

# Only 1.5 pct of respondents take LRT as main transport option: survey

Tony Wong

The findings of a survey released yesterday show that only 1.5 percent of the respondents said that they use the Light Rapid Transit (LRT) as their main transport option when out and about.

The findings also show that 70.5 percent of the respondents said that the government should continue expanding the city's LRT network after the completion of the ongoing LRT East Line project.

Currently, the East Line project is the only LRT project underway. The line will connect the Barrier Gate checkpoint at the peninsula's northern tip and the Taipa Ferry Terminal via the Zone A and Zone E1 land reclamation areas. It will cross the sea between Zone A and Zone E1 through an undersea tunnel.

The government is currently preparing a project to extend the LRT East Line to the Qingmao pedestrian border checkpoint in Ilha Verde from the Barrier Gate.

The ongoing LRT East Line project, without the projected extension to the Qingmao checkpoint, is scheduled to be



This photo taken early this month shows an LRT train leaving Taipa Ferry Terminal Station. – Photo: Tony Wong

completed in 2028, which the government is aiming to open in 2029.

The survey was carried out in June and July this year by the Macao New Chinese Youth Association, which held a press conference on its

premises, located on the 13<sup>th</sup> floor of the Macao Daily News Building on Avenida de Venceslau de Moraes, yesterday to announce the survey's findings.

The survey collected 647 valid questionnaires from randomly

chosen local residents aged between 18 and 44.

The association also released the survey's findings in a statement on its website yesterday.

The survey's findings show that 36.6 percent of the respondents said

that taking a public bus was their main transport option when getting around the city, while 31.9 percent and 26.3 percent said that they get around mainly by driving and walking respectively.

The findings show that only 1.5 percent of the respondents said that taking the LRT was their main transport option when getting around.

Moreover, the findings also show that 58.7 percent of the respondents said that they had used the LRT over the past 12 months. However, 68.4 percent of those who had taken the LRT over the period said that they used the LRT only once every three months or even less.

According to the findings, 33.9 percent of those who had taken the LRT over the past 12 months said that "merely experiencing the ride" was their main reason and objective of getting on the LRT, while 22.1 percent and 21.3 percent cited "travelling to border checkpoints" and "travelling to casino-hotel resorts" as their main reason for opting for the LRT.

Continued on p.2

## UK wastes billions on flawed asylum housing: report

LONDON – Britain has "squandered billions" of pounds on housing asylum seekers as a result of "flawed contracts" and unsuitable accommodation, a parliamentary report said yesterday.

Protesters targeted hotels contracted by the Home Office to house migrants while they await a decision on their asylum applications.

A sharp rise in asylum seekers being housed for long periods in government-paid accommodation – from 47,500 at the end of 2018 to 103,000 in June 2025 – has fuelled public anger.

The Home Affairs Committee found that the expected cost for asylum accommodation from 2019-2029 has more than tripled, from £4.5 billion (US\$6 billion) to £15.3 billion (US \$20.4 billion).

While the use of hotels for this purpose has decreased from its peak in 2023 during the previous, Conservative administration, the Home Office is still "heavily reliant" on the costly option, according to the report.

More than 32,000 migrants are currently said to be housed in hotels, according to Home Office figures.

– AFP



President Xi Jinping looks at exhibits during a visit to an exhibition marking the 100<sup>th</sup> founding anniversary of the Palace Museum in Beijing yesterday. – (Story on p.6) – Screenshot courtesy of CCTV1

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## Li Qiang says China ready to advance GGI for regional peace, development

Premier Li Qiang said yesterday that China stands ready to join various parties in actively advancing the Global Governance Initiative (GGI), and make joint efforts to inject more positive energy into regional peace and development. – Story on p. 7

## Argentina's Milei vows more reforms after stunning election win

Argentine President Javier Milei has hailed his party's run-away victory in Sunday's midterm elections as a "turning point" for the country and vowed to charge ahead with his agenda of shrinking the state and deregulating the economy. – Story on p. 11

## 'Definitive solution' on Brazil-US trade within days: Lula

Brazil's President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva said yesterday a trade deal with the United States could happen within days, possibly easing punitive tariffs after months of animosity. – Story on p. 12



# Police arrest mainlander for rape, assault of former sexual partner

Ada Lei

A man from the Chinese mainland was apprehended on Saturday for the false imprisonment, assault and rape of his former sexual partner, Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Cheong Un Hong said during a regular press conference yesterday.

Cheong identified the suspect as a 34-year-old man, surnamed Wu, who is a construction worker. The victim is a middle-aged woman from the mainland. Cheong added that the two began their sexual relationship after meeting in a mainland nightclub in November last year. The victim, unable to endure Wu's controlling behaviour, attempted to end the relationship in February, but Wu started to stalk her, Cheong said.

According to Cheong, Wu encountered the victim and her sister at a restaurant in Zape at 5 a.m. on Saturday. Wu requested that the victim accompany him to his hotel guestroom, but she refused. He then threatened her,

claiming he would disclose their past relationship to her husband and family. Feeling unable to refuse, the victim complied.

Cheong noted that the victim was assaulted and forced to engage in sexual acts against her will by Wu in the guestroom. She secretly contacted her sister for help and attempted to leave the room, but was stopped by Wu, who then attacked her with a glass ashtray, striking her on the head with it, and attempted to strangled her with a mobile phone charger cable.

Cheong said that at around 6 a.m., after suffering a head injury and continually pleading, the victim was finally allowed by Wu to call her sister, who then reported the case to the police. The police later arrived to rescue her and apprehended Wu on the spot. Under questioning, Wu refused to cooperate.

Wu was transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) yesterday, facing charges of rape, causing bodily harm, and false imprisonment. ■



Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Cheong Un Hong looks on during yesterday's regular press conference about the rape case.

— Photo: Ada Lei

# Police arrest 'exchange dealer' for cheating gambler out of HK\$ 200,000

Ada Lei

A man from the Chinese mainland was apprehended on Saturday for defrauding a male gambler out of HK\$200,000 (206,000 patacas) in an illegal currency exchange deal, Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Cheong Un Hong said during a regular press conference yesterday.

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

According to Cheong, the gambler was approached by Yuan and another man, who remained at large at the time of the press conference, at a casino in Cotai, where they offered him a currency exchange deal. After negotiations, they agreed to exchange 194,480 yuan for HK\$208,000 in cash.

Cheong noted that after the victim transferred the money, Yuan claimed that a poor mobile signal prevented him from confirming the receipt of the funds, and refused to hand over the cash. Yuan then falsely claimed that the signal near the Barrier Gate checkpoint was

better and suggested that the victim go with him and the other man in a taxi to verify the payment. During the taxi ride, Yuan secretly handed the cash to his accomplice.

Upon arriving at the Barrier Gate checkpoint, the accomplice made an excuse to leave first, while Yuan continued to use the purported poor signal as a reason to withhold the cash. At this point, the victim suspected he had been scammed and immediately reported the case to the police.

The police discovered that Yuan and his accomplice had been using currency exchange as a ruse to lure gamblers into transferring money. Once they had successfully obtained the funds, they would refuse to pay out cash under various pretexts. The police also discovered that Yuan would receive 10 percent of the scammed amount.

Yuan has been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing a fraud charge.

Only licensed currency exchange businesses are allowed to engage in the activity. ■

## Only 1.5 pct of respondents take LRT as main transport option: survey

Continued from p.1

The findings also show that 46.1 percent of those who had never used the LRT over the past 12 months said that "stations far away from their homes" was the reason that they did not take the LRT, while 35.6 percent and 33.3 percent cited "the LRT's limited network coverage" and "unable to reach their destinations directly" as their reason.

According to the findings, 61.7 percent of the respondents said that the absence of any mobile payment apps accepted at the ticket gates discouraged them from using the LRT. In addition, 64.0 percent of the respondents said that they wanted the LRT operator to develop and launch a mobile app providing real-time train arrival information.

Currently, LRT passengers can merely swipe their stored-value LRT card or Macau Pass card at the ticket gates.

## 75.6 pct of respondents want LRT West Line

Furthermore, the findings also show that 70.5 percent of the respondents said that the city's LRT network should continue expanding after the completion of the ongoing LRT East Line project.

According to the findings, 75.6 percent of the respondents said that they agreed with the government's plan to build the LRT West Line.

The government indicated earlier this year that it was studying the feasibility of building the LRT West Line connecting the Qingmao checkpoint with Fai Chi Kei, from where it would run along the Inner Harbour to Barra at the peninsula's south-western tip.

According to yesterday's statement, the association urges the government to launch its LRT West Line project, while also calling the government-owned LRT operator to accept mobile payment apps at the ticket gates and launch a mobile app for passengers to check real-time train arrival information. ■

## Sands Resorts Macao, Macau Pass unveil consumer service experience upgrade

Rui Pastorin

Sands Resorts Macao, in partnership with Macau Pass, announced in a statement yesterday a consumer service experience upgrade by introducing a "Pay-to-Join Membership" that utilises Alipay Tap! technology.

The announcement was made during a recent innovation showcase at Shoppes at Londoner in Cotai.

According to the statement, this service allows Alipay users to quickly join Sands Lifestyle and access benefits like discounts on dining, hotels, and shopping. For merchants, it also integrates payments, membership management, and operational tools into a single digital platform.

The upgraded service streamlines payment and membership enrolment, as well as "significantly enhances merchant efficiency" by integrating checkout, membership registration and customer engagement into a single digital platform. New members can also enrol with a single tap, while existing members are automatically recognised.

The statement added that there are also "enhanced marketing capabilities".

Moreover, the "Alipay Tap! handheld checkout" designed for high-end retail, dining and personalised services was also highlighted during the recent innovation showcase.

Sands China Senior Vice President & Chief Marketing



This photo provided by Sands Resorts Macao yesterday shows President and Chief Operating Officer of Las Vegas Sands Corp. Patrick Dumont (right) and Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director of Sands China Grant Chum Kwan Lock (centre) experiencing the digital service.

Officer DeVonne Iao (尤穎) was quoted as saying: "These innovations will not only elevate the customer experience and boost merchant efficiency, but also inspire new possibilities in the digital transformation of local businesses."

Macau Pass Chief Product and Technology Officer Gavin Zhao (趙皓) was quoted as saying: "Looking ahead, Macau Pass will deepen ecosystem partnerships and

broaden the reach of Alipay Tap! across more commercial settings to help local merchants accelerate digital transformation, while also energising the local economy and supporting Macau's development as a smart tourism city."

Sands Resorts Macao was the first in the city to introduce the Alipay Tap! service earlier this year, the statement said. The service has since expanded to nearly 10,000 merchants across Macau. ■

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MACAU POST

### Macau Weather

**MAINLY CLOUDY.**  
**A FEW RAIN PATCHES AT FIRST.**  
**FORCE 3 TO 4 NORTH TO NORTHEASTERLY WINDS,**  
**OCCASIONALLY FORCE 5 WITH GUSTS.**  
**RELATIVE HUMIDITY**  
**WILL RANGE BETWEEN**  
**60% AND 95%.**



19°C~24°C

Source: SMG



# Creator Academy brings together global content leaders

**Khalel Vallo**

The CreatorWeek Macao 2025's Creator Academy concludes this afternoon at Grand Lisboa Palace (GLP) in Cotai, capping two days of sessions aiming to bring together global content leaders, creators, and industry professionals to exchange ideas on creativity, innovation and sustainability in the creator economy\*.

The CreatorWeek Macao 2025 opened on Friday, striving to gather international content creators and social media leaders for a five-day "creative celebration".

Jointly organised by the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) and international media production company "Branded", the Creator Academy serves as a practical platform where leading figures in social media, branding, and entertainment share strategies

on fan engagement, creative integrity, and career growth in the digital landscape, according to an MGTO statement on Saturday.

The Creator Academy activity was held from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. yesterday and will take place today at the same time.

Among the speakers has been Black Eyed Peas\*\* member Allan PinedaLindo—known professionally as "apl.de.ap", a Filipino-born hip hopper who operates in Los Angeles in the United States—who in a Q&A session yesterday afternoon emphasised authenticity and innovation in content creation. He pointed out that "it's time to really create authentic, unique, and original Filipino music," and urged young creators to "embrace technology but use it as a tool to improve the music landscape."

By merging global expertise

with Macau's distinctive East-meets-West culture, the Creator Academy aims to reinforce the city's role to become a hub for digital innovation and creator collaboration in the Greater Bay Area (GBA) and beyond, according to the MGTO statement. ■

*\*The creator economy refers to the economic system built around independent content creators (like YouTubers, podcasters, bloggers, artists, etc.) who monetise their skills, audience, and content. This includes the platforms, tools, and services that support them (e.g., Substack, Patreon, Etsy, TikTok, YouTube Partner Program). — DeepSeek*

*\*\*A US band based in Los Angeles, with Lindo being one of its core members. Lindo, who was born in the Philippines, holds double US and Philippine nationality. — DeepSeek*



**Black Eyed Peas' Allan Pineda Lindo – known professionally as "apl.de.ap" – provides tips and advice during the CreatorWeek Macao 2025's Creator Academy at Grand Lisboa Palace (GLP) in Cotai yesterday.**  
– Photo: Khalel Vallo

## 3 major local trade fairs log over 85,000 visitors, 140 business deals: IPIM



**This undated handout photo provided by the Commerce and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) on Saturday shows exhibitiongoers exploring the three concurrent exhibitions – The 2<sup>nd</sup> China-Portuguese-Speaking Countries (PSCs) Economic and Trade Expo (Macao) (2<sup>nd</sup> C-PLPEX), the 30<sup>th</sup> Macao International Trade & Investment Fair (30<sup>th</sup> MIF), and the Macao Franchise Expo 2025 (2025MFE) – at The Venetian Macao's Cotai Expo.**

**Khalel Vallo**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> China-Portuguese-Speaking Countries (PSCs) Economic and Trade Expo (Macao) (C-PLPEX), the 30<sup>th</sup> Macao International Trade & Investment Fair (MIF), and the Macao Franchise Expo 2025 (2025MFE) successfully concluded at The Venetian Macao's Cotai Expo on Saturday.

According to a statement by the local government's Commerce and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) on Saturday, the three fairs together generated more than 140 signed agreements and 68 investment projects, further reinforcing Macau's role as a hub for international trade and cooperation.

According to the statement, the four-day exhibitions, which took place concurrently, drew over 85,000 visitors, including 15,000 professional buyers, representing a significant rise in international participation. Close to 80 percent of signed agreements were related to Macau's "1+4" industries, with

about 15 percent involving PSCs, the statement added.

Macau's "1+4" development strategy is a plan to diversify its economy beyond gaming by focusing on becoming a World Centre of Tourism and Leisure ("1"), and developing four emerging industries: Big Health, modern financial services, high tech, and conventions, exhibitions, commerce, trade, culture, and sports, according to previous local government statements. The "1+4" strategy aims to create a more diversified and sustainable economic structure with the support of the Hengqin Guangdong-Macao In-Depth Cooperation Zone and a market-led approach, analysts say.

The events between Wednesday and Saturday last week featured over 1,100 exhibitors from about 30 countries and territories, highlighting sectors such as smart technology, new energy, big health, and cultural creativity, the statement said, adding that more than 1,000 business matching sessions and

nine thematic meetings were held, fostering cross-border cooperation and investment.

Among the 68 investment projects signed, 24 enterprises have already initiated or completed procedures to set up shop in Macau, many focusing on the "Macau + Hengqin" development strategy, the statement said.

The statement noted that interactive live streaming sessions showcasing over 800 products reached 5.6 million online views, while guided community tours and multi-venue activities enabled participants to explore Macau's tourism and MICE (meetings, incentives, conferences, and exhibitions), advantages.

Marking a 30 percent year-on-year growth in the number of agreements signed, the three exhibitions successfully expanded international collaboration, deepened China-PSC partnerships, and aimed to showcase Macau's strategic potential as a gateway for global business exchange and innovation, the statement said. ■

## Nearly 30 million visit Macau in Jan-Sept

**Staff Reporter**

The Statistics and Census Bureau (DSEC) announced in a statement that Macau had welcomed 29.67 million visitor arrivals in the first nine months of the year, a year-on-year increase of 14.5 percent.

Same-day visitors (17.27 million) and overnight visitors (12.39 million) rose by 24.9 percent and 2.5 percent, respectively. Overnight visitors stayed for an average of 2.3 nights, unchanged from the same period last year, according to the statement released on Friday.

Visitors from the Chinese mainland increased by 18.4 percent to 21.57 million in the first three quarters, accounting for 72.7 percent of all arrivals.

Arrivals from China's Hong Kong (5.47 million) and Taiwan (727,062) regions rose by 1.4 percent and 16.5 percent, respectively.

International visitor arrivals increased by 12.4 percent to 1.88 million, accounting for 6.3 percent

of the total. The Philippines (382,851) and South Korea (382,494) continued to be Macau's main international visitor segments. The United States (112,330) ranked first among long-haul visitor arrivals.

Some 82.7 percent of visitors in the first nine months arrived by land via the mainland's Zhuhai City. The remainder arrived by ferry or air.

Last month, visitor arrivals grew by 9.8 percent year-on-year to 2.77 million, a daily average of 92,504.

Macau's annual visitor arrival record of 39.4 million was reached in 2019, the last year before the COVID-19 pandemic began to affect the city in January 2020 and severely impacted local tourism for three consecutive years.

According to the latest available demographics, Macau's population stood at 685,900 at the end of June.

Macau's main tourist attractions are its integrated resorts, UNESCO-listed World Heritage sites and its multifarious cuisine, tour guides say. ■



**Tourists walk along Macau's Largo de S. Domingos ("St. Dominic's Square") in the city centre on Saturday.**  
– Photo: Terrence Lei



## HALLOWEEN EDITION

Photo of a Jack-o-lantern courtesy of Unsplash.

# Halloween:

## A not so scary story about being present

**Rui Pastorin**

"What do you want to be for Halloween this year?"

My five-year-old goddaughter looked up from her iPad as she heard my question, a shy, yet playful smile forming across her face that signified that a decision had long been made.

This was the third year that I would be accompanying her, her family and her favourite aunt to go around celebrating Halloween\* at Albergue SCM\*\* in what has become an annual tradition that we all look forward to. And while she was ardent about becoming a bright orange pumpkin last year, this time, there was only one thing that she wanted to be: A member of Huntr/x from the 2025 American animated musical Netflix film "K-pop Demon Hunters", which seems to have taken the world of children and even small toddlers by storm.

I smiled as I dreaded the thought of having to again listen to songs like "Soda Pop", "Golden" and "Takedown" while on the way to the venue. "That's great!", I said as her favourite aunt shot me a knowing look.

The night came and when we arrived, she was absolutely ecstatic, barely able to contain her excitement as we entered a scene of fellow demon hunters and princesses joined by a mix of ghosts, ghouls and superheroes, to name a few.

As I took her hand, I realised just how much she had grown in the year since I last joined her and her family. And while there were definitely moments where I just wanted to disappear from the crowd and take out my phone to finally catch up on some scrolling and some much-needed entertainment, the realisation of just how quickly time was moving made me change my mind. Instead, I began to think – next year and the year after, what would her Halloween be like? Would she still want to hold my hand? Would she still even want to go to this annual Halloween get together given how quickly kids seem to grow up these days. That in particular was the thought that stuck with me the most.

There are instances when we want time to move faster just so we can move on to things that we would rather be doing. This could also lead to times when we simply want to escape

certain situations and moments with people, times when we would rather distract ourselves

and be somewhere else in lieu of the present. It's in moments

like these that we remember that we have a portal to a different world that sits readily available in our bags and/or pockets – our smartphones. So, we take them out and

enter a different place regardless of where we are and regardless of who we are with and whether the moment means anything to them. Time moves a lot quicker, but so do our moments with people, especially those we are with when we choose to look down at our screens.

You might miss the first friendly exchange between two six-year-olds as they traded sweets and complimented each other's costumes simply because you "needed" to tend to a notification. In a park, a child might find themselves engaged in a heated battle with a smartphone for a parent's attention. At a dinner table, moments that may allow for pleasant conversation with a lover, friend, or family member might never come up because a text or social media feed is apparently far more interesting. Or, in moments beyond escapism and the constant chase for dopamine\*\*\*, perhaps it felt more important to attend to an email rather than being present at a family gathering.

Modern society often requires or normalises our minds to be in two or more places at once, making it rather difficult to be present in the moments that matter. We are slaves to every ding and ping our small portals make, whether for pleasure or work. But as time moves and the number of distractions increases, it is becoming more important to remember where we need to be and the people who matter most. Because sometimes, these moments, these people can disappear at the blink of an eye. And before we know it, we might be left wondering where the time went and what happened.

I'm not writing this to say "smartphones and technology are all bad, we should ban them!", but as a reminder for myself and for you, dear reader, to remember to be present. Because sometimes, time and the people it holds might just pass you by.

I kept this thought in mind as I took the hand of a little demon hunter as we once again stepped into a labyrinth of superheroes, monsters and princesses made up of both the young and young at heart, hoping to do it again next year.

*\*Halloween is celebrated on October 31 and is a holiday with roots in ancient Celtic traditions. It marks the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter. The name "Halloween" comes from "All Hallows' Eve," the evening before All Saints' Day. Activities involved include "Trick-or-Treating", where children dress in costumes and go door-to-door asking for candy, saying "trick or treat" as a playful way to request treats. - Source: Poe*

*\*\*Albergue is Portuguese for "hospice". SCM stands for Santa Casa da Misericórdia ("Holy House of Mercy"), Macau's oldest charitable organisation.*

*\*\*\*Dopamine is a chemical in the brain that acts as a messenger between nerve cells. It's often called the "feel-good" hormone because it plays a key role in how we feel pleasure and reward. – Poe*



A man and a child pass a shop with Halloween decorations near Albergue SCM yesterday afternoon.  
– Photo: Rui Pastorin



# GEG wins Guinness World Records title for largest display of coloured ping-pong balls



This photo provided by Galaxy Macau on Friday shows the large-scale installation that has been awarded the Guinness World Records title for "The largest display of coloured ping-pong/table tennis balls", located in Galaxy Macau's East Square.



GEG Director of Corporate Affairs Buddy Lam Chi Seng (from right to left) holds up the Guinness World Records certificate and poses with Andrew Chan Chak Mo, president of the Sports and Olympic Committee of Macau, China; Ma Chi Seng, secretary-general of the Sports and Olympic Committee of Macau, China; and Jacob Ip, the official adjudicator of Guinness World Records, in front of the large-scale art installation.

## Rui Pastorin

Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG) has recently achieved the Guinness World Records title for "The largest display of coloured ping-pong/table tennis balls" for its large-scale art installation, which comprises 7,000 multi-coloured table tennis balls.

Displayed at "The Artistry of Table Tennis – Collectables & Art Exhibition" at Galaxy Macau's East Square and depicting two table tennis players against the Galaxy Arena as its backdrop, it

was assembled by 15 of GEG's staff and "echoes the 15<sup>th</sup> National Games", according to a statement by the integrated resort operator on Friday.

Galaxy Arena will be the host of table tennis competitions for the 15<sup>th</sup> National Games in November, which is jointly hosted by Guangdong, Hong Kong, and Macau, the statement said.

A ceremony was recently held where GEG Director of Corporate Affairs Buddy Lam Chi Seng received the award certificate

on behalf of the company. He was quoted as saying that the installation demonstrates the company's "unwavering support for the development of sport in Macau, particularly the advancement of table tennis" and that it "underscores the significance of Galaxy Arena as a premier venue for hosting major sporting events in the city".

"Remarkably, this marks the third time that GEG and its properties have been honoured with a Guinness World Record. We hope this achievement will

further contribute to promoting the diversity of Macau's positioning as a 'World Centre of Tourism and Leisure'", Lam added.

The statement said that the challenge strictly adhered to the specifications set by Guinness World Records, with an official adjudicator, and two witnesses – Andrew Chan Chak Mo, president of the Sports and Olympic Committee of Macau, China; and Ma Chi Seng, secretary-general of the Sports and Olympic Committee of Macau, China, -present on-site to

verify the achievement.

"It was confirmed that Galaxy Macau successfully created the largest display of coloured ping-pong/table tennis balls using 7,000 coloured table tennis balls, setting a new world record for this category", the statement said.

The exhibition displayed at the East Square will be held through January 4, with exhibitiongoers able to view over 40 rare and historically significant rackets. A series of related activities are also held by Galaxy Macau. ■

## Emperor Palace, Waldo casinos to shut for good later this week: govt

### Tony Wong

Two more "satellite casinos" will close for good soon, namely Emperor Palace Casino and Waldo Casino, which will cease operations after midnight on Thursday and midnight on Friday respectively, the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ) announced in a statement yesterday.

They are two of the nine satellite casinos currently still in operation in the city.

The government announced in June that in compliance with the three-year transition period stipulated by the new legislation amending the gaming law, all of the city's then 11 satellite casinos

had decided to close for good by December 31 this year. Grandview Casino in Taipa, which closed for good in late July, was the first of them to cease operations.

Afterwards, Grand Dragon Casino, also in Taipa, closed for good last month, the second one to cease operations.

Emperor Palace Casino and Waldo Casino will be the third and fourth to cease operations. After their scheduled closures later this week, there will still be seven satellite casinos in Macau.

The so-called satellite casinos in Macau are formally owned by gaming concessionaires but are actually run and managed by

third parties as they are housed on premises that are not owned by the respective gaming concessionaires.

The satellite casinos are currently operated under partnership models where the respective gaming concessionaires and third parties share the revenues.

According to the gaming law's newly amended version, all casinos must be housed on premises that are owned by their respective gaming concessionaires.

The new legislation amending the gaming law stipulates a three-year transition period, which started on January 1, 2023, during which existing satellite casinos can continue operating under their

current partnership models.

After the three-year transition period, which is scheduled to end on December 31 this year, all satellite casinos must close, unless the respective gaming concessionaire chooses to hire a "management company" to operate the casino, but such a management company is only allowed to receive a management fee from the respective gaming concessionaire, not share the revenue.

According to June's government announcements, the three respective gaming concessionaires, SJM, Galaxy, and Melco, decided to terminate the operations of all 11 satellite casinos before

the expiration of the transition period based on their respective commercial decisions, comprising Grandview, Legend Palace, Fortuna, Landmark, Ponte 16, Le Royal Arc, Emperor Palace, Kam Pek Paradise, and Casa Real owned by SJM, Waldo owned by Galaxy, and Grand Dragon owned by Melco.

Yesterday's DICJ statement announced that after business negotiations, Emperor Palace Casino's third-party operator and SJM decided to terminate the operations of the casino after 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, i.e., no operation from Friday.

The statement also announced that after business negotiations, Waldo Casino's third-party operator and Galaxy decided to terminate the operations of the casino after 11:59 p.m. on Friday, i.e., no operations from Saturday.

The statement pledged that the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau, in collaboration with the Labour Affairs Bureau, will ensure that SJM and Galaxy fulfil their respective promise to ensure the employment of those working at Emperor Palace Casino and Waldo Casino after their closures.

According to the statement, there are currently 71 employees working at Emperor Palace Casino and 111 working at Waldo Casino. ■



A taxi is parked outside Grand Emperor Hotel in Nam Van district last night where Emperor Palace Casino is located. – Photo: Khalel Vallo



This undated file photo shows Waldo Hotel in Zape where Waldo Casino is located. – Photo courtesy of TDM



# National Games torch relay in Guangzhou, Shenzhen, HK & Macao to show iconic views

## Wu Kunling in Hong Kong

Hong Kong is set to showcase its landmarks – starting from the government headquarters in Tamar, and ending at Kai Tak Sports Park – in its torch relay for the 15<sup>th</sup> National Games, slated to take place on Sunday in tandem with Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Macao.

In a news conference held in Guangzhou yesterday, authorities announced that the official torch relay kickoff ceremony will take place at 9 a.m. in Lianhua Hill Park in Shenzhen. At around 9:30 a.m., kickoff ceremonies will also be held in Hong Kong, Macao, and Guangzhou, marking a simultaneous start to the torch relay in the four cities.

The torch relay will include 200 torchbearers, with each city providing 50 torchbearers covering a distance of 50 to 100 meters each. In Hong Kong, the torch relay will traverse both sides of Victoria Harbour, passing renowned landmarks such as Tamar Park, the waterfront at Central and Wan Chai,

Golden Bauhinia Square, the Hong Kong Cultural Centre, and the Hong Kong Space Museum. The relay route spans about 10 kilometers and will take about two hours to complete, with ferries and open-top buses operating along parts of the route.

The torch relay routes in Macao, Guangzhou, and Shenzhen will also showcase each city's distinct features, linking iconic landmarks, while highlighting both historical and modern cultural elements. For instance, in Macao, the torch relay will run along the Macao Peninsula, spanning about 2.6 km. It will traverse popular tourist areas like Avenida da Praia Grande before ending at the historic site of the Ruins of St. Paul's.

Following the relay, representatives from the four cities will return the flame to Guangzhou. On the same day, a ceremony will be held at 5 p.m. at the Guangdong Olympic Sports Center, where the sacred flame will be used during the opening of the Games

on November 9 for relays and to ignite the main cauldron.

Advanced technologies such as smart robots, autonomous vehicles and drones, will be used throughout the torch relay.

During a separate news conference in Hong Kong yesterday afternoon, Yeung Tak-keung, head of the National Games Coordination Office (Hong Kong), said that the torch relay route aims to showcase the “best sights of Hong Kong” to a global audience. This includes the city's cultural and sporting highlights, its reputation as a hub for international mega events, and its modern architectural marvels, like the Financial Centre. The route will connect both sides of Victoria Harbour using traditional ferries, emphasizing Hong Kong's unique blend of traditions and modernity. And the endpoint at the newly opened Kai Tak Sports Park signifies a new era in Hong Kong's sports development, Yeung said.

He also disclosed that Hong Kong

will feature 50 torchbearers, with eight nominated by the committee of the Games, and 42 nominated by various local institutions. Among these nominees, half represent the sports sector, 30 percent come from sponsoring organizations, while the rest include representatives of volunteers, youth, individuals with disabilities, and ethnic minorities.

Yeung said that there are ample viewing spots such as those along the Central to Wan Chai waterfront, Tamar Park and other areas, welcoming residents to come and observe along the route while reminding everyone to follow directions from on-site staff.

During the news conference, representatives from the Hong Kong Police Force and Transport Department provided updates on Sunday's traffic control and public transport adjustments. Road closures will begin in areas that include the northern part of Hong Kong Island, West Kowloon, and Kai

Tak Sports Park early that morning, which will also affect buses, green minibuses, and ferries in related area. Authorities advised residents to stay informed through notifications from the Transport Department and transportation operators.

Meanwhile, the Hong Kong Immigration Department has introduced specialized facial recognition gates to an estimated 5,000 participants of the Games – including athletes and employees – to clear immigration in about seven seconds, without the need to present physical documents.

This marked the first time Hong Kong has fully adopted facial recognition technology for border clearance. This initiative has come with 16 exclusive self-service channels across four key ports; namely, the Hong Kong International Airport, the West Kowloon High-Speed Rail Station, the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, and Shenzhen Bay Port.

– Courtesy of China Daily

## Xi calls for turning Palace Museum into window for Chinese civilization

BEIJING – President Xi Jinping yesterday urged efforts to make the Palace Museum a major education base for fostering patriotism and an important window for the world to better understand Chinese civilization and the Chinese nation.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks when visiting an exhibition marking the 100<sup>th</sup> founding anniversary of the Palace Museum in Beijing.

The exhibition themed “A Century of Stewardship: From

the Forbidden City to the Palace Museum,” features 200 pieces (sets) of cultural relics and documents, including masterpieces of calligraphy and paintings, as well as bronze ware and jade artifacts, demonstrating the development of the museum.

Xi listened carefully to the explanation during the visit and paused to observe the relics and inquire about relevant details.

Hailing the Palace Museum as a hallmark of Chinese civilization, Xi said the museum should carry forward its fine traditions, adhere to the principle that cultural relics belong to the people and serve the

people, and work harder to protect, restore and make good use of the cultural relics.

Cai Qi, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and a member of the Secretariat of the CPC Central Committee, also visited the exhibition.

On October 10, 1925, the Forbidden City, the vast walled complex that once served as China's imperial palace, was opened to the public for the first time, along with its priceless imperial art collections, marking the founding of the Palace Museum.

– Xinhua

## Senior CPC official urges full promotion of Party plenum's guiding principles



Cai Qi (center), a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and a member of the CPC Central Committee Secretariat, speaks at a mobilization meeting on a lecture program for promoting the guiding principles from the fourth plenary session of the 20<sup>th</sup> CPC Central Committee in Beijing yesterday.

– Xinhua

BEIJING – Senior Communist Party of China (CPC) official Cai Qi yesterday urged the full promotion of the guiding principles from the fourth plenary session of the 20<sup>th</sup> CPC Central Committee.

Cai, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and a member of the CPC Central Committee Secretariat, made the remarks at a mobilization meeting on a lecture program for promoting the guiding principles.

The sound study and implementation of the plenum's guiding principles are a major political task for the Party and the country at present and over the coming period, Cai said.

He called for a clear illustration of the major achievements China has made during the 14<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025), as well as the CPC Central Committee's fundamental assessment of the domestic and international situation.

The plenum saw the adoption of the CPC Central Committee's recommendations for the formulation of the 15<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan. Cai called for full illustration of the guiding principles, major policies, main goals, strategic tasks, key measures and fundamental guarantees for economic and social development in the 15<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan period (2026-2030), and for work to guide Party members, officials and the public to integrate all of the plenum's requirements into every aspect of economic and social development during the period.

The meeting was presided over by Li Shulei, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and head of the Publicity Department of the CPC Central Committee.

The fourth plenary session of the 20<sup>th</sup> CPC Central Committee took place from Monday through Thursday last week.

– Xinhua, MPD

## China willing to work with EU to keep bilateral ties on right track: Li Qiang

KUALA LUMPUR – Premier Li Qiang said yesterday that the current China-EU relationship faces both development opportunities and challenges, and both sides should stay on the right course in developing their relations, solidify the foundation of political mutual trust and further implement their consensus.

Li made the remarks while meeting with European Council President António Costa on the sidelines of the leaders' meetings on East Asian cooperation.

He said China stands ready to work with the European Union (EU) to make the cooperation pie bigger, promote the optimized and balanced development of China-EU trade, further open up to each other, and create new growth points for cooperation in green and digital sectors, as well as areas including scientific and technological innovation, industrial and supply chains,

to achieve high-level mutual benefit and win-win outcomes.

He added that on the basis of equality and respect, China is willing to promote the resolution of issues in China-EU economic and trade cooperation through dialogue and consultation, as well as through mutual understanding and accommodation.

Li voiced hope that the EU would provide a fair, equitable, and non-discriminatory business environment for Chinese enterprises operating in Europe, and that EU institutions would play a positive role in the development of China-EU relations.

Costa said that the EU is willing to maintain high-level exchanges with China, strengthen dialogue and communication across various fields and levels, enhance mutual trust, properly address each other's concerns and promote practical cooperation.



Premier Li Qiang (right) shakes hands with European Council President António Costa in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, yesterday.

– Xinhua

The EU is ready to further strengthen communication and coordination with China, uphold multilateralism and jointly cope with global challenges such as climate change, Costa said.

– Xinhua



## China ready to work with int'l community to implement GGI for brighter future: Wang Yi

BEIJING — China is ready to join hands with the international community to fully implement the Global Governance Initiative (GGI), build a more just and reasonable global governance system, and create a brighter future for humanity, Foreign Minister Wang Yi said yesterday.

Wang, who is also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, made the remarks while addressing the Lanting Forum on Improving Global Governance to Build a Community with a Shared Future for Humanity, which was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Beijing.

Noting that the GGI is a new major global public good contributed by China, Wang said together with the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative and the Global Civilization Initiative, the GGI promises much needed stability and provides certainty for this volatile world, and has received swift and clear support from more than 140 countries and international organizations.

China is ready to work with all parties to put the GGI into action, Wang said. "We will engage consistently in equal consultation, listen to different views, and take useful advice with an open mind to build maximum consensus."

"We will promote global governance reform with gradual and sustained effort to make it beneficial to the whole world," he added.

Wang called for jointly upholding the authority and status of the United Nations to cement the foundation of global governance. All countries should uphold the UN Charter and the basic norms governing international relations and fulfill international obligations in their entirety and in good faith, said Wang.

Noting China supports the UN consistently and firmly, Wang called on all countries to engage with the UN on the cooperation agendas across poverty reduction, infrastructure, education and health.

He went on to point out that all sides should work together to advance common development to enhance the efficacy of global governance, adding that China calls for an end to politicizing economic and trade issues, to fragmenting the global market, and to reckless decisions to wage trade and tariff wars.

Wang also called for putting development back at the center of international agenda, mobilizing global resources for development, and fostering an equal and balanced global development partnership.

China will open its door ever wider, Wang said, adding that the country will share development opportunities with more countries and peoples.

In face of pressing challenges, Wang said developed countries must earnestly fulfill their emission reduction commitments, and provide financial and technological support to developing countries, adding China supports the UN as the main channel in global AI governance.

Wang stressed the need to respond to aspirations of the Global South and improve the global governance architecture.

"We support advancing the realignment of IMF quota shares and shareholding review at the World Bank according to the agreed timeframe and roadmap," he said, adding that China also supports the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the New Development Bank in playing a greater role.

He also pointed out that all sides should fully leverage the roles of diverse stakeholders and pool strength for global governance. As China will soon assume the rotating presidency of APEC 2026, Wang said China looks forward to working with all sides to advance the building of an Asia-Pacific community and a Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific.

China firmly supports the high-quality development of greater BRICS cooperation, and welcomes more countries to join the International Organization for Mediation and seek to resolve differences, promote reconciliation and safeguard peace on the platform, he added.

The attendees to the forum included former UN Under-Secretary-General Erik Solheim, former UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova, Professor Graham Allison of Harvard University, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank President Jin Lique, and other high-level representatives and renowned experts and scholars from home and abroad, as well as members of the diplomatic corps and representatives of international organizations in China. — Xinhua



Foreign Minister Wang Yi, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, addresses the Lanting Forum on Improving Global Governance to Build a Community with a Shared Future for Humanity and delivers an address titled "Implementing the Global Governance Initiative for a Community with a Shared Future for Humanity" at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Beijing yesterday. — Xinhua

## Li Qiang says China ready to advance GGI for regional peace, development

KUALA LUMPUR — Premier Li Qiang said yesterday that China stands ready to join various parties in actively advancing the Global Governance Initiative (GGI), and make joint efforts to inject more positive energy into regional peace and development.

Li made the remarks while addressing the 20<sup>th</sup> East Asia Summit (EAS) held in Malaysia.

Li said that 20 years ago, the EAS was born in Kuala Lumpur, and over the past two decades, the summit has played an overall constructive role, promoting stability and rapid development in the region.

Today, the world has entered a new period of turbulence and transformation, with peace and development facing many new risks and challenges, Li said.

With an eye toward addressing global changes and tackling pressing conundrums, Chinese President Xi Jinping solemnly put forth the Global Governance Initiative, he noted.

Emphasizing adherence to sovereign equality, abidance by international rule of law, practice of multilateralism, advocacy of people-centered approach, and focus on taking real actions, this initiative carries strong practical relevance and aligns closely with the founding purpose of the EAS, Li added.

China stands ready to work with all parties to remain true to the original aspirations of the EAS, Li said, calling on all sides to continue building broad consensus.

Mutual respect, equality, and fairness and justice, among others, are important foundations governing relations among nations. Economic globalization and world multipolarization are irreversible, and the world should not return to the law of the jungle where the weak fall prey to the strong, he said.

Only by upholding these shared values of humanity and following the tide of history can we make the right decisions at critical junctures and stay on the



Premier Li Qiang attends the 20<sup>th</sup> East Asia Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, yesterday. — Xinhua

correct course forward, Li added.

Li noted the need to focus on solving prominent problems, saying that economic development and the improvement of people's livelihoods remain top priorities for countries in the region.

He called for a stronger commitment to upholding the free trade system, making efforts to build a high-level regional free trade network, and vigorously advancing regional integration.

More strength should be gathered to enhance people's well-being and achieve universally beneficial and inclusive development, he added.

Li also called for reforming and improving the rules and the systems. The more turbulent the situation becomes, the greater the need to safeguard the authority of international rule of law, he said.

He urged all parties to abide by the rules, especially to safeguard the international system with the United Nations (UN) at its core, and support ASEAN's centrality in the regional architecture, acting as a promoter of regional cooperation.

At the same time, he said, efforts should be made to actively promote reforms, facilitate the establishment of a more just and reasonable global governance

system to better safeguard the interests of all sides.

The leaders at the meeting noted that the current international situation is undergoing profound and complex changes, with geopolitical conflicts intensifying and protectionism on the rise.

They called on regional countries to return to the original aspirations of the EAS, abide by multilateralism and the basic principles of international law such as the UN Charter, and work together to promote peace-building, conduct dialogue in the spirit of mutual respect, and create new models of partnerships.

They also urged countries in the region to strengthen practical cooperation, jointly address challenges such as energy and food security, green transformation, climate change and public health, and boost lasting peace, stability and prosperity in the region and the wider world.

The meeting, hosted by Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, adopted the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the EAS, and the Leaders' Statement on Promoting Localization in Anticipatory Action for Disaster Preparedness and Response. — Xinhua

## Wang Yi hopes China, US will create conditions for development of bilateral relations

BEIJING — Foreign Minister Wang Yi yesterday expressed hopes that China and the United States will work in the same direction to get well poised for high-level interactions and create conditions for the development of bilateral relations.

Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, made the remarks in a phone call with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio.

He said China-US relations have a bearing on the whole world, and a healthy, stable and sustainable bilateral relationship serves the long-term interests of both countries

and meets the common expectations of the international community.

President Xi Jinping and President Donald Trump are both world-class leaders who have maintained long-term exchanges and mutual respect, which has become the most valuable strategic asset in China-US relations, Wang said.

Earlier, China-US economic and trade ties had encountered new frictions, Wang said, adding that through the talks held in Kuala Lumpur, the two sides clarified their positions, enhanced mutual understanding, and reached a framework consensus on addressing urgent economic and

trade issues on an equal footing.

This once again proves that it is possible to stabilize and advance the bilateral relationship as long as the two sides fully implement the important consensus reached by the two heads of state, uphold the principles of equality, respect and mutual benefit, resolve differences through dialogue, and refrain from resorting to pressure, Wang said.

For his part, Rubio said the US-China relationship is the most important bilateral relationship in the world, and he looks forward to sending a positive signal to the world through high-level interactions.

— Xinhua