

Police nab couple for telecom scams – 46 victims lose HK\$2.6 million

Ada Lei

The Judiciary Police (PJ) arrested a couple from the mainland yesterday for their involvement in 46 recent telecom scams. PJ spokesman Lei Chi Wai from the I.T. and Telecommunications Coordination Division said during a special press conference in Praça das Portas do Cerco (關關廣場) near the crime scene.

Lei identified the suspects as a 48-year-old woman surnamed Duan, who works as a cleaner, and her 43-year-old boyfriend surnamed Li, a salesman. Both are non-resident workers (NRWs). They lived together in the central district.

According to Lei, the police discovered a scam operation in a flat rented by Duan and Li in the northern district, believed to be related to 46 recent scam cases, and apprehended them in their flat in the central district yesterday. In

the cases, a number of scammers pretended to be callers from Macau using GOIP*, who posed as “customer service representatives from Alipay or WeChat”. They told the victims that “Your fund protection plan is about to expire, and if you don’t cancel it, a fee will be automatically deducted”. The police seized eight GOIP devices which were used to deceive their local victims by making calls that appeared to originate from Macau, while overseas fraudsters were operating the devices remotely through the internet.

Under questioning, Duan and Li admitted to renting the scam-operations flat and having been paid HK\$5,000 to host the GOIP setups, but they refused to provide further information. The duo were transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) yesterday, facing fraud charges.

Continued on p.5



Judiciary Police (PJ) officers display the eight GOIP devices used in the 46 scams outside the crime scene near the northern district's Barrier Gate checkpoint yesterday afternoon. – Photo: Ada Lei



President Xi Jinping (center), also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, is shown humanoid robots during an inspection tour of the Shanghai Foundation Model Innovation Center, a large-model incubator home to over 100 enterprises in Shanghai yesterday. (More on p.7) – Xinhua

Ex-senator Perdue confirmed as US ambassador to China

WASHINGTON – The US Senate yesterday confirmed President Donald Trump’s political ally David Perdue to be ambassador to China, a key trade partner that the Republican president has hit with punishing tariffs.

Perdue, a 75-year-old multi-millionaire business executive, served as a Republican senator for Georgia from 2015 to 2021 – but failed in a bid for governor of the state in 2022.

He is expected to play a key role in managing the relationship between the United States and China, the world’s two largest economies.

A Trump ally, he backed the former president’s claims regarding alleged fraud in the 2020 presidential election, which the billionaire Republican lost to Democrat Joe Biden.

A special grand jury had recommended indicting Perdue

over those claims, but the district attorney ultimately declined to charge him in that case.

Since taking office in January, Trump has ignited a trade war with China, imposing new tariffs totalling 145 percent, in addition to sector-specific levies on products such as electric cars.

He hailed Perdue as a “loyal supporter” when he announced his pick, touting the entrepreneur’s business experience as making him well-suited for the diplomatic role in Beijing.

While in the Senate, he served on the Armed Services Committee – chairing its Sea Power subcommittee – and on the Foreign Relations Committee.

He was one of the richest members of Congress, and one of its most active traders on the stock market while in office.

– AFP

Macau’s most popular English-language newspaper – Your trustworthy source of news & views

The Macau Post Daily

Xi inspects Shanghai large-model incubator, underscoring China’s AI ambitions

President Xi Jinping yesterday visited a large-model incubator in Shanghai, urging the city to take the lead in AI development and governance while highlighting China’s vast potential for the industry. – Story on p. 7

Carney’s Liberals win Canadian election defined by Trump

Prime Minister Mark Carney pledged yesterday to beat the United States in Donald Trump’s trade war after winning Canada’s election and leading his Liberal Party to another term in power. – Story on p. 11

Spain, Portugal probe causes of massive blackout

Spain and Portugal yesterday began to investigate the causes of the crippling blackout that disrupted millions of lives across the Iberian Peninsula, with a court probing potential “sabotage” of critical infrastructure. – Story on p. 12

Over 100 enterprises get ISO awards

Ida Cheong

This year's International Management Certification Recognition Ceremony for Macau Enterprises was held by the Macau Productivity and Technology Transfer Centre (CPTTM) in Macau Science Centre's conference hall yesterday.

The event marked its second edition since its local inception last year.

In order to commend outstanding local enterprises that have obtained ISO* international standard certification for six consecutive years, 118 enterprises from different industries, mainly focused on food manufacturing and health care product manufacturing, were awarded yesterday.

Macau Economic and Technological Development Bureau (DSED) director and representative of the Secretary for Economy and Finance, Yau Yun Wah, Macau Government Tourism Office



The participants in the "2025 edition of International Management Certification Recognition Ceremony for Macau Enterprises" awards ceremony pose for a group photo in Macau Science Centre's conference hall yesterday, including Macau Economic and Technological Development Bureau (DSED) Director Yau Yun Wah (front, eighth from left). - Photo: CPTTM

(MGTO) Director Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes, the Pharmaceutical Supervision and Administration Bureau's Surveillance Department Chief Chon Hang I, the Macau Productivity and Technology Transfer Centre (CPTTM) Board of Directors' Vice-President Victoria Alexa Kuan Chan, award-winning

enterprise representatives and guests attended yesterday's ceremony.

Kuan emphasised that by receiving over 800 Macau-funded applications for ISO certification or accreditation shows that more local enterprises are committed to quality, investing in innovation, and have a vision for the future.

She added that the awarded enterprises cover multiple certification types, including quality management, environmental management, occupational health and safety management, food safety management, information security management, and energy management, demonstrating that

Macau's local companies can keep up with international standards.

Kuan also noted that the key for enterprises to effectively implement ISO management systems is to completely understand the contents of the management system. In order to help enterprises cultivate talents in this area, the CPTTM is the official ISTO International Standard Understanding Level Examination Centre in Macau, providing the industry with ISTO "Understanding Test" services.

Moreover, the CEO of the International Standardised Testing Organisation (ISTO), Ng Ha Wai was invited yesterday to introduce the ISTO International Standards Proficiency Test, so that local enterprises can better grasp the opportunities for industry development. ■

*A global body that develops and publishes international standards for various industries, technologies, and processes, headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. - DeepSeek

Police bust mainlander for illegal currency exchange

Ada Lei

A man from the mainland was arrested on Monday for engaging in illegal currency exchange activities, Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Lei Chi Hou said during a special press conference yesterday.

Lei identified the suspect as a 38-year-old man surnamed Wang who told the police that he is jobless.

According to Lei, on Monday afternoon, PJ officers on patrol witnessed Wang engaging in an illegal currency exchange with a middle-aged male gambler at a casino in Nape. Wang presented a QR code for the gambler to transfer money, and after receiving the funds, he handed over HK\$15,000 in chips to the gambler. After the deal, both Wang

and the gambler left. The gambler then gambled away HK\$4,000 before the police intercepted them separately. The gambler agreed to cooperate as a witness in the investigation.

Under questioning, Wang admitted to engaging in illegal currency exchange activities since mid-March, having earned a total profit of 4,000 yuan. He also told the police that he had exchanged HK\$15,000 for 14,475 yuan and earned 300 yuan in the latest case. The police confiscated HK\$51,500 in chips from Wang and HK\$11,000 in chips from the gambler.

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



Judiciary Police (PJ) officers escort the hooded illegal currency exchange suspect to a PJ van outside the PJ headquarters in Zape yesterday. - Photo: Ada Lei

Beach swimming season to start with safeguards tomorrow: DSAMA

Ida Cheong

This year's swimming season will begin with the usual safeguards tomorrow and end on October 31, the Marine and Water Bureau (DSAMA) said in a statement yesterday.

According to the statement, the bureau deploys lifeguards and paramedics to Hac Sa ("Black Sand") and Cheoc Van ("Bamboo Bay") during the swimming season. The duty hours of lifeguards and paramedics will be 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. from Monday to Friday, and 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday as well as public holidays, while buoys have been set up at both beaches to ensure the safety of swimmers.

The bureau reminded beachgoers and swimmers to pay attention to the latest notices, flags on site and their personal physical condition before swimming in the sea, avoid touching marine life, and not to enter the sea if feeling unwell or having any injury. Meanwhile, if there is any emergency, the swimmers and



This undated file photo from the official website of the Macau Marine and Water Bureau (DSAMA) shows workers maintaining a lifeguard tower at Cheoc Van Beach.

other beachgoers can contact the lifeguards and paramedics on duty, the statement pointed out.

The statement stressed that lighting fires, camping and riding bicycles or driving motor vehicles on the beach are strictly prohibited to avoid affecting other beachgoers.

The bureau estimates that the flow of beachgoers will increase during the Labour Day public

holiday, and urged the public to check real-time images, the flagging at the two beaches and flow of people there through the official website https://www.marine.gov.mo/news_detail.aspx?a_id=1745920722 and the bureau's mobile app "Macau Marine" before heading to the beach, in order to facilitate potential beachgoers' travel plans. ■

4 swimming pools to open tomorrow

Adrian Vallesteros

Starting tomorrow, the Dr. Sun Yat Sen Swimming Pool (孫中山泳池), Taipa Central Park Swimming Pool (氹仔中央公園泳池), Hac Sa Park Swimming Pool (黑沙公園泳池), and Cheoc Van Swimming Pool (竹灣泳池) will reopen to the public after the winter break, according to a statement from the Sports Bureau (ID) released yesterday.

To enhance convenience, swimming tickets can be purchased two days in advance or on the spot on the day of use. The statement noted that tickets will be available through three online platforms: Macao One Account, the Sports Bureau website, and the bureau's mobile app. Additionally, on-the-spot tickets can be obtained at each swimming pool's ticketing counter.

To assist users in planning their swimming activities, the statement highlighted that information about the availability of on-the-spot tickets for each session will be accessible on the Sports Bureau's website and

mobile app. This information will also be displayed at each swimming pool.

Furthermore, the statement noted that the daily opening hours for the pools will be divided into three sessions. For more details, please visit: www.sport.gov.mo. ■



This undated handout photo from the Sports Bureau (ID) shows the Taipa Central Swimming Pool (氹仔中央公園泳池).

Published since Aug 2004

- Director & Chief Editor - Harald Brüning
- Office Manager - Sally Chong
- Marketing Manager - Kevin Cheung King Lok
- Managing Editor - Maria Cheung Ut Meng
- Editors - Lesley Wells, Johnny Un
- Senior Reporter - Tony Wong
- Reporters - Rui Pastorin, Ada Lei, William Chan, Ida Cheong
- Chief Graphic Designer - Simon Wang
- Graphic Designer - Colin Zhong
- Administrative Assistants - Ester Mak, Carl Leong
- Printed by Tipografia Welfare Lda., 82-86 Rua dos Pescadores
- Wire services - AFP, Xinhua
- Chatbots: Poe, DeepSeek

Macau Weather

CLOUDY APART FROM SUNNY INTERVALS.
FORCE 3 TO 4 EAST TO SOUTHEASTERLY WINDS.
RELATIVE HUMIDITY WILL RANGE BETWEEN 60% AND 95%.



23°C~28°C

Source: SMG

'Life of Pi' makes East Asia debut with Macau show

Review by Rui Pastorin

Admittedly, I am not much of a theatre guy, but when I made the last-minute decision to buy a ticket to watch the fully booked "Life of Pi" on Saturday, the opening performance for this year's Macao Arts Festival (MAF), I did not regret it.

Marking its East Asian premiere, the play was staged during the MAF's grand opening on Friday and at the weekend. It is based on Canadian author Yann Martel's acclaimed best-selling book* of the same name, adapted for the stage by British playwright and actress Lolita Chakrabarti. It has been performed in London's West End and Broadway, having garnered accolades including five Laurence Olivier Awards and five UK Theatre Awards.

The story follows 17-year-old Piscine Molitor "Pi" Patel whose family had to make the choice to leave India, where they own a zoo, as tensions and political unrest arise.

Pi's father opts to move them and the animals to Canada in search of better opportunities by hopping on a cargo ship. However, chaos erupts when the ship gets caught in a storm, leaving Pi the sole survivor. Lost at sea and facing thirst and starvation, Pi also finds himself stuck on a lifeboat with a ferocious Bengal Tiger named "Richard Parker", along with three other animals, altogether making for a harrowing situation. This makes for a great story about survival, perseverance and endurance, while themes like spirituality and belief can also be found.

This compelling plot is complimented by a dynamic and constantly moving set that incorporates projections and lighting techniques to transport the audience to different settings. From the family zoo full of wild animals to a bustling market in India to the chaos and panic of a ship caught in a storm, each scene was believable

and full of activity, becoming more than a captivating show, but an experience.

Meanwhile, the actors, especially Kashif Ghole who plays Pi, delivered stellar performances, giving their best in every scene. And beyond that, puppetry was also a large part of the performance as it was used to bring the various animals to life, with each masterfully operated by talented puppeteers. Richard Parker itself was operated by several of them, working in unity to create fluid and flawless movements. And all of this is in addition to a strong and entertaining story that excelled in its most dramatic and poignant moments, although it could also make the audience laugh, especially during the first part of the show.

Clocking in at two hours and 10 minutes, with a 20-minute interval, the show had me hooked from start to finish. However, while it sits at

a decent length, my only critique is that there were a few parts towards the end that felt a little long, but given the story's calibre, this is only a minor aspect.

The Macau run of the show is over, but if you ever have a chance to see it, don't hesitate. Even if you are a casual like myself or aren't into plays or stage performances in particular, I think it is worth experiencing at least once. And had it not been sold out for the following day, I would have seen it twice.

Stay tuned for upcoming 35th MAF shows

Life of Pi was just one of a number of shows to be staged for the 35th Macao Arts Festival. Among them are the Cantonese Opera

Concert "Unveiling Harmonious Voices" by the Macao Chinese Orchestra on May 9 at the Broadway Theatre in Cotai, and "Food" by theatre artist Geoff Sobelle at the Macao Cultural Centre (CCM) from May 8 to 10. Popular shows by local groups like Own Theatre's "Christmas Kingdom" clown show and "Raving · Vibration Z" created by local young choreographer Lao Pui Lon are also among the upcoming shows and various other activities, with more information on <https://www.icm.gov.mo/fam/35/en/>. ■

*The book was also adapted into an Oscar winning film in 2012. It was directed by award-winning Taiwanese filmmaker Ang Lee and starred Indian actor Suraj Sharma in the titular role.



The cast of *Life of Pi* take a bow after Saturday night's show at the Grand Auditorium of the Macao Cultural Centre (CCM).
— Photo: Rui Pastorin

MGTO promotes Macau at Arabian Travel Market 2025

Rui Pastorin

The Arabian Travel Market (ATM) 2025 is being held in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) until tomorrow, with the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) participating and setting up an "Experience Macao" themed booth to promote Macau to the Middle Eastern market.

According to an MGTO statement, the four-day fair, which started on Tuesday, is the largest annual international travel trade show held in the Middle East.

The statement said that MGTO's booth is promoting Macau's "tourism+" and its Muslim-friendly initiatives such as the publishing of the Macao for Muslim Travellers – Halal Travel Guide. Representatives from six travel agencies and hotels from Macau are also joining the event, the statement noted. The statement said that MGTO's participation is aimed at expanding the Middle Eastern market and attracting more "high-end international visitors".

Regarding other promotion initiatives, the statement said that MGTO had also led a Macau travel trade delegation to Riyadh in Saudi Arabia and Dubai in February for the "Macao Tourism + MICE Product Updates Seminar & Travel Mart", while MGTO had also invited 12 hosted buyers from four countries in the Middle East to the recently concluded 13th Macao International Travel (Industry) Expo (MITE).

MGTO, according to the statement, also continues with initiatives such as plans for upcoming fact-finding visits to Macau for tourism industry professionals and media from the Middle East in June and September respectively, while there are also promotions in Arabic

on social media and other platforms.

Other ongoing efforts like setting up the Halal Horizons Pavilion at the recent 13th MITE and regular training are also held aiming to tap into the Muslim tourism market, according to the statement. ■



This undated handout photo provided by the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) shows representatives posing at the "Experience Macao" booth at the Arabian Travel Market (ATM) 2025 in Dubai.

Tap Siac Craft Market to continue with new offerings



This undated handout photo provided by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) yesterday depicts the Tap Siac Craft Market, featuring a diverse array of stalls and installations.

Adrian Vallesteros

According to a recent statement from the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), the Tap Siac Craft Market will be open again from Thursday (May Day) through Sunday, showcasing an array of cultural and creative products, with over 90 percent of the stall operators different to the previous week.

The statement highlighted that this two-weekend edition of the market features more than 200 stalls, offering "distinctive handicrafts and creative gastronomy" from cultural practitioners across Macau, the mainland, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Malaysia, and Thailand. Attendees can expect a diverse range of crafted products, including daily necessities, clothing, accessories, and natural handmade items.

The market's first weekend segment took place last week.

The statement also said that in addition to shopping, the market will host creative handicraft workshops where participants can learn how to make their own crafts. Live music performances by singers from Macau and elsewhere aim to further enhance the festive atmosphere.

The Tap Siac Craft Market runs from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, and from 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

One can visit the IC website on www.icm.gov.mo, the "Macao Craft Market" page on Facebook, or the "Tap Siac Craft Market" website on www.craftmarket.gov.mo for additional information on the event. One can also call 8399 6289 during office hours with any questions. ■

We're sorry if this caught you by surprise.

We'll be closed on May 1st – as we have been for the past 40 years. It's only 1 day per year. Tomorrow we will be open again.

Our apologies to the ones who forgot or were caught by surprise.

Restaurante Fernando

'A Time for Poetry, A Time for Living'

Youth Literature Salon hosted by Pen of Macau

Interview and review by William Chan

Macau's oldest Chinese literary association, Pen of Macau, held its 5th Youth Literature Salon on Friday evening at Wine Macau near the Ruins of St. Paul, titled "A Time for Poetry, A Time for Living" ("詩歌有時，生活有時"), the event showcased three emerging local poets – known by their Chinese pennames as 祁紫 (Qí Zǐ)、雪堇 (Xuě Jīn)、鳴弦 (Míng Xián) — alongside commentator Huo Chaoqun, providing a fresh platform for literary exchange.

Organiser and host Kam Un Loi (甘遠來), a millennial Chinese language teacher and younger member of the 1987-founded Pen of Macau group, told the *Post* that the salon aims to popularise poetry in Macau. "As Macau's largest literary group, our mission is to foster connections among writers, share creative experiences, and mentor young talent. This salon reimagines literary promotion through casual gatherings – a departure from traditional formal lectures that might intimidate audiences," said Kam.

Held in Wine Macau's upper-floor space overlooking the iconic Ruins of St. Paul's, the venue's open layout and classical décor enhanced the immersive experience. Kam expressed gratitude for the partnership, noting the location's symbolic blend of heritage and modernity.

While previous salons featured novels and essays by local authors, this edition spotlighted poetry rooted in Macau's evolving urban fabric. "Ramune" by 祁紫 (Qí Zǐ) nostalgically traces childhood memories with grandparents through the lens of the retro soda bottle, while *Rua dos Ervamários* by 雪堇 (Xuě Jīn) documents vanishing neighbourhood vistas. The romantic series of poems by 鳴弦 (Míng Xián) documents trivial matters and reflecting on them in words. Each poet's segment began with Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) lecturer Huo Chaoqun's critical analysis and appraisal followed by a brief Q&A session. Notably, instead of full recitals, the authors either shared curated excerpts of their poems or invited the audience to read them themselves to prioritise discussion. "This streamlined format encourages deeper and tighter engagement," Kam underlined. It seems to me that the three local poets felt quite shy and hesitant about reading their own work in public. By choosing to skip the reading session, not only could this alleviate the pressure on the presenters, but it also provides the audience with the opportunity to engage with the poetry at their own pace and from their own perspectives.

When questioned about their respective creative processes, the three literary artists responded that much of their work is spontaneous. For instance, 鳴弦 (Míng Xián) humorously wrote about how he frequently distracts himself while using the bathroom, such as reading the ingredients of his shampoo bottle, after which he decided to incorporate this amusing quirk into his poem.

The evening unfolded with wine and snack tastings, as well as impromptu poetry readings by attendees, including a Taiwanese poet reading a French poem under his friend's encouragement, dissolving barriers between artistes and audience. "We're challenging the notion that literature must be elitist. Through these salons, we're revealing Macau's vibrant creative undercurrents," Kam remarked, adding that his association aims to present local literati outside Macau in the future.

Friday's salon was admission-free and open to all. Kam added that a grand finale salon will cap off the year, reuniting all creators showcased. For more information and to read the featured literati's poems, visit: <https://penofmacau.com/>



Participants take a group photo during Friday's literary salon at Wine Macau.

– Photo provided by Kam



Organiser and host Kam Un Loi (right), commentator Huo Chaoqun (left) and the three literati (centre) talk about the poems at Wine Macau near the Ruins of St Paul's on Friday night.

– Photo: William Chan



This undated file photo shows Pen of Macau's Kam Un Loi posing. – Photo provided by Kam



This photo taken on Friday from the upper floor of Wine Macau shows the scenery of the Ruins of St. Paul and its surroundings. – Photo: Lam Hio Man

MGTO relaunches free ferry & bus tickets for foreign Macau-bound visitors arriving in HK

Tony Wong

The Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) will once again launch its programme providing free one-way ferry and direct bus tickets to Macau for foreign visitors arriving in Hong Kong, according to an MGTO statement yesterday.

The programme will start tomorrow. The free one-way tickets will be available until the end of the year.

Yesterday's statement noted that MGTO launched for the first time last year a programme providing free one-way ferry and direct bus tickets to Macau for foreign visitors arriving in Hong Kong, adding that last year's programme, which ran between February and December, was effective in encouraging foreign visitors arriving in Hong Kong to also visit Macau as over 310,000 foreign tourists visited Macau from Hong Kong with the free tickets during the 11 months last year.

As last year, this year's programme will cover ferry trips run by TurboJET and Cotai Water Jet.

More information can be found on <https://www.turbojet.com.hk/en> and <https://www.cotaiwaterjet.com>

Unchanged from last year, the free direct bus tickets offered by this year's programme will be provided to foreign visitors arriving at the Hong Kong airport who then take a direct shuttle transfer from its SkyPier Terminal to Macau via the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HZMB), according to yesterday's statement, which said that the travellers can obtain the free direct bus tickets by presenting their valid travel documents and boarding passes at designated counters in the airport's restricted area.

More information can be found on <https://www.macauhairportbus.com/?locale=en> ■

Underground parking area near LRT Jockey Club Station to provide parking for cars

Tony Wong

The underground parking area near the Light Rapid Transit (LRT) Jockey Club Station, which has only been used for heavy passenger vehicles since its opening in 2022, will also provide parking spaces for cars from tomorrow, its operator announced in a statement yesterday.

Heavy passenger vehicles refer to buses and tourist coaches.

The underground parking area is part of the Estrada Governador Albano de Oliveira Public Transport Interchange located next to the LRT Jockey Club Station.

Different to public carparks in general in the city which are managed by the government's Transport Bureau (DSAT), the underground parking area on Estrada Governador Albano de Oliveira is run by the government-owned LRT operator, Macau Light Rapid Transit Corporation Limited (MLM).

In addition to the underground parking area, the Estrada Governador Albano de Oliveira Public Transport Interchange also includes a public bus interchange, which is connected to the LRT Jockey Club Station by an elevated platform featuring green spaces.

Running along the now-defunct Macau Jockey Club, Estrada Governador Albano de Oliveira (柯維納馬路) is a two-way road connecting an area near the Ocean Gardens residential estate and the Macau Stadium complex. The road's dual carriageways are separated by a central area.

The underground parking area for heavy passenger vehicles on Estrada Governador Albano de Oliveira came into use in May 2022, but its usage rate has



This undated handout photo released by Macau Light Rapid Transit Corporation Limited (MLM) yesterday shows the entrance to the underground parking area on Estrada Governador Albano de Oliveira in Taipa.

reportedly been very low since then. Consequently, some civic leaders had urged the government to convert some of the parking area's spaces for heavy passenger vehicles into ones for cars.

Yesterday's MLM said that in line with the government's policy of making better use of public parking resources and with the aim of meeting drivers' parking needs in the area, the LRT operator decided to convert the underground parking area only for heavy passenger vehicles into one for providing parking spaces for both heavy passenger vehicles and cars.

The statement said that the work has now been completed, adding that the newly converted parking spaces for cars will come into use at 00:00 a.m. tomorrow.

From tomorrow, the statement said, the underground parking area will provide 105 parking spaces for cars, two spaces for cars designated for drivers with disabilities, and

nine spaces for heavy passenger vehicles.

According to the statement, the newly converted carpark will be operated with a half-hourly fee system, where cars will be charged three patacas per hour during the day (from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.) and 1.5 patacas per hour during the night (from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. the next day).

Heavy passenger vehicles will continue to be charged on a monthly rental basis.

According to the statement, the carpark will accept cash, Macau Pass cards, credit cards, and various other e-payment channels.

The city's first public carpark with a half-hourly fee system came into use early this month, namely the underground carpark at the new Mong Son Building social rental housing estate on Avenida de Venceslau de Moraes (慕拉士大馬路) in the peninsula.

In all other public carparks, cars are charged on an hourly basis. ■

Police nab couple for telecom scams – 46 victims lose HK\$2.6 million

Continued from p.1

According to the PJ Anti-Fraud Coordination Centre, 46 locals have fallen victim to the scams, resulting in a total loss of HK\$2.6 million (2.68 million patacas). The victims comprise 20 males and 26 females, including 16 teenagers, 25 middle-aged individuals, and five elderly persons. The scam operated in two main steps: First, the scammers impersonated local callers from Macau, claiming to be Alipay or WeChat customer service representatives. They then told the victims that "their fund protection plan and insurance is about to expire", tricking them by claiming that "a large fee will be charged" and asking them, "Do you want to cancel the relevant insurance?". If the victim asked to cancel it, the call was redirected to a "customer service representative" who then used four tactics to deceive the victims:

1. The victims were asked to share their screens via a WhatsApp video call, allowing scammers to observe online banking activities and steal funds.

2. The scammers requested the victims' credit card number, security code, and name, under the guise of verifying their accounts.

3. The victims were first tricked into transferring a small amount, which was then quickly refunded

to build trust, after which they were asked for larger transfers.

4. The victims were instructed to buy virtual currency through online banking and transfer it to the scammers' designated wallet.

The Anti-Fraud Coordination Centre reminded citizens of the following: Any request for payment due to "deposit protection service" expiration is fraudulent; do not comply with requests from phone or online customer services to transfer money or disclose personal, bank, or credit card information—always verify everything through official channels; avoid engaging in video calls or screen sharing with strangers to prevent fraudsters from accessing your information; if in doubt, use the police forces' "anti-fraud programme" to check risk levels, report suspicious messages, or call the anti-fraud hotline on 8800 7777 or the reporting hotline on 993 for assistance. ■

*The Global System for Mobile Communications Over Internet Protocol (GOIP) is a technology that routes voice calls and SMSs over the internet, bridging traditional Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) networks with Internet Protocol (IP)-based systems. While it is commonly used for legitimate telecommunications, it has also been exploited for fraudulent activities. – DeepSeek

Compromise, retreat will only embolden bully

China Daily Editorial

Although the BRICS countries have steadfastly opposed unilateralism since the group was founded, some Western media have still tried to portray the BRICS foreign ministers' meeting in Rio de Janeiro on Monday as the grouping's attempt to forge a united front against the United States. They are trying to create the impression that it is the US that is being targeted by a gang of gangsters rather than the other way round.

Even before the US launched its "reciprocal tariff" war on April 2, the BRICS grouping of major developing countries came under fire from the White House, which threatened a punitive 100 percent tariff on its members if the bloc moves ahead with a single currency to replace the weaponized dollar in trade relations between its members.

It is natural that the BRICS members should discuss the US assault on global trade and seek a

coordinated response. They are all at a critical stage of their respective development and heavily reliant on exports. They need stable global industry and supply chains and a predictable external development environment.

Even before the US' tariff war, it has been a constant pursuit of BRICS to promote a fair and just world through reform of the global governance institutions and inclusive economic globalization. Striving to maintain stable global industry and supply chains and oppose hegemony in world affairs is not only in their interests but also that of the Global South as a whole.

It should also be pointed out that the other key agenda of the meeting was to prompt a shared position on climate finance, with Brazil hosting the United Nations climate summit in November, as the BRICS countries are working together to help transform the developed economies' pledge to help developing countries finance

the fight against climate change and the energy transition from words to deeds.

As Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said at the meeting, the law of the jungle where the strong prey on the weak is now being openly applied, the coercion and bullying of the US is no longer disguised, and its undermining of the foundation for the development of international relations can be seen as a constant threat.

Maintaining multilateral trade rules is now the most urgent issue. The essence of trade is complementary advantages and mutual benefits, not a calculation of who gains the most.

The US has benefited greatly from free trade for a long time, but now it is using tariffs as a hammer to distort the trade landscape to its liking. As Wang said, if countries choose to remain silent, compromise and retreat, it will only make the bully more aggressive.

– Courtesy of China Daily

STOCK MARKETS

HK stocks close 0.16 pct higher

HONG KONG – Hong Kong stock market ended higher yesterday with the benchmark Hang Seng Index up 0.16 percent to close at 22,008.11 points.

The Hang Seng China Enterprises Index fell 0.15 percent to end at 8,067.94 points, while the Hang Seng Tech Index rose 0.62 percent to end at 5,019.73 points. – Xinhua

China Chamber of Commerce to Africa established to foster broader Sino-African cooperation

ADDIS ABABA – The China Chamber of Commerce to Africa (CCCA) was officially launched on Monday in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa, with the aim of fostering broader Sino-African cooperation and contributing to a closer China-Africa community with a shared future.

Comprising 15 founding members, the CCCA spans a wide range of sectors, including agriculture, construction, manufacturing, telecommunications, energy, and healthcare. With membership expected to grow across both traditional and emerging industries, the chamber aims to strengthen economic ties and facilitate China-Africa economic cooperation.

Addressing the launching event, Hu Changchun, head of the Chinese Mission to the African Union (AU), said the newly-launched chamber, under the mission's guidance, will serve as a bridge to promote shared development between China, Africa, and the broader Global South.

“The founding of the chamber will create better synergies for China-Africa economic cooperation, and enable our friendship to grow even stronger. I sincerely hope that the chamber will bring more members on board, ride the tide with all stakeholders, and contribute to strengthening economic and trade cooperation between China and Africa,” Hu said.

According to data from the Chinese Mission to the AU, Chinese companies have long contributed to Africa's development, building approximately 100,000 km of roads, 10,000 km of railways, 1,000 bridges, and 100 ports, while generating over 1 million jobs across the continent. These efforts have significantly improved logistical connectivity, integration of regional value chains, and people's livelihoods on the continent.

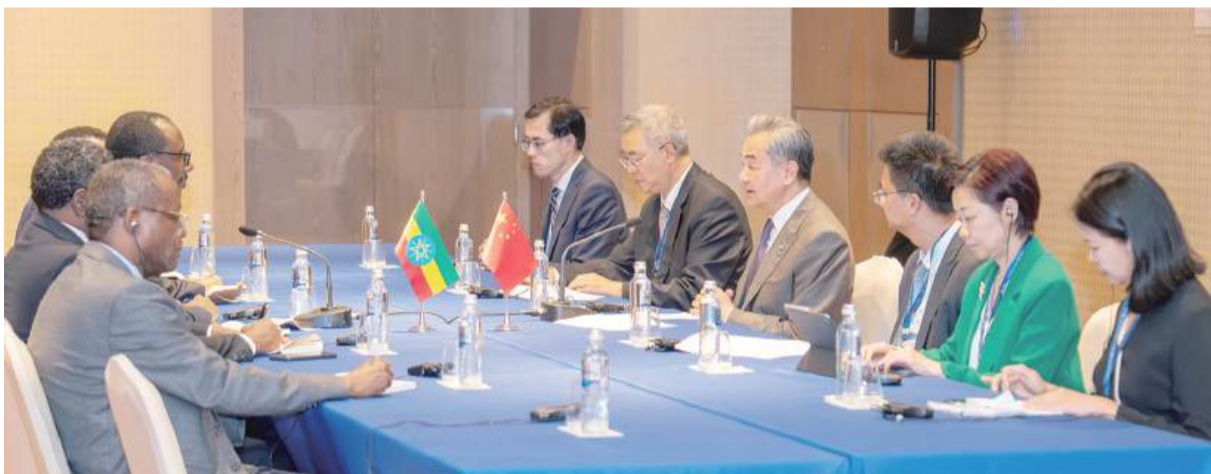
Moussa Mohamed Omar, deputy chief of staff of the AU Commission, said the establishment of the CCCA under the China-Africa strategic partnership symbolizes the win-win

cooperation built on mutual respect and concrete results.

Noting that Chinese companies are actively engaged in various development sectors in Africa, including infrastructure, energy, digital infrastructure, and logistics sectors, Omar said Chinese enterprises are significantly contributing to Africa's development and employment creation.

Wu Jiuyi, secretary-general of the CCCA and deputy general manager of China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation Ethiopia Branch, said the chamber is rooted in Africa to serve enterprises, foster partnership, and promote shared prosperity.

“Today's Africa is a land of boundless opportunities, and China stands as its most steadfast partner. We warmly welcome more outstanding Chinese enterprises to join the chamber and look forward to working with African partners to build consensus, pool strengths, and write a new chapter in China-Africa friendship,” he said. – Xinhua



Foreign Minister Wang Yi (fourth from right), also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, meets with Ethiopia's Minister of Foreign Affairs Gedion Timothewos (third from left) in Rio de Janeiro on Monday on the sidelines of the BRICS Foreign Ministers Meeting. – Xinhua

China urges US to stop threats, pressure for tariff negotiations: FM spokesperson

BEIJING – If the US wants to resolve the tariff-related issues through dialogue and negotiation, it should cease its threats and pressure, foreign ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said yesterday.

Guo made the remarks at a

regular press briefing in response to US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent's comments on the tariff issue with China. According to media reports, Bessent said on Monday that “I believe that it's up to China to de-escalate, because

they sell five times more to us than we sell to them.”

Guo said that the tariff war was initiated by the United States and added that the US should seek dialogue based on equality, respect and mutual benefits. – Xinhua

Vice premier calls for integrated development of real, digital economies

FUZHOU – Vice Premier Zhang Guoqing has called for efforts to promote digital technology innovation and application and drive the deep integration of the real and digital economies.

Zhang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, made the call while attending the opening ceremony of the 8th Digital China Summit in

Fuzhou, capital of Fujian Province, and during an inspection tour of the province on Monday and yesterday.

The construction of a digital China is an important engine for the advancement of Chinese modernization, Zhang said. He called for enhancing the capacity for independent innovation in the field of digital transformation and strengthening key digital technology research and application.

Efforts should be made to advance the country's “AI plus” initiative and expand the space for industrial upgrading and economic growth continuously, Zhang said.

During his stay in Fujian, Zhang also visited consumer electronics enterprises, encouraging them to explore diversified markets through technological, product and services innovation. – Xinhua

CFC chief calls for enhancing Shanghai's role as international financial center

SHANGHAI – Senior Communist Party of China (CPC) official He Lifeng yesterday called for the comprehensive enhancement of Shanghai's capabilities as an international financial center.

He, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and director of the office of the Central Financial Commission (CFC), made the remarks while attending a symposium on supporting Shanghai to build itself up as an international financial center.

He emphasized that the city's

functions as a gateway to and hub of financial opening-up should be strengthened continuously under the premise of ensuring financial security, and its status as both a global allocation center for RMB (yuan) assets and a risk management center should be enhanced.

Shanghai Municipality should assume its primary responsibility, He said, adding that financial regulatory authorities and financial institutions – especially those in Shanghai – should enhance coordination and cooperation.

– Xinhua

Nation's scientists achieve satellite laser ranging in Earth-Moon space in daytime

KUNMING – Chinese scientists have achieved satellite laser ranging in the Earth-Moon space in daytime for the first time in the world, despite the strong daylight interference, the Yunnan Observatories of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) said yesterday.

According to Li Yuqiang, a researcher at Yunnan Observatories, a research team on Sunday successfully captured the laser return signal from the retroreflector of the Tiandu-1 satellite, which is approximately 130,000 km away from the Earth, using the newly upgraded near-infrared lunar laser ranging system of a 1.2-meter telescope.

This is the world's first daytime satellite laser ranging in the Earth-Moon space, marking a new technological breakthrough for China in the field of precise deep-space orbit measurement, he added.

The measurement has resolved key technical challenges such as the suppression of strong solar background noise, which will help enhance navigation and positioning capabilities in the Earth-moon space. It will also support the argumentation and implementation of major deep-space exploration projects in the future, such as the International Lunar Research Station.

The team was formed by researchers from China's Deep Space Exploration Lab, Yunnan Observatories and Shanghai Astronomical Observatory of the CAS, Sun Yat-sen University, Shanghai Institute of Satellite Engineering, and Beijing Aerospace Control Center.

The Tiandu-1 was a communications and navigation technology test satellite. It was launched on March 20, 2024, and is now orbiting between the Earth and the Moon. – Xinhua

China set to handle 144 million railway passenger trips over May Day holiday

BEIJING – China's railway network is expected to handle approximately 144 million passenger trips during the eight-day May Day holiday travel rush, which kicked off yesterday, the national railway operator said.

The figure represents a year-on-year increase of 4.9 percent, according to China State Railway Group Co. Ltd.

Tomorrow is expected to see the peak passenger flow for the period, according to the group.

According to China's 12306 railway booking platform, popular destinations for the holiday include Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Chengdu, Hangzhou, Wuhan, Shenzhen, Xi'an, Nanjing and Zhengzhou.

Platform data also shows that Beijing-Shanghai, Xi'an-Chengdu, Beijing-Hohhot, Nanning-Guangzhou, Beijing-Shenyang, and Shenzhen-Hong Kong routes are among the most popular for the eight-day period.

To cater to this surge in traffic, China's rail authorities have scheduled additional train services, operating an average of more than 12,000 passenger trains each day, according to the railway operator.

It noted that actions such as the scheduling of additional high-speed sleeper trains have been taken to increase transport capacities in popular regions and at peak times.

– Xinhua

Xi visits New Development Bank



President Xi Jinping (front, right) arrives at the New Development Bank, welcomed by Dilma Rousseff (front, left), president of the lender, in Shanghai yesterday. — Xinhua

SHANGHAI — President Xi Jinping yesterday visited the New Development Bank (NDB) in Shanghai and met with Dilma Rousseff, president of the institution.

Rousseff led the bank's four vice presidents and other employees to welcome Xi when he arrived.

Xi congratulated Rousseff on her reelection as president of the New Development Bank, and noted that the bank is the world's first multilateral development institution established and led by emerging markets and developing countries.

Xi called the bank "a pioneering initiative for the unity and self-improvement of the Global South," and said that it conforms to the historical trend of reforming and improving global governance.

The New Development Bank has emerged as a rising force in the international financial system and a shining example of Global South collaboration, he said.

He stressed that broader BRICS cooperation has entered a stage of high-quality development, and that the bank is set to embark on its second golden decade of high-quality development.

Xi called on the bank to consider the development needs of the Global South, and to provide more high-quality, low-cost and sustainable infrastructure financing.

The bank needs to improve its management and operations, implement more technology and green finance projects, and help developing countries bridge the digital divide and accelerate green and low-carbon transformation, Xi said.

In discussions on the reform of international financial architecture, the bank should amplify the voice of the Global South, safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of the Global South, and support the countries of the Global South in their pursuit of modernization, he said.

He noted that as the bank's host country, China will always support the operations and development of the New Development Bank. China is willing to strengthen project cooperation with the bank

and focus on green, innovative and sustainable development to achieve more results, he added.

China is also willing to share its development experience through the bank with other member countries, and stands ready to provide more international public goods, Xi said.

Noting that the Global South countries have risen collectively into an important force in maintaining world peace, promoting common development and improving global governance, Xi said no matter how the international situation changes, the general course of human development and progress will not alter.

China has achieved its development through self-reliance and hard work. It will firmly safeguard its own legitimate rights and interests, as well as the common interests of the international community, Xi noted.

Rousseff expressed her gratitude to China for its long-term strong support for the growth and expansion of the New Development Bank.

She said that under the leadership of President Xi, China has achieved extraordinary development results and played a pivotal role in advancing global governance, and is certain to realize the vision of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

Despite the volatile situation in today's world, the Chinese government has resolutely stood up for the interests of the Global South, supported multilateralism, defended international fairness and justice, and promoted the construction of a community with a shared future for all, setting an example for the international community, she added.

Noting that unilateralism and protectionism have been eroding the authority of international law and undermining the stability of industrial and supply chains, Rousseff said the New Development Bank will remain true to its original aspiration, take active measures, and contribute to promoting the development of developing and emerging-market countries.

— Xinhua

Xi inspects Shanghai large-model incubator, underscoring China's AI ambitions

SHANGHAI — President Xi Jinping yesterday visited a large-model incubator in Shanghai, urging the city to take the lead in AI development and governance while highlighting China's vast potential for the industry.

The trip came four days after China's leadership convened a dedicated AI study session, during which Xi called for gaining a head start in this strategic sector.

"AI technology is evolving rapidly and entering a phase of explosive growth," said Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, as he visited the Shanghai Foundation Model Innovation Center, a large-model incubator home to over 100 enterprises.

During the group study session of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee last Friday, Xi pointed out that AI, as a strategic technology leading the new round of sci-tech revolution and industrial transformation, has profoundly changed the ways people work and live.

The Party Central Committee attaches great importance to the development of AI, and has improved top-level design and strengthened implementation efforts in recent years, Xi said at the session. In the incubator, Xi joined a salon themed on the autonomous evolution of next-generation intelligent agents, engaging in discussions with young innovators on the spot.

"AI is a nascent industry, and it's also an industry that belongs to young people," said Xi.

He then walked into an AI product experience store, where he inquired in detail about the functions and market trends of the products, and tried on a pair of smart glasses for a firsthand experience.

Shanghai announced a comprehensive plan last December aimed at developing a world-class AI industry ecosystem by 2025, including measures to step



President Xi Jinping (center), also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, talks to staff members at an AI product experience store at the Shanghai Foundation Model Innovation Center, a large-model incubator home to over 100 enterprises in Shanghai yesterday. Xi paid an inspection visit to Shanghai yesterday. — Xinhua

up global cooperation. In 2024, Shanghai's AI industry scale exceeded 400 billion yuan.

China's AI market is projected to experience substantial growth in the coming years, according to International Data Corporation. US companies, including Tesla and Microsoft, have set their sights on the commercial prospects of China's AI market.

The Yangtze River Delta region, anchored by Shanghai, is at the forefront of China's AI innovation. DeepSeek, hailing from Hangzhou in the southern part of the delta region, is less than 200 kilometers away from Shanghai.

Noting China's rich data resources, complete industrial system and huge market, Xi said in Shanghai that the country holds broad prospects for AI development, emphasizing enhanced policy support and talent cultivation.

Cultivating and strengthening the AI industry has been included in China's 14th Five-Year Plan and its development vision for 2035, aiming to advance the sector toward a beneficial, safe and equitable direction.

A recent Stanford University report has shown that China is

closing the gap with the United States in cutting-edge AI model development.

According to a report by the World Intellectual Property Organization, China topped the global rankings with over 38,000 patent applications for generative AI between 2014 and 2023.

"Despite external pressure and technological blockades, China has the capability to leverage AI technology to drive leapfrog economic growth and significantly enhance productivity," Liang Zheng, vice dean of the Institute for AI International Governance at Tsinghua University, told Xinhua.

"Amid the fragmented and exclusive AI governance landscape, China can play a crucial role in promoting global cooperation," added Liang.

Calling AI a global public good, the Chinese leadership has pledged to help Global South nations build tech capacity, thus narrowing the global AI divide.

Xi yesterday urged Shanghai to embrace its historical role as a leading international center for scientific and technological innovation and to build itself into a globally renowned sci-tech high ground. — Xinhua

Xi urges all-out efforts to treat those injured in Liaoning restaurant fire

BEIJING — President Xi Jinping yesterday urged all-out efforts to treat the people injured in a restaurant fire in the city of Liaoyang, Liaoning Province.

The fire started at 12:25 p.m. yesterday, and had killed 22 people and injured three others by 2 p.m., according to authorities.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military

Commission, demanded efforts to properly handle affairs related to the victims and console their families, promptly identify the cause of the fire, and hold those responsible to account in accordance with the law.

He stressed the importance of forestalling major accidents to ensure public safety and social stability as the May Day holiday approaches.

Premier Li Qiang, also a

member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, urged full-scale rescue and treatment, adding that local authorities across the country should screen for safety hazards and strengthen the implementation of workplace safety measures to prevent major accidents.

The Ministry of Emergency Management has dispatched a team to the site, and rescue and relief operations are underway. — Xinhua