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Govt converting 39 plots into temporary facilities

Tony Wong

The government yesterday announced details of its ongoing plan to use 39 available plots across the city for various purposes on a temporary basis, comprising 13 for recreational and leisure purposes, 15 open-air public carparks, three recycling facilities, four sports facilities, and four for other different purposes.

The government started last year an initiative to earmark a number of long-undeveloped and idle plots across the city, the permanent uses of which has still not been decided, for various purposes on a temporary basis, with the aim of making good use of these plots before their respective permanent uses are finally determined, thereby enhancing residents' well-being in various aspects.

The Legislative Assembly's (AL) Follow-up Committee for Land and Public Concession Affairs asked government officials to attend a meeting yesterday to brief its members about the latest progress of the government's ongoing plan to convert its available plots into various facilities to be operated on a temporary basis.

The meeting was held behind closed doors, after which lawmaker-cum-unionist Ella Lei Cheng I, who chairs the committee, briefed reporters about the meeting.

Yesterday's meeting was attended by four officials, comprising Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raymond Tam Vai Man, his



A man smokes outside Plot A9 (top) on the waterfront in Nam Van Lake district yesterday, while pedestrians walk past Plot A4 (bottom left). The two plots, alongside Plot A3 in the area, are three of 13 plots that the government has currently earmarked for recreational and leisure purposes on a temporary basis.

— Photos: Tony Wong

chief-of-cabinet Un In Lin, Lands and Urban Construction Bureau (DSSCU) Director Lai Weng Leong, and Public Works Bureau (DSOP) Director Lam Wai Hou.

The government revealed in June last year its plan to use nine available plots for different purposes on a temporary basis, after which Tam told lawmakers in December last year that the government was planning to earmark 30 more plots for various types of facilities to be operated on a temporary basis.

During yesterday's press briefing, Lei noted that 32 of the 39 plots are located in the Macau peninsula, many of which are situated in its

Three of the 39 plots are now being used, namely three temporary open-air carparks which came into use at different times last month. Concerning the other 36 plots, the government has launched projects to convert the respective plots into temporary facilities, while the temporary uses of the respective plots are still in the planning process.

The three temporary open-air carparks that opened last month provide a total of 194 parking

central and southern area. The other seven plots are located in Taipa, Coloane or Cotai, she said.

The 39 plots cover a total of over 100,000 square metres, Lei said.

Except the three temporary open-air carparks which have already come into use, Lei said, the other 12 plots earmarked for temporary open-air carparks are expected to be able to provide over 1,000 parking spaces.

Other countries to face the

spaces for cars and 140 spaces for motorcycles.

The Public Works Bureau announced the full list of the 39 plots in a statement last night, according to which the 39 plots cover an area ranging between 31 square metres and 15,785 square metres.

According to last night's statement, the 31-square-metre plot is located in an alley in the peninsula's San Kio district, earmarked for a sitting-out area, while the 15,785-square-metre plot is a plot, known as Plot B13, in the Zone A land reclamation area, earmarked for sports facilities.

Concerning the 30 plots newly announced by the government, Lei said yesterday that the government has still not come up with exact schedules as to when their temporary uses could get off the ground.

Among the 39 plots, the first nine plots comprise the three temporary open-air carparks that opened last month, three plots for temporary sports facilities with their respective projects having been launched, two recycling facilities with their respective projects having been launched, and a super-fast e-vehicle charging station to be set up on a plot in Cotai. The charging station is expected to come into use at the middle of this year.

According to the list announced last night, the 39 plots include three plots in Nam Van Lake district, namely Plots A3, A4 and A9, earmarked for temporary recreational and leisure purposes. ■

US suspends immigrant visa processing for 75 countries

WASHINGTON — The United States said yesterday it was suspending the processing of immigrant visas from 75 countries, President Donald Trump's latest move against foreigners seeking to come to America.

The United States has long rejected visas from people who appear likely to end up needing government welfare, but the State

Department said it would now use the same authority for a blanket suspension of immigrant visas based on nationality.

"The Trump administration is bringing an end to the abuse of America's immigration system by those who would extract wealth from the American people," State Department spokesman Tommy Pigott said.

"Immigrant visa processing from these 75 countries will be paused while the State Department reassesses immigration processing procedures to prevent the entry of foreign nationals who would take welfare and public benefits," he said.

White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt posted on X that the countries affected would include Somalia — whose people

Trump has attacked in heated terms after immigrants were involved in a funding scandal in Minnesota — as well as Russia and Iran.

A US official said that the other countries affected would include a number of countries with friendly relations with the United States, including Brazil, Egypt and Thailand.

Other countries to face the

pause include Nigeria — Africa's most populous country — as well as Iraq and Yemen, the official said.

The State Department did not immediately release a full list of countries.

The freeze will begin on January 21 with no set time for it to end, the US official, who was not authorized to speak to the press, said on condition of anonymity. — AFP

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China's resilient foreign trade expands in 2025 amid global headwinds

China's foreign trade posted resolute expansion in 2025 despite global headwinds, with the country retaining its position as the world's largest goods trading nation.

— Story on p. 6

2025 was 3rd hottest year on record: climate monitors

The planet logged its third hottest year on record in 2025, extending a run of unprecedented heat, with no relief expected in 2026, global climate monitors said yesterday.

— Story on p. 10

Portuguese president says willing to promote greater development of China-Portugal relations

Portuguese President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa said on Monday that Portugal is willing to work together with China to promote greater development of bilateral relations. — Story on p. 12

Start with Resolve, Strive for Completion: A Forward Look at Macao's 'Third Five-Year Plan'

Commentary by Frederico Ma Chi Ngai
Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Macao Chamber of Commerce (ACM)

Last month, President Xi Jinping met with Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai, who was in Beijing to report on his work. He listened to Sam's report on Macao's current situation and the work of the Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) Government, and stated that the Central Government fully affirms the work of Sam Hou Fai and the SAR Government. President Xi also pointed out that the SAR Government should proactively align with the national "15th Five-Year Plan", uphold and improve the executive-led system, steadily promote appropriate economic diversification, continuously enhance governance efficiency, and better integrate into the overall national development. After returning to Macao, Sam Hou Fai summarized his work report trip to the media, calling on the society to work together with the remark that "One person's strength is limited, but the collective strength of everyone is infinite." He also elaborated on the SAR's next focus on five aspects of work, the top priority of which is to respond to President Xi's important speech, formulate Macao's "Third Five-Year Plan" (2026-2030) and proactively align it with the national "15th Five-Year Plan", and revealed that the preliminary preparation work for the "Third Five-Year Plan" has been launched.

Looking back at the various development goals and main tasks of the "Second Five-Year Plan", the SAR Government has basically achieved or exceeded them. For example, the overall unemployment rate has remained at a low level of 1.7 percent (2.3 percent for local residents), and the median income has risen steadily; the revision of gambling-related regulations has been completed and re-tendered, and under the new gambling management contracts, various concessionaries have actively fulfilled their non-gambling investment commitments; laws and regulations



Frederico Ma Chi Ngai poses at the entrance to the Macao Chamber of Commerce last year. – Photo courtesy of ACM

covering various businesses such as finance, traditional Chinese medicine, catering and travel agencies have been enacted, laying the foundation for creating a high-quality and convenient business environment. In 2025, the total number of incoming tourists exceeded 40 million, a record high; the cumulative scale of bond listings exceeded 1 trillion patacas, and various emerging industries have progressed in an orderly manner. However, behind the impressive achievements, there are still many shortcomings that need to be addressed. For instance, the transformation of scientific and technological achievements and social investment in scientific research are still relatively low; except for finance, other emerging industries have not yet formed economies of scale; and the per capita consumption and length of stay of tourists have declined in recent years. To proactively align with the national "15th Five-Year Plan" and formulate a sound "Third Five-Year Plan" for Macao, it is necessary to fully recognize and address existing

shortcomings, incorporate the "Four Major Infrastructure Projects" proposed in the Policy Address, and at the same time deeply understand the various development goals of the "15th Five-Year Plan". For example, the top goal requires remarkable achievements in high-quality development. Both the "15th Five-Year Plan" proposals and the just-concluded Central Economic Work Conference have taken boosting economic growth through domestic demand as a major task. In addition to a series of fiscal and regulatory policies such as the "trade-in for new" program and the national unified national market, strengthening service consumption and promoting the high-quality development of the service industry have become the top priorities this year. Macao's tourism, convention and exhibition service industry needs to further improve quality and develop in the "Third Five-Year Plan", export high-quality tourism, convention and exhibition services, and integrate resources to participate in the construction of the unified national market.

The significant improvement of the country's self-reliance and self-improvement in science and technology is also a key focus that must be addressed in Macao's "Third Five-Year Plan". Macao should increase overall social investment in scientific research, with government funds playing a guiding role; bold investment should be made in basic research to enable researchers to participate in major national scientific research projects; applied research should target application scenarios in the unified national market, strengthen the transformation of achievements, and contribute Macao's strength to the country's self-reliance and self-improvement in science and technology. A series of supporting policies and indicators for building a highland for gathering international top talent should also be reflected in the "Third Five-Year Plan". The first two phases of the talent introduction program have included more than 750 talents in the proposed talent introduction list, involving four major industries, including more than 20 high-end talents, over 120 outstanding talents, and the remaining 600-odd senior professional talents, who are from the Chinese mainland, Hong Kong SAR and overseas. However, a large proportion of them are existing talents already working in Macao, and most are from the Chinese mainland. Increasing the talent pool and enhancing internationalization are key priorities for the next phase. The "Four Major Infrastructure Projects" should serve as carriers for talent aggregation, contributing to the country's comprehensive deepening of reform and high-level opening up. As President Xi stated in his 2026 New Year Address: "Those who start with resolve must see it through to the end; those who achieve success plan thoroughly beforehand." We should anchor the goals and tasks of the "Third Five-Year Plan", strengthen confidence, seize opportunities, steadily promote appropriate economic diversification, and continue to write a new chapter in integrating into the overall national development. ■

Na Tcha Exhibition Hall to close to public tomorrow: IC

Armindo Neves

The Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) announced on its website yesterday that the Na Tcha Exhibition Hall will be closed to the public tomorrow.

The statement said that in order to facilitate distribution network maintenance and improvement works undertaken by power utility CEM, the hall will be closed tomorrow. It will reopen on Saturday.

The Na Tcha Exhibition Hall,

according to the bureau's website, which opened in 2012 based on a cooperation arrangement between the bureau, the Na Tcha Temple Association and residents living nearby.

Residents of the nearby Chi Lam Vai heritage village are known to be actively involved in maintaining the hall and the adjacent Na Tcha Temple.

The hall, according to the bureau, enable locals and visitors

alike to gain a better understanding of the festivities, history and customs related and dedicated to Na Tcha, a popular Taoist tutelary deity.

The hall, located next to one of Macau's two Na Tcha temples, is located near the village known in Portuguese as Pátio do Espinho ("Courtyard of the Thorn"), covers around 70 square metres. It presents the legend of Na Tcha and its festivities and exhibits several objects used in the celebration of the divinity's birthday, such as religious incense burners, couplets, objects used in religious processions, like the Sedan-Chair of Na Tcha, the ceremonial umbrella, lion-dance heads and firecrackers for the religious festivities, among others.

"Ne Zha 2", which was released last year, has become China's most successful film to date, raking in over US\$2.2 billion so far. It is also the world's most profitable animation film. In his 2026 New Year's message, President Xi Jinping described the film as a "global hit" promoting Chinese culture.

Na Tcha's (Nezha in Putonghua) birthday is on the 18th day of the fifth month in the Chinese Lunar Calendar. In the Western calendar,

his birthday this year falls on July 2nd. Chi Lam Vai (茨林圍) includes a café and souvenir shop dedicated to Na Tcha. ■



A security guard stands in front of the Na Tcha Exhibition Hall adjacent to the Na Tcha Temple close to the Ruins of St. Paul's and Chi Lam Vai heritage village yesterday afternoon. The Temple and St. Paul's Ruins are UNESCO World Heritage-listed monuments. – Photo: Armindo Neves

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Macau Weather

MAINLY FINE.
FORCE 2 TO 3 NORTH TO NORTHEASTERLY WINDS.
RELATIVE HUMIDITY WILL RANGE BETWEEN 40% AND 95%.



14°C~22°C

Source: SMG

GEG to present Macao Orchestra plus circus troupe for Valentine's Day gig

Kristina Valles

The Macao Orchestra (OM) will stage a special Valentine's Day concert featuring performances by an international circus troupe, according to a statement released yesterday by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC).

"Cirque de la Symphonie - Melodies of Movies" will commence on Valentine's Day, February 14, at 8 p.m. at Broadway Theatre in Cotai. According to the statement, the orchestra will perform alongside the troupe Cirque de la Symphonie ("Circus of the Symphony"), blending symphonic music with aerial acts, acrobatics, magic, and dance.

Cirque de la Symphonie is a production known for bringing the magic of circus into the concert hall, according to the troupe's website. The troupe features aerial flyers, acrobats, contortionists, dancers, and jugglers. The website statement noted that each artiste's performance is professionally choreographed to classical and contemporary music in collaboration with the conductor.



This poster provided by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) yesterday promotes the "Cirque de la Symphonie - Melodies of Movies" which will be held on February 14, Valentine's Day, at Broadway Macau in Cotai

Govt's 1st 'tea-break' opinion gathering session to be held tonight

Khalil Vallo

The government announced yesterday that its first "tea-break" community session for officials under the Social Affairs and Culture portfolio to directly engage in conversations with residents will be held tonight.

Yesterday's announcement came after Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Wallis O Lam told lawmakers in November last year about the government's plan to host "tea-break" sessions in different neighbourhoods regularly from 2026 where bureau directors under her portfolio will directly engage in exchange and communication with residents to gather their opinions and answer their questions.

The inaugural "tea-break" session, to be held tonight, was

announced by the Health Bureau (SSM) in a statement yesterday as it will be about the city's public healthcare services.

The statement said that the government decided to launch its regular community exchange activity, starting from January 2026, in compliance with its people-centred governance approach and its strategy of staying close to residents' daily lives while listening to public opinion. The new initiative is officially known as "Tea Break: Dialogue on the Social Affairs and Culture Portfolio".

The new initiative aims to establish a regular and direct community dialogue platform, allowing residents to more directly express their views on policies and services provided by public entities

Fu Luen calls for focus on households at high risk of domestic violence

Armindo Neves

According to Macau's total number of crimes reported in the first nine months of last year, announced by the Office of the Secretary for Security (GSS), the number of suspected domestic violence cases rose by 24 year-on-year to 80.

While cases classified as suspected "crimes of domestic violence" were only a few, there were 59 cases categorised as "crimes against physical integrity" involving family conflicts during the same period.

The *Post* yesterday interviewed Wong Lei Lei, who heads Lai Yuen ("Garden of Encouragement") Shelter run by the Macau Women's General Association (commonly known as Fu Luen), about the ongoing effort to prevent domestic violence.

Wong said that the decline in filed cases may be attributed to the effectiveness of public awareness campaigns and support measures under the Law for the Prevention and Combating of Domestic Violence.

However, she also called for the authorities to place focus on households at high risk of domestic violence.

Wong pointed out that the law has enabled more victims to realise that they can access financial, medical, housing, and employment support through cross-departmental assistance, encouraging them to seek help proactively.

Additionally, the working group of domestic violence prevention led by the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS), in conjunction with its 11-year ongoing promotional efforts, has strengthened community outreach and resource dissemination, Wong said.

However, Wong pointed out, domestic violence prevention and intervention efforts still face multiple challenges. These include financial pressures exacerbating family conflicts, increasingly complex family issues paired with low willingness to seek help, perpetrators using technology to stalk and monitor victims, and



The Macau Women's General Association's (Fu Luen) head of its Lai Yuen Shelter, Wong Lei Lei, poses next to the association's anti-domestic violence promotional items before yesterday's Post interview at the Fu Luen Family and Community Service Centre.

— Photo: Armindo Neves

lingering societal attitudes such as "family shame should not be exposed," which leads many victims to endure abuse for extended periods of time before seeking assistance, Wong said.

She particularly noted that support services for perpetrators are currently largely voluntary, adding that if the perpetrator refuses to take part in counselling, it becomes difficult for the authorities to continuously monitor and address the associated risks.

Wong said that in many parts of Asia, domestic violence incidents often go unreported.

Beyond the traditional notion that "family shame should not be exposed," this phenomenon involves multiple social and cultural factors. Influenced by traditional beliefs, many women feel compelled to maintain an "intact family," often enduring abuse for the sake of their children, Wong said.

Male victims may be constrained by societal expectations such as "men should not shed tears lightly," Wong said, pointing out that male victims tend to fear that seeking help could undermine their perceived family roles and presence, which lowers their willingness to reach out.

Wong also said that some victims

in need harbour reservations about seeking professional assistance, worrying about being labelled as "having issues" or "being ill." Stigma often deters them, leading them to confide only in friends or relatives. They may only take action when they experience significant physical or psychological harm or when severe situations such as child violence arise, resulting in delayed help-seeking, Wong said.

Future priorities will focus on enhancing public awareness and vigilance regarding domestic violence through community outreach, training and promoting "ambassadors"*, and leveraging online platforms, according to Wong, added that the efforts aim to encourage high-risk families to seek help early, thereby preventing the occurrence or escalation of violence. ■

*The term "ambassador" can also refer to someone who promotes a certain cause, often in a non-official capacity. In this context, it usually describes a person who advocates for or represents a specific mission, organisation, or initiative, like a "youth ambassador" for education or an "environmental ambassador." This usage highlights their role in raising awareness and promoting that cause. — Poe

6178 or 8597 6498, or by emailing gct@ssm.gov.mo, in order to "facilitate event arrangements". ■

*The concept refers to the process of distributing healthcare resources and funding from higher levels of authority (such as government or central health agencies) to lower

levels (such as local hospitals, clinics, or community health programs). This approach aims to ensure that resources are effectively utilised at the grassroots level, addressing specific local needs and improving access to healthcare services for the population. — DeepSeek



This undated handout photo downloaded from the Health Bureau's (SSM) website yesterday shows its Ilha Verde Health Centre.



‘Trail of Matteo Ricci’ exhibition continues cross-civilisation dialogue through Chinese painting

Khalel Vallo

The “Trail of Matteo Ricci” exhibition at the Rui Cunha Foundation (FRC) gallery highlights how contemporary Chinese painting reinterprets Ricci’s (1552-1610) historic journey between Europe and China through on-site artistic practice and cultural reflection.

According to an information board at the entrance to the gallery, the project, initiated by Prof. Zhang Yan, director of the Centre for Chinese History and Culture (CCHC) at the University of Macau (UM), and curated by Li Ranqing and Lei Meihang, brings together 18 artists who retraced the Jesuit priest’s route from Italy to China.

His journey covered Macau, Guangzhou, Zhaoqing and Shaoguan, before continuing to Rome, Macerata, Genoa, Venice, Milan and Florence. Li noted in the message that the artists used “the brush and ink of traditional Chinese painting as our historical pen” to complete a cross-temporal exploration rooted in Ricci’s 400-year-old path of cultural exchange.

The 33 works on display were created during field trips, aiming to preserve what Li described as the works’ “on-site temperature,” from wind-formed cracks on Xuan paper* to traces of street dust on pastel edges. These elements, Li noted, are not flaws but extensions of the Chinese painting philosophy of “observing things through inner vision” in a contemporary context.

The message continued that Macau was chosen as the exhibition venue not only because it marked the starting point of Ricci’s journey**, but also because it serves as the project’s “spiritual anchor”.

Li added that each work embodies the artists’ hesitation, transformation and

resonance experienced during on-site creation, transforming landscapes into expressions of dialogue between civilisations.

Through traditional Chinese painting, the exhibition seeks to continue Ricci’s legacy of cultural translation, turning a historic route across mountains and seas into an ongoing artistic dialogue between China and the West.

With free admission, the works can be viewed until January 24, with exhibitiongoers able to visit the gallery at 749 Avenida da Praia Grande, Luen Pong Building. The gallery is open from Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturdays.

*Xuan paper (宣紙) is a traditional hand-crafted paper originating from Xuanzhou (in present-day Anhui Province). It is renowned worldwide as the premier paper for Chinese calligraphy and brush painting. It is a high-quality, durable paper made primarily from the bark of the blue sandalwood (*Pteroceltis tatarinowii*) tree and rice straw, using a meticulous, multi-step process that can take over a year. In 2009, the art of Xuan paper making was inscribed on UNESCO’s Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. It is considered an indispensable carrier of Chinese classical art and culture. – DeepSeek

**Ricci arrived in Macau on August 7, 1582, and stayed here for about nine months before proceeding to the Chinese mainland. Ricci was based in Macau from August 1582 to May 1583. This period was foundational for his later groundbreaking work in cultural exchange, mapmaking, and bridging Chinese and Western science and philosophy during the Ming Dynasty. – DeepSeek



Photos by Khalel Vallo

Then & Now: exploring Centro Comercial Teatro Capitol

Interviews and commentary by Rui Pastorin

When I was a kid, my parents and I would often frequent Centro Comercial Teatro Capitol in the city centre. The building was old and decrepit, while the cinema had long since closed by that time. But there were still a variety of reasons to visit.

At the entrance, the smell of delicacies like egg waffles and the peanut-butter filled waffle sandwiches emitted from a quick-moving and always busy stall, greeting a line of customers. Venturing into a dimly lit interior were shops selling fruit juices, toys, and, at another entrance, a variety of skewers and offal. The basement, if I remember correctly, even had a video arcade. Since renovation work a few years ago, the entire building stands looking far better than the way it ever did while I was growing up.

The ground floor still sees shops offering a variety of food and beverages from fruit juices and bubble tea to crepes and even Turkish food, alongside hair products and gadgets. Moving upwards, claw machines, a small nail salon, a DJ school and a car model kit shop are among what you might find. Visitors might even see remnants of what was once there through the many unoccupied shops still up for rent, including, at one point, a former fortune teller's shop.

Wanting to explore what is on offer right now, the Post spoke with three businesses yesterday afternoon to learn about them and what it's like to run their business since setting up shop there.

A hidden spot for doughnuts & coffee

On the third floor, DanDan Donut has been around for three years. Danica, the owner and a self-professed doughnut fan, runs the 10 square-metre shop daily, selling specialty doughnuts, cakes and a variety of beverages, being the baker, barista and cashier, while also taking on duties like design. "It's like a one-man show but I'm very grateful because I'm happy doing it", said Danica, adding that seeing people enjoy what she makes is fulfilling.

Starting off as a home-based business to fill the gap for Macau's lack of doughnut shops, the physical establishment opened in 2022. And while it wasn't easy, through hard work and word of mouth, they were able to not only survive, but catch up. "It's been three years already, but we're still thriving, but of course, slowly, but surely", said Danica.

The local Filipina added that most of her customers are students from various local schools. Busy days

see her serving between 30 and 50 customers a day, while quiet days see between 20 to 30 people. The shop also serves as a pick-up point for orders, including for parties.

Most of the time, Danica said that the area is quiet, with afternoons seeing the most people given that most are going home from school and work. While generally happy with her shop's location given that it is in the central part of Macau, some people entering the complex might not know that there are shops on the third floor given that some shops on the first and second floors are unoccupied. "But actually, it's also like an advantage for me", she said, noting that it is akin to being like a hidden spot. "If you found out about us, wow, I'm thankful, and you're lucky that you found us too". With time, Danica hopes to keep her business going and grow slowly, but surely.

"We chat like friends sometimes"

Making one's way down to the first floor is a shop selling a variety of trading cards ranging from the ever-popular PokéMon to sport, some costing between hundreds and even thousands of patacas. Nineteen-year-old part-timer Lavinia said that the business has been there for about two years and although she herself was admittedly not too familiar with the building and its history, she finds a sense of community. "The people, although they are customers, we chat like friends sometimes", the youngster described.

The shop does not always see a lot of customers, but there are loyal ones, she said, making it feel like a small community, adding that she feels happy to work there. And, with the upcoming Chinese New Year (CNY) holiday, she predicted that more people will be buying their products.

"A higher chance of selling"

The basement level, meanwhile, doubles as a toy lover's dream and a spot frequented by students to rest, have snacks and do their school homework in the seating area.

Filling most of this level are a variety of toys and collectible statues from both American and Japanese brands, showcasing not only recent releases, but even ones that came out years ago. A representative in his thirties said that they have been doing business there for about two months, having moved from their previous location. The reasoning, he said, was down to offering customers a more comfortable shopping experience across a larger space and, with food offerings, reaching students and letting them enjoy "shopping while eating", as well as having a place to do their homework.

Since making the move to the complex, sales have been better, he said. He further highlighted that the current venue might be a place of opportunity, noting that they have a "higher chance of selling". ■

Photos of Centro Comercial Teatro Capitol taken yesterday
by Rui Pastorin

DSAL to hold 4 job matching sessions this month providing 309 vacancies

Khalel Vallo

The Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL), in conjunction with the Macau Federation of Trade Unions (FAOM; aka Gung Luen), will organise four sector-specific job matching sessions in late January, providing a total of 309 job vacancies to help locals re-enter the workforce as soon as possible, according to a statement by the bureau yesterday.

Online registration for the four sessions runs from 9 a.m. today until 12 p.m. on January 20, and is open to residents seeking employment, the statement said.

The first session is slated to take place in the afternoon of January 21 and targets the information technology sector, the statement said.

According to the statement, "Boardware Information System Limited" will offer 12 vacancies, including project manager for systems research and development, systems analyst, IT technician and electronic security technician.

In the morning of January 22, a job matching session for the hotel sector will be held, with "City Viva Hotel (Macau) Limited" and "Catholic Centre Management Company" participating, the statement noted, adding that a total of 51 vacancies will be available, including customer service manager, housekeeping supervisor, security supervisor, engineering technician, and front desk staff.

Another session will be held in the afternoon of January 22 for the cleaning sector, the statement said. Five companies will participate, offering a total of 185 vacancies for positions such as cleaning staff, general purpose security guards, porters, residential building security guards, clerical staff and landscaping workers, the statement noted.

The final session, scheduled for the afternoon of January 23, targets the telecommunications and e-commerce sector, the statement said, adding that Hong Kong Technology Venture

Company Limited (HKTVmall) and local telecom operator CTM will provide 61 vacancies, including hotline agents, customer support centre logistics staff, retail customer service directors, and telecommunications service technicians.

The IT sector session on January 21 will be held at the multifunction room on the ground floor of the DSAL headquarters in Macau, located at 221 – 279 Avenida do Dr. Francisco Vieira Machado, Edifício Advance Plaza, Macau, the statement noted, adding that the remaining three sessions will take place at the FAOM building at 2-6 Rua da Ribeira do Patane, Macau.

DSAL and FAOM will notify eligible applicants by SMS, the statement said.

Interested residents can also register online via DSAL's dedicated job matching webpage at https://www.dsdl.gov.mo/zh_tw/standard/indjobfair.html. Vacancies are limited, and residents are encouraged to apply early. ■



This poster provided by the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) yesterday promotes its four sector-specific job matching sessions slated for late this month, providing a total of 309 job vacancies.

Police nab mainlander for fraud

Ada Lei

The Public Security Police (PSP) arrested a man from the Chinese mainland on Sunday for fraud, PSP spokesman Lei Chan Hong said during a regular press conference yesterday.

Lei identified the suspect as a farmer in his fifties surnamed Hu.

According to Lei, the police received a report on Saturday from the employee of a sporting goods shop in Cotai. The employee told the police that Hu had used a HK\$1,000 banknote to purchase a pair of socks priced at HK\$29. After the employee gave Hu HK\$971 in change, Hu claimed that, after all, he had small change and retrieved the HK\$1,000 note, claiming it

would be easier to give change using coins worth HK\$9. During the process of giving change, the employee was distracted by Hu and mistakenly handed over HK\$971 in cash to him. Finally realising that he had only received HK\$9 and not taken back the HK\$971, the employee immediately reported the case to the police.

Through their citywide CCTV surveillance and shop footage, the police identified Hu as the suspect and apprehended him in a hotel guestroom in the city centre on Sunday. Under questioning, Hu denied the crime.

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



This undated handout photo provided by the Public Security Police (PSP) yesterday shows PSP officers escorting the fraud suspect into a police station.

Police arrest HK man for theft by finding

Ada Lei

The Public Security Police (PSP) apprehended a man from Hong Kong on Sunday for theft by finding, PSP spokesman Lei Chan Hong said during a regular press conference yesterday.

Lei identified the suspect as a waiter in his fifties surnamed Lau.

According to Lei, the Public Security Police (PSP) received a report on October 11 from a middle-aged local man who said that he lost his smartphone, which he had left on a bench near the Barrier Gate checkpoint. Suspecting that

someone had stolen it, the victim immediately reported a loss of 2,000 patacas to the police.

Through their citywide CCTV surveillance footage, the police identified Lau as the suspect and apprehended him on Sunday when he was entering Macau through the Barrier Gate checkpoint. Under questioning, Lau claimed that he was unable to contact the owner of the phone and had discarded it on a street in the Chinese mainland.

Lau has been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing a charge of theft by finding. ■



This undated handout photo provided by the Public Security Police (PSP) yesterday shows PSP officers escorting the theft-by-finding suspect into a police station.

China's resilient foreign trade expands in 2025 amid global headwinds

BEIJING – China's foreign trade posted resolute expansion in 2025 despite global headwinds, with the country retaining its position as the world's largest goods trading nation.

Last year, China's foreign trade value hit 45.47 trillion yuan (US\$6.48 trillion), up 3.8 percent year on year, according to data released by the General Administration of Customs yesterday. This marks the ninth consecutive year of growth for China's foreign trade since 2017.

Exports grew 6.1 percent year on year to 26.99 trillion yuan in 2025. Imports reached a record 18.48 trillion yuan, with year-on-year growth of 0.5 percent, cementing China's status as the world's second-largest import market for 17 years in succession.

During the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025), China's cumulative import and export value exceeded 200 trillion yuan, representing a 40-percent surge from the 13th Five-Year Plan period and an average annual growth rate of 7.1 percent.

At a government press conference held in Beijing yesterday, Wang Jun, deputy head of the General Administration of Customs, said that China's 2025 foreign trade achievements are "truly remarkable and hard-won" amid global economic challenges.

Wang attributed the steady growth of China's foreign trade to three major drivers: The country's pro-trade stabilization policies, the sustained release of import demand

from its vast domestic market, and a sophisticated industrial system that continuously adapts to evolving overseas needs.

While the external environment facing China's foreign trade this year remains severe and complex, the fundamentals of the country's foreign trade remain solid, which will inject more certainty into global economic and trade development, he said.

DIVERSIFIED TRADING PARTNERS

In 2025, China's trade network continued to expand, covering more than 240 countries and regions worldwide, with import and export value registering growth in over 190 of these markets.

Notably, trade with countries participating in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) became a key growth engine. Bilateral trade with BRI partner countries reached 23.6 trillion yuan, increasing 6.3 percent year on year and accounting for 51.9 percent of the country's total foreign trade value.

Meanwhile, trade with emerging markets maintained robust momentum in 2025. Exports to and imports from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Latin America and Africa hit 7.55 trillion yuan, 3.93 trillion yuan and 2.49 trillion yuan, respectively, posting respective growth rates of 8 percent, 6.5 percent and 18.4 percent.

"Over the past five years, China's foreign trade 'circle of partners' has kept expanding," Wang said, citing the latest international data which shows that China has become a major trading partner of more than 160 countries and regions worldwide – an increase of over 20 compared with 2020.

EXPORT UPGRADING

While China was once known for exporting mostly labor-intensive, low-end products in the global value chain, its export structure has undergone remarkable upgrading, with exports becoming increasingly greener and more technology-intensive.

Its exports of high-tech products stood at 5.25 trillion yuan in 2025, representing a year-on-year increase of 13.2 percent. Among these, exports of special-purpose equipment, high-end machine tools and industrial robots registered year-on-year growth of 20.6 percent, 21.5 percent and 48.7 percent, respectively.

"In particular, the country's exports of industrial robots surpassed its imports last year, making China a net exporter of industrial robots," Wang said.

Beyond high-tech products, green exports have also emerged as a new growth point, helping advance the global green transition. In the field of green energy, exports of lithium batteries and wind turbines soared by 26.2 percent and 48.7 percent, respectively, in 2025. Within

Customs seizes frozen chicken feet weighing 1.8 tonnes worth 45,000 patacas



This handout photo released by the Macau Customs Service yesterday shows bags of chicken feet weighing 1.8 tonnes, stored at room temperature, at a parallel trading den in the northern district on Tuesday.

Armindo Neves

Macau Customs Service officers raided a parallel-trading den in the peninsula's northern district on Tuesday where they seized 1,800 kg of frozen chicken feet worth around 45,000 patacas in total.

According to yesterday's statement, customs officers detained for questioning a 43-year-old local male who ran the den and had hired parallel traders to smuggle frozen chicken feet from Macau to the Chinese mainland. ■

The suspect faces a fine in compliance with the relevant provisions listed in the External Trade Law, the statement said.

Moreover, the statement added, the suspect violated the Food Safety Law as the supposedly frozen chicken feet were actually stored merely at room temperature, adding that the Macau Customs Service has meanwhile transferred the case to the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) for follow-up action. ■

BROAD-BASED GROWTH IN IMPORTS

One of the most impressive aspects of China's foreign trade performance in 2025 was its steadily expanding import value, with positive growth momentum gaining strength as the year progressed.

Starting in June 2025, imports maintained year-on-year growth for seven consecutive months, with the growth rate accelerating further to 4.4 percent in December.

In terms of commodity structure, China last year imported nearly 3 billion tonnes of bulk commodities, representing a year-on-year increase of 1.1 percent. The country also imported mechanical and electrical products worth over 7.4 trillion yuan, posting a year-on-year growth rate of 5.7 percent.

In addition to commodity structure, the scope of import partners also expanded. Specifically, China achieved growth in its imports from over 130 countries and regions worldwide last year, an increase of 7 compared with 2024.

Broken down by region, its

import values from Asia, Latin America and Africa rose by 3.9 percent, 4.9 percent and 6 percent, respectively, reflecting balanced development in import trade across different regions in 2025.

To further boost imports from developing economies, China implemented zero-tariff treatment on 100 percent of tariff lines to the least developed countries having established diplomatic relations with China. This policy yielded tangible results, with imports from these countries growing by 9 percent.

China's imports from developed countries also maintained robust growth, driven by strong domestic demand for high-quality goods. For instance, China's imports of edible aquatic products and dairy products from Oceania rose by 37.2 percent and 18.6 percent, respectively, last year. Meanwhile, more than 40 percent of China's imports of passenger vehicles and cosmetics came from the European Union.

It should be noted that some countries politicized economic and trade issues and restricted high-tech product exports to China under various pretexts, without which China would have imported even more in 2025, Wang said.

"Looking ahead, China will open its door wider to the world, boasting broad room for import growth. China's huge market will always be a great opportunity for the world," Wang added. – Xinhua

Senior government officials study Xi's speech at CPC disciplinary agency plenum

BEIJING – The leading Party members group of the State Council yesterday convened to study a speech delivered by Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, at the fifth plenary session of the 20th CPC Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, as well as the plenum's guiding principles.

Yesterday's meeting was chaired by Premier Li Qiang, who is also secretary of the leading Party members group of the State Council, and attended by senior State Council officials, including Vice Premier Ding Xuexiang.

Senior legislators study Xi's speech at CPC disciplinary agency plenum

BEIJING – Senior legislators met yesterday to study a speech that Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, delivered at the fifth plenary session of the 20th CPC Central Commission for Discipline Inspection.

Zhao Leji, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, chairman of the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee and secretary of its leading Party members group, presided over and

The meeting acknowledged the achievements made in promoting clean government, improving officials' conduct and combating corruption over the past year, and called for continuous efforts in 2026 to provide a strong foundation for a good start to the 15th Five-Year Plan.

It emphasized the need to maintain a focused, sustained approach of addressing both symptoms and root causes in key areas prone to frequent or serious corruption, and the importance of guarding against all forms of new and hidden corruption. –Xinhua

addressed the meeting convened by the leading Party members group of the NPC Standing Committee.

The meeting called for efforts to strengthen the sense of political responsibility and awareness of historic mission, give full play to the roles of the NPC, and contribute to a sound start to the implementation of the 15th Five-Year Plan.

The meeting also stressed the need to advance legislation related to anti-corruption, and urged deepening efforts to improve Party conduct, build integrity and combat corruption. –Xinhua

China committed to bringing benefit of science, technology to whole humanity: FM spokesperson

BEIJING – China always shares innovation outcomes with the rest of the world and is committed to bringing the benefit of science and technology to the whole humanity, a foreign ministry spokesperson said yesterday.

Spokesperson Mao Ning made the remarks at a daily news briefing when asked about how China sees its role in global sci-tech innovation.

According to media reports, China broke into the top 10 for the first time last year in the Global Innovation Index ranking, and the new year has seen several more innovation outcomes in China. Meanwhile, the rapid development of science and technology is widening the technology gap facing developing countries.

Mao said the past year has witnessed deep integration between technology and industries and rapid emergence of innovation outcomes in China. Looking into the future, innovation will become the main impetus driving China's high-quality development, she added.

Mao noted the recommendations for formulating the 15th Five-Year Plan mentioned "innovation" 61 times and put sci-tech inno-

vation at the core of the nation's overall development.

While boosting its own development through innovation, China always shares innovation outcomes with the rest of the world and is committed to bringing the benefit of science and technology to the whole humanity, Mao added.

Noting that China's large-scale scientific facilities, such as FAST, are open to the whole world, Mao said that China is committed to international cooperation in deep-sea and deep-space exploration; and China's livelihood technologies, such as hybrid rice, aquaculture and juncao technology, have helped developing countries get rid of poverty.

"We've also launched the Global AI Governance Initiative, which advocates fostering an open, fair and non-discriminatory international environment for innovation," she added.

China will continue to act in the spirit of openness and cooperation, oppose technological barriers, narrow the sci-tech gap, and promote the sharing of innovation outcomes by all for global development and prosperity, said Mao. –Xinhua

CPC calls for reinforced anti-corruption efforts during 15th Five-Year Plan period

BEIJING – The disciplinary body of the Communist Party of China (CPC) has called for reinforced anti-corruption efforts during the 15th Five-Year Plan period (2026-2030).

The call was made in a communique adopted at the fifth plenary session of the 20th CPC Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI), held from Monday to yesterday in Beijing.

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, Chinese president and chairman of the Central Military Commission, attended the session and delivered an important speech.

The plenary session reviewed the discipline inspection and supervision work during 2025 and assigned tasks for 2026. It adopted a work report delivered by Li Xi, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and secretary of the CCDI, on behalf of the Standing Committee of the CCDI.

The session unanimously agreed

to take guidance from Xi's important speech, persistently strengthen political oversight, and remain steadfast in improving conduct, enforcing discipline, and combating corruption.

It was noted at the session that in 2025, the top disciplinary body investigated, punished, and publicly exposed typical cases of discipline violations, to further promote improved work conduct and foster new practices across the Party.

Efforts were intensified to address corruption in key sectors such as finance, state-owned enterprises, energy, firefighting, tobacco, pharmaceuticals, higher education, and sports.

Campaigns were deepened to tackle misconduct and corruption that occurred at people's doorsteps. Reform of the discipline inspection and supervision system was also advanced in greater depth.

The session stressed that as China advances into the 15th Five-Year Plan period, the CPC faces fresh imperatives in advancing full and rigorous Party self-governance and

must take more forceful and effective measures to eradicate the breeding ground and conditions for corruption.

The session emphasized the necessity of strengthening political oversight to support the achievement of the period's objectives and tasks. It called for taking strict actions against behavior in disregard of the rules, opportunism, sectarianism, a silo mentality, and unprincipled nice-guyism.

The session also urged improving long-term mechanisms to refine codes of conduct, while ramping up efforts to combat corruption in high-priority sectors. It further mandated tough scrutiny and punishment for collusion between officials and businessmen.

In addition, the session demanded more standardized and law-based discipline inspection and supervision work.

Party and state leaders including Li Qiang, Zhao Leji, Wang Huning, Cai Qi, Ding Xuexiang and Li Xi attended the session. –Xinhua

China's large drone completes pioneering plateau logistics flight

CHENGDU – China's domestically developed large fixed-wing drone, the FP-985 "Taurus," completed a long-distance logistics flight across the high-altitude regions between Sichuan and Xizang* yesterday.

Loaded with local specialties including butter tea and yak dairy products, the Taurus flew over 1,100 kilometers from Nyingchi City in southwest China's Xizang Autonomous Region to Beichuan Qiang Autonomous County in Sichuan Province, marking the success of the country's first logistics validation flight for a large drone in a plateau environment.

Developed by Aerospace Times Feipeng Co. Ltd., the drone is designed for operations in challenging environments such as plateaus, islands and other geographically complex regions. It boasts a maximum takeoff weight of 5.7 tonnes, a payload capacity exceeding 2 tonnes, and a ferry range of over 2,000 kilometers.

It is capable of long-range cargo transport in extreme environments, ranging from cold plateau areas to island salt-fog conditions. It also supports short takeoff and landing at standard airports and can be flexibly deployed at austere airfields.

The company said the aircraft is capable of all-weather continuous operations, boasting functions such as anti-icing/de-icing, lightning protection and high wind resistance.

"We modified the piston engine so that the Taurus can operate as efficiently at 4,000 meters above sea level as it does on plains," said Wei Yachuan, chief designer of the drone, adding that the successful maiden



An FP-985 "Taurus" large fixed-wing drone is pictured in Nyingchi city, Xizang Autonomous Region, on December 26, 2025. China's domestically developed large fixed-wing drone, the FP-985 "Taurus," completed a long-distance logistics flight across the high-altitude regions between Sichuan and Xizang yesterday. –Xinhua

flight has laid a solid technical foundation for building a low-altitude logistics network in more complex geographical environments.

Traditional land transport in the Sichuan-Xizang region is constrained by its challenging terrain, complex geology, and volatile climate. The new aerial logistics route has slashed cargo transport time between Mianyang and Nyingchi from over 40 hours by land to less than 6 hours.

The route also establishes an economic bridge between the Qinghai-Xizang Plateau and the Sichuan Basin – a hub for China's growing low-altitude economy.

As a provincial pilot zone for low-altitude economy, Beichuan County, where the Taurus landed, has built a preliminary industrial chain covering R&D, manufacturing, operations and training.

The regular operation of this route will draw more logistics and e-commerce enterprises to

Beichuan," said Li Haotian, Party chief of the county.

The corridor is set to facilitate two-way flow of goods: plateau specialties like Xizang yak meat and herbal medicines can be swiftly distributed via Beichuan to markets across China, while industrial products, daily necessities, and emergency supplies from Sichuan can be efficiently delivered to Xizang.

This will greatly enhance the commercialization and value of specialty agricultural products along the Sichuan-Xizang corridor, directly supporting income growth and industrial upgrading in ethnic regions.

With the successful flight of the Taurus, more such "aerial bridges" are set to span the western mountains, injecting robust "low-altitude momentum" into the drive for common prosperity and balanced regional development in China.

–Xinhua
*Formerly known as Tibet