

Judiciary Police launch 'Anti-Fraud Coordination Centre 3.0'



This photo shows the Anti-Fraud Coordination Centre 3.0 on the 14th floor of the Judiciary Police (PJ) headquarters in Zape during yesterday's press conference about the launch of the upgraded centre.

— Photo: Armino Neves

Armino Neves

The Macau Judiciary Police (PJ) yesterday launched their "Anti-Fraud Coordination Centre 3.0"* during a ceremony at their headquarters in Zape yesterday morning.

Concurrently, they also launched their "Anti-Fraud Promotion Week," hoping to achieve significant progress in anti-scam efforts.

Judiciary Police (PJ) Deputy Director Sou Sio Keong said in a speech at the ceremony that in order to further coordinate and enhance anti-fraud efforts and consolidate their achievements, with the strong support of the Macau Public Security Forces, the Judiciary Police had started plans last year to upgrade

the centre. The centre was completed and entered its trial phase early this year, which proceeded smoothly. Officially, the upgraded centre commenced operations yesterday.

Sou also said that in recent years sustained efforts to combat fraud have shown signs of slowing down the growth trend of telecom and online scams. In 2024, the Judiciary Police investigated 1,260 cases of telecom and online fraud, involving around 232 million patacas in losses, marking year-on-year decreases of 1.4 percent and 25.3 percent respectively. Similarly, the first quarter of this year recorded year-on-year declines of 12.1 percent and 28.4 percent, respectively. The continuous rise in public awareness of fraud

prevention reflects the effectiveness of anti-fraud measures, Sou said.

Sou further noted that while the overall growth of fraud cases has been curbed, the highest level of vigilance must still be maintained.

Currently, he warned, scams such as credit card skimming, fraudulent online ticket purchases, bulk order fraud, and investment scams remain prevalent. Criminals are constantly refining their tactics, and earlier this year, Sou pointed out, Macau saw its first "AI-driven scam case", demonstrating that fraud schemes are becoming more sophisticated, technologically advanced, and deceptive. For instance, Sou underlined, a

recent scam involving fake Alipay customer service calls led to multiple citizens falling victim in a short period.

During the ceremony, the Judiciary Police showcased various initiatives to the media and guests on the 14th floor of their headquarters, including an "AI Deepface" interactive experience zone, an "anti-fraud app tutorial area", a "multimedia studio", a "dedicated hotline support office", a "historical timeline video of the Anti-Fraud Coordination Centre", and a "large-screen data visualisation display". ■

*3.0 denotes a next-Generation concept, used to signify a major upgrade or evolution in any field. — DeepSeek

SE Asian nations express 'deep concern' over US tariffs

KUALA LUMPUR – Southeast Asian leaders expressed "deep concern" over US tariffs yesterday as they held a summit with China and Gulf states hailed as "a response to the call of the times" in a geopolitically uncertain world.

The trade-dependent economies are looking to insulate themselves after US President Donald Trump blew up global trade norms by announcing a slew of levies targeting countries around the world, then paused most for 90 days.

The 10-member Association of

Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) released a statement last night expressing "deep concern over... the imposition of unilateral tariff measures, which pose complex and multidimensional challenges to ASEAN's economic growth, stability, and integration".

In another statement, the bloc stressed "our strongest resolve to stand together" in the face of the levies, and pledged to expand cooperation with other partners.

Earlier in the day Malaysia, which holds the bloc's rotating chairmanship, hosted the inaugural summit between ASEAN, China

and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) – a regional bloc made up of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Premier Li Qiang told the meeting that "against the backdrop of a volatile international situation", the summit was "a pioneering work of regional economic cooperation".

"This is not only a continuation of the course of history, but also a response to the call of the times," he said.

"Facilitating exchanges between the

Gulf and People's Republic of China is one aspect of this diversification," he said.

Li's participation is "both timely and calculated", Khoo Ying Hooi from the University of Malaya told AFP.

"China sees an opportunity here to reinforce its image as a reliable economic partner, especially in the face of Western decoupling efforts."

At dinner last night, Li urged ASEAN and the GCC to "persist in opening up". (More on p.7)

— AFP

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King Charles highlights Canadian 'self-determination' as Trump looms

King Charles III stressed Canada's independence yesterday as he delivered a major speech to open parliament in Ottawa set against US President Donald Trump's repeated threats to take over the country. — Story on p. 10

Liverpool fans 'devastated' as title glory marred by tragedy

Liverpool supporters yesterday described their shock and sadness as dreams of seeing their heroes up close turned into a nightmare when a car ploughed into crowds celebrating the club's Premier League title triumph. — Story on p. 11

Argentina ratifies WHO withdrawal during Kennedy visit

Argentina has ratified its decision to withdraw from the World Health Organisation (WHO) and reaffirmed its collaboration with Washington, during a visit to Buenos Aires by US Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy. — Story on p. 12

DSAMA checks find no safety hazards in Inner Harbour

Armindo Neves

The Marine and Water Bureau (DSAMA) said in a statement yesterday that during the current fishing moratorium*, nearly 70 fishing vessels are berthing in the Inner Harbour.

In order to ensure safety at sea, DSAMA, in collaboration with the Macau Customs Service, will continue to carry out safety inspections of fishing vessels in the Inner Harbour, as well as promote fire safety and enhance fisherfolk's awareness of safety, the statement noted.

According to the statement, safety inspections have recently been conducted on multiple fishing vessels, focusing on flammable and explosive materials as well as firefighting equipment. The inspections included checking whether the fuel reserves and the number of liquefied petroleum gas cylinders were within the prescribed safety limits, whether flammable and explosive materials were stored properly, and verifying the quantity, specifications, and validity periods of firefighting



This handout photo taken and provided by the Marine and Water Bureau (DSAMA) yesterday shows DSAMA officials carrying out safety checks on board fishing vessels.

equipment, among other items.

The statement underlined that no major safety hazards were found during the inspections, and the fishing vessels in the anchorage area complied with the regulation of mooring no more than five vessels in a row, maintaining good overall order.

The bureau will continue to inspect fishing vessels anchored in

the Inner Harbor to ensure maritime safety in the area. ■

*The South China Sea fishing moratorium for 2025 started on May 1. The ban applies to fishing activities in the South China Sea, north of the 12th parallel, for a period of three and a half months. The ban ends on August 16. – AI Overview

Lorry driver tries to smuggle over half million cigarettes 'out of mainland' via HZMB checkpoint

Tony Wong

The mainland's Gongbei customs has announced that a lorry driver attempted to smuggle 576,000 cigarettes out of the mainland via the Zhuhai checkpoint of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HZMB) earlier this month.

The case, which occurred on May 17, was announced in a statement on Sunday, which did not mention whether the lorry was about

to travel to Macau or Hong Kong.

Neither did the statement mention how much the contraband was worth. It merely said that the driver failed to have the required export licence for tobacco goods.

Mainland customs services operating at the HZMB Zhuhai checkpoint are run by Zhuhai's Gongbei China Customs, which oversees the operations of the various customs checkpoints in

Zhuhai City and Zhongshan City, such as those at the Hengqin checkpoint, Qingmao checkpoint and Zhongshan Port, alongside the Gongbei checkpoint and the HZMB Zhuhai checkpoint.

At 1 a.m. on May 17, the statement said, a cross-border lorry driver, who had declared carrying cross-border e-commerce goods, was about to leave the mainland via the HZMB Zhuhai checkpoint, when customs officers, upon risk analysis, detected anomalies in the goods carried by the lorry.

After a detailed examination of the goods, the statement said, the customs officers found 45 items that purported to be voltage control boxes for lighting devices but were actually specifically designed hollow containers packed with smuggled cigarettes.

According to the statement, the customs officers seized a total of 2,880 cartons of cigarettes, i.e., 28,800 packets containing 576,000 cigarettes in total, all of which were of the brand of Manchester*, the statement said.

The statement quoted Article 3 of the nation's Tobacco Monopoly Law as stipulating that "the state shall, according to law, exercise monopoly administration over the manufacture, sale, import and export of tobacco monopoly commodities, and adopt a tobacco monopoly licensing system", according to which, the statement noted, the export of cigarettes must obtain a licence from the State Tobacco Monopoly Administration. ■

*Manchester cigarettes are produced by a company based in Dubai. – Poe



This undated handout photo released by the Gongbei customs on Sunday shows the smuggled "Manchester" cigarettes seized from a lorry stopped at the HZMB Zhuhai checkpoint on May 17.

Local uni student loses 204,500 patacas in 'fake police' scam

Ada Lei

A local male university student has fallen victim to a "fake police" scam, losing 204,000 patacas, Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Ho Wai Lok said during a regular press conference yesterday.

According to Ho, a local student received a call last Tuesday from someone claiming to be a "mainland police officer." The caller claimed that the student's mainland-registered phone number had been sending out a large number of scam messages. The "police officer" explicitly mentioned the student's name and personal information, requesting his cooperation.

The student was then transferred to another caller claiming to be a "task force officer," who instructed him to download a communication app and required him to report his whereabouts daily. Between May 21 and 23, the student followed the instructions, enabling screen sharing while entering his



Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Ho Wai Lok looks on during yesterday's regular press conference. – Photo: Ada Lei

bank account details as directed.

By Friday, the victim realised he could no longer log into his online banking account. He discovered that 108,000 patacas and HK\$93,500 (96,500 patacas) had been transferred from his account. It was only then that he realised he had been defrauded and reported the total loss of 204,000 patacas to the police on Monday afternoon. ■

Casa Garden to reopen next Tuesday with 2 exhibitions

Rui Pastorin

Casa Garden is set to reopen next Tuesday, after five months of consolidation and exterior repair works, the Lisbon-based Fundação Oriente ("Orient Foundation") said in a statement on Monday, with cultural events and activities scheduled to be held there throughout June.

The statement said that the reopening also celebrates Portugal Month and June 10 Portugal Day, and the 20th Anniversary of the inscription of the Historic Centre of Macau on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

The statement noted that that two exhibitions will be launched on the day of the reopening, namely "When the Island Casts Its Shadows: A Retrospective of Frank Lei", where over 60 photos taken by the lensman throughout his career will be showcased, and "Objects with Soul", which is curated by Elisa Vilaça and presents the tradition

of Portuguese puppetry. Both exhibitions will run concurrently from June 3 to June 29.

Another upcoming event is the three-day 7th Portuguese Cinema Showcase, which will be held from June 20-22 and present a "vibrant selection of films in Portuguese", according to the statement. It will kick off with the 2024 film "Greice" by Leonardo Mouramateus, which the statement said has been acclaimed at film festivals around the world, while a series of short films will also be showcased during the period.

"The reopening of Casa Garden represents a renewed commitment to culture and the community", according to the statement, with the space set to host a variety of activities such as workshops, lectures, and interactive events that "will stimulate cultural exchanges between Macau and the world". ■



This undated handout photo provided by Fundação Oriente on Monday shows the newly renovated Casa Garden.

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Source: SMG

UM starts 12th Chinese Medicine Advanced Training Programme

Ida Cheong

The University of Macau's 12th Advanced Training Programme on the Mechanism and Quality of Chinese Medicine kicked off yesterday.

The public university (UM) held an official opening ceremony on its campus in Hengqin yesterday morning. The programme is slated to last eight days.

This year students from Brazil and Portugal are taking part for the first time. In addition, students

from Southeast Asia, the Chinese mainland and Macau are also participating in the programme, which has a total of 48 students.

Science and Technology Development Fund (FDCT) Administrative Committee President Che Weng Keong noted that the programme leverages the scientific research advantages and strengths of Macau's key laboratories, comprehensively covering the basic research, quality control, clinical application and industrial

development of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) and strives to inject new vitality into the inheritance and innovation of TCM.

Che added that the students will visit the industrial park in the Guangdong-Macao In-depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin in the programme's final two days, with the aim of offering them insights into latest TCM industry trends.

China Science and Technology Exchange Centre (CSTEC) Division Director Guan Haibo noted that

this time, themed "Mechanisms and Quality of Chinese Medicine", the programme aims to develop Macau's health industry, promote the appropriate diversification of Macau's economy and better integrate it into the overall national development, promoting the combination of traditional experience and new technology, which lead the new direction of TCM development, setting up an international network for the TCM industry, and cultivating top talents.

UM Vice Rector (Research) Professor Ge Wei added that the programme not only highlights a significant increase in international participation but also has brought together representatives from prominent enterprises such as Guangzhou Pharmaceutical Holdings (GPH) and Tianjin Pharmaceutical Group Limited, which are long-standing collaborators of the University of Macau, aiming to build an interactive platform for promoting TCM and collaborative innovation. ■



Guests and students pose for a group photo after yesterday's opening ceremony for the eight-day 12th Advanced Training Programme on Mechanism and Quality of Chinese Medicine on the campus of the University of Macau (UM) in Hengqin.

- Photo: Ida Cheong

MGTO hosts Seoul roadshow, targets Millennials & Gen Z travellers

Rui Pastorin

The Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) will host a roadshow in Seoul from Friday through Monday, with the event aiming to garner interest particularly among Millennials and Gen Z* groups to travel to Macau in the summer and the rest of the year.

South Korea and the Philippines are Macau's top foreign visitor markets.

Continuing the theme "My Favorite Macao", the roadshow, according to an MGTO statement yesterday, will be held at the Epic Seoul exhibition hall of The Hyundai Seoul (THE), which is Seoul's largest shopping centre and is popular among the intended target groups.

The upcoming roadshow will feature the "Secret Doors of Macao" pop-up zone, interactive games, photo backdrops and performances, the statement said, while those at the roadshow also have a chance to win a three-day-two-night trip to Macau. Moreover, the "Macao Tourism Product Updates Seminar & Korea - Macao Travel Mart" will also be held on May 29.

The statement added that MGTO will also collaborate with widely used payment tool KakaoPay, while the "Macao Week" themed page will be launched with country's largest online travel platform Good Choice to present special offers.

Cathay Pacific, Korean Air, Jeju Air and Air Busan, among other airlines, will also be launching tourism products and offers to attract South Korean visitors to Macau, the statement said.

The statement pointed out that MGTO's "2024 Travel Behaviour Survey" shows that South Koreans' travel intentions** reached 87.8 percent in 2024 and 2025, while Macau logged 234,514 visitor arrivals from the country by May 16 this year, according to provisional figures. The visitor figure surged by 26 percent from the corresponding period of 2024 and reached 65 percent of the level in the corresponding period of pre-pandemic 2019.

Moreover, the statement said that the average length of South Korean tourists' overnight stay in Macau was 2.2 days in April, while there are about 35 weekly flights between the two places. ■

*Gen Z (short for Generation Z) refers to the demographic cohort born roughly between the mid-to-late 1990s and the early 2010s. While exact years vary by source, common definitions place Gen Z as those born from 1997 to 2012. - DeepSeek

** In tourism studies, travel intentions refer to a traveller's planned or anticipated behaviour regarding future trips, including the desire, motivation, and likelihood of visiting a particular destination or engaging in specific tourism activities. - DeepSeek



This poster provided by the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) yesterday promotes its upcoming roadshow in Seoul.

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UM hosts GBA Museum Development Forum, book exhibition

William Chan

The University of Macau (UM) held the “Museum Development Forum in Greater Bay Area” on Friday, coinciding with the opening of the “Regarding Books” exhibition.

The event’s opening ceremony was held at the university’s library, with the exhibition located on the first floor. In attendance were central and local government officials, UM Rector Song Yonghua, and representatives from 13 museums across the Greater Bay Area (GBA), including from Guangzhou, Zhuhai, Shenzhen, Foshan, Zhongshan, Jiangmen, Huizhou, and Zhaoqing.

The forum facilitated discussions on several key topics. Participants explored the impact of rapid technological advancements on the future of museums, considering how emerging technologies could enhance visitor experiences and improve preservation techniques.

Another focus was on strengthening exchanges within the Greater Bay Area’s cultural and museum sectors. Attendees discussed strategies to foster collaboration, share resources, and create a more interconnected museum network across the region.

The revitalisation of small-scale museums was also a point of discussion. Experts shared ideas on how to breathe new life into smaller institutions.

Lastly, the forum addressed the relationship between university museums and education.

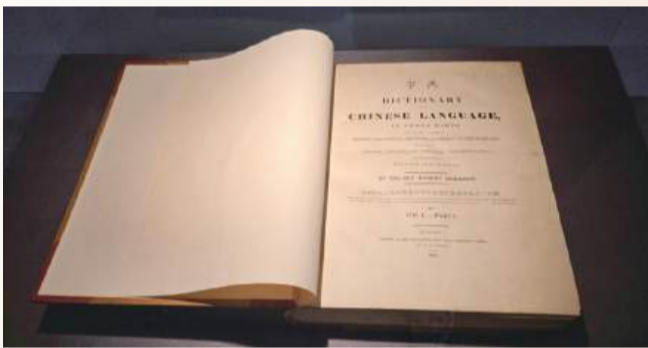
Book exhibition

The “Regarding Books” exhibition features over 50 rare Chinese and Western books selected from the UM Library’s collection. Enhancing the visitor experience, a video section presents pre-recorded introductions to various books by university professors specialising in relevant fields.

While the exhibition does not adhere to a specific theme, the displayed books are antique, rare, and of significant historical value. A considerable number of these treasures have been donated to the university.

Visitors can explore the exhibition at the Exhibition Hall on the first floor of the UM Wu Yee Sun Library (E2). The exhibition is open daily from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. until August 31. Admission is free, and guided tours are available on-site and by appointment.

For more information and details about the exhibition, please visit: <https://library.um.edu.mo/museum/en/>



A Dictionary of the Chinese Language

“A Dictionary of the Chinese Language” is the world’s first bilingual English-Chinese and Chinese-English dictionary. It is also the earliest Chinese book to utilise Western movable type printing technology. Compiled by Robert Morrison, a Protestant missionary to China, it was printed at the Macau printing factory associated with the British East India Company and published between 1815 and 1823.



The government of Greater Germany (1938), Lead movable-type printing

This book is one of the early authoritative works on the Nazi German government, providing an analysis of the political system in a historical context. It was written by James Kerr Pollock, a well-known American scholar of German politics.



Legatio Batavica Ad Magnum Tartariae Chamum Sungteium, Modernum Sinae Imperatorem (1668), metal movable type printing (“Dutch Embassy to the Great Cham of Tartary, Modern Emperor of China”)

Dutch traveller Johan Niehof, drawing from the records of the Dutch East India Company’s delegation during their 1655 visit to China, documented the sights and experiences from their approximately 2,400-kilometer journey from Guangzhou to Beijing in this book. Published in Amsterdam in 1665, the book garnered significant attention across Europe.



Benoit Bible: La sainte Bible: contenant le Vieil et le Nouveau Testament, ou, la Vieille et Nouvelle Alliance... (1566) (“Benedict Bible: The Holy Bible: Containing the Old and New Testaments, or, the Old and New Covenant”)

Bound in embossed calfskin with elaborate floral tooling and corner reinforcements, representing a luxurious binding technique of exceptional beauty for its era. This exceptionally rare Bible edition was authored by French priest René Benoît (1521-1608), who served as confessor to Mary, Queen of Scots, and King Henry IV of France.

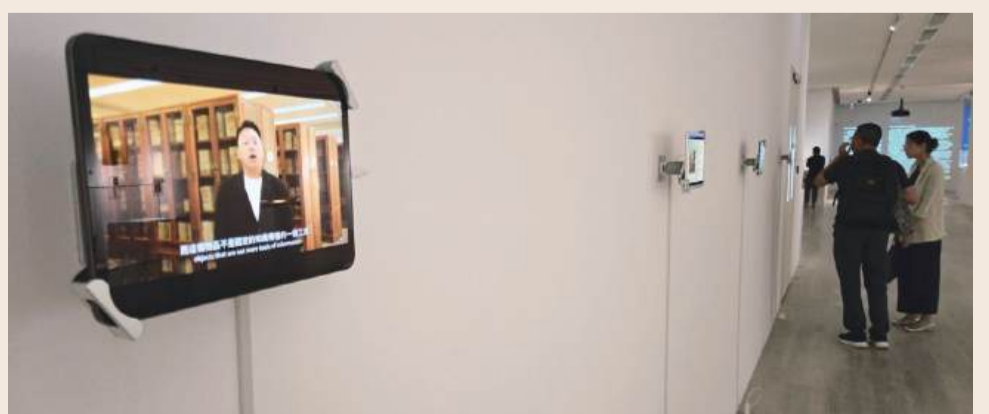


Preclarissimus liber elementorum Euclidis perspicacissimi: in artem geometrie incipit quam foelicissime (1491)

“The most excellent book of the elements of Euclid, the most perspicacious: in the art of geometry he begins most happily”

Vellum (“Fleece”), metal engraved plate printing; Incunabulum (“Cradle”)

Euclid’s Elements is the first known work in the history of mathematics to establish a logical deduction system using axiomatic methods. It summarises the achievements of the development of ancient Greek mathematics. It is not only the most precious legacy of ancient Greek civilisation, but also one of the most valuable assets of human civilisation. Its popularity is said to be second only to the Bible. The version purchased by the University of Macau Library is a reprint printed in Vicenza, Italy in 1491.



Govt to require contractors for public projects to prioritise hiring of locals: Tam

Tony Wong

Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raymond Tam Vai Man said yesterday that the government will require building contractors carrying out public projects to prioritise the hiring of local residents, according to a statement by his office.

Tam made the remarks during a meeting with senior representatives from six major associations representing the city's building contractors, architects and civil engineers, where they exchanged views on topics such as helping young local people join the construction industry and possible improvements to the government's tendering process for public construction projects.

Top officials of several bureaus under his portfolio also attended yesterday's meeting.

According to the statement, Tam said during the meeting that with the aim of creating more employment opportunities for local residents to join the city's construction sector and promoting the training and development of qualified professionals in the



Flanked by officials under his portfolio, Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raymond Tam Vai Man (second from right) addresses yesterday's meeting held at his office, located in the Bank of China Building in Nam Van, with representatives from six major associations representing the city's building contractors, architects and civil engineers. — Photo: Tam's office

sector, tendering notices for public projects to be launched by public entities under his portfolio will lay out requirements for the respective winning bidders to prioritise the hiring of local workers. Moreover, Tam said, the notices will also list a minimum required ratio of local workers in relation to the total number of workers to be hired by the winning bidders.

Tam underlined that the new

measure aims to encourage winning bidders for public projects to gradually increase the percentage of local workers in technical, managerial, and professional job positions, providing more opportunities for local residents, young people in particular, to join the construction industry, receive training and get promoted in the sector.

Meanwhile, Tam also said during the meeting that the government will further improve its system for



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

launching and carrying out tenders for public construction projects, with the aim of fostering healthier competition in the construction industry and its sustainable development.

Tam noted that in the past, some public projects were affected by delayed schedules and quality below the required standards because they were carried out by winning bidders who provided abnormally low

bidding prices.

According to the statement, Tam said that the government will study the feasibility of amending the modus operandi of its process to launch tenders by invitation for public construction projects, where bidders offering the most reasonable prices would win a tender, a change from the current practice where those offering the lowest prices win a tender. ■

Hong Kong-born giant panda twins named Jia Jia, De De

HONG KONG — The first locally-born giant panda cubs were named Jia Jia and De De, the Ocean Park Hong Kong announced yesterday.

The pair of giant panda cubs was born last August and their parents are Ying Ying and Le Le, the giant pandas gifted by the central government to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR).

The female giant panda cub is named Jia Jia, conveying the message of support. In both Cantonese and Mandarin, Jia is homophonous with "home" and "auspicious," which was considered a name with a beautiful meaning, symbolizing national prosperity and people's happiness.

The male giant panda cub is named De De, meaning to succeed and having a connotation that Hong Kong is successful in everything. De also shares the same pronunciation as the Chinese character for "virtue" in both Cantonese and Mandarin, suggesting that giant pandas, the

national treasure, possess the virtues cherished by the Chinese people.

Rosanna Law Shuk-pui, secretary for culture, sports and tourism of the HKSAR government, said that the panda twins' naming contest, organized by the Culture, Sports, and Tourism Bureau of the HKSAR government and co-hosted by Ocean Park Hong Kong, received over 35,700 name submissions, reflecting overwhelming enthusiasm.

Law said that the names submitted by the public deeply touched the judging panel, showcasing the affection people have for the panda twins and carrying heartfelt blessings for them.

According to Ocean Park, Jia Jia and De De now weigh over 21kg each and continue to grow strong and healthy. Starting Tuesday, the park has opened the alpine area of Giant Panda Adventure for the twins to interact with Ying Ying, providing a more challenging and stimulating environment that will help them continue to develop their life skills. —Xinhua

Police nab local, mainlander, 2 Vietnamese for violating labour laws

Ada Lei

A local man, a mainland non-resident worker (NRW), and two Vietnamese NRWs were arrested last Wednesday for violating labour laws. The local man was arrested for illegal employment and harbouring an illegal immigrant and an overstayer, while the mainland worker was apprehended for taking an unauthorised side job and the two Vietnamese men were arrested for illegally entering and overstaying in Macau, respectively, Public Security Police (PSP) spokesman Cheong Heon Fan said during a regular press conference yesterday.

Cheong identified the local man as Lei, the operator of a scrapyard in his thirties, and the mainland worker as He, a deliveryman also in his thirties. The Vietnamese workers were identified as Bui and Khuc, both in their forties.

According to Cheong, the Public Security Police (PSP) conducted a routine inspection of the scrapyard in Ka Ho (九澳) last Wednesday, discovering seven men working there. When the police approached them, Bui, Khuc and He attempted to flee, but the officers apprehended them and discovered that He was engaged in work which was inconsistent with his delivery job; Bui was found to have illegally entered Macau, while Khuc was overstaying in Macau.

Under questioning, Bui claimed that he swam from Zhuhai to Macau on May 17 because he couldn't afford a plane ticket and



This undated handout photo provided by the Public Security Police (PSP) yesterday shows a PSP officer escorting the person in charge of a local scrapyard, suspected of illegally hiring non-local workers, into a police station.

visa. Although he insisted he was hired the same day he was arrested, other employees testified that he had been working at the scrapyard for two to three months. The police also discovered that Khuc had been an NRW until mid-2024 before his status was revoked. Instead of being repatriated, he had been hired by Lei since then, earning 400 patacas daily and living at the scrapyard.

Cheong noted that He's legal occupation is as a deliveryman, but he began part-time work at the scrapyard a few months ago, earning 40 patacas per hour. He told the police that he worked at the scrapyard during the day and as a

deliveryman at night. Cheong said that Lei was summoned to a police station, where he only admitted to being the scrapyard operator but refused to cooperate. The police have informed the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) for further action, according to Cheong.

The four suspects have been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP). Lei is facing charges of illegal employment and harbouring an illegal immigrant and an overstayer, while He is facing a charge of unauthorised employment. Furthermore, Bui is facing an illegal entry charge, while Khuc is facing an overstaying charge. ■

STOCK MARKETS

HK stocks close 0.43 pct higher

HONG KONG — Hong Kong's stock market ended higher yesterday with the benchmark Hang Seng Index up 0.43 percent to close 23,381.99 points.

The Hang Seng China Enterprises Index rose 0.38 percent to end at 8,469.97 points, while Hang Seng Tech Index gained 0.48 percent to end at 5,182.6 points. —Xinhua

From wastelands to wonders: China revives abandoned mines for sustainable future

Analysis

JINAN – Tianchi Lake at Baihu Mountain in east China's Shandong Province features expansive water shimmering with rippling blue waves, and pale purple paulownia flowers blooming along its steep rocky shores.

It's hard to imagine that this tranquil and beautiful landscape was once a barren quarry pit. "Windstorms used to whip up dense dust clouds, obscuring the colors of leaves and flowers," recalled 62-year-old villager Wang Yunhe in Hetaoyuan, a town with 22 mountains and an estimated 1.19 billion tonnes of rock reserves.

As one of the world's most mineral-rich nations, China contains over 150,000 mines occupying millions of hectares of land. Upholding the concept that clear waters and green mountains are valuable assets, the country has implemented multiple measures to advance the ecological rehabilitation of abandoned mines in recent years, aiming for win-win outcomes in terms of ecological, economic and social benefits.

ECOLOGICAL TRANSFORMATION

According to Shang Baoling, a former local official, quarrying had become the dominant industry in Hetaoyuan since the 1990s. Nearly 50 lime kilns were built, with over 2,000 villagers relying on stone mining for their livelihoods.

Rapacious mining boosted local economies temporarily, but later caused significant ecological damage. "These mountains, originally over 180

meters tall, were excavated to depths exceeding 40 meters below ground level – ultimately transforming verdant peaks into desolate quarries," Shang said.

In 2015, authorities of Juye County, which administers Hetaoyuan, enacted a comprehensive mining ban, shuttering all quarries and lime kilns. Years of dedicated reforestation have since transformed 18,000 mu (1,200 hectares) of mining wastelands and slopes into thriving ecosystems, where crabapple, cherry blossoms, paulownia flowers and other flora now bloom in seasonal cycles.

Many greening workers employed in this effort were former miners from local villages. "Several villagers told me the changes have been tremendous," Shang added.

Such transformations are occurring across China. By the end of 2024, over 333,300 hectares of abandoned mines had been rehabilitated – including 26,200 hectares newly restored in 2024 alone.

This year's government work report said China will "accelerate the green and low-carbon transition," listing "strengthening ecological conservation and restoration" as a key priority.

AGRICULTURAL GOLDMINE

Nationwide, abandoned mines with geographical and resource advantages are being repurposed for agricultural and other industrial development, creating new economic opportunities for local residents. Taobei Village in Shandong's

capital city of Jinan, for example, rehabilitated its abandoned quarry, a low-lying area littered with rubble, turning it into a medicinal herb cultivation base several years ago.

"We have developed cultivation of over 10 medicinal herbs, including astragalus and Chinese sage, with an annual production capacity reaching 4 million plants," said Tao Changguo, director of the village committee.

Local authorities have also introduced specialized planting cooperatives, establishing processing workshops for medicinal herbs, and facilities for sorting, packaging and fresh storage. These initiatives have boosted local employment while generating more than 200,000 yuan in additional annual income for the cooperatives.

In 2008, as local environmental restoration efforts began, a long-abandoned mining pit in China's eastern coastal city of Qingdao found new life as a vineyard and winemaking hub, thanks to its prime location on the same latitude as Bordeaux in France.

"The barren yet well-draining soil here enhances grape acidity and phenolic content, while the scattered rocks in the earth contribute abundant organic minerals," said Yan Zhigang, deputy general manager of a local wine company.

According to Yan, the company's vineyard spans approximately 3,000 mu of reclaimed mining land, where grapes are cultivated on former wasteland and abandoned pits have been repurposed into wine cellars. With an annual production

volume of nearly 500,000 bottles, their wines are exported to multiple countries and regions including Europe, Southeast Asia and Japan.

TOURISM BOOM

After two decades of relentless efforts, Anji, a small county in east China's Zhejiang Province, is now successfully transforming its ecological advantage into tangible wealth.

Launched in 2022, Deep Blue Coffeehouse, located on a 300-mu disused mine near a natural lake in Hongmiao Village of Anji, has now become a social media sensation, drawing 600,000 visitors yearly and earning 20 million yuan in its first year.

This Scandinavian-style outdoor cafe made headlines in 2024 when it set a new national record for single-day sales at an independent coffee shop – serving an impressive 8,818 cups of coffee in just 24 hours.

"It's less about selling coffee and more about selling the scenery and leisure itself," said Cheng Shuoqin, owner of the coffee shop.

In recent years, with the deepening integration of ecological restoration and cultural tourism, an increasing number of once-barren industrial sites have been revitalized through scientific planning and innovative design. These transformed spaces now serve not only as eco-parks and tourist destinations but also feature diverse business models, such as countryside-style farm stays, thrilling amusement parks and immersive performance venues.

At the Huaxia City Scenic Area, located in the city of Weihai in Shandong, Zhou Liming was

driving tourists through lush forests and flower fields. A resident from a nearby village, Zhou currently works as a sightseeing vehicle operator in the area. According to Zhou, this area was once nothing but a quarry pockmarked with 44 mining pits of various sizes.

Since 2003, Weihai has implemented a comprehensive initiative across abandoned mining zones as a strategy for sustainable development. Through reclaiming nearly 4,000 mu of devastated mountains, constructing 35 reservoirs and planting 12.27 million trees, this transformed landscape ultimately gave birth to a thriving tourist resort.

In the scenic area, an abandoned mining ravine has been transformed, featuring masterpieces of Chinese calligraphy from successive dynasties carved into its towering cliff walls on both sides. A preserved mining village and pit relics remind visitors of the importance of ecological conservation. At a rehabilitated mining site, audiences can now watch an immersive live performance aboard a giant ship, with the actual mountains, water and sky forming a breathtaking natural backdrop.

In 2024, the scenic area welcomed 2.04 million visitors, generating total revenue of 124 million yuan. During this year's May Day holiday alone, it attracted 82,000 tourists with holiday earnings reaching 6.65 million yuan.

"Now, driving a sightseeing vehicle in the scenic area earns me 60,000 yuan annually. This is the good life that our lush mountains and clear waters have brought us!" Zhou said. –Xinhua



A boy poses in front of a poster for "Ne Zha 2" after the animated film's media premiere in Moscow on Sunday. The film will be officially released in Russia tomorrow. –Xinhua

Top Chinese cargo port partners with 3 European hubs for low-carbon maritime cooperation

HANGZHOU – The Ningbo-Zhoushan Port, the world's busiest port in terms of cargo throughput, yesterday announced three initiatives it has undertaken with three major European ports – Hamburg and Wilhelmshaven in Germany, and Valencia in Spain – to construct green shipping corridors and advance low-carbon port cooperation between China and Europe.

The shipping industry handles roughly 80 percent of global trade and faces urgent pressure to curb emissions. Under the initiatives to decarbonize international shipping, the ports involved will work with

shipping lines, cargo owners, energy providers, research institutions and other stakeholders to promote zero-carbon technology, clean fuels and smart management systems on designated routes.

Key actions include constructing and utilizing shore power infrastructure, optimizing freight distribution networks, adopting renewable energy solutions and scaling up clean fuel bunkering, with the goal of creating corridors with net-zero carbon emissions from starting port to terminal port.

The Ningbo-Zhoushan Port handles more than 300 container

routes, including over 250 international routes, connecting over 600 ports in more than 200 countries and regions.

Strengthening the research and promotion of green and low-carbon technologies has always been a focus of this port, with 74 percent of its energy now coming from clean sources.

"We aim to work closely with ports and shipping companies under the Belt and Road Initiative to support the global green transformation of ports and shipping," said Tao Chengbo, chairman of the Ningbo-Zhoushan Port Group. –Xinhua

Scientists develop AI model to predict stellar flares

BEIJING – Chinese scientists have developed FLARE, a cutting-edge artificial intelligence (AI) model designed to predict stellar flares, offering a transformative tool for astronomical research, the Institute of Automation under the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) announced yesterday.

The model, co-developed by researchers from the CAS Institute of Automation and the CAS National Astronomical Observatories, leverages the integrated intelligent research platform ScienceOne to analyze stellar data and forecast magnetic eruptions on stars.

Stellar flares are sudden bursts of energy caused by the release of magnetic fields in a star's atmospheres. They hold critical clues for understanding stellar structure, evolution, magnetic activity, and the potential for habitable exoplanets, said Chen Yingying, a researcher from the Institute of Automation.

"Research has shown that various physical properties of stars, such as age, rotation velocity, and mass, as well as historical flare records, are significantly related to stellar flares," Chen said.

However, limited observational data has hindered comprehensive studies. Accurately predicting the timing of stellar flares has become an important task in astronomical studies, said Chen.

The researcher further explained that FLARE addresses this gap by integrating a star's physical properties with historical flare records through its unique architecture, combining soft prompt modules and residual record fusion modules, to enhance feature extraction from light curves and therefore, significantly improve prediction accuracy.

Notably, the model demonstrates a certain level of adaptability, enabling precise flare forecasts based on varying light curve patterns of different stars.

Even for the same star with different variability patterns, precise predictions can still be achieved, said Chen.

The research paper detailing FLARE's development has been accepted by the 34th International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence, a premier global AI conference. –Xinhua

Wang Huning urges joint efforts across Taiwan Strait to promote Chinese culture



Wang Huning (right), a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), shakes hands with Hung Hsiu-chu, former chairperson of the Chinese Kuomintang (KMT) in Beijing yesterday on the sidelines of the 2nd Cross-Strait Chinese Culture Summit. — Xinhua

BEIJING — Senior national leader Wang Huning yesterday called for joint efforts across the Taiwan Strait to promote Chinese culture.

Wang, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), made the remarks when he met with Taiwan guests who were in Beijing to attend the second Cross-Strait Chinese Culture Summit.

Noting that Chinese culture is the root and soul of the Chinese people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait, Wang called for efforts to uphold cultural confidence, jointly carry forward the spirit of Chinese culture, shoulder the historic responsibility together, and unite and strive for the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

Wang said efforts should be made to promote Chinese cultural exchanges, enhance cross-Strait exchanges and cooperation across all sectors, and foster deeper spiritual alignment between compatriots on both sides.

He also called for promoting the national spirit with patriotism at its core.

Noting that 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, as well as the 80th anniversary of Taiwan's recovery, Wang said joint efforts must be made to adhere to the one-China principle and the 1992 Consensus, and to resolutely oppose "Taiwan independence."

He also called for jointly standing firm on the position of Chinese culture and working together to meet external challenges.

The Taiwan guests, including Hung Hsiu-chu, former chairperson of the Chinese Kuomintang (KMT), said that as Chinese, they take great pride in and have unwavering confidence in Chinese culture.

They expressed the expectation to see compatriots across the Strait uphold the one-China principle, oppose "Taiwan independence," strengthen cultural exchanges, and jointly promote national reunification and the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

— Xinhua, MPD

Li Qiang calls for forging example of openness, development cooperation with ASEAN, GCC

KUALA LUMPUR — Premier Li Qiang called on China, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries to jointly forge an example in openness, development cooperation and cross-civilization integration yesterday.

He made the remarks when addressing the inaugural ASEAN-China-GCC Summit held in Kuala Lumpur, the capital of Malaysia.

China, ASEAN, and GCC countries enjoy a long history of friendly exchanges, Li said, adding that against complex changes in international landscape and a sluggish economic growth, the establishment of such a communication platform and cooperation mechanism as this trilateral summit marks a major innovation in regional economic cooperation.

Through closer connectivity and cooperation, the Chinese premier said, the three sides can build a dynamic economic circle and growth pole, which carries great significance for their respective prosperity as well as for peace and development in Asia and the world.

Li urged all sides to seize this historic opportunity, continuously enrich the substance of trilateral cooperation, and work together to build a model of global cooperation and development.

He urged all sides to build a model in three aspects.

Three aspects

Firstly, Li called on the three sides to create a model of cross-region openness, noting that the population and economic aggregate of China as well as countries of the ASEAN and the GCC account for approximately one quarter of the world's total.

A full connection of the three markets will surely give rise to a much larger space for development and a more significant scale effect, he said.

China and the ASEAN have fully completed the negotiations on the upgrade of the Version 3.0 China-ASEAN Free Trade Area, Li noted, adding that it is expected that an early completion of talks on the free trade area agreement between the GCC and various parties can be done so as to elevate trilateral trade levels.

He urged the three sides to unwaveringly expand regional opening-up, and build the related regions into a large shared market where resources, technologies and talents flow more efficiently, and trade and investment enjoy greater freedom and convenience, so as to fully unleash the powerful effect of open development.

Secondly, he called on the three sides to forge a model of



Premier Li Qiang (center) addresses the ASEAN-China-GCC Summit in Kuala Lumpur, the capital of Malaysia, yesterday. — Xinhua

cooperation across different development stages, saying that although the three sides are at different stages of development, their differences are not obstacles to cooperation but complements to each other's strengths.

China, he said, is ready to deepen strategic alignment with the ASEAN and the GCC on the basis of mutual respect and equal treatment, enhance coordination of macroeconomic policies and strengthen collaboration in industrial specialization.

"We should strive to turn our own strengths into those of everyone, and at the same time help each other tackle new challenges emerging in development, create new ways of international industrial economic cooperation, and promote a coordinated development in which their abilities can be fully explored, and benefits can be doubled and shared," he said.

Thirdly, the Chinese premier urged the three sides to create a model of cross-civilization integration, noting that the three sides are home to vibrant civilizations and share Asian values of peace, cooperation, openness and inclusiveness.

He called for deeper cultural and people-to-people exchanges and a stronger foundation of mutual trust, and called on the three sides to effectively manage differences through mutual understanding, foster mutually beneficial cooperation through the exchange of ideas and explore a new path for the inclusive advancement of diverse civilizations.

The Chinese side, he said, actively supports the initiative of Confucian-Islamic civilizational dialogue proposed by Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim.

China is ready to work with the ASEAN and the GCC to implement the Global Civilization Initiative, promote mutual learning among civilizations and build greater consensus and momentum for peace and development, he added.

Li said China is willing to strengthen trilateral partnerships with ASEAN and the GCC, work together to formulate a high-quality Belt and Road cooperation action plan, strengthen alignment in infrastructure and market regulations, expand cooperation in areas such as energy, agriculture, artificial intelligence, the digital economy as well as green and low-carbon development, and promote people-to-people exchanges and mutual understanding.

China, Li said, is also willing to offer greater visa facilitation to ASEAN and GCC countries.

Looking globally, the three sides should strengthen communication and coordination under the UN and other multilateral frameworks, safeguard the common interests of developing countries, resolutely oppose hegemonism and power politics, and push for a more just and equitable global governance, Li said.

ASEAN and GCC leaders attending the summit spoke highly of the important role stronger trilateral cooperation plays in advancing their respective development and promoting regional peace and prosperity.

They said that the summit has opened a new chapter for the three sides to jointly address challenges and pursue development.

The leaders pledged to further deepen Belt and Road cooperation, enhance cooperation in such areas as connectivity, economy and trade, industrial and supply chains, agriculture, energy, finance and the digital economy.

They also pledged to strengthen mutual learning among civilizations, carry out closer multilateral cooperation, and advance trilateral integration for strong, inclusive, and sustainable development, contributing to the building of a community with a shared future.

The meeting adopted the joint statement of the ASEAN-China-GCC Summit. — Xinhua



Principal of Fudan University Jin Li addresses its 120th anniversary ceremony in Shanghai yesterday. Founded in 1905, Fudan University is a comprehensive, research-oriented tertiary education institution based in Shanghai. — Xinhua