

Govt raises all social security pensions, allowances

Tony Wong

The government yesterday announced increases in all seven types of pensions and allowances paid out by the city's social security system, including a 4.3-percent increase in the old-age pension to 3,900 patacas per month and a 20-percent increase in its birth allowance, a one-off payment, to 6,500 patacas.

Macau's social security system is run by Social Security Fund (FSS).

The two types of pensions paid out by the fund comprise old-age pensions and disability pensions, while the five types of the fund's allowances comprise unemployment, sickness, birth, marriage, and funeral allowances.

The increases in the seven types of pensions and allowances were announced in an executive order, signed by Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai on June 20, published in the Official Gazette (BO) yesterday.

According to the order, the increases take effect retroactively on January 1 this year.

The last time the government raised the amounts of the seven types of pensions and allowances was back in January 2020.

According to yesterday's order, both the old-age pension and the disability pension have been increased to 3,900 patacas per month, up 4.3 percent from 3,740 patacas per month.

The old-age pension and disability pension are paid to the respective beneficiaries once every quarter, meaning that they receive a



A car is driven past the Social Security Fund's (FSS) service centre on Rua de Eduardo Marques, located near São Lázaro Church, yesterday. — Photo: Tony Wong

payment with an amount equivalent to three months of their pensions every time.

According to yesterday's order, the unemployment allowance has risen to 157 patacas per day, a 4.7 percent increase from 150 patacas per day.

The sickness allowance has risen to 119 patacas per day for those whose treatment

does not require hospitalisation, a 4.4 percent increase from 114 patacas per day, while the sickness allowance issued to those who have been hospitalised has been increased to 157 patacas per day, up 4.7 percent from 150 patacas per day.

According to yesterday's order, the birth allowance has been increased to 6,500 patacas

from 5,418 patacas, up 20 percent, while the marriage allowance has risen to 2,220 patacas from 2,122 patacas, a 4.6 percent increase. Both allowances are one-off payments.

The funeral allowance, also a one-off payment, has been increased to 2,870 patacas from 2,750 patacas, up 4.4 percent.

Consequently, except the increase in the birth allowance by one-fifth, the other six types of social security payments have been increased between 4.3 percent and 4.7 percent, respectively.

Macau's social security system only covers local residents.

According to the law on the social security system, only those who have paid their contributions (dues) to the system for at least 60 months are eligible to receive their old-age pension.

Those who have paid their dues for 360 months (30 years) will receive the full amount of their old-age pension. Those who have paid their contributions for less than 360 months before retirement will receive a monthly pension with the amount calculated proportionately based on the number of months they have paid.

In general, those aged at least 65 are eligible to receive their old-age pension. However, those aged at least 60 can also apply to receive their pension, but they will receive a reduced monthly amount depending on at which age they choose to start receiving their pension. ■

Portugal sets new temperature record for June



A tourist buys watermelon juice near Belém Tower during Portugal's first heatwave of the year, on the outskirts of Lisbon on Sunday. This past weekend southern Europe once again faced extreme temperatures exceeding 40°C. — AFP

LISBON — Portugal has set a new national temperature record for the month of June. According to data from the Portuguese Institute for the Sea and Atmosphere (IPMA), the inland town of Mora, in the Évora district, recorded a maximum temperature of 46.6 degrees Celsius on Sunday, marking the highest temperature ever recorded in Portugal during June.

The IPMA noted that the previous national June record was 44.9 degrees Celsius, registered in Alcacer do Sal, Setúbal, on June 17, 2017.

IPMA staff said that a slight drop in temperatures was expected in some parts of the country starting yesterday, but the decrease would be limited. High

temperatures were forecast to continue across much of the country, especially in inland areas.

According to the institute, Portugal's all-time highest temperature was 47.3 degrees Celsius, recorded in Amareleja, Beja district, on August 1, 2003.

Portugal is currently enduring an intense heatwave. Due to the extreme weather, the institute issued red alerts for seven districts from Sunday to today, including Lisbon, Setúbal, Santarém, Évora, Beja, Castelo Branco, and Portalegre. In addition, 80 municipalities across the country remain at the highest level of wildfire risk due to the hot and dry conditions.

— Xinhua, MPD

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The Macau Post Daily

Xi stresses advancing full, rigorous Party self-governance through forging good conduct

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, yesterday underscored efforts to advance full, rigorous Party self-governance through forging good conduct.

— Story on p. 7

Canada U-turn leaves Europe in the lurch on US tech taxes

Canada's dropping of a tax on US tech giants under the pressure of Donald Trump is fuelling concern about the future of such levies in other countries, particularly in Europe.

— Story on p. 11

Backers of Bolsonaro hold mass protest in São Paulo

Former president Jair Bolsonaro said on Sunday he was prepared to "change Brazil's destiny" as he addressed thousands of supporters in São Paulo, even while facing decades in prison for allegedly attempting a coup.

— Story on p. 12

Health Bureau lowers minimum age for free Colorectal Cancer Screening Programme

Armindo Neves

The Health Bureau (SSM) announced yesterday the lowering of the minimum age for its free Colorectal Cancer Screening Programme from 55 to 50.

The bureau made the announcement during a press conference on its premises adjacent to the public Conde de São Januário Hospital Centre.

According to SSM Gastroenterology Consultant Ng Ka Kei, statistics from the World Health Organisation (WHO), show that colorectal cancer ranks as the third most common cancer and the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths globally.

Dr Ng said that in Macau it has consistently held the second position in cancer incidence rates over the past decade. With an ageing population and risk factors such as unbalanced diets, the number of cases is projected to rise steadily, he said.

According to Dr Ng, since 2016, the programme has screened 31,000 residents aged 55–69. Of these, 2,999 underwent colonoscopy, with 312 polyp cases and 168 colorectal cancer cases detected. He pointed out that the fatality rate showed a 12.6 percent decline between 2018–2022 compared to 2013–2017.

Dr Ng said that from today the age range of the free programme will be widened from 55–69 to 50–69, while in future it would further be extended to 50–75.

SSM Family Medicine Physician Lei Sao Kuan said that Macau permanent and non-permanent residents aged 50–69 with no colonoscopy in five years, no faecal occult blood test in two years, and no colorectal cancer history can register for free screening via the One Account app or health centres; positive results trigger follow-up calls, while negative results receive no notification, Lei said.



Health Bureau (SSM) Gastroenterology Consultant Ng Ka Kei (centre), SSM Family Medicine Physician Lei Sao Kuan (left) and SSM Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC) Public Health Physician Wu Ya Wing look on during yesterday's press conference on its premises adjacent to the public Conde de São Januário Hospital Centre.

SSM Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC) Public Health Physician Wu Ya Wing said that colorectal cancer is not invincible, when detected early, pointing out that patients

with carcinoma in situ or Stage One achieve a 90 percent five-year survival rate after proper treatment.

"We urge all citizens to get screened early to prevent cancer progression," Dr Wu said. ■



Image courtesy of WHO/International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC)

Macau maintains ban on food imports from 10 Japanese prefectures

Armindo Neves

The Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) announced in a statement yesterday that it will maintain its ban on food imports from 10 Japanese prefectures.

The statement identified the 10 prefectures as Chiba, Fukushima, Gunma, Ibaraki, Miyagi, Nagano, Niigata, Saitama, Tochigi and Tokyo, from which imports remain restricted

under the Chinese mainland and local ban, despite the mainland's recent conditional resumption of some Japanese aquatic product imports.

According to the statement, the banned products include perishable foods, animal-derived products, sea salt, and seaweed—covering vegetables, fruit, dairy products, seafood, meat, poultry eggs, and related processed items.

The announcement follows a Sunday statement by the General Administration of Customs (GACC) in Beijing, which allowed limited imports of Japanese seafood except from the 10 prefectures. Exporters must now reapply for registration, providing health certificates, radiation compliance proofs, and origin documentation. Live aquatic animals require additional farm and packaging facility re-registration, the announcement said.

According to the IAM statement, Macau's ban, initially imposed on August 24, 2023, applies to all agricultural and food products from the 10 Japanese prefectures. The Municipal Affairs Bureau and Macau Customs Service will continue to conduct radiation checks on all Japanese food imports. As of June 22, the handheld radiation instrument detection involved 193,000 samples and lab tests for 3,700 samples, the statement said, pointing out that no abnormalities had been detected.

The bureau said that enhanced retail inspections would continue in order to ensure compliance, reaffirming that the restrictions align with precautionary measures for food safety. ■



This file photo taken on September 1, 2023 shows fishery workers unloading seafood caught in offshore trawl fishing at the Japanese port of Matsukawaura in the city of Soma, Fukushima prefecture, about a week after the country began discharging treated wastewater from the TEPCO Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant. – Jiji Press/AFP

Flu cases rise 180 pct, become most common notifiable illness in May: Health Bureau

Armindo Neves

The Health Bureau (SSM) announced in a statement on Sunday that influenza was the most commonly reported illness on its list of notifiable diseases in May.

According to the list that requires mandatory reporting of 45 statutorily notifiable diseases, a total of 689 such cases were recorded in May, including 401 cases of influenza, 98 cases of chickenpox and 60 cases of scarlet fever.

The statement said that in May, the 401 reported influenza cases marked an 84.3 percent decrease from 2,548 cases in May last year, but an increase of 180 percent compared to the 142 reported cases in April. The most prevalent strains were influenza A (H1N1 & H3N2) and influenza B, according to the statement.

About chickenpox, the statement said that the bureau recorded 98 cases in May, a year-on-year increase of 204 percent from the 48 cases reported in

the same month of 2024, and a month-on-month increase of 210 percent compared to the 46 cases in April. Most of the chickenpox patients were aged five to 10, the statement said.

Regarding enterovirus infections, the health authority reported 40 cases in May, a 95.9 percent decrease from May 2024 and a 66.7 percent increase compared to the 24 cases in April. The statement noted that enterovirus infections can be caused by coxsackievirus, echovirus, or enterovirus EV71.

The Health Bureau urged residents to strengthen their personal protection measures to reduce the risk of contracting infectious diseases. ■



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MACAU POST

Macau Weather

MAINLY CLOUDY. SHOWERS. SHOWERS WILL EASE OFF LATER. A FEW THUNDERSTORMS. FORCE 3 TO 4 EAST TO SOUTHEASTERLY WINDS WITH GUSTS. RELATIVE HUMIDITY WILL RANGE BETWEEN 75% AND 98%.



25°C~30°C

Source: SMG

6 locals lose 9,696 patacas in online shopping scams: police

Ada Lei

Five middle-aged local women and a young local woman have fallen victim to separate online shopping scams, resulting in a total loss of 9,696 patacas, Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Chao Teng Hin said during a regular press conference yesterday.

According to Chao, the police recently received six reports related to online shopping scams.

Between June 18 and 25, the victims encountered Facebook pages claiming to be travel agencies offering attractive deals. These pages advertised low-priced packages for hotel suites, buffet vouchers, and various travel products.

Enticed by the offers, the victims continued to communicate with the scammers on social media to discuss transaction details.

They were ultimately instructed to make payments via MPay for their purchases. However, after transferring the funds, the victims did not receive any confirmation receipts. Some even reported losing contact with the scammers when they attempted to obtain refunds.

Chao noted that the amounts lost by the six victims ranged from 800 to 2,980 patacas, with a total loss of 9,696 patacas. ■

Police nab dealer, gambler for defrauding casino out of HK\$1.76 million

Ada Lei

A local man and a man from the mainland were arrested on Thursday for defrauding a casino out of a total of HK\$1.76 million (1.81 million patacas), Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Chao Teng Hin said during a regular press conference yesterday.

Chao identified the suspects as a 25-year-old local male surnamed Wan who worked as a dealer in the casino from 2023 until last month, and a 38-year-old mainlander surnamed Yang who told the police that he's jobless.

According to Chao, the police received a report on Wednesday

from a casino in Cotai about a former employee, Wan, who had resigned recently, saying that they suspected him of conspiring with a gambler, Yang, to defraud the casino during his employment.

Chao noted that between May 25 and June 7, while working at the baccarat table, Wan colluded with Yang on seven occasions. Yang approached Wan's table and waited until there were no other players or casino staff present. Yang placed bets ranging from HK\$5,000 to HK\$15,000 after Wan showed the results, allowing him to win between HK\$110,000 and HK\$330,000. Despite knowing that Yang placed his bets after the cards were revealed, Wan still gave the corresponding winnings to him, resulting in a total loss of HK\$1.76 million for the casino.

The police apprehended Wan in the northern district and arrested Yang at a casino in Zape. The police seized a mobile phone from Wan, along with two mobile phones and HK\$10,000 in cash from Yang.

Under questioning, the suspects admitted to defrauding the casino because both wanted to recoup their gambling losses. They told the police that they split the HK\$1.76 million between them and claimed that they had already gambled away all the money.

The duo have been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), each facing a fraud charge. ■



Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Chao Teng Hin looks on during yesterday's regular press conference.

— Photo: Ada Lei

'Experience Macao' carnival held in HK over weekend



This undated handout photo recently provided by the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) shows a crowd of Hong Kong residents during the 'Experience Macao' carnival held at East Point City in Hong Kong last weekend.

Kristina Vallesteros

The Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) launched its "Experience Macao" Carnival in Hong Kong on Saturday, showcasing the city's summer attractions through interactive exhibits and performances, according to a statement by Macau's tourism promotion entity on that day.

The two-day event, which was held through Sunday, was held at East Point City and aimed to "inspire Hong Kong residents to enjoy a summer vacation in Macau" under the theme "Vibrant Summer, Explore Macao."

MGTO Director Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes emphasised Hong Kong's importance as a key source market. The statement

noted that in the first five months of the year, Hong Kong visitor arrivals to Macau exceeded 3.03 million. Senna Fernandes, as noted in the statement, also said she hoped that the roadshow will "spark Hong Kong residents' interest in visiting Macau."

The event featured celebrity appearances from Hong Kong boy band MIRROR members Jeremy Lee Chun-kit and Stanley Yau Sze-chun, singer Windy Zhan Tian-wen, and table tennis stars Ng Wing Nam and Lee Ho Ching, who spoke about their favourite Macau travel experiences. Interactive zones, namely the "Historic Centre of Macao" and the "Trendy Fun Macao" zones, were set up during the event. They provided photo

opportunities at a replica of the iconic Macau Municipal Affairs (IAM) Building, formerly known as Leal Senado ("Loyal Senate"), and explored Macau's heritage through donning Portuguese costumes.

Moreover, the carnival also featured a booth run by the Economic Development Bureau of the Guangdong-Macau In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin.

Travel deals from major Hong Kong agencies including China Travel Service (CTS) and KKday were offered exclusively during the carnival. MGTO said it planned further promotional campaigns to maintain Hong Kong visitor interest throughout the summer season. ■

3-day Macau Golf Masters concludes, golfers receive prizes

Rui Pastorin

The three-day Macau Golf Masters concluded on Saturday, with the event this year marking its 10th anniversary and featuring over 40 golfers with intellectual and physical disabilities competing during the period at the Macau International Golf course in Cotai and the Macau Golf & Country Club in Coloane.

The 40 golfers were joined by corporate Guardian Players in the Contender League's team-play format, and competed individually in the Challenger and World Leagues, according to a statement on Sunday

by the Charity Association of Macau Business Readers. In all, the event gathered over 160 athletes, coaches, and corporate partners.

The statement said that Special Olympics Zimbabwe won the MGM Trophy this year, while the second and third places were taken by Team Sweden/UK and South Korea.

Moreover, the Hong Kong-Macau team won the Coca-Cola Division of the MGM Contender League, followed closely by Australia and Thailand, while India's Ranveer Saini took home the top prize in the Challenger League, followed by South Korean golfers

Sunggon Kang and Jooyoung Lee.

The National Team Award went to Team United Kingdom represented by Warren Clark and Ben Fai Lankshear, both of whom marked their first solo international journey as they travelled from the UK independently.

The World League, meanwhile, showcased "the best inclusive golfers on the planet", with Australia's Lachlan Hardin Smith winning MELCO MASTERS 2025 Trophy. Veteran Swedish golfer and 2017 Macau Golf Masters champion Patric Bohlin took second, while the US's Stacey Gleasson-Johnston

claimed third place overall, along with the Galaxy Entertainment Best Lady and Performance Award, according to the statement.

The Grand Masters Final at the Macau Golf & Country Club then saw corporate teams paired with World League players or top-four Challenger League qualifiers. It was won by Team SK Support, led by Special Olympics World Games winner Mitchell Brown (NZ), his coach Matt Griffiths, Edwin Whelan, and Nina Greville.

Team Macau Business (Warren Clark from the UK, José Quesada from Costa Rica, and Nuno da Mata

from Macau) won second place in the finale, followed by Team Lan Kwai Fong (LKF Concepts), featuring Gordon Cheung, See Wai Hui, Nora Hui, and Jooyoung Lee from South Korea.

The event also invited local associations, schools, and NGOs to join golf workshops, with over 100 local children and young people experiencing the sport alongside athletes from 17 countries, the statement said. The workshops were led by the UK's top golfer with intellectual disabilities Warren Clark, assisted by coaches from New Zealand, Hong Kong, and Costa Rica. ■



This undated handout photo provided by the Charity Association of Macau Business Readers on Sunday shows a group picture of golfers, guests and representatives for the Macau Golf Masters.



See Goa through Miguel Quental's lens in latest exhibition

Rui Pastorin

Miguel Quental's ongoing third solo exhibition presents over 30 photos that he took in Goa* during a recent visit, hoping to invite viewers to visit the state on the southwestern coast of India within the Konkani region and see its beauty for themselves.

Titled "Colours of Goa" and held at the Creative Macau gallery in Nape, the exhibition, which is now in its final five days, comprises a total of 34 images that were all taken this year. From colourful homes to vibrant streets and buildings to pictures of everyday objects and motifs, Quental captured it all through his camera.

"Goa, once the capital of an empire, has bequeathed us a rich heritage of vibrant colours, aromas, flavours, images and beliefs that transcend our imagination", according to a statement from Creative Macau, which added that a search for this legacy prompted Quental, a lawyer and entrepreneur who has lived in Macau since 2002, to head there.

"I'm sharing some of the many images I took there, but I'm aware that much more remains to be discovered", Quental said in the statement, noting he hopes that the exhibition can also serve as an invitation for others to visit soon. "Goa deserves it", he concluded.

Exhibitiongoers may admire the works until Saturday,

with the gallery open from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. during the period. It is located on the ground floor of the Macau Cultural Centre (CCM) in Nape.

**Goa is India's smallest state by area and fourth-smallest by population, according to Wikipedia, with AI chatbot Poe also noting that it has a rich cultural heritage with a blend of Indian and Portuguese cultures, evident in its architecture, cuisine, and festivals. While Konkani, the official language, and English are widely spoken, Portuguese is still spoken in some parts of Goa by a small community of people.*



Photos taken by Rui Pastorin

Liar's speeches reflect separatists' desperation

China Daily Editorial

Starting June 22, Taiwan leader Lai Ching-te has been on a speaking tour across the Chinese island. Delivering the third installment of his "10 lectures on unity" in Hsinchu on Sunday, Lai focused on the so-called constitutional system. Yet the gist of his speech was still spreading the fallacy that Taiwan has never been part of China, and once again perpetuating his narrative of conflict and division across the Taiwan Strait.

With hackneyed and stereotyped expressions, his speech was nothing more than a thinly veiled attempt to promote the notion of "Taiwan independence". Camouflaged as a legal discourse, it was a call to arms for separatism, espousing the hidden agenda of drumming up support for his "mass recall" campaign.

Dismissing the historical realities that firmly establish Taiwan as an integral part of China, Lai falsely presented the island as having its own "constitutional" system in a vain attempt to legitimize his vision of Taiwan having a "separate national identity". His manipulation and distortion of legal frameworks to advance his separatist agenda lacks any substantive historical or legal basis and is merely a political maneuver to sow discord and division within Taiwan society.

It is not surprising to hear such misleading and provocative remarks from the die-hard Taiwan separatist. Yet the picked-up pace at which Lai is pushing for the island's secession from the motherland suggests he knows he is pursuing a lost cause as the momentum for national reunification is unstoppable.

Public dissatisfaction with Lai's "leadership" continues to grow, with many condemning his lectures as a charade that exposes him as a troublemaker and danger-maker that poses the biggest threat to cross-strait peace and stability. His displayed hubris highlights his Democratic Progressive Party's arrogance and divisiveness. What Lai is doing is reducing the space for a peaceful reunification.

In an earlier speech, Lai brazenly distorted history by using the Treaty of San Francisco to falsely claim that Taiwan has never belonged to China. Yet the Cairo Declaration issued on December 1, 1943, stated that all the territories Japan had seized from China, such as Northeast China, Taiwan and the Penghu Islands, should be restored to China.

This commitment was reaffirmed in the subsequent Potsdam Proclamation on July 26, 1945, which

stated that "the terms of the Cairo Declaration shall be carried out".

The Japanese Instrument of Surrender of September 2, 1945, under which Japan surrendered unconditionally to the Allied Powers, also states Japan's acceptance of the Potsdam Proclamation. The three documents expose the lies fabricated by Lai as they are effective and legally binding treaties recognizing Taiwan as part of China.

In his speech on Sunday, Lai again tried to fan antagonistic sentiment against the Chinese mainland by claiming that it has been deploying aircraft and warships around the island. Yet what he failed to mention is that the strengthened military training and combat preparedness of the People's Liberation Army is targeted at the intensified separatist acts of "Taiwan independence" rather than Taiwan compatriots, and it is aimed at preparedness to thwart Taiwan separatists' attempts to solicit external military support for their agenda.

As long as Lai's DPP authorities continue with its secessionist pushes and provocations, the PLA's operations to safeguard China's national sovereignty and territorial integrity will continue unabated. No matter how many speeches Lai makes to promote his "Taiwan independence" fallacy, and what tricks he uses to resist the reunification of Taiwan with the motherland, he will never change Taiwan's legal status as an inseparable part of China, or the fact and status quo that both sides of the Taiwan Strait belong to one China.

Rather than uniting Taiwan society, as Lai claims is his intention, his ongoing speaking tour actually reflects the growing desperation of Taiwan separatists who have recognized that the space for their scheme to push for "Taiwan independence" is being resolutely squeezed smaller and smaller. This was evidenced by Lai's call on Sunday for Taiwan residents to "stand up for the nation's safety", which served to show his vicious intent to turn the 23 million people on the island into cannon fodder for his separatist cause. This will be the outcome of the separatists' plans to seek "independence" through external support, a scheme that is doomed to failure.

Resolving the Taiwan question and realizing China's national reunification is a shared aspiration of all the people of the Chinese nation, and no one can stop the historical trend toward the reunification of Taiwan with the motherland.

— Courtesy of China Daily

Macau govt sets up self-service kiosks in 4 GBA cities



This demonstrative video clip downloaded yesterday from the Identification Services Bureau's (DSI) dedicated website about its self-service kiosks in Guangdong GBA cities shows a woman using a self-service kiosk for Macau's public administrative service at a government service centre in Guangzhou.

Tony Wong

The Macau government has set up self-service kiosks that Macau residents can use for its public administration services in four mainland cities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA), namely Guangzhou, Jiangmen, Zhongshan and Zhuhai.

The Identification Services Bureau (DSI) made the announcement in a statement last night.

According to the statement, self-service kiosks have been

newly set up at a mainland-run government service centre in each of the four cities. The self-service started operating yesterday.

The setting-up of the self-service kiosks used for the Macau government's public administration services has been the result of the cooperation arrangements between the Macau government and the Guangdong government, according to the statement.

The Macau government opened its own 24/7 self-service centre in

Zhuhai's Hengqin island last year.

Yesterday's statement noted that the setting-up of the self-service kiosks at the four government service centres will now enable Macau residents living in Guangdong GBA cities to use the various Macau government public administration services without having to return to Macau.

According to the statement, the newly set-up self-service kiosks can be used for 35 types of services provided by 11 public entities of the Macau government. ■

HK boasts largest IPO market worldwide in H1

Analysis

HONG KONG—Hong Kong has beaten all the other capital markets in the world to raise over HK\$105 billion (US\$13.38 billion) through initial public offerings (IPOs) in the first half of this year, as capital inflows into the city continues amid global market jitters.

The Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited (HKEX) data showed that 42 companies were listed in the first six months, up 40 percent from the same period last year. Total funds raised stood at the highest since 2021, crushing the HK\$87.6 billion annual total in 2024.

The HKEX claimed top spot worldwide in terms of total IPO proceeds in the first half of this year, well ahead of Nasdaq's HK\$71.3 billion, a Deloitte report showed.

Industry insiders say Hong Kong's securities market became a global investors' go-to platform to add Chinese assets to their portfolios.

Capital inflow into Hong Kong has risen from US\$366 billion at the beginning of last year to US\$605 billion in April, the highest since 2000, data from Hang Seng Bank showed.

Many global investors first look to Hong Kong to diversify risks, and, impressed by the economic vitality of the Chinese mainland and Hong Kong, chose to increase their holdings, said Paul Chan Mopo, financial secretary of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) government.

Pro-growth policy efforts from the central government and the HKSAR's measures to streamline listing procedures have worked together to lift Hong Kong's stock market, said HKEX Chairman Carlson Tong Ka-shing.

Among this year's new IPOs, crowd favorites are those of tech firms in artificial intelligence, 5G and smart vehicles, as well as new consumption companies, which cultivate and profit on consumer behaviors with the help of new technologies. Both are signatures of China's economic upgrades.

Chinese electric vehicle (EV) battery maker Contemporary Amperex Technology (CATL) raised over HK\$40 billion in May, drawing investments from Europe, the Middle East and the United States. It is the largest IPO in Hong Kong in recent years and a shoo-in for the largest worldwide this year.

As flag bearers of new consumption trends, bubble tea makers like Mixue Bingcheng and Auntea Jenny marked memorable H1 IPOs, while Chinese fast food chain Home Original Chicken and snack brand Three Squirrels are waiting in line.

The avid investor turnout to these new consumption IPOs is a token of faith in the resilience of China's domestic demand, as these companies have developed tried and tested business models to meet the needs of younger consumers, analysts say.

Hong Kong's IPO market is expected to maintain steam in the second half. Edward Au, southern region managing partner of Deloitte China, said there are currently more than 170 applications in progress and estimated that a total of 80 IPOs will raise around HK\$200 billion this year.

As dependence on US dollar-denominated assets wanes, global investors are increasingly seeking to diversify their portfolios, said Tong, adding that the HKEX is working with counterparts in the Middle East and Southeast Asia to widen access to funding for tech firms worldwide. — Xinhua

STOCK MARKETS

HK stocks close lower

HONG KONG — Hong Kong's stock market ended lower yesterday with the benchmark Hang Seng Index down 0.87 percent to close at 24,072.28 points. The Hang

Seng China Enterprises Index fell 0.96 percent to end at 8,678.3 points, while the Hang Seng Tech Index slid 0.72 percent to 5,302.82 points.

—Xinhua

Central govt approval is fundamental principle, legal safeguard of Grand Living Buddha reincarnation

Commentary

BEIJING – The following is a signed article by Li Hui, assistant researcher at College of Philosophy, Nankai University.

Approval from the Central Government is the Fundamental Principle and Legal Safeguard of Reincarnation of the Grand Living Buddhas

In the Tibetan Buddhist reincarnation system, the three fundamental principles of “search within the Chinese territory, drawing lots from the golden urn, and approval from the central government” form a comprehensive and rigorous framework for succession. This system serves as a vital safeguard for national unity, ethnic solidarity, and the proper order of Tibetan Buddhism. Among these principles, “approval by the central government” is the system’s ultimate and most essential step. Far from being a mere administrative formality, it carries profound historical logic, legal foundation, and practical significance. This principle is essential for ensuring an orderly reincarnation process, as well as for maintaining social stability and enduring peace.

I. Central Government Approval as a Vital Manifestation of National Sovereignty

Religious affairs constitute an integral part of state governance, and the management of Tibetan Buddhism affairs is a key responsibility of the central government. From a political perspective, the principle of “central government approval” specifies the national character of reincarnation, incorporating religious matters into the state governance framework. In history, successive central governments of China have managed reincarnation affairs through measures such as conferring titles on influential Living Buddhas and establishing regulatory mechanisms.

In 1793, the Qing government promulgated the “Imperial Approval Ordinance for Better Governance of Tibet (29-Article Ordinance),” with its first article explicitly stipulating that the reincarnation of Living Buddhas had to follow the procedure of “drawing lots from the golden urn,” and affirming the central government’s approval authority over the reincarnation. In 1936, the government of the Republic of China issued the “Regulations on Lama Reincarnation,” mandating that the reincarnation of grand Living Buddhas must be reported to the central government before proceeding with

historical conventions, traditional religious ritual search, the lot-drawing ceremony, and the final approval by the central government.

Following the founding of the People’s Republic of China, the reincarnation of Tibetan Buddhism Living Buddhas has been managed by governments at various levels in accordance with the law. In 1959, the democratic reform abolished the feudal serfdom under theocracy in Xizang, liberating the reincarnation institution and ushering in a new era. Since 1949, the state has successfully overseen the reincarnations of several prominent Living Buddhas, including the 16th Living Buddha Karmapa, the 10th Panchen Erdeni, and the sixth Regent Reting Rinpoche. By 2024, 93 newly reincarnated Living Buddhas had been confirmed upon government approval.

The principle of central government approval is not an externally imposed requirement but an inherent necessity for the reincarnation system’s own development -- a crucial safeguard for maintaining religious order and preventing power abuses. The reincarnation of Living Buddhas is by no means merely an internal religious matter; rather, it reflects a convergence of national sovereignty, state authority, religious doctrine, and the sentiments of believers. Any interference or meddling by external forces constitutes a provocation to China’s sovereignty.

II. Central Government Approval as a Prerequisite for Safeguarding National Unity and Social Stability

Xizang is an inseparable part of China’s territory, and the Living Buddha reincarnation system, as a unique succession method in Tibetan Buddhism, is vital for national security and social stability. Allowing local or foreign forces to interfere in reincarnation affairs would pose an immediate threat to China’s national unity. The central government’s confirmation of the reincarnation fundamentally ensures that the reincarnation process remains within the legal and policy framework of the nation, preventing any attempts to exploit the system to split the country or undermine ethnic unity. Only by upholding the principle of “central government approval” can the succession of Living Buddhas consistently align with both national interests and the fundamental interests of the vast majority of religious believers.

Moreover, central government approval reflects the Chinese government’s

commitment to implementing the policy of freedom of religious belief.

By managing reincarnation in accordance with laws and regulations, the central government not only respects Tibetan Buddhism’s traditional customs and religious rituals but also safeguards the legitimate rights and interests of believers, fostering harmony in religious relations.

The lot-drawing ceremony was originally established precisely to prevent Mongolian and Tibetan aristocrats from exploiting reincarnation to seize religious power. Today, central government approval serves as a critical line of defense in the struggle against separatists. This governance model both honors religious traditions and defends national political security.

III. Central Government Approval as a Legal Declaration of the Governance of Religious Affairs in a Modern State

Every country, throughout history and across different regions, without exception, manages its religious affairs in accordance with the law. Currently, affairs related to the reincarnation of Living Buddhas are being carried out in accordance with China’s laws and regulations.

The Regulations on Religious Affairs have clarified in legal form the approval authority for the reincarnation of Living Buddhas in Tibetan Buddhism. It stipulates that the succession of Living Buddhas in Tibetan Buddhism, under the guidance of Buddhist organizations, must be conducted in accordance with religious rituals and historical conventions, and must be reported to and approved by the religious affairs department of the people’s government at the provincial level or above, or by the people’s government at the provincial level or above.

Article 9 of the Measures on the Management of the Reincarnation of Living Buddhas in Tibetan Buddhism stipulates that after the recognition of the reincarnation of the Living Buddhas, the case must be reported to and approved by the religious affairs department of the people’s government at the provincial or autonomous region level. For those with significant influence within the Buddhist community, approval must be obtained from the people’s government of the province or autonomous region. For those with major influence, approval must be

obtained from the National Religious Affairs Administration. For those with particularly major influence, approval must be obtained from the State Council.

Reincarnated Living Buddhas approved by the religious affairs department of the people’s government of a province or autonomous region, or by the people’s government of a province or autonomous region, must be filed with the National Religious Affairs Administration.

Over the course of the years, the Dalai group has continuously advocated “Tibetan independence,” attempting to negate the central government’s decisive authority over the reincarnation of Living Buddhas. Through legal provisions and institutional design, the central government has clearly established the irreversible procedures for the reincarnation of Living Buddhas, namely searching within the Chinese territory, drawing lots from the golden urn, and approval from the central government. This has fundamentally eliminated the room for separatist forces to manipulate religious affairs.

From the enshrinement of the golden urn in front of the Buddha statue in the Jokhang Temple in 1793 to the solemn approval by the State Council for the 11th Panchen Erdeni in 1995, the principle of “approval by the central government” has endured for three centuries. As a core component of the reincarnation of Living Buddhas in Tibetan Buddhism, the approval from the central government is both a choice of history and an inevitability of the times.

It is deeply rooted in the historical pattern of China as a unified multi-ethnic nation, serves the practical need for the country’s long-term stability and security, and reflects the political wisdom of the Communist Party of China and the Chinese government in addressing religious issues. The governance logic that political power is above religious authority and national law is superior to religious rules provides a reference for multi-ethnic countries in handling religious affairs. As we advance toward the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, the principle of central government approval will continue to play an irreplaceable role in maintaining national unity, ethnic solidarity, and religious harmony. It will also contribute Chinese wisdom to global religious governance. – Xinhua

China firmly opposes forced closure of Hikvision’s business in Canada: MOC

BEIJING – China is strongly dissatisfied with and firmly opposes Canada’s order to cease the operations of Chinese firm Hikvision in Canada, the Ministry of Commerce (MOC) said yesterday.

China has noticed that the Canadian side has forcibly ceased Hikvision’s operations in Canada and banned Canadian government departments from purchasing or using Hikvision products under the pretext of “national security,” a spokesperson with the ministry said.

The Canadian side’s so-called national security review lacks transparency and produces uncertain outcomes, the spokesperson said, calling it a typical act of overstressing the concept of national security.

“Such a move undermines the legitimate

rights and interests of Chinese enterprises, erodes the confidence for business cooperation between the both sides, and sabotages the normal economic and trade relations between the two countries,” the spokesperson added.

China urges Canada to immediately rectify its erroneous actions, stop politicizing and overstressing the concept of national security in economic and trade issues, and provide an open, fair, just and non-discriminatory environment for businesses from all countries, including Chinese enterprises, to invest and operate in Canada, the spokesperson noted.

China will take necessary measures to resolutely defend the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese enterprises, the spokesperson said. – Xinhua



This photo taken on Sunday shows two industrial robots perform lion dance at Greetoo Intelligent in Jieyang, Guangdong Province. Guangdong has been bolstering its pivot cities including Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Foshan and Dongguan to engage in manufacturing intelligent equipment, an effort to build an industrial cluster for manufacturing high-end equipment. In 2024, the province’s operating revenue from the high-end equipment manufacturing reached 390.565 billion yuan with the total profit standing at 18.873 billion yuan. – Xinhua

Xi chairs CPC leadership meeting to review work regulations on decision-making, deliberation, coordination

BEIJING – The Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee held a meeting yesterday to review a set of regulations on the work of the Party Central Committee's decision-making, deliberative and coordinating institutions. Xi Jinping, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, presided over the meeting.

The meeting noted that establishing the Party Central Committee's decision-making, deliberative and coordinating institutions is an important institutional arrangement to enhance the centralized and unified leadership of the CPC Central Committee over major initiatives, and to ensure the accomplishment of major tasks. The formulation and issuance of the regulations will further standardize the establishment, responsibilities, and operations of such institutions. The regulations are of great significance for enhancing top-level design, overall coordination, integrated advancement, and effective implementation of major initiatives.

The meeting emphasized that the Party Central Committee's decision-making, deliberative and coordinating institutions must have a precise understanding of their responsibilities and roles. They should focus on planning, discussing, and oversight of major tasks, providing more effective overarching guidance and coordination over major initiatives. While fully exercising their coordinating responsibilities, they must avoid taking over others' functions or overstepping boundaries. It is essential to conduct in-depth research to improve the quality and effectiveness of decision-making and deliberation, and to propose practical and effective policy measures. It is essential to avoid formalism and bureaucratism and deliver real results.

Some other matters were also discussed at the meeting.

– Xinhua

Xi stresses advancing full, rigorous Party self-governance through forging good conduct

BEIJING – Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, yesterday underscored efforts to advance full, rigorous Party self-governance through forging good conduct.

Xi made the remarks while presiding over a group study session of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee.

The study session was held a day before the founding anniversary of the CPC.

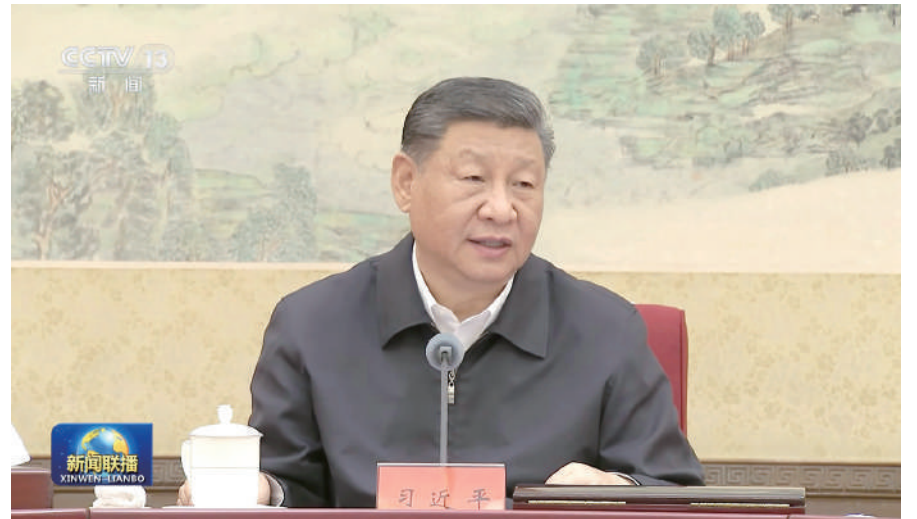
On behalf of the CPC Central Committee, Xi conveyed festive greetings to all Party members across the country as he spoke after listening to briefings and participating in discussions, which focused on implementing the Party central authorities' eight-point rules on improving conduct.

Xi noted that the eight-point rules are the Party's landmark measure in the new era to exercise self-governance.

He said since the 18th CPC National Congress in 2012, the CPC Central Committee has upheld strict rules and strong constraints, focused on rectifying undesirable work styles – unnecessary formalities, bureaucracy, hedonism and extravagance – through education campaigns and a series of rectification actions.

These efforts have improved the overall effectiveness of Party governance and gathered tremendous positive energy for the development of the Party and the country's cause, Xi said.

Xi emphasized that advancing Chinese modernization is a formidable task, and



Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC), presides over a group study session of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee in Beijing yesterday. – CCTV

the Party faces an exceptionally complex governance environment, making it all the more necessary to maintain a heightened sense of self-reform.

Leading officials, especially senior cadres, must take the lead in practicing self-reform, Xi added.

He stressed that advancing self-reform requires strengthening Party spirit, with a focus on firming up ideals and convictions.

On anti-corruption, Xi said the exercise of power must be well-regulated and resolute efforts must be taken to address disciplinary and legal violations.

Party conduct and discipline must be turned from strict requirements into

concrete actions, allowing ironclad rules to show their “iron teeth,” thus sending a clear signal to the entire Party of unwavering strictness and zero tolerance, creating a strong deterrent effect, Xi said.

He called on leading officials at all levels to shoulder the responsibility for Party self-governance and urged Party organizations at all levels, in carrying out the education campaign focused on implementing the eight-point rules, to face problems head-on, ensure that rectifications are thoroughly carried out, resolutely curb various unhealthy tendencies, and improve mechanisms to maintain sound Party conduct on a long-term basis.

– Xinhua

‘Ne Zha 2’ ends record-breaking China run with US\$2.13-billion haul, but global journey continues

Commentary by Xinhua writer
Zhang Yunlong

BEIJING – After shattering virtually every box office record in Chinese film history, “Ne Zha 2” concluded its theatrical run in the Chinese mainland last night.

According to ticketing platform Maoyan, the animated phenomenon has grossed 15.44 billion yuan – or approximately US\$2.13 billion – with 324 million admissions, making it the most-watched and highest-grossing film ever in China.

While the film's domestic screenings draw to a close, its global rollout continues. Currently, its global box office sales total 15.91 billion yuan, or about US\$2.19 billion, per Maoyan data.

The sequel to the 2019 hit “Ne Zha” has not only eclipsed its predecessor but also outperformed nearly every cinematic competitor – domestic or foreign – since its release on January 29, during Chinese New Year.

“Ne Zha 2” now ranks among the five highest-grossing films of all time globally, along with “Avatar,” “Avengers: Endgame,” “Avatar: The Way of Water,” and “Titanic.” And it is the top-grossing animated feature in history, surpassing the likes of Pixar’s “Inside Out 2” and Disney’s 2019 remake of “The Lion King.”

Combining mythological storytelling with cutting-edge animation and emotional nuance, “Ne Zha 2” has become a cultural phenomenon in China and, increasingly, abroad. In a recent investor update, production company Enlight Media said a newly produced English-dubbed version is expected to arrive in North American theaters this summer, and the film has already been screened in over 30 countries and regions – primarily in its original Chinese audio with localized subtitles – including more than a dozen in Europe.

Yin Hong, vice chairman of the China Film Association, called the film “a milestone for Chinese animation,” saying that “it demonstrates the vitality of China’s creative industries, the enduring appeal of its cultural heritage, and the global potential of its storytelling.”

Indeed, what began as a retelling of a rebellious boy-god from Chinese mythology has blossomed into a contemporary saga that resonates across age groups and cultures. While rooted in ancient lore, the film explores modern themes such as destiny, social prejudice and identity, earning praise from both teenage fans seeking empowerment and older viewers drawn to



A child poses for a photo with a promotional display for the premiere of Chinese animated blockbuster “Ne Zha 2” in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, last week. – Xinhua

its emotional catharsis.

“I believe that one day, new ideas, deeper meanings and new soul will emerge from the film, and the whole world will be able to appreciate it,” said director Yang Yu, also known as Jiaozhi.

Technically, the film is a marvel, too. With nearly 2,000 special effects shots and the collaborative efforts of more than 130 animation studios, it draws a new high-water mark in Chinese animation.

At the 2025 Shanghai International Film Festival, Enlight Media chairman Wang Changtian estimated the film’s overseas box

office would exceed US\$100 million – a potential two-decade record for a Chinese film abroad.

Enlight Media has stated that merchandise related to “Ne Zha 2” now spans more than 30 categories and over 200 products, including blind boxes, plush toys, action figures, and more.

The film’s success has been a boon for China’s theatrical sector. Largely driven by “Ne Zha 2,” box office takings in the world’s second-largest film market during the 2025 Spring Festival period surged to an all-time high.

A cinema in Wangjing in

Beijing’s Chaoyang District credited “Ne Zha 2” with generating 40 percent of its revenue over the past five months. “Without it, we might still be struggling to find our footing,” the theater, which opened in mid-January, said in a WeChat post on Sunday.

“Ne Zha 2” may have concluded its domestic run, but its international trajectory is continuing. A second wave of overseas distribution for the film’s English-language version is planned for the months ahead, though a specific release date has yet to be announced.

Meanwhile, anticipation is building up for a third installment in the movie series. In response to investor inquiries earlier this month, Enlight Media stated that “Ne Zha 3” will be held to even higher standards. “We will take great care to meet audience expectations,” the company said.

As China redefines its cultural presence on the world stage, “Ne Zha 2” stands as both a commercial juggernaut and a symbol of creative ambition. “It’s a miracle and a peak in Chinese cinema,” said Chen Xuguang, director of the Institute of Film, Television, and Theatre at Peking University. “A record that may remain unbroken for a long time.”

– Xinhua