger trips nationwide during the eight-day National Day and Mid-Autumn Festival holiday.

Pololikashvili praised China's contributions to both domestic and international tourism. "In many destinations, most notably in Europe and across Asia and the Pacific, Chinese tourists support countless small businesses and livelihoods," he said. At the same time, with a rich culture and world-class travel infrastructure, China itself is emerging as one of the top destinations.

Highlighting the UN's Best Tourism Villages initiative, he said seven Chinese villages were recognized in 2024, bringing the country's total to 15 – the largest number worldwide. Notable examples include Azheke in southwest China's Yunnan Province, Shibadong in central China's Hunan Province, and Yandunjiao in east China's Shandong Province.

The program honors rural destinations that successfully balance welcoming tourists with protecting their cultural traditions, natural resources and community identity that make them distinctive.

China became a member of UN Tourism (formerly the World Tourism Organization) in 1983. Since 2021, Chinese has been formally recognized as an official language of the organization, together with English, Spanish, French, Arabic and Russian.

"I am also proud to say that China is a valued and very active member of UN Tourism. It is helping guide the development of tourism right across the wider region, putting innovation first," said the UN Tourism chief.

This year also marks UN Tourism's 50th anniversary. Over the past five decades, the organization has worked to ensure that the growth of the sector is managed sustainably and that its benefits are widely shared.

"When we could not travel, we yearned for human connections, cultural exchanges and seeing and experiencing new places. This human connection lies at the very heart of tourism," said Pololikashvili.

While technology such as virtual reality can expand access and protect fragile sites, in-person travel remains vital to economies and jobs, he added.

Looking ahead, he said UN Tourism will continue guiding the industry amid digitalization, artificial intelligence, climate challenges and changing travel patterns.

Headquartered in Madrid, UN Tourism works with 160 member states and more than 500 affiliate members to promote tourism as a driver of economic growth, inclusive development and environmental sustainability.

– Xinhua