

DSEDТ aims to attract visitors to Zape in wake of closure of satellite casinos by year-end



Economic and Technological Development Bureau (DSEDТ) Director Yau Yun Wah speaks to reporters on the sidelines of yesterday's "Innovation and Entrepreneurship Competition (Macao) for Technology Enterprises from Brazil and Portugal" at the Macau Science Centre (MSC) in Nape. – Photo: Ida Cheong

Ida Cheong

Economic and Technological Development Bureau (DSEDТ) Director Yau Yun Wah told reporters at the Macau Science Centre (MSC) in Nape yesterday that a raft of measures will be implemented in Zape district, with the aim of attracting visitors and improving the area's business environment, due to the fact that five of the 11 satellite casinos slated to close by the end of this year are located there.

Zape is the Portuguese initialism for Outer Harbour Land Reclamation Zone. Nape is the initialism for Outer Harbour New Land Reclamation.

The government announced last week that all 11 "satellite casinos" in Macau will close for good by December 31 this year. However, gaming operator SJM has announced that is plans to buy the hotels where two of the satellite casinos are located (Pone 16 and L'Arc) so that they could continue to operate, but no longer as

satellite casinos* but casinos directly operated by SJM.

Yau told reporters that several projects will be launched by the government in Zape, such as interactive "photo check-in points" to be set up across Zape between mid-to-late November and 2026, aiming to attract tourists and residents. Concerning the "photo check-in points", Yau said that discussions were ongoing with a certain international intellectual property (IP) holder.

Yau also said that his bureau will cooperate with major mainland ticketing platforms, offering concert ticket buyers "gift packages", including admission to the Macau Grand Prix Museum and consumption vouchers for shops in Zape, aiming to promote the area's commerce.

Yau pointed out that the bureau will encourage more associations and community groups to organise events in streets like Rua de Pequim (北京街), and Rua de Xangai (上海街),

leveraging Zape's "public spaces", adding that the bureau will coordinate its revamp with relevant entities to enhance and beautify the district, aiming to optimise the use of public spaces for events.

Moreover, to encourage tourists to spend more on local businesses, Yau said that vouchers or discounts will target 3- and 4-star hotels' guests, aiming to increase tourists' consumer spending power.

Regarding the other affected businesses near the satellite casinos in Zape, Yau told reporters that there are about 160 businesses in Zape, most of which previously relied on satellite casino customers. He noted that they are now facing "transition challenges". While the government aims to stimulate Zape's vitality through events and support business transformation, Yau emphasised that market forces will ultimately determine commercial outcomes.

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China, Central Asian nations sign treaty of permanent good neighborliness

ASTANA – China and the five Central Asian countries signed a treaty of permanent good-neighborliness and friendly cooperation yesterday, enshrining the principle of everlasting friendship across generations in the legal form.

President Xi Jinping signed the document with the leaders of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan, where they gathered for the 2nd China-Central Asia Summit.

Addressing the summit, Xi said that China-Central Asia cooperation is rooted in more than 2,000 years of friendly exchanges, cemented by solidarity and mutual trust, cultivated through more than three decades of diplomatic ties, and taken

forward through openness and win-win cooperation of the new era.

As the world has entered a new period of turbulence and transformation, Xi said a strong belief in fairness and justice and an unyielding commitment to mutual benefit and win-win cooperation are the only ways to maintain global peace and achieve common development.

"There is no winner in tariff wars or trade wars. Unilateralism, protectionism and hegemonism will surely backfire while hurting others," he said.

"I always maintain that history should move forward, not backward; and the world should be united, not divided. Humanity must not regress to the law of the jungle. Instead, we should build a

community with a shared future for mankind," he added.

Xi emphasized that building on the collective efforts over the years, the nations have forged a China-Central Asia Spirit of "mutual respect, mutual trust, mutual benefit and mutual assistance for the joint pursuit of modernization through high-quality development".

He called for carrying forward the China-Central Asia Spirit, enhancing cooperation with renewed vigor and more practical measures, promoting high-quality development of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and forging ahead toward the goal of a community with a shared future for the region.

– (More on pages 6 & 7)

– Courtesy of China Daily



President Xi Jinping delivers a keynote speech during the 2nd China-Central Asia Summit in Astana, Kazakhstan, yesterday. – Xinhua

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The Macau Post Daily

Trump says wants 'real end' to Israel-Iran conflict, not ceasefire

US President Donald Trump said he wants a "real end" to the conflict between Israel and Iran, not just a ceasefire, as the arch foes traded fire for a fifth day yesterday.

– Story on p. 10

WHO says Gaza health care at breaking point as fuel runs out

The World Health Organisation (WHO) yesterday pleaded for fuel to be allowed into Gaza to keep its remaining hospitals running, warning the Palestinian territory's health system was at "breaking point".

– Story on p. 11

Portugal closes Tehran embassy as Iran-Israel conflict rages

Portugal is temporarily shutting its Tehran embassy because of the "gravity of the current situation", as Iran and Israel's conflict heats up, Portuguese Foreign Minister Paulo Rangel said yesterday.

– Story on p. 12

Source: SMG

UM ranks among top 0.1 pct worldwide in 3 ESI research fields

Rui Pastorin

The University of Macau (UM) said in a statement on Monday that it now ranks among the top 0.1 percent worldwide in the research areas of engineering, computer science, and pharmacology & toxicology, according to the latest data from the Essential Science Indicators (ESI).

The public university's rankings in these areas are up from its previous position in the top 1.0 percent, the statement noted.

The statement said that the ESI database ranks institutions based on citation frequency of their papers and includes only the top 1.0 percent most cited papers over the past 10 years. UM is included in the ESI database for 15 research fields.

The public university said that it attributes the achievement to "its focused research strategy, which emphasises key technological areas and has produced outstanding results in industry-academia collaboration".

The statement highlighted that through years of effort, the university has established a "leading position in cutting-edge fields" such as microelectronics, artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, data science, intelligent manufacturing, green and low-carbon development, new energy, and new materials".

The statement also elaborated on UM's progress and achievements in the microelectronics field, noting that the State Key Laboratory of Analog and Mixed-Signal VLSI at UM has "made significant achievements in core technologies such as data conversion, power management, wireless communications, and voice signal processing". It highlighted

that UM ranked first among Chinese universities in terms of the number of papers accepted at the IEEE International Solid-State Circuits Conference in both 2023 and 2024.

The statement noted that in computer science, UM has also made "remarkable progress" in recent years, among which are UM ranking 101st in the 2024-2025 *US News & World Report Best Global Universities Rankings* for computer science, along with "breakthroughs and innovations in critical areas such as AI, big data, and computing systems".

In the field of pharmacology & toxicology, the statement said that through the Institute of Chinese Medical Sciences and the State Key Laboratory of Quality Research in Chinese Medicine, the university has established several prominent pharmaceutical research platforms including the UM Centre for Pharmaceutical Regulatory Sciences. The centre is recognised by the Pharmaceutical Administration Bureau (ISAF) to "conduct third-party technical assessments for the registration of proprietary Chinese medicines", and it is also the first research platform in the Greater Bay Area (GBA) "dedicated to regulatory science and international drug registration strategies", the statement said. The statement also highlighted the key role of the UM Macao Centre for Testing of Chinese Medicine.

Moreover, "UM is ranked 33rd in the 2024-2025 *US News & World Report Best Global Universities Rankings* for pharmacology and toxicology, the highest ranking among universities in Hong Kong and Macau", the statement said. ■

Govt confirms validity of all 6 indirect election candidacy nomination lists

Tony Wong

The Legislative Assembly Electoral Affairs Commission (CAEAL) has confirmed the validity of the candidacy nominations of all the six electoral lists that had submitted the involved associations' signatures endorsing their respective candidacy for the upcoming indirect legislative election.

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

In order to be accepted for the indirect legislative election, a list is required to obtain nominations from at least 20 percent of the respective sector's associations that have been registered for voting.

CAEAL President Seng Ioi Man made the remarks while speaking to reporters on Monday after chairing a regular closed-door meeting of the commission at the Public Administration Building on Rua do Campo.

The 2025 direct and indirect legislative elections will take place on September 14.

According to Seng's announcements on Monday, two lists have submitted nomination signatures for the upcoming indirect election's

labour sector, while only one list has submitted nomination signatures for each of the other four sectors.

Consequently, while candidates to be chosen by the two lists for the labour sector are slated to compete for the sector's two indirectly elected seats, all candidates of the other four sectors' electoral lists are slated to be elected uncontested.

According to Seng, the six indirect election lists whose candidacies have been accepted comprise the Union of Macau Business Interests for the industrial, commercial and financial sector; the Union of Macau Professionals' Interests for the professional sector; the Joint Candidacy Committee of Employees' Associations, and the Union of Workers' Associations for the labour sector; the Rising Sun Cultural and Sports Union for the cultural and sports sector; and the Social Service and Education Promotion Association for the social services and educational sector.

For the four sectors where the candidates are slated to run uncontested, the names of the four lists for the upcoming indirect elections are the same as in the elections four years ago.

Macau's direct and indirect Legislative Assembly (AL) elections are held every four years.

In the 2021 indirect election, only one candidacy list ran for each of the



Pedestrians walk past the Public Administration Building on Rua do Campo on Sunday, that has a banner promoting the upcoming direct and indirect legislative election on September 14. – Photo: Tony Wong

five sectors, meaning that all the then 12 candidates were elected unopposed.

The Joint Candidacy Committee of Employees' Associations list for the labour sector, which will run in the upcoming indirect election, ran in the indirect election four years ago, meaning that the Union of Workers' Associations will run in the indirect election for the first time.

In the 2017 indirect election, two lists ran for the professional sector, competing for the sector's three seats, while the other sectors' candidates were running unopposed at that time. ■

Locals find Zhuhai eateries 'better than those in Macau': MUST survey

Armando Neves

The private Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) released its "2025 Macau Consumer Satisfaction Index" at a press conference on Monday, which revealed that local residents are more satisfied with restaurants and other kinds of eateries* in Zhuhai than those in Macau.

The Macau Consumer Satisfaction Index is funded by the Macau Foundation (FM) and carried out by MUST's Sustainable Development Research Institute.

According to an MUST statement, the index comprises four categories – Macau shopping (clothing), Macau restaurants and other kinds of eateries, Zhuhai shopping (clothing), and Zhuhai restaurants and other kinds of eateries.

This survey was conducted from March 17 to April 9, using a questionnaire survey method, successfully interviewing 915 Macau residents. The survey primarily focused on product quality, service quality, value for money, customer complaints, and customer loyalty. Satisfaction levels were measured on a scale of 0 to 100, with higher scores indicating greater satisfaction.

The survey results showed that concerning the satisfaction level for restaurants and eateries, Macau recorded 72.3 points, an increase of



Customers eat their meals at an eatery in the city centre yesterday evening.

– Photo: Armando Neves

1.53 percent (1.1 points) compared to last year, while Zhuhai recorded 78.4 points, an increase of 3.98 percent (3 points) compared to last year.

The survey showed that Macau residents' satisfaction with Zhuhai restaurants and other kinds of eateries has shown particularly notable improvement, with "value for money" being the most outstanding aspect. This, the statement said, suggests that Macau's F&B industry could benefit from studying their Zhuhai counterparts' approaches to enhancing cost-performance while maintaining current food and service standards.

This survey results also showed that the satisfaction level

for shopping (clothing), Macau recorded 73.4 points, a decrease of 2.65 percent (2 points) compared to last year, while Zhuhai recorded 73.4 points, a slight decrease of 1.08 percent (0.8 points) compared to last year.

Although the scores (73.4) are identical, the report highlights a marked decline in service quality in Macau, serving as a warning sign for Macau's clothing retailers, the survey said. ■

*All restaurants are eateries, but not all eateries are restaurants. Think of "eatery" as an umbrella term for anywhere you eat, while "restaurant" suggests a step up in service quality and experience. – DeepSeek

Arraial de São João slated for this weekend

Rui Pastorin

The Arraial de São João (St. John's Festival, aka Feast of Saint John) will take place at the weekend, with this year's event again to be held at the Macau Tower Convention & Entertainment Centre-Outdoor Plaza and featuring a raft of vibrant activities.

Held in June every year, the festival, according to the Cultural Affairs Bureau's (IC) Cultural Heritage website, had taken place at Bairro de São Lázaro (望德堂坊) since 2007. It commemorates Portugal's victory against the Dutch in Macau on June 24, 1622, with the military triumph considered as a blessing from Saint John. It is one of the traditional festivals and celebrations of the local Portuguese and Macanese communities, according to the bureau's Cultural Heritage website.

The two-day free admission event, a recent statement by the Associação dos Jovens Macaenses (AJM - the Macanese Youth

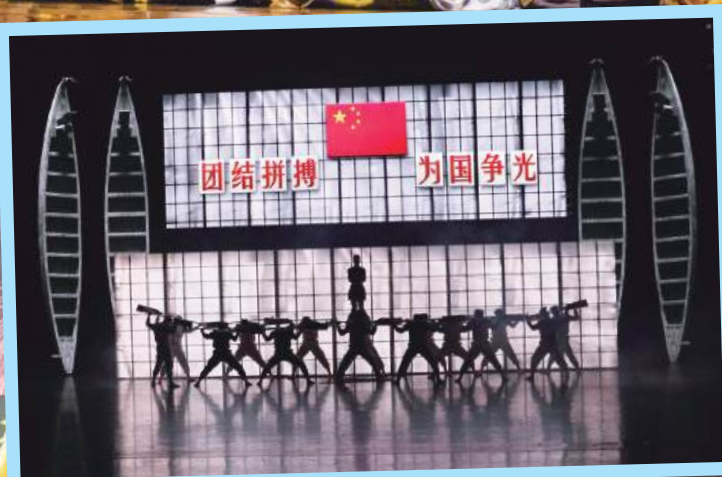
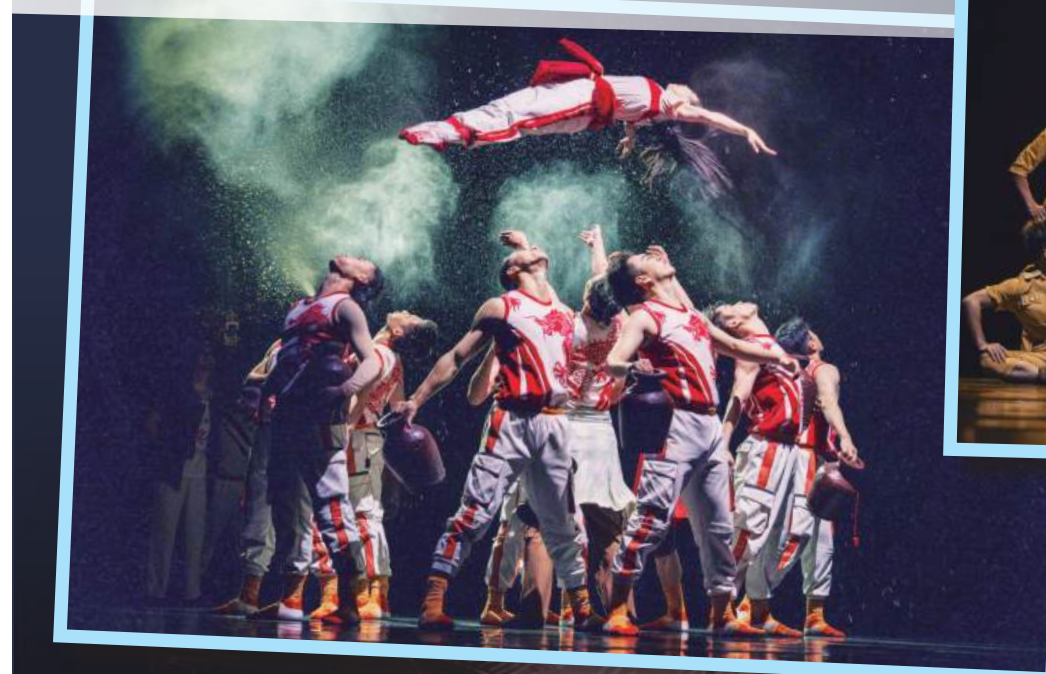
Association) has pointed out that the festival is "a community effort to maintain the tradition of commemorating the historic date", which was formerly known as Dia da Cidade de Macau ("Macau City Day").

The festival has been included in the Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Macau since 2020, the statement noted.

This year's event is scheduled to be held from 2:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. this coming Saturday and Sunday, and it will feature arts and crafts, food and drinks, games, music and performances by local bands and groups, according to the statement.

It is organised by the Associação dos Macaenses (ADM) in conjunction with AJM, Associação Promotora da Instrução dos Macaenses (APIM - the Macanese Education Promoting Association), Casa de Portugal em Macau (CPM - the House of Portugal in Macau) and the International Institute of Macau (IIM). ■

Dancers spray wine into the air, creating a misty atmosphere during the performance.
- Photos provided by Sands China



'DANCE DRAMA: DRAGON BOAT' IS HIGHLY CREATIVE, REFRESHING & WELL-CRAFTED

Review by William Chan

The large-scale contemporary stage production "Dance Drama: Dragon Boat", created by the Guangzhou Song and Dance Theatre, held two performances over the weekend at The Venetian Theatre. I attended the premiere on Saturday and was completely captivated by its innovative approach.

Last year, I had the chance to view several patriotic works celebrating Macau's 25th Anniversary of its return to the motherland. Unfortunately, many of them lacked originality and were often overly themed, with little room for innovation.

"Dance Drama: Dragon Boat", however, excels in this respect. The show describes itself as unveiling a new dimension of "revitalising cultural heritage" — blending traditional dragon boat spirit with modern expression, and this description definitely matched what it offered.

The story begins with the Chinese dragon boat team's loss in the 1980s. It follows a new generation of three athletes from Hong Kong, Shunde and Macau respectively, culminating in their triumphant victory in the latest competition.

While patriotic themes are woven into the narrative, they are presented unobtrusively, seamlessly integrating with modern elements. For example, during a scene showing athletes practising, the background features a traditional red banner bearing the words "团结拼搏 为国争光" ("Unity and Struggle, Glory to the Country"). However, the choreography is distinctly modern, incorporating contemporary dance styles that create a striking contrast with both the setting and storyline.

The production's elements are broad and diverse. Despite the central focus being on dragon boat racing, the show creatively interweaves different scenes while maintaining

momentum. In one such scene, depicting a friendly race, the stage mimics a VR simulator, with dancers wearing headsets and wielding lightsabres to simulate a fierce battle between teams. Cultural elements are also thoughtfully preserved — for instance, before the final race, players share wine, which is then dramatically sprayed into the air, creating a misty, dreamlike atmosphere that symbolises rallying and unity. The head of the dragon boat, central to the entire show, symbolises the team's cohesion and collective spirit and collected the whole story together.

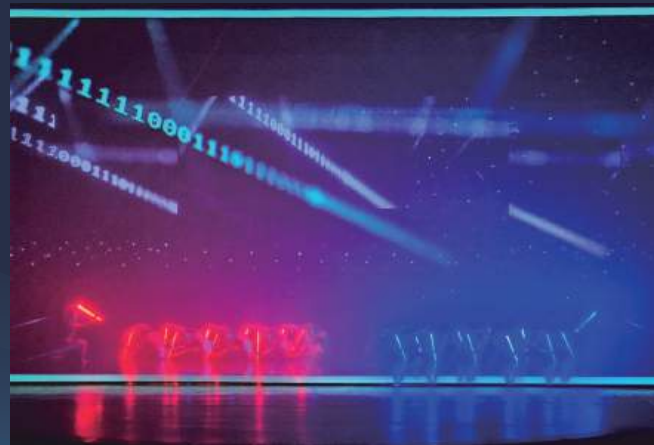
Another commendable aspect is the show's playful tone, and its courage to take itself less seriously. The cast occasionally breaks into humorous routines, including a scene where they were taking a shower, mimicking cartoon characters with graceful dancing and eliciting giggles from the audience. The short, briskly paced scenes suit modern audiences with shorter attention spans, yet they are executed with smooth, impressive choreography.

The skill level of the dancers is remarkable, though I regrettably do not have the expertise to comment on their technicality in detail. Nonetheless, their performance and execution definitely elevated the entire production. A final point worth mentioning is how effectively the show balances the themes of the Greater Bay Area (GBA) and patriotism. The themes are subtle yet impactful—for example, during the introduction of the Macau athlete, dancers are dressed as lotus flowers, and the background music is adapted to reflect the song "Song of the Seven Sons - Aomen" (七子之歌), celebrating Macau's identity.

One of my favourite scenes features the Hong Kong dancer, who temporarily leaves the team after being recruited by another country, with an ironically written invitation in English. The storyline depicts his temporary departure due to miscommunications but ultimately his reunion with the

team, driven by patriotism and shared passion for dragon boat racing. This beautifully executed narrative blends the personal and collective themes seamlessly.

Lastly, I must extend praise to the music director. Many similar productions rely heavily on traditional Chinese music and instruments, often excessively. In contrast, this show offers a diverse musical palette, avoiding repetition. I particularly appreciated the grand themes featuring electric guitars. The orchestrations are dynamic and thoughtful, using a broad set of instruments and music genres in adequate settings, enhancing the overall experience. The show poster's traditional style and the somewhat dull opening caught me off guard, but as the performance unfolded, I witnessed one of the most remarkable stage productions in recent years.



This photo taken on Saturday night during the large-scale contemporary stage production "Dance Drama: Dragon Boat" at The Venetian Theatre shows a scene where dancers engage in a virtual reality simulation of dragon boat competition using lightsabres.

— Photo: William Chan

DSEDТ aims to attract visitors to Zape in wake of closure of satellite casinos by year-end

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According to a DSEDТ statement on Monday, in response to the possible impact on the economy of the areas surrounding the satellite casinos' slated to close by the end of the year, bureau officials have already visited the affected businesses.

The statement pointed out that support measures for affected small and medium-sized (SME) enterprises are being prepared, including the "Support Scheme for SMEs", "Bank Loan Interest Subsidy Scheme", "Bank Loan Guarantee Schemes" and "SME Digitalisation Support Services". According to the statement, the bureau is determined to provide further clarification on its support measures for the affected businesses that are willing to restructure or convert their commercial operations.

For more information about the support measures, businesspeople may contact the bureau on 8597 2288.

Yau was speaking on the sidelines of the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Competition (Macao) for Technology Enterprises from Brazil and Portugal at the MSC Convention Centre yesterday morning. The competition has been held for five consecutive years. ■

** While a satellite casino formally belongs to a gaming concessionaire, it is actually owned and run by a third-party company and located on premises not owned by the respective concessionaire. – MPD*

Amap ride-hailing services now cover black taxis in Macau

Tony Wong

Mainland web-mapping giant Amap, known as Gaode (高德) in Chinese, said in a statement yesterday that it has launched its taxi ride-hailing services in Macau where smartphone users can use the services via both the Amap mapping app and the MPay app.

MPay is the mobile payment app run by Macau Pass.

The statement said that "the first batch of" common taxis, commonly known as black taxis, in Macau has joined the Amap taxi ride-hailing services. The statement did not say how many black taxis have so far joined the app.

Amap, alongside Baidu Maps, are among the mainland's major web-mapping platforms.

According to the statement, both mainland and Macau smartphone users can now use the taxi ride-hailing services on the Amap mapping app, in both the mainland and Macau.

Moreover, the statement said, MPay users registered with Macau mobile phone numbers can now also use the Amap taxi ride-hailing function via the MPay app, in both the mainland and Macau.

The statement said that when directly using the Amap app to call a taxi, regardless of whether in Macau

or the mainland, passengers can pay the fares via MPay or various other payment tools such as Alipay.

When using the Amap ride-hailing services via the MPay app, passengers can only pay the fares with MPay.

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

The city's current radio taxi company, Macau Radio Taxi Services Limited, came into service in April 2017. Its current radio taxis are not allowed to pick up those hailing a cab in the street. To use the company's ride-hailing service, prospective passengers can phone its call centre or use its own mobile ride-hailing app.

In addition to being allowed to pick up passengers while travelling around the city, black taxis are also legally allowed to provide a radio taxi service. For instance, the Macau Taxi Drivers Mutual Help Association headed by Tony Kuok Leong Son is currently running a taxi call service – 2828 3283, reportedly covering a few hundred of the city's black taxis.

Last month, some of the city's black taxis joined Macau Radio Taxi Services Limited's mobile ride-hailing app. ■



The screenshot taken last night shows a request calling a taxi for a ride from the city centre in the peninsula to Taipa on the Amap app.

Brazilian Sinologist and Translator Giorgio Sinedino awarded with the 18th Special Book Award of China

Statement by China Foreign Languages Publishing Administration

The 18th Special Book Award of China ceremony was held in Beijing on June 17th. 16 specialists from 12 countries were honored for their contributions to explain and promote China to the international public, including her thought, culture and image. The awardees have produced a considerable number of high-quality books about China, through academic research, literary creations, translations or edition. They have thus realized important contributions in order to broaden and deepen cultural exchanges between China and foreign countries, to foster knowledge and understanding about China and to encourage mutual exchanges and learning across civilizations.

Given his important contributions to the transmission of Chinese culture abroad, Giorgio Sinedino, the Brazilian sinologist and translator based in Macau who is also member of the International Confucian Association's Executive Council and councilor at the World Sinologists Council was one of the recipients of the 18th Special Book Awards of China. In his acceptance speech, Sinedino shared impressions about his role in the cultural exchanges between China and Portuguese-speaking countries and reiterated his commitment to persevere further.

Sinedino arrived in China in 2005 and has been based in Macau since 2013. He currently teaches at the Faculty of Humanities/Department of Portuguese Language of the University of Macau. In the different institutions he has been affiliated with, he has strived constantly to transmit Chinese traditional culture, to promote the knowledge and understanding of its legacy abroad and to foster dialog and interchanges between China and other civilizations.

With long experience in the field of translation and research of Chinese classics, Sinedino has produced an expressive quantity of works. Since 2012, he has published in Brazil commented editions of *The Analects*, *Laozi's Dao De Jing with the Glosses of the Lord by the River*, *The Immortal from Southern China – A Cultural Reading of the Zhuangzi*. Among these, *The Analects* became the first commented edition in Portuguese Language to be translated directly from Ancient Chinese and, during more than ten years, they have remained the single work of the type available on the market in a Western language. Considered



Macau-based Brazilian sinologist and translator Giorgio Sinedino poses with his award in Beijing yesterday. Sinedino teaches at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Macau (UM).

"a new classic translation", its combined sales have exceeded two hundred thousand copies. In 2024, those three books have been released in carefully revised editions and integrated to the series "Understanding China" by the renowned Foreign Languages Press, a public publishing house that is also the largest in the sector. These books have become remarkable achievements in the field of cultural exchanges between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries, filling important gaps in terms of the publication of Chinese classics in the Lusophone world.

Departing from his achievements in the translation of ancient classical works, Sinedino has kept striving to break new ground, enlarging his repertoire to include works of Chinese modern literature. In late June, his new opus – *Lu Xun's Cry – dramatized translation and critical studies*

by Giorgio Sinedino will be released in Brazil through the prestigious Editora 34. It is the result of four years of research and experimentation, which has earned support from the Chinese Ministry of Education/Center for Language and Cooperation, Beijing Lu Xun Museum, Lu Xun and World Culture Research Foundation and Feng Zikai Foundation. The final text was calibrated to meet Portuguese-language readers' profile. In the delivery of this translation, Sinedino observed certain patterns found in Portuguese-language literature, integrating the target public's reading habits and stylistic preferences to produce a faithful recreation of Lu Xun's classic. The "dramatization" conceived by Sinedino stands for a new method of literary translation, in which ordinary conventions are broken to expand the source text according to the impact of dramatical situations and the tensional nature of character building. The end product thus provides new vitality to the long-canonized stories of that great Chinese writer. Sinedino has expressed his trust that this new work will provide a fresh reading experience for the Portuguese-speaking aficionados of Chinese Literature.

The Special Book Award of China is the most important prized awarded to foreigners by the National Administration of Press and Publications in the field of publications. Since its creation in 2005, there have been 216 awardees, including translators, editors and authors, from 63 countries and regions.

China, Central Asian countries jointly form China-Central Asia Spirit: Xi

ASTANA — President Xi Jinping said yesterday that China and Central Asian countries have explored and formed the China-Central Asia Spirit, which features mutual respect, mutual trust, mutual benefit, mutual assistance, and the pursuit of common modernization through high-quality development.

Xi made the remarks in his speech at the second China-Central Asia Summit in the Kazakh capital of Astana.

Xi said that the Chinese side has decided to establish three cooperation centers and a trade facilitation platform within the China-Central Asia cooperation mechanism.

When addressing the summit, Xi said these institutions include the China-Central Asia poverty reduction cooperation center, the China-Central Asia education exchange cooperation center, the China-Central Asia desertification control cooperation center, as well as the China-Central Asia trade facilitation cooperation platform.

Xi and leaders of the five Central Asian countries yesterday signed the treaty of permanent good-neighborliness and friendly cooperation.

Xi was accompanied by Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov, Tajik President Emomali Rahmon, Turkmen President Serdar Berdimuhamedov and Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

Fruitful summit

Yang Cheng, Executive Dean of the Shanghai Academy of Global Governance and Area Studies, highlighted the “China-Central Asia Spirit” in Xi’s remarks, and said it will provide vital guidance for building a closer China-Central Asia community with a shared future and offer valuable insights that can be replicated and scaled globally.

Referring to the “Shanghai Spirit” which emerged during the development of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and keeps guiding the SCO, Yang believes the “China-Central Asia Spirit” is significant not only for promoting practical cooperation between China and Central Asia, but it creates a pathway for countries with different



(From left to right) Tajikistan's President Emomali Rahmon, Kyrgyzstan's President Sadyr Japarov, China's President Xi Jinping, Kazakhstan's President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, Turkmenistan's President Serdar Berdimuhamedov and Uzbekistan's President Shavkat Mirziyoyev pose for a group photo during the China-Central Asia Summit in Astana yesterday. — Xinhua

political systems, economic sizes, resource endowments, and social cultures to achieve enduring good-neighborliness and mutual benefit.

Against the backdrop of accelerating international disorder and escalating regional conflicts, the signing of the permanent good-neighborliness and friendly cooperation treaty between China and Central Asian countries also demonstrated the replicable and promotable value of resolving issues through dialogue and cooperation, highlighting the universality and applicability of the China-Central Asia cooperation model, Yang told the *Global Times*.

The Summit yesterday represents a historic first — the first time the gathering is being held in a Central Asian country, according to Xinhua.

According to Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Guo Jiakun, the summit opens up new space for Belt and Road (BRI) cooperation and to build an even closer China-Central Asia community with a shared future.

The inaugural summit was held two years ago in China’s northwestern city of Xi’an, where leaders agreed to hold the top-level gathering every two years alternately in China and Central Asia.

Ahead of the summit, Xi held bilateral meetings with leaders of five Central Asian countries.

In a meeting with Kyrgyz President Japarov, Xi said that

cooperation between China and Kyrgyzstan holds great potential, urging the two countries to scale up trade and investment and expand cooperation in emerging sectors.

Xi yesterday called on China and Tajikistan to expand the scale of bilateral trade and investment in a meeting with Tajik President Rahmon. China firmly supports Tajikistan in safeguarding its national independence, sovereignty and security, Xi said.

In a meeting with Turkmen President Berdimuhamedov, Xi urged China and Turkmenistan to scale up natural gas cooperation, expand cooperation in non-resource fields and optimize trade structure. He called on the two sides to accelerate the establishment of cultural centers in each other’s countries and promote people-to-people connectivity.

Xi said that China supports Turkmenistan’s accession to the World Trade Organization.

When meeting with Uzbek President Mirziyoyev, Xi called on China and Uzbekistan to introduce more measures for trade liberalization and facilitation.

Xi also noted in the meeting that all related parties should work to de-escalate tensions in the Middle East as soon as possible and avoid further escalation.

Xi said on Monday when meeting with Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev that China stands ready to work with

Kazakhstan to contribute more to regional and world peace and development with stability and positive energy of bilateral ties.

Xi arrived in Astana on Monday to a blue-carpet welcome.

Global Times reporters noticed that on Monday night, the landmarks in Astana were beautifully illuminated with the colors of China’s national flag on Monday evening, warmly welcoming Xi’s arrival.

Tangible contributions

Inside and outside the summit venue, various sectors across the five Central Asian countries are closely following the progress and outcomes of the event. *Global Times* reporters in Astana observed that local newspapers featured photos of President Xi’s arrival and news coverage of the summit.

In the two years since the first China-Central Asia Summit, relations between China and Central Asian countries have advanced rapidly across technology, trade, and cultural exchanges, reaching a new qualitative level, Rashid Yusupov of Kyrgyz State University’s Center for Belt and Road Studies told the *Global Times*.

“For Kyrgyzstan, China-Kyrgyzstan ties have seen breakthroughs, with the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway progressing after nearly 30 years,” said the scholar, noting that the Summit can “boost comprehensive cooperation, deepening bilateral relations. China and Central Asia are building a tangible, fruitful community with a shared future.”

Djoomart Otorbaev, former prime minister of Kyrgyzstan, described the second China-Central Asia Summit

as “another critical, significant, and ambitious step to deepen China’s cooperation with the region.”

In a recent interview with the *Global Times*, he highlighted that China-Central Asia cooperation is shifting from a traditional resource-trade focus to a new phase emphasizing high-tech and modern industries. “Central Asia boasts a large pool of well-educated, ambitious young people eager to collaborate with China for mutual prosperity,” Otorbaev added.

Aygul Rahimova, a Turkmen journalist covering the China-Central Asia Summit, echoed Otorbaev’s view on the region’s youth yearning to engage with China. She told the *Global Times* that Turkmen youth are keen on opportunities for large infrastructure projects to enhance connectivity with neighboring countries. They hope this summit will pave the way for future cooperation with China to fulfill these people-centered aspirations.

Belt and Road cooperation has effectively boosted trade, travel and exchanges in the region. In 2024, China’s trade with Central Asia reached a record US\$94.8 billion, fueled in part by a booming cross-border e-commerce sector. China now stands as Central Asia’s top trading partner and major investment source, Xinhua reported.

Tajikistan became the first country to sign a memorandum of understanding with China regarding the Silk Road Economic Belt in 2014. Collaboration has since produced tangible outcomes, ranging from new highways and power plants to new city landmarks, many of which have been personally championed by Xi.

Navjuvonov Abdullo Shanbievich, former head of the Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in the Sughd region of the Republic of Tajikistan, told the *Global Times* that China and Central Asia advocate a model without ideological blocs, without subordination to “ours” or “others” and with an emphasis on development rather than competition. Central Asian countries desire multilateral development rather than being drawn into someone else’s struggle.

China seeks to show that it is building a platform for cooperation, not a system of exclusion. “Central Asia willingly takes part in such concepts, where there is a place for every country, regardless of its size or political orientation,” Navjuvonov said.

— Courtesy of *Global Times*

Zhuhai checkpoints leading to Macau, HK log 100 million trips

GUANGZHOU — A total of 100 million inbound and outbound passenger trips were recorded in 2025 via checkpoints in Zhuhai connecting to Macau and Hong Kong by Sunday, 22 days earlier than last year, official data show.

These checkpoints in Zhuhai include those of Gongbei, Hengqin, Qingmao and the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge.

According to the Zhuhai exit-

entry inspection station, surging cross-border travel of mainland, Hong Kong and Macau residents has been fueled by a variety of favorable policies, adding that simplified clearance procedures have further boosted tourism and consumption.

Data shows outbound and inbound trips by Hong Kong and Macau residents via these checkpoints rose 12 percent year-on-year, while mainland resident

trips increased 14 percent.

Additionally, foreign nationals entering China via these checkpoints surged significantly, with Zhuhai ports processing 880,000 foreign travelers this year — including 170,000 visa-free entries, up 79 percent annually.

He Caigen, an official from the Zhuhai exit-entry inspection station, said: “The accelerated growth reflects rapid development in the Greater Bay Area.” — Xinhua

STOCK MARKETS

HK stocks close lower

HONG KONG — Hong Kong’s stock market ended lower yesterday with the benchmark Hang Seng Index down 0.34 percent to close at 23,980.30 points.

The Hang Seng China Enterprises Index fell 0.4 percent to end at 8,694.67 points, while the Hang Seng Tech Index fell 0.15 percent to end at 5,291.85 points. — Xinhua

Xi calls on China, Uzbekistan to introduce more measures for trade liberalization, facilitation

ASTANA – President Xi Jinping yesterday called on China and Uzbekistan to introduce more measures to promote trade liberalization and facilitation.

Xi made the remarks in a meeting with Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev on the sidelines of the second China-Central Asia Summit in the Kazakh capital of Astana.

Xi noted that last year he and Mirziyoyev met twice, in Beijing and Astana respectively, and made strategic plans for the development of bilateral relations.

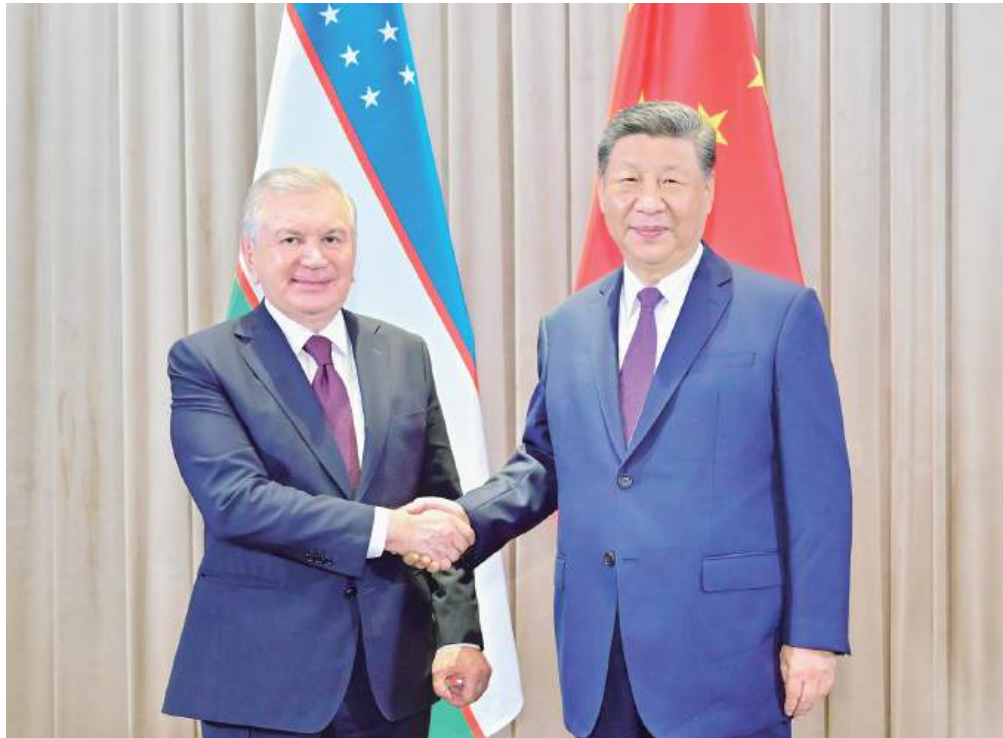
Cooperation between the two countries in various fields has shown a favorable situation of full-scale expansion and vigorous development, he said.

China, he added, is willing to work with Uzbekistan to strengthen the synergy of development strategies and exchange of governance experiences, implement more mutually beneficial and win-win cooperation projects, boost the development of both countries, and jointly build a China-Uzbekistan community with a shared future that is more substantial and dynamic.

Xi emphasized that China and Uzbekistan should expand the scale of bilateral trade and investment, advance the high-quality construction of the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway, foster a multidimensional connectivity framework, and expand practical cooperation in emerging fields such as artificial intelligence, new energy, smart agriculture and public health.

The two sides should actively promote the reciprocal establishment of cultural centers, organize well the second China-Uzbekistan educational forum, continue to strengthen cooperation on poverty alleviation, and promote people-to-people connectivity, Xi added.

Xi also stressed the need to further deepen law enforcement and security cooperation,



President Xi Jinping shakes hands with Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev on the sidelines of the 2nd China-Central Asia Summit in Astana, Kazakhstan, yesterday. – Xinhua

jointly combat terrorism, separatism and extremism, and work together to address new threats and challenges, so as to safeguard regional peace and stability.

Xi said the two sides should strengthen collaboration within multilateral platforms, including the China-Central Asia mechanism and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, to jointly safeguard international equity and justice and uphold the international economic and trade order.

For his part, Mirziyoyev said that President Xi is a distinguished statesman on the world stage, who has led China in implementing effective domestic and foreign policies, promoting substantial progress

in economic and social development, with China's economy becoming a major engine of the global economy.

No major global issue can be resolved without China's involvement, he added.

Mirziyoyev described Uzbekistan and China as close as brothers, noting that frequent exchanges at all levels and robust cooperation across various fields have brought bilateral relations to their highest level in history.

The Uzbek side values its friendly relations with China, appreciates China's long-standing selfless support for Uzbekistan's economic and social development, and will unwaveringly adhere to the one-China principle, he said.

The Uzbek side is willing to strengthen exchanges with China on governance experience, learn from China's successful practices in poverty alleviation, expand the scale of trade and investment, enhance cooperation with China in such fields as cutting-edge technologies, connectivity, agriculture and green energy, and promote the high-quality development of bilateral relations, Mirziyoyev said.

He said Uzbekistan also stands ready to enhance law enforcement and security cooperation with China, with a firm commitment to combating terrorism, separatism, and extremism.

The Uzbek side highly appreciates President Xi's three major global initiatives, which carry significant relevance in today's world, and is willing to work closely with China to fully implement them, jointly uphold the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, safeguard international fairness and justice, and advance the noble cause of world peace and development, Mirziyoyev said.

The two leaders also exchanged views on the situation in the Middle East.

Xi said all related parties should work to de-escalate tensions in the Middle East as soon as possible and avoid further escalation.

Xi said China is deeply worried as Israel's military operation against Iran has caused a sudden escalation of tensions in the Middle East, adding that China opposes any actions that infringe upon sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of other countries.

He said military conflicts are not the solution to problems, and the escalation of regional situations is not in the common interests of the international community.

Xi said China is ready to work with all parties to play a constructive role in restoring peace and stability in the Middle East. – Xinhua

Xi says China willing to work with Turkmenistan to fully unlock potential for cooperation based on win-win collaboration

ASTANA – President Xi Jinping yesterday said China is willing to work with Turkmenistan to fully unlock the potential for cooperation on the basis of mutual respect and win-win collaboration.

Xi made the remarks in a meeting with Turkmen President Serdar Berdimuhamedov on the sidelines of the second China-Central Asia Summit in the Kazakh capital of Astana.

Noting that China and Turkmenistan enjoy solid political mutual trust, a strong willingness for cooperation and highly complementary advantages, Xi said that China is willing to work with Turkmenistan to further increase the depth, breadth and scale of bilateral cooperation and to advance the building of a China-Turkmenistan community with a shared future.

Xi said that both sides should effectively implement the strategic alignment between the Belt and Road Initiative and Turkmenistan's development strategy to revive the Great Silk Road. He urged the two countries to scale up natural gas cooperation, expand cooperation in non-resource fields, optimize trade structure and enhance regional connectivity.

On the basis of holding cultural years in each other's countries, the two sides should organize more people-to-people exchange events, accelerate the establishment of cultural centers in each other's countries and promote people-to-people connectivity, Xi said, calling for stronger cooperation between

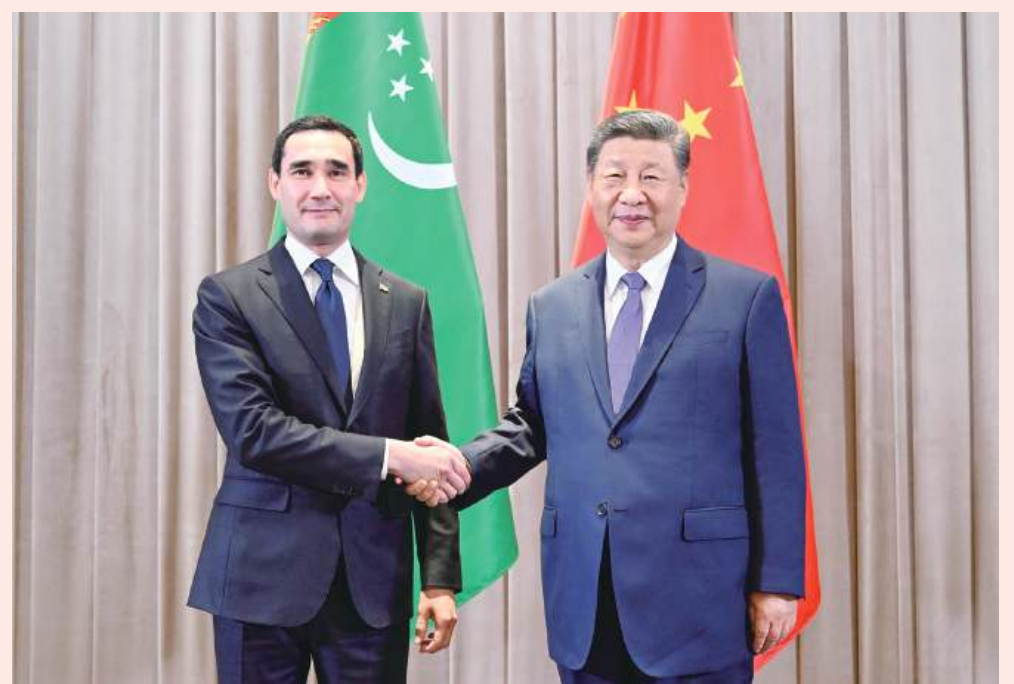
the two countries in law enforcement, security and defense, joint efforts to combat terrorism, extremism and separatism, and a higher level of cooperation in cybersecurity.

Xi noted that China, remaining committed to fostering an amicable, secure and prosperous neighborhood while adhering to the principles of amity, sincerity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness, takes high-quality Belt and Road cooperation as the main platform to work with neighboring countries, including Turkmenistan, to build a better future.

China supports Turkmenistan's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO), its successful hosting of the 5th Foreign Ministers' Meeting of Afghanistan's Neighboring Countries, and is glad to see Turkmenistan, as a permanently neutral country, play a greater constructive role in international affairs, said Xi.

Xi said China stands ready to enhance coordination and cooperation with Turkmenistan on international and regional issues, jointly defend the multilateral trading system, and safeguard the common interests of the Global South.

For his part, Berdimuhamedov said that he was very glad to meet with President Xi on the sidelines of the China-Central Asia Summit, expressing confidence that the summit would not only promote cooperation between Central Asian countries and China, but also enhance bilateral cooperation between Turkmenistan and China.



President Xi Jinping shakes hands with Turkmen President Serdar Berdimuhamedov on the sidelines of the 2nd China-Central Asia Summit in Astana, Kazakhstan, yesterday. – Xinhua

The all-round and in-depth development of Turkmenistan-China relations is of great strategic significance, he said, noting that Turkmenistan is willing to comprehensively expand cooperation with China, expand natural gas exports to China, deepen cooperation in non-resource sectors such as machinery manufacturing and textiles, and enhance connectivity.

The Turkmen side is also willing to enhance people-to-people exchanges in such fields as education and culture, deepen law enforcement and security cooperation, and reinforce coordination with China within multilateral platforms, including the United Nations, to jointly uphold international fairness and justice, he said.

– Xinhua