

MacauDaily Times 澳門每日時報 ®

FOUNDER & PUBLISHER Kowie Geldenhuys EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho www.macaudailytimes.com.mo

N.º 5069 FRIDAY 06 Nov 2026 T. 24º/ 30º Air Quality Good

" THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

MOP 8.00 HKD 10.00

GBA VIEWS weekly P8-9



PROFIT WIPEOUT: MELCO'S THIRD-QUARTER EARNINGS PLUNGE TO NEAR ZERO AS GAMING WEAKNESS DRIVES REVENUE DOWN 10% AND DEBT PRESSURES MOUNT P6

MACAU EYES MEDICAL TOURISM AND PREVENTIVE HEALTHCARE AS NEW GROWTH ENGINES P5

BOMB SCARES: MULTIPLE FLIGHTS ACROSS EUROPE FACE DIVERSIONS, EMERGENCY LANDINGS AND FIGHTER JET ESCORTS FOLLOWING ANOTHER WAVE OF THREATS P12

AP PHOTO



China Former Politburo member Ma Xingrui was formally charged yesterday with accepting exceptionally large bribes and abusing leadership positions to benefit others. The former Xinjiang party chief was recently expelled from the Communist Party amid President Xi Jinping's continuing anti-corruption campaign.

AP PHOTO



Indonesia Thousands of security personnel guarded former President Joko Widodo's court appearance yesterday amid tensions over an alleged wiretapping scandal involving senior generals. Three officers have been detained over unauthorized surveillance of President Prabowo Subianto. Widodo has not been implicated.

AP PHOTO



Jordan A security officer was fatally stabbed yesterday near the Sri Lankan Embassy in Amman in what authorities described as a terrorist attack. The suspect was arrested after allegedly attempting to seize the officer's weapon. Another officer and the attacker were injured.

AP PHOTO

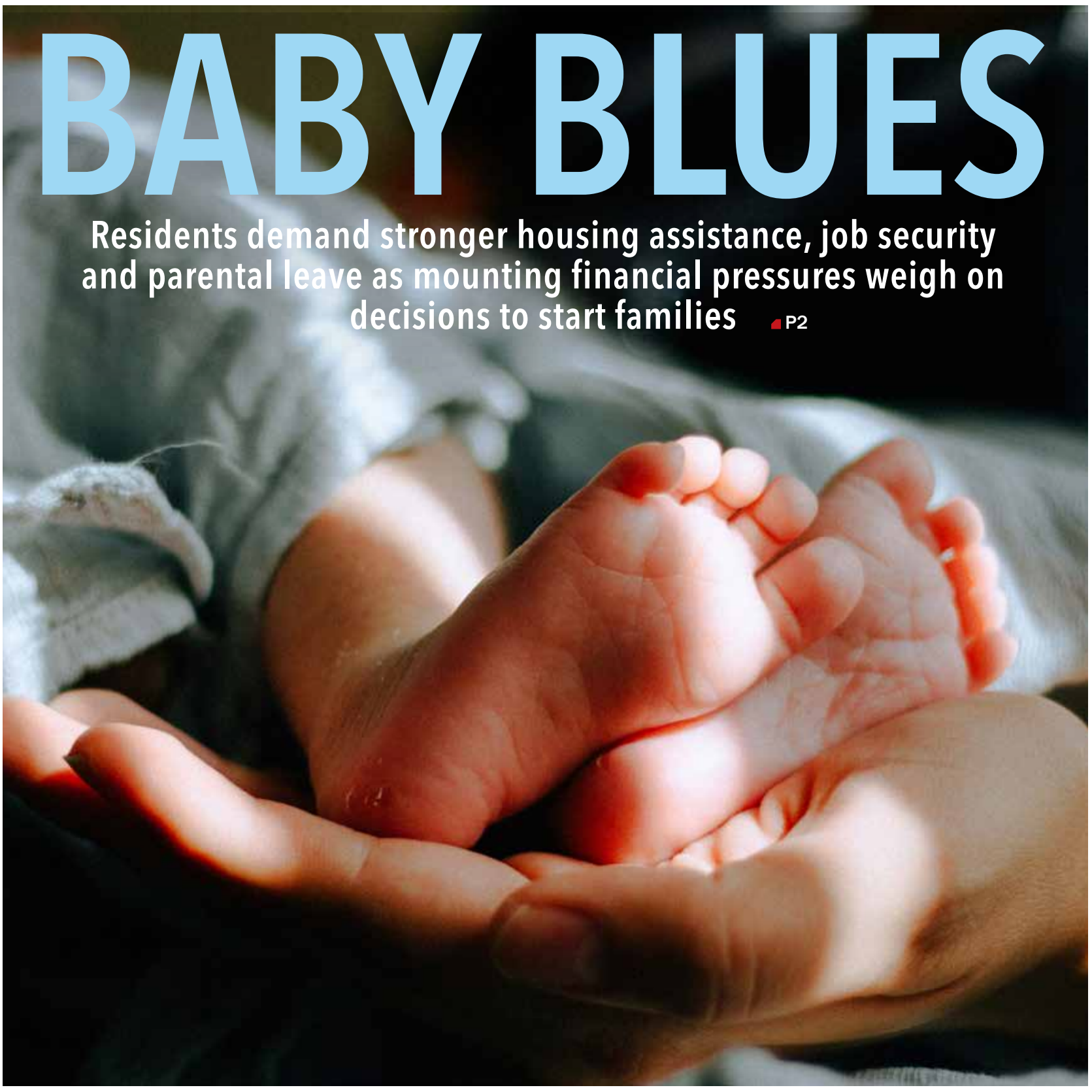


Israel Arab lawmaker Ahmad Tibi said his Joint List bloc could support a Jewish-led government seeking to remove Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu without formally joining it. Arab parties hold 19 parliamentary seats, potentially decisive in forming a majority after recent elections.

More on backpage

BABY BLUES

Residents demand stronger housing assistance, job security and parental leave as mounting financial pressures weigh on decisions to start families P2



FANS ON THE MOVE

85% OF MACAU CONCERTGOERS TRAVEL OUTSIDE THE CITY FOR PERFORMANCES

P3

TASTE OF EDESIA



P15

MacauDaily 澳門每日時報 ®
Times
MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



SOCIETY

SURVEY FINDS DEMAND FOR STRONGER HOUSING, CHILDCARE AND PARENTAL LEAVE SUPPORT

YUKI LEI

LOCAL residents want stronger support for starting and raising families, with housing assistance, stable employment and more flexible childcare arrangements emerging as main concerns in a new survey.

Most respondents want parents to have more flexibility in managing childcare, with 67% calling for dedicated leave and 55.9% backing stronger paternity leave provisions.

According to a survey by the Macau Federation of Trade Unions' Women's Committee and the Macau Dual Career Women Association, nearly half of residents want substantive housing support to help them have children, while more than eight in 10 see stable income and job security as central to their decision.

The survey, which collected 651 valid responses between September and October, found economic security, maternity services and greater control over childcare arrangements to be residents' most pressing needs. Results were presented at a press conference yesterday morning by lawmaker Ella Lei and other representatives.

The federation said fertility is a social foundation and that demographic imbalance would affect Macau's long-term sustainable development. It urged the government to strengthen support across housing, employment, maternity health care and family-friendly measures.

Housing emerged as a significant concern, with 46.5% of all respondents seeking substantive support - a figure that rises to 48.9% among those without children. Lei proposed linking fertility policy to housing by giving families with children or plans to have them priority in public housing assessments, and studying a "priority housing for child-rearing families" mechanism. She also suggested accelerating the provision of elderly apartments and sandwich housing to free up space for younger families, as well as examining rent subsidies or purchase tax concessions.

On income, 81.4% identified stable earnings and job security as their main source of economic confidence. Lei suggested scaling fertility allowances according to the number of children and amending the Labor Relations Law to explicitly prohibit pregnancy discrimination.

Maternity services drew strong demand for practical support. Some 68.4% wanted better instruction in childcare skills and confinement care, while 62.7% sought improved postpartum recovery services.

A proposal was made to bring both into the public health care system through partnerships with associations and private providers. More than half - 52.1% - wanted shorter waits for prenatal checkups and follow-up appointments, prompting suggestions to increase obstetrics resources, promote One Account booking more widely and introduce a self-assessment questionnaire to identify pregnancy risks early.

Women aged 35 and above reported the greatest demand for additional support, with 67.4% seeking confinement support, 56.8% postpartum recovery services and 24.2% assisted reproductive technology - all higher proportions than among younger respondents.

The survey proposed directing specialist resources towards older mothers, including shorter waits and more public funding for assisted reproduction. Some 45.8% wanted stronger emotional and psychological support after childbirth, with screening suggested at health centers and community organizations.

On workplace measures, the survey proposed legislative or guideline changes to encourage flexible hours and remote working, supported by tax incentives or recognition schemes. It also called for family-friendly facilities such as parent-child toilets, nursing rooms and priority lanes.

It also highlighted fathers' role, finding men more interested in parenting courses than women - 17.2% against 11.9% - while women more often wanted publicity on sharing household duties, at 19.8% against 4.7%. The survey suggested government-association cooperation on courses and support groups for fathers.

The organizers said the findings would help the government improve its fertility support system and enable residents to "afford to have children and raise them well."

LAWMAKER CALLS FOR EXTENDED CHILDCARE ALLOWANCE

Childcare allowances should be extended to children aged six rather than the current three, lawmaker Chan Lai Kei said at a forum on expectations for next year's policy address, arguing that housing pressures are driving Macau's low birth rate and that more must be done to improve the environment for raising children.

Speaking at the Macau United Citizens Association forum, themed "Breaking Through in Diversified Development: How Will New Policies Respond to Livelihood Expectations?", Chan said welfare, urban renewal and youth employment were the public's three main concerns.

On childcare, he proposed raising the age limit for allowances from three to six while improving support for elderly residents. He also warned that the low birth rate is a structural problem in which housing plays a major part. He cited shortcomings in the current mechanism for exchanging subsidized housing units and called for cross-departmental efforts to improve regular supply and exchange arrangements.

He cautioned that without progress, the population problem could worsen in 2027 and affect the labor market.

Chan also called for the old-building survey to be extended beyond its current pilot area to districts with large concentrations of older buildings, such as the northern district, to speed up preparations for urban renewal. On employment, he urged the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) to improve the effectiveness of job-matching sessions and strengthen cooperation with large and Chinese-funded enterprises to prioritize local residents, with imported labor used only as a supplement.

A representative of the Macau Association of Consumers of Public Utility Companies also raised concerns over population ageing and declining births, suggesting better use of the city's "university town" resources to cultivate talent and plan ahead for demographic optimization.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Nearly 85% of local concertgoers travel abroad for live shows, report finds

TIMES REPORTER



NEARLY 85% of residents surveyed who have attended concerts in the city have also traveled abroad or to other regions to watch live performances, according to a new industry report.

The findings come from The Concert Travel Effect in Asia, jointly released by Trip.com Group and Live Nation Asia at a media briefing in Singapore Wednesday. More than 80% of Macau respondents also identified concerts and live performances as an appealing reason to travel.

The lineup appears to carry more weight than the destination itself for many fans. About 69% of respondents said the performers or festival lineup mattered more than the location. Japan was the most popular overseas concert destination among those surveyed, cited by 29%, followed by mainland China at 26%.

The survey also found strong demand for travel packages built around live events.

About 95% of respondents expressed interest in bundled concert and travel offers, with hotel accommodation the most sought-after component, cited by 57%. Air tickets followed at 38%, while 34% wanted packages that included attractions and activities.

Concert trips are also likely to extend beyond the performance itself. Respondents expected to spend an average of 4.2 days at their chosen destination, while 30% said they would prefer a five-day stay.

Local culture was a key consideration for 42% of respondents when choosing where to attend a concert. Ease of entry and transportation was cited by 37%, while 34% considered the concert venue an important factor.

Social media and fan communities are also influencing travel decisions. About 73% said seeing friends or influencers share their concert travel experiences made them more inclined to take a trip. Another 70% considered posting about their journeys on social media an important part of the travel experience.

Trip.com Group vice president and chief marketing officer Bo Sun said Macau's extensive supply of high-quality hotels and resorts gave the city an advantage as a concert destination. However, international air connectivity remained a challenge, he said, adding that closer transport links across the Greater Bay Area could help attract more visitors.

James Dick, Live Nation Asia's senior vice president of marketing and brand partnerships, said Hong Kong and Macau offered different strengths as live entertainment destinations.

Hong Kong has an established concert market and a regular schedule of international performances, while Macau combines live shows with its hospitality, entertainment and leisure offerings, he said.

However, the official stressed that both cities play an important role in Asia's live music scene.

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PUBLIC WORKS

GOV'T RECOVERS ANOTHER FOUR LAND PARCELS FOR TEMPORARY PARKING LOT

RENATO MARQUES

THE Land and Urban Construction Bureau (DSSCU) announced that the government had carried out a joint interdepartmental operation to reclaim four state-owned plots of land along Estrada do Canal dos Patos in northern Macau.

The reclaimed plots are part of a group of 39 parcels previously designated for temporary-use projects.

In this case, the land parcels will be handed over to the Public Works Bureau (DSOP) to build a temporary parking lot, DSSCU added.

The plots are located at the intersection of Estrada do Canal dos Patos, Travessa do Canal dos Patos and Travessa do Narciso. They comprise three plots with expired land concessions, with a total area of approximately 2,417 square meters, and one illegally occupied state-owned plot,



covering approximately 1,371 square meters.

After inspecting the site, the DSSCU found the plots were fenced off and contained several structures, including metal-sheet shacks, containers, goods and various objects, as well as registered shacks.

Before the eviction, the DSSCU notified the occupants to vacate and return the land to the government by the established deadline. It also notified the Housing Bureau to proceed with eviction and, if needed, resettlement procedures for the occupants of the registered shacks on the land.

After the deadline for vacating and evacuating the site expired, the plots remained in the same condition, so the government carried out a joint interdepartmental operation to reclaim them.

NAM VAN SPORTS GROUND CONSTRUCTION COMPLETED

DSOP announced earlier this month that construction of the sports ground on land plot C8 of Nam Van Lake had been completed.

The sports facility is also part of the temporary use of the same 39 idle land plots, aimed at improving living conditions for residents.

In its announcement, DSOP said, "The government continues to rationally utilize land resources through the 'Planning for Use + Temporary Use' model, constructing various types of temporary public facilities to meet the population's daily needs. Among these, the 'Construction of the sports ground on plot C8 of Nam Van Lake' stands out, having been completed at the end of October. This contributes to diversifying recreational and sports facilities in Macau."

The plot covers approximately 4,422 square meters and has now been transformed into a multi-sports facility that includes a 5-a-side soccer pitch, a basketball court and two 3x3 basketball courts (which can also be used as volleyball courts), four badminton courts (which can also be used as pickleball courts), and a six-lane synthetic running track, along with other public-use exercise equipment.

Meanwhile, at plot C9, the DSOP is constructing a new parking lot as part of the same initiative to make temporary use of idle land.

The plot covers approximately 3,000 square meters and is expected to provide about 100 motorcycle parking spaces and more than 90 parking spaces for light vehicles, including accessible spaces and electric-vehicle charging facilities.

PUBLIC WORKS

Gov't moves to remove more than 100 road manhole covers

YUKI LEI

THE government has set up a working group to reduce the number of manhole covers on the city's roads, with eight projects so far adopting measures expected to eliminate more than 100 covers, the Central District Community Service Consultative Committee heard on Thursday.

The committee held its 11th regular meeting of the year, at which it invited representatives from the Public Works Bureau (DSOP), Transport Bureau (DSAT), Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPA) and Post and Telecommunications Bureau (CTT) to brief members on progress.

The Northeast Avenue elevated walkway project, which is now undergoing sewer connections and road restoration, is expected to remove 94 covers alone.

According to the committee, Macau has more than 40,000 main utility covers on roads, installed by six pipeline operators - electricity, water, telecommunications, cable television and gas - plus another 40,000 drainage covers across the peninsula and islands. The concentration of buildings, narrow streets and complex legacy networks in older districts, together with recent efforts to address overhead cabling, have contributed to the current distribution of covers.

The working group has made reducing the number of covers a priority, urging operators to review nearby covers during construction works and merge, conceal or relocate those that are unnecessary or rarely used. Members stressed that the measures would not disrupt traffic during construction or expand project scopes, and that relevant public entities had completed preparatory work.

The entities assess covers based on their usage and past excavation needs, prioritizing the concealment of those that are rarely used. New Urban Zone A has already been built with pre-installed infrastructure, meaning future projects there will not require extensive excavation, although the need for additional pipelines cannot be entirely ruled out.

EDUCATION

MUST SMART CAMPUS PLATFORM WINS INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION AWARD

THE Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) has won first place in the Excellence in Digital Community Engagement category at the 2026 Sharjah Government Communication Award for its internally developed WeMust Smart Campus platform.

The awards ceremony was held Nov. 2 in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates. MUST said it was the first institution in China to receive the award. Vice president Tong Ka Lok, who oversees the project's strategic planning, accepted the award on behalf of the university.

Organized by the Sharjah Government Media Bureau, the awards recognize projects in government communication and public engagement. This year's edition received 433 submissions from government bodies, international organizations, universities and businesses across 31 countries and regions.

The winning category recognizes the use of digital technology to strengthen communication, encourage community participation and generate social impact.

Tong said universities' digital and artificial intelligence transformation should focus on talent development, research and innovation.

He said WeMust was designed to improve services and collaboration by reducing repetitive administrative procedures, allowing staff and students to devote more time to teaching, research and student development.

Developed in-house, WeMust integrates teaching, research, campus life and administrative services through a unified data platform. It offers personalized services to students and staff and incorporates large AI models and AI agents to support teaching and research.

MUST said it would continue developing the platform and sharing its experience in digital transformation with international higher education institutions.



Sheikh Sultan bin Ahmed Al Qasimi, second from left, presents the award to MUST vice president Tong Ka Lok, third from left

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HEALTH

Summit puts medical tourism and preventive healthcare at center of growth plans

NADIA SHAW



Professor Dean Felsher of Stanford University

MACAU'S tourism industry should expand into preventive healthcare and longevity services, medical and business leaders said Thursday at the inaugural Greater Bay Area Health and Longevity Summit. Melco chairman and CEO Lawrence Ho linked the initiative to Macau's "1+4" economic diversification strategy, which identifies healthcare as a growth industry alongside the city's tourism base.

"We believe the future of premium travel lies where world-class hospitality meets cutting-edge wellness," Ho said in his opening remarks.

He also pointed to the newly launched iRad Hospital at Studio City as an example of combining diagnostic imaging, health assessments and longevity services with resort accommodation.

"Last October, right here in Studio City, we launched iRad Hospital, the world's first hospital with an integrated resort to offer both MRI and CT scanning," he said, adding that investment in research and medical facilities would be necessary to develop the model further in the city.

"Healthcare is moving beyond treating illnesses towards proactive wellness, vitality and the science of longevity," Ho said. "We believe that science and longevity infrastructure go hand in hand. Investment in research and advanced facilities will translate into better lives and better health for all. That's the philosophy behind everything that we build," he said.

Ho also highlighted the summit's role in bringing together expertise from Stanford University, longevity research, culinary innovation, AI and quantum computing with institutions across the Greater Bay Area. Investors and medical providers were also encouraged to explore cross-border cooperation.

"We have gathered some of the brightest minds in the world," Ho said.

In his opening address, Dennis Tam, president and CEO of Black Spade Capital, emphasized prevention rather than treatment alone, drawing a distinction between responding to disease and helping people remain healthy.

"From my perspective, health is where medicine reacts, longevity is where we prevent it," Tam said. "They are closely related but not exactly the same."

Tam also maintained that the discussion surrounding health should extend beyond laboratories and specialist audiences. "Do you want to live longer and live better? I think the question belongs to everyone in this room," Tam asked.

Following the summit's opening ceremony, iRad Hospital and HSBC Life announced a partnership to launch Macau's first Care+ Premium Lounge.

The summit's programme also featured a video address by entrepreneur Bryan Johnson and a keynote from Noma, the Copenhagen-based three-Michelin-starred culinary innovation laboratory founded by René Redzepi, placing commercial approaches to longevity alongside medical research and nutrition.

The summit was supported by the Health Bureau (SSM), the Pharmaceutical Administration Bureau (ISAF), the Economic and Technological Development Bureau (DSEDT) and the Commerce and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM), according to organisers.

In his opening address, SSM director Alvis Lo said Macau has advantages in its market, services and systems for developing medical tourism. Lo noted that its large tourism market, well-developed supporting facilities and complementary medical institutions were strengthening the city's high-end medical and health-management capabilities. The health official added that the government was also actively accelerating drug and medical-device approvals to support medical innovation and industrial development.

An awards ceremony and networking dinner followed the afternoon sessions.

CANCER RESEARCH OFFERS CLUES TO AGING, STANFORD SCIENTIST SAYS

Understanding the molecular mechanisms that sustain cancer could also help researchers investigate aging, Stanford University professor Dean Felsher told the summit in its first keynote address Thursday.

Felsher, a professor of medicine and pathology, focused on MYC, a gene involved in regulating cell growth, metabolism and immune responses. His laboratory studies "oncogene addiction," in which some tumors depend on the continued activity of a particular cancer-driving gene.

"What I found indeed is there are circumstances where there are specific cancer genes that are like a light switch," he said.

"If you turn off the switch in a cancer, the cancer's lights are out."

Felsher told summit attendees that the connections between cancer, metabolism and inflammation provided reasons to investigate whether related biological pathways might offer targets for longevity research. "It turns out that one of the main problems in aging are issues of metabolism. We're going to talk about food and eating. It turns out how cells deal with food and metabolize is a major aspect of aging," Felsher explained.

His presentation also examined how cancer cells evade immune detection.

Stanford research has shown that MYC regulates PD-L1 and CD47, molecules that help protect tumor cells from immune attack, Felsher said. Reducing MYC activity also lowered those signals in experimental systems.

"One of the biggest discoveries over the last 20 years was that cancers can cloak themselves from the immune system; they can make themselves invisible, and it was discovered that this happens through molecules such as PD-L1," Felsher said.

On current efforts to promote longevity, Felsher said his laboratory was exploring drug molecules, AI and computational methods, alongside molecular measurements, imaging and clinical information.

"A major way I would hope to collaborate with all of you is to take advantage of this spectacular idea of thinking about promoting longevity in aging by working with different ways of combining molecular measurements and imaging, and clinical information with ideas related to the science and the specific molecular switches. To me, I think this will be very important," Felsher said.

Felsher also sought collaboration through Stanford's Translational Research and Applied Medicine (TRAM) Center, which connects researchers, physicians and industry. The objective, he said, was "to bring the science of medicine and longevity to people," translating laboratory discoveries into practical health improvements.

At the end of his presentation, Felsher expressed interest in working with iRad and Greater Bay Area partners to advance that effort.

EL NIÑO KEEPS TYPHOON ACTIVITY LOW, BUT MORE STORMS POSSIBLE

Macau recorded fewer typhoons than usual this year due to El Niño, but the Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau has not ruled out further storms affecting the city before year-end. The bureau said 31 tropical cyclones formed in the northwestern Pacific, eight above the average, but only three affected Macau, below the usual five to six. Officials warned that the strong El Niño, combined with global warming, could increase the risk of extreme weather, and said they would continue monitoring conditions and issuing timely warnings.

FACIAL RECOGNITION CLEARANCE REACHES 19.7 MILLION USES IN FIRST YEAR

All 250 joint-inspection self-service channels at Macau's cooperative border checkpoints now use facial recognition clearance, marking the first anniversary of the measure yesterday, the Public Security Police Force (PSP) said. As of the end of last month, 664,000 people had registered for smart clearance at Guangdong-Macau checkpoints, with 19.66 million uses recorded in total - 10.28 million at Hengqin, 9.15 million at Qingmao and 228,000 at the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge's Zhuhai-Macau hall. Facial recognition clearance for the joint one-stop vehicle lane at Hengqin began on May 7, with 32,000 registrations and 1.43 million uses, accounting for nearly 71.6% of all vehicle self-service clearance transactions.

DSEDJ SAYS RISING UNIVERSITY RANKINGS REFLECT IMPROVING EDUCATION QUALITY

The Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ) said the rising university rankings reflect the growing competitiveness and influence of its higher education sector, following improvements by all four local institutions in the QS Asia University Rankings 2027. The University of Macau ranked 96th, up six places, while Macau University of Science and Technology rose to 190th, Macao Polytechnic University to 306th and City University of Macau to 370th.

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GAMING

MELCO'S Q3 PROFIT DROPS TO ALMOST ZERO AS REVENUE FALLS 10%

RENATO MARQUES

RENATO MARQUES



MELCO Resorts & Entertainment Limited saw profitability collapse in the third quarter (Q3) of this year, with net income attributable to shareholders plunging from USD74.7 million (MOP603.5 million) a year earlier to just $34,000 (MOP274,703), effectively erasing its quarterly earnings.

The company presented the results during its quarterly earnings call on Wednesday night (Macau time).

Melco reported a deterioration in its unaudited financial results, with operating revenue down 10.4% year over year to $1.17 billion (MOP9.45 billion), compared with $1.31 billion (MOP10.58 billion) in the corresponding quarter of 2025.

More significantly, the company reported a consolidated net loss of $9.1 million (MOP73.5 million), reversing a consolidated net profit of $62.1 million (MOP501.7 million) from the prior year.

The figures point to a sharp deterioration in the group's underlying financial performance, despite the small positive net income attributable to the parent company's shareholders.

The decline in profitability was far greater than the decline in revenue, suggesting the group's earnings were particularly sensitive to weaker gaming activity and operating costs across its resort portfolio.

Operating income declined by approximately $84.3 million (MOP681.1 million), from $184.5 million (MOP1.49 billion) to $100.2 million (MOP809.6 million).

Meanwhile, Adjusted Property EBITDA, a widely used measure of casino operating performance before certain financing and accounting costs, declined by approximately $92.9 million (MOP750.6 million).

Casino revenue weakness drives earnings down

Melco attributed its weaker Q3 revenue primarily to softer performance across rolling-chip gaming, mass-market table games and non-gaming operations.

Casino revenue declined from approximately $1.061 billion (MOP8.57 billion) to $939.2 million (MOP7.59 billion), a decrease of $122.3 million (MOP988.1 million), or 11.5%.

That contraction accounted for nearly 90% of the group's $136 million (MOP1.10 billion) revenue decline, underscoring the importance of gambling operations to Melco's financial performance.

Revenue from entertainment, retail and other operations declined by approximately 27.7%.

Although hotel room revenue increased modestly, it was insufficient to offset declines in casino and other non-gaming revenue.

HEAVY DEBT BURDEN COMPOUNDS FINANCIAL PRESSURE

As of September 30, the company reported total debt of approximately $6.98 billion (MOP56.39 billion), compared with aggregate cash and bank balances of $886.6 million (MOP7.16 billion), including restricted cash.

This represents a substantial debt burden relative to its quarterly operating earnings.

During Q3, interest and other non-operating expenses, net, totaled approximately $107.7 million (MOP870.2 million), exceeding the company's $100.2 million (MOP809.6 million) in operating income.

Although those expenses were lower than the $121.6 million (MOP982.5 million) reported a year earlier, they continued to put significant pressure on Melco's bottom line.

The company reported approximately $1.95 billion (MOP15.76 billion) in available liquidity, including cash and undrawn revolving credit facilities, indicating it retains financial resources despite the earnings downturn.

The company also spent approximately $160 million (MOP1.29 billion) to repurchase American depositary shares between July 1 and November 3, while undertaking refinancing activities and capital improvements.

These decisions illustrate the competing demands on Melco's capital: maintaining liquidity, servicing debt, investing in its resorts and returning funds to shareholders.

Despite the group-wide deterioration in earnings, Melco management remained optimistic about its longer-term prospects in Macau and other international markets.

Chairman and chief executive officer Lawrence Ho expressed confidence in the company's Macau operations, citing hotel development, retail renovations and efforts to strengthen its luxury resort offerings.

"We continue to be confident in the long-term prospects of our businesses in Macau. We are focused on disciplined execution of our strategy to drive strong returns. Our distinctive product portfolio in Macau reflects the best in luxury and innovation. Coupled with the opening of our newly branded hotel REM and the renovation of our retail space at City of Dreams, we believe we are well positioned to capture the demands of our evolving customer base, supporting long-term growth," Ho said, also citing resilience in the Philippines and Cyprus despite ongoing regional challenges.

AIR SPORTS

Macau to host FAI-certified Drone Racing World Cup in December

YUKI LEI

YUKI LEI



THE 2026 Drone Racing World Cup China Macau round and the Macau Drone Tech & Innovation Elite Open will be held from Dec. 14 to 18 at the Macau East Asian Games Dome in Cotai, with results recognized internationally under certification from the World Air Sports Federation (FAI).

Speaking at a press conference, Yeung Chung Hou, chairman of the Aero General Association Macao-China, one of the organizers, said drone racing is among the world's most popular emerging technology sports. He said hosting the World Cup would support Macau's industrial diversification and help expand the city's low-altitude economy.

He said the association would continue to bring in top international air sports resources, expand drone education and event operations, and work to establish the competition as a signature international science and sports event for Macau.

The five-day event is expected to attract about 120 to 150 elite pilots from around the world, alongside a youth category expected to draw around 1,000 young pilots. Local primary and secondary schools will be invited to send students to watch the competition, with the aim of sparking their interest in aviation technology and drones.

Drone racing, often described as the "Formula One of the skies," involves pilots wearing headsets to view real-time footage as they steer their craft through complex courses at high speed. Organizers said the competition combines first-person-view (FPV) control, 5G real-time transmission and AI-assisted obstacle courses.

The event will be divided into four zones: the main World Cup arena, the elite competition area, a pilot rest and backstage area, and an enterprise exhibition and public interaction zone. The visual design will be centered on Macau's lotus flower.

Organizers said the elite competition aims to provide young people with opportunities for technological learning, hands-on practice, rule awareness and regional exchange. They added that the event would help drive development in Macau's sports, technology and tourism sectors.

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IRs

Wynn venues receive regional recognition for dining and wine programs

MDT REVIEW

WYNN'S restaurants and beverage teams have secured a series of regional accolades recently, with awards recognizing their wine lists, dining offerings and the expertise of their food and beverage professionals.

The integrated resort operator received multiple awards at the 14th China's Wine List of the Year Awards, including the highest "3 Glasses" distinction for nine of its signature restaurants. Two venues at Wynn Palace also featured in Tatler Best Asia Pacific 2026, with Chef Tam's Seasons retaining its place among the region's Best 100 Restaurants and Wing Lei Bar making its debut on the Best 100 Bars list.

The results showcase the role of beverage programs and specialist expertise in fine dining, as well as efforts to introduce Chinese wines to a wider international audience.

Wynn Palace's Chef Tam's Seasons, a two-Michelin-starred Cantonese restaurant, was among the leading winners at the wine-list awards, receiving five distinctions, including China's Wine List of the Year 2026 for Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan, Best Wine List for Macao SAR, China's Best Hotel Restaurant Wine List, China's Best Chinese Restaurant Wine List, and China's Best Listing of Chinese Spirits.



Mizumi, the Michelin-starred Japanese restaurant at Wynn Palace, retained its China's Best Sake List title for the second consecutive year. Meanwhile, Sushi Mizumi and Wing Lei advanced from two to three glasses, joining seven other Wynn restaurants with the highest rating.

Individual awards also went to Wynn's beverage leadership, with Just Wong, executive director of beverage operations for Wynn Macau and Wynn Palace, named Outstanding F&B Director/Manager/Owner of the Year for Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan. Troy Jiang, a sommelier at Chef Tam's Seasons, received the regional Outstanding Sommelier of the Year award.

Beyond its restaurant operations, Wynn has sought to build a wider profile for Chinese wine through the Wynn Signature Chinese Wine Awards, established in 2024. The initiative brings together producers and industry professionals through competitions, education and promotional activities, with selected award-winning wines subsequently incorporated into restaurant wine lists, pairing menus and themed tastings.





INTERNATIONAL EXPOSURE AT SHANGHAI EVENT

The program was a central feature of Wynn's participation in Tatler Best Asia Pacific 2026, held in Shanghai from October 20 to 24, where the company served as strategic wine partner.

Linda Chen, president, vice chairman and executive director of Wynn Macau, Limited, said the development of Chinese wine had become one of the more notable developments in the global wine industry.

"Across China's wine regions, a new generation of winemakers is redefining what is possible, combining innovation, craftsmanship and a deep respect for the land to create wines that are earning growing international recognition," she said.

Chen said Wynn saw an opportunity to bring the story of Chinese wine to a wider audience, with Macau serving as a connection between China and international markets.

"Through the Wynn Signature Chinese Wine Awards, we aim to celebrate China's finest wines with international standards and a global perspective," she said, adding that the partnership with Tatler reflected a shared belief in bringing Asia's achievements to the international stage.

During the Shanghai event, Wynn presented 26 wines that received top honors at its 2026 Chinese Wine Awards at the welcome reception, alongside a tasting featuring more than 20 premium Chinese wines. Representatives from five wineries also attended to introduce their selections to hospitality professionals and other guests.

The wine program extended to collaborative dining events featuring chefs from across the region. One six-hand collaboration brought together executive chef Tam Kwok Fung of Chef Tam's Seasons and chefs from Selection by Du and Yong Fu Shanghai, combining Cantonese, Chaozhou and Ningbo culinary traditions. Award-winning Chinese wines were served throughout the dining experiences to demonstrate their compatibility with different regional cuisines.

Wynn also brought its bar program to Shanghai, with Mark Lloyd, director of bars at Wynn Palace and Wynn Macau, presenting cocktails from Wing Lei Bar's UNITY II menu during guest shifts at two local establishments.

Tatler Best Asia Pacific 2026, which draws on the expertise of more than 900 hospitality professionals, editors, critics, journalists and travelers, recognizes establishments across its Best 100 Hotels, Best 100 Restaurants and Best 100 Bars lists.

For Macau, the recognition comes as the city continues to develop its profile as a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy, with its hospitality sector expanding connections with international chefs, wine producers and industry professionals.

Wynn's participation in regional awards and its Chinese wine initiatives add to these efforts to promote the city's dining establishments and wine offerings to international audiences.

CORPORATE BITS

Sands China launches Health Ambassadors program during safety month



Sands China is holding its ninth annual Occupational Safety and Health Month until Nov. 19, with activities across its properties aimed at promoting workplace safety and employee well-being.

The initiative, which began Oct. 20, includes roadshows, seminars, workshops, health screenings and influenza vaccinations at the back-of-house areas of The Venetian Macao, The Parisian Macao, The Londoner Macao and Sands Macao.

A new Health Ambassadors program was launched at the Oct. 23 kickoff ceremony at The Venetian Macao. The initiative trains representatives from different departments to share health information, encourage colleagues to participate in wellness activities and collect feedback to improve future programs.

This year's campaign focuses on five themes: health indicators, occupational safety awareness, healthy eating, exercise and mental well-being. Activities include seminars on traditional Chinese medicine and lower-limb health.

Sands China said more than 14,000 team members participated in its occupational safety and health activities in 2025, while the company provided more than 410,000 hours of related training.

MGM Macau to host two-night Cantonese-Shandong culinary collaboration



MGM Macau will host a two-night dining collaboration bringing together chefs from two acclaimed Chinese restaurants on Nov. 19 and 20 at Imperial Court.

The event, titled "Luminous Brilliance: A Cantonese-Shandong Culinary Symphony," will feature Wang Haoquan, co-founder of Beijing's two-Michelin-starred Lu Shang Lu, and Homan Tsui, executive chef of Imperial Court. The chefs will present a nine-course menu combining Shandong and Lingnan culinary traditions.

Dishes include hot and sour Cantonese shredded fish soup with cuttlefish roe, flaxseed-crusted roasted duck with pancakes and caviar, and chicken-oil-poached spotted grouper roll with celery. Wang will also introduce two signature dishes from Lu Shang Lu, while Tsui will serve crispy-fried crab shell stuffed with crab meat and bird's nest.

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MACAU–SHENZHEN EXHIBITION EXPLORES MORTALIT

An exhibition combining Macau-inspired beeswax sculptures with experimental sound from Shenzhen examines life, death and memory, highlighting both the potential and the challenges of artistic collaboration across the Greater Bay Area

TIMES WRITER

AN exhibition bringing together artists from Macau and Shenzhen is exploring the boundaries between life and death through sculpture and experimental sound, offering a different perspective on contemporary art in the Greater Bay Area (GBA), where cultural development has increasingly become part of the region's economic and urban ambitions.

Before the Candle's Crackle Fades, which opened October 28 at ecooL Space in Shenzhen's Nanhai E-Cool creative district, features seven sculptural installations by Macau artist Joein Leong Chou In accompanied by seven sound compositions from Shenzhen experimental artist Zen Lu.

The exhibition runs through November 15 before moving to Macau from December 2 to 20. It is part of the MACAO& series initiated this year by MyLand Culture, organized with the Macao New Media Arts Association and supported by Macau's Cultural Development Fund.

Curated by Pal Lok Chok and Kathine Cheong Weng Lam, the project examines mortality, memory and the passage of time through the relationship between physical objects and sound.

Beyond its philosophical subject, the exhibition reflects a broader development in the GBA's cultural landscape: collaborations connecting independent artists and organizations across cities with different artistic institutions, audiences and creative communities.

Leong's contribution draws on one of Macau's familiar architectural features – the wrought-iron balcony grilles found on older residential buildings.

Traditionally serving as barriers between domestic and public spaces, these structures become organic forms in her sculptures, resembling blood vessels and networks associated with the human body.

The artist uses beeswax, a material sensitive to temperature and physical transformation, to explore the vulnerability of existence. Its capacity to soften, melt and change shape provides a material expression of the exhibition's central concern: the impossibility of preserving life or resisting time indefinitely.

The sculptures also incorporate references to female reproductive cycles, emotional loss, aging and heartbreak.

"Facing the boundary is like facing fear," Leong said in the exhibition statement. "Magnifying and bringing clarity to the 'knowable boundary' alleviates fear far better than remaining completely in the dark."

MACAU'S ARCHITECTURE BECOMES A METAPHOR FOR LIFE

The relationship between architecture and the body gives the work a distinctly Macau identity without relying on conventional representations of the city's historic landmarks.

Instead, familiar residential details become the starting point for questions about physical existence and personal memory.

Leong's artistic practice has previously examined the relationship between bodily experience and self-awareness. Her 2023 exhibition, Twenty Exercises for the Body to Be the Soul's Companion, invited visitors to participate in sensory exercises involving movement, meditation and personal reflection.

Her official artistic portfolio documents a multidisciplinary practice spanning photography, video, ceramics and installation, frequently exploring intimate experiences and their relationship with broader questions of identity.

The current project extends those concerns toward mortality, shifting the emphasis from awareness of the living body to its eventual disappearance.

SHENZHEN'S CHANGING CITYSCAPE ENTERS THE SOUNDSCAPE

Zen Lu approaches the exhibition from a different artistic background, using sound to examine the relationship between human experience, physical environments and memory.

His seven compositions were developed specifically for Leong's sculptures, creating overlapping acoustic environments that change according to visitors' positions within the exhibition space.

Individual sounds become more prominent as audiences approach particular installations, while the compositions merge across the gallery.

The arrangement seeks to establish a dialogue between the physical presence of the sculptures and the constantly changing experience of sound.

Lu has been associated with Shenzhen's experimental music scene for more than two decades.

A 2019 profile published by Malt traced his development from conventional musical training and rock performance toward experimental sound composition.

His work has frequently drawn inspiration from Shenzhen's urban transformation, including the relationship between rapidly changing neighborhoods and the people who inhabit them.

Through NeoSound, an experimental performance initiative, Lu has promoted collaborations involving music, theater, architecture and other artistic disciplines.

His interest in urban memory was evident in Bye Sick Zone, a sound installation presented at Shenzhen's Pingshan Art Museum in 2025.

The project drew on field recordings from Baishizhou, an urban village undergoing extensive redevelopment, capturing everyday sounds associated with markets, residents and construction.

In an artist-published presentation, Lu documented how these recordings preserved elements of a neighborhood being transformed by urban renewal.

The connection with Before the Candle's Crackle Fades is significant. Where the earlier project addressed the disappearance of familiar urban environments, the new exhibition examines the disappearance of individual existence.



Before the Candle's Crackle Fades curators Pal LOK Chok (far left) and (second from right) and Z

Both explore the relationship between memory and irreversible change, although the latest collaboration moves from recorded urban sound toward a more abstract philosophical investigation.

A GROWING ARTS SCENE WITH UNEVEN FOUNDATIONS

The collaboration comes as the GBA expands its cultural infrastructure, with museums, galleries and privately supported institutions developing across Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Foshan and Hong Kong.

However, the expansion of cultural facilities has not eliminated the difficulties facing independent artists.

In a 2023 interview with the South China Morning Post, Shenzhen curator Shane Liu questioned the relative importance of contemporary art in a city dominated by technology and business.

"The art scene is so small in Shenzhen. I think art is probably the least important industry here," she said.

Liu's assessment highlighted a contradiction in Shenzhen's development: considerable economic resources and an expanding cultural infrastructure have not necessarily translated into a mature independent arts ecosystem.

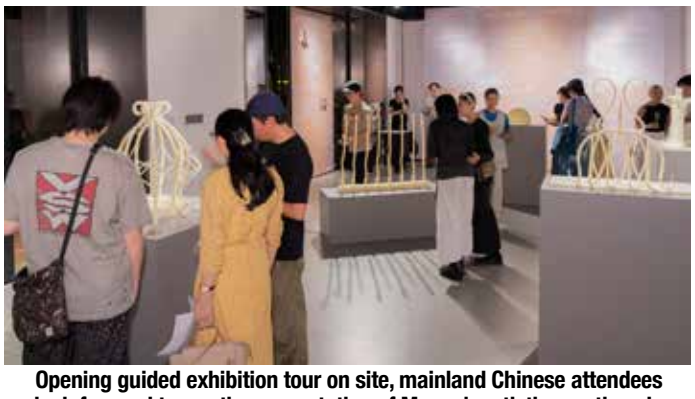
For Macau, the challenges are particularly acute.

In an August 2026 interview with Plataforma Media, MyLand Culture co-founder and exhibition curator Pal Lok Chok warned that Macau's independent art spaces were facing a situation "close to collapse."

She identified excessive dependence on government subsidies, high operating costs and the shortage of permanent exhibition spaces as major obstacles to sustaina-



Intertwining beeswax sculptures with spatial soundscapes, the exhibition runs through November 15 at ecooL Space,Nanhai E-Cool, Shenzhen



Opening guided exhibition tour on site, mainland Chinese attendees look forward to see the presentation of Macao's artistic creations in the Greater Bay Area more often



Cultural and art enthusiasts from Shenzhen and Macao gather at the opening for exchange

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TY AS GBA ARTS SCENE SEARCHES FOR ITS IDENTITY



Kathine Cheong Weng Lam (far right), alongside artists Leong Chou In Zen Lu (second from left)

ble artistic development.

"The biggest obstacle to building a healthy and sustainable arts ecosystem in Macau is excessive dependence on a single source of funding," she said.

Lok Chok argued that private companies, foundations and individual patrons should play a greater role in supporting independent cultural organizations, complementing existing government programs.

She also emphasized the importance of long-term operational funding rather than subsidies tied exclusively to individual projects.

Her comments give the Shenzhen–Macau exhibition an additional dimension. Cross-border exchanges can increase visibility and encourage experimentation, but they cannot substitute for the financial and institutional conditions required to sustain independent artistic production.

BEYOND THE EXHIBITION CIRCUIT

The GBA's artistic diversity is both an advantage and an organizational challenge.

Hong Kong has an established international art market and major cultural institutions, while Shenzhen has developed a contemporary arts environment closely associated with experimentation, design and urban transformation.

Guangzhou brings a longer tradition of artistic education and institutional development, while Foshan has expanded its cultural profile through institutions such as the He Art Museum.

Macau occupies a different position, with a comparatively small independent arts community operating alongside publicly funded cultural programs and an economy heavily influenced by tourism and gaming.

These differences create opportunities for complementary artistic practices, although they also expose disparities in resources, audiences and professional opportunities.

For MyLand Culture, the latest exhibition follows years of experimentation with temporary spaces, community interventions and artistic activities outside conventional galleries.

According to Lok Chok's professional biography, her curatorial projects have included activities in the Red Market, St. Lazarus district and the Lai Chi Vun Shipyards in Coloane.

The MACAO& initiative extends that approach across the border, connecting two artistic practices through a shared project rather than relying on a major institutional partnership.

The collaboration also raises questions about how artistic identity develops within a region increasingly promoted as an integrated economic and cultural space.

Macau and Shenzhen may share regional development objectives, but their urban histories and cultural environments remain substantially different.

Leong's sculptures draw on the intimate architecture of Macau's older neighborhoods, while Lu's sound practice has frequently examined the transformation of Shenzhen's urban landscape.

Their collaboration does not erase those differences. Instead, it uses them to explore a common concern: how people experience change, loss and the passage of time.

CAN ARTISTIC EXCHANGES BUILD LASTING CONNECTIONS?

The exhibition's Macau presentation will open December 2 at Rua de S. Roque, 32-B, with a panel discussion bringing together artists from both cities under the theme "Worldview, Self-View."

A workshop addressing decluttering and letting go is scheduled for December 19, extending the exhibition's discussion of mortality into everyday questions of attachment and personal experience.

These activities offer opportunities to connect contemporary artistic practices with audiences who may not ordinarily engage with experimental installations.

Nevertheless, the effectiveness of the exhibition's seven sculptural and acoustic components requires direct assessment. The philosophical ambition of an artwork does not automatically guarantee its emotional impact.

Its strongest conceptual feature may be the relationship between recognizable physical materials and an intangible subject.

Wax, residential architecture and recorded sound provide concrete starting points for examining mortality without depending entirely on abstract philosophical explanations.

For the GBA, the exhibition also raises a practical question about the future of regional cultural cooperation.

The region has invested heavily in transport connections, commercial integration and new cultural facilities. Establishing a genuinely interconnected artistic environment, however, requires sustained collaboration, independent institutions and audiences willing to engage with unfamiliar forms of expression.

Before the Candle's Crackle Fades illustrates how artists from neighboring cities can develop a common project while retaining distinct creative identities.

Whether such collaborations become a regular feature of the GBA's cultural landscape will depend less on the number of exhibitions organized than on the resources, institutional continuity and artistic freedom available to those producing them.

The challenge is to ensure that cultural integration supports artistic diversity rather than reducing it to another regional development objective.

AT A GLANCE

Before the Candle's Crackle Fades
MACAO& Series: Shenzhen & Macau 2026
Artists: Joein Leong Chou In (Macau) and Zen Lu (Shenzhen)
Curators: Pal Lok Chok and Kathine Cheong Weng Lam

Shenzhen exhibition
ecooL Space, Room 119, 1/F, Building 6, Nanhai E-Cool, Xingquan 4th Road, Nanshan District, Shenzhen
October 28 – November 15, 2026
Daily, 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Artist-guided tours: October 31 and November 7, 3–5 p.m.

Macau exhibition
Rua de S. Roque, No. 32-B, ground floor A, Macau
December 2–20, 2026
Daily, noon – 7 p.m.
Opening ceremony: December 2, 6:45 p.m.
Artist dialogue: "Worldview, Self-View," December 2, 7:30 p.m.
Workshop: "Decluttering & Letting Go," December 19, 3 p.m.

Hengqin's new food export scheme opens route for Macau brands to overseas markets

ON THE AGENDA

A health supplement manufactured in Hengqin crossed into Macau yesterday under a new regulatory arrangement designed to help Macau businesses expand production into the Guangdong-Macau In-Depth Cooperation Zone while retaining access to international markets.

The product, destined for Singapore, is the first to complete the regulatory process linking Macau registration, Hengqin manufacturing and overseas distribution under the new whitelist mechanism, according to an official announcement published November 5 on the Macau government portal.

The development marks a practical step in efforts to turn Hengqin into a manufacturing base for Macau enterprises, particularly in the health products and food industries, where regulatory requirements have complicated cross-border production and exports.

Under the arrangement, eligible products manufactured in Hengqin can benefit from a coordinated certification framework connecting the two jurisdictions. The mechanism is intended to reduce administrative obstacles while allowing Macau businesses to use manufacturing facilities and supply chains across the border.

Authorities said that, by October, 85 products from 11 Macau enterprises had been authorized to use certification labels associated with the broader initiative.

The figures suggest growing interest among local businesses, although the number of approved products does not establish how many have entered commercial production or secured overseas customers.

For Macau, the initiative fits into a wider strategy of economic diversification through the development of industries beyond tourism and gaming. Hengqin offers additional industrial space and access to mainland manufacturing capabilities, while Macau provides an established commercial and regulatory platform for international trade.

Singapore represents a potentially significant destination because of its demanding import requirements and position as a regional distribution center. However, the first shipment alone cannot establish whether the arrangement will support sustained exports.

The next test will be whether more Macau enterprises can use the mechanism to scale production, obtain necessary overseas approvals and establish regular distribution channels.

Success would give the cooperation zone a measurable economic role beyond attracting registered companies – helping Macau businesses manufacture goods, reach customers and generate export revenue through Hengqin.

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HONG KONG

Activist Joshua Wong sentenced to 10 more years in prison

A Hong Kong court sentenced prominent activist Joshua Wong to 10 more years in prison Thursday under the national security law introduced by Beijing in 2020, following his guilty plea to conspiracy to collude with foreign forces.

Wong, 30, rose to prominence as a teenage student leader and later became involved in international advocacy concerning Hong Kong's political development. He was already serving a four-year, eight-month sentence in a separate national security case and had been scheduled for release in January.

Judge William Tam said Wong and fellow activist Nathan Law had collaborated with foreign officials and other overseas actors to seek sanctions and other measures against China and Hong Kong.

The judge cited the United States' withdrawal of Hong Kong's preferential treatment and sanctions against Chinese and Hong Kong officials as examples of measures the defendants had advocated.

AP PHOTO



Former Scholarism member Tiffany Chin, left and Louis Lee, Joshua Wong's friend leave the High Court in Hong Kong, Thursday

"The punishment must fit the gravity of the crime committed," Tam wrote.

The court initially considered a 13-year sentence but reduced it following Wong's guilty plea and other mitigating circumstances. The remaining two months of his previous sentence will run concurrently with the new term.

Wong appeared calm during the proceedings, acknowledging supporters in the public gallery. Before leaving the courtroom, he thanked them in Cantonese.

In a statement prepared in prison, Wong said he had believed his earlier activities were lawful and maintained that he had not directly advocated sanctions when sharing social media posts or encouraging foreign companies to reconsider business dealings with Hong Kong police.

He acknowledged subsequently recognizing errors in his judgment.

Wong also described pursuing university courses and reading extensively during his imprisonment, expressing hope that the experience would contribute to his personal development.

Prosecutors alleged that Wong and Law began coordinating international lobbying efforts around 2016 to advance their objective of democratic self-determination.

Following the national security law's introduction, Law, who relocated to Britain, continued international advocacy, while Wong supported related activities through media appearances and social media, according to prosecutors.

Wong's lawyer, Derek Chan, had requested a sentence that would allow his client the prospect of rebuilding his life and caring for his parents.

The U.S. Consulate in Hong Kong condemned the ruling and called for Wong's immediate release, describing his imprisonment as "unjust."

Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun defended the proceedings, saying Wong had pleaded guilty based on substantial evidence and reiterating Beijing's support for Hong Kong's national security enforcement.

Hong Kong Chief Executive John Lee said Wong, Law and their associates had undermined the city's prosperity and stability.

Authorities maintain that national security legislation is necessary to safeguard stability following the widespread anti-government demonstrations of 2019 and emphasize that prosecutions follow established legal procedures.

Critics in Hong Kong, however, argue that the legislation has restricted political participation and civil society activities.

Wong's case remains among the most prominent prosecutions under Hong Kong's national security framework, reflecting continuing differences between authorities and international observers over its implementation.

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USA | MIDTERM ELECTIONS

Inflation, tariffs and a voter blue revolt: verdict on Trump's economy

JOSH BOAK, WASHINGTON

AP PHOTO



PRESIDENT Donald Trump was publicly humbled by inflation in the midterm elections, as rising prices provoked a blistering set of losses for Republicans in House, Senate and gubernatorial races.

Most voters said that Trump's own policies had smothered growth and driven costs even higher, according to The AP Voter Poll, a survey of roughly 100,000 midterm voters. The president's message that the fault lay with his predecessor, Democrat Joe Biden, didn't land. Americans saw prices start to climb with Trump's chaotic rash of tariffs last year, and energy costs spiked after he launched a war with Iran in February.

About two-thirds of voters said Trump's own policies had fueled inflation. By contrast, only about half of 2022 midterm voters said this about Biden's policies, according to AP VoteCast.

Voters in states from California to Mississippi were broadly in agreement that Trump's taxes on foreign imports have done more harm than good.

The election results matched what voters had been telling pollsters for months, but Trump had campaigned with a decidedly deaf ear.

"I've done a great job," Trump said at one of his final midterm rallies in Iowa. "Prices are coming way down."

VOTERS HAVE BUYER'S REMORSE WITH TRUMP

Democratic victories in Tuesday's midterms signaled that most voters don't believe the economy or Trump is working for them.

Consumer prices are up 3.7% over the past 12 months, compared to an inflation rate of 3% when Trump began his second term. The president told reporters on Wednesday that the Iran war "drove the gasoline up a little bit short-term," but he felt the choice to fight Iran was worth it because of its push for nuclear weapons. "If I had to do it again, I'd have to do it again," he said.

There is no guarantee that a House and Senate with a Democratic majority can fix an economy pestered by uncomfortably high inflation. Trump and Congress would likely need to work on a bipartisan basis, or simply keep the economy stable enough to allow the Federal Reserve to ratchet down inflation through its setting of interest rates.

But voters did prefer Democrats to the status quo of a president who could govern with little to no congressional pushback from Republicans.

About 9 in 10 voters said the cost of living was a "crucial" or "major" factor in their vote for Congress. And about 6 in 10 of this group backed Democratic candidates in their local House races.

AI IS A SOURCE OF FEAR INSTEAD OF HOPE

The underlying economy is stronger than many Americans think, with the S&P 500 stock index up more than 10% so far this year and the unemployment rate at a healthy 4.2%. Investors greeted the news of Democratic wins as a positive with stocks up on Wednesday.

Still, the major driver of growth has been the buildout of artificial intelligence — a boom that Trump has actively stoked by refusing to codify more aggressive federal oversight.

Voters don't share Trump's optimism about AI, which he has renamed "super intelligence" in federal documents.

Instead of buying the arguments that AI would increase productivity and accelerate growth, about 6 in 10 voters said AI will do more to hurt society.

The technology could displace workers as jobs get automated or it could be a financial bubble that if popped could wreak havoc on retirement savings. Despite the anxiety, only about one-quarter of voters said AI was a "crucial" factor.

WEALTH ISN'T TRICKLING DOWN TO THE MIDDLE CLASS

Tech billionaires such as Meta's Mark Zuckerberg, Nvidia's Jensen Huang and Elon Musk have become frequent guests of Trump, attending state dinners or jetting abroad with the president. But the growing concentration of wealth has been disconcerting for voters.

Nationwide, about 7 in 10 voters said the economy favors wealthy people, while only about 3 in 10 said it's fair to everyday Americans. The wealth gap has become so extreme that even a majority of voters with a 2025 household income of $300,000 or more in the tech-heavy state of California felt the economy was tilted toward the rich.

Still, a slight majority of voters across the country had a "somewhat" or "very" favorable impression of capitalism, compared to about one-third who "strongly" or "somewhat" favor socialism.

But the election suggested that voters believe the government should use its heft to help reduce the cost of healthcare. About 6 in 10 said they wanted the government to play a "bigger role" in addressing medical expenses. Most voters said Trump's policies have made healthcare costs worse.

TRUMP CAUGHT IN A TRAP WITH VOTERS

How voters felt about the overall economy generally depended on the size of their paychecks. While Trump campaigned on stats suggesting record low poverty, the working poor saw their own finances as crumbling.

For those earning less than $50,000 a year, about 6 in 10 said they were worse off now than they were two years ago before Trump became president.

People with higher incomes felt better about the economy, but that created a different problem for Trump. Higher-income voters were more concerned about the state of American democracy, and voters focused on democracy overwhelmingly broke for Democrats. Without congressional approval, Trump laid off thousands of federal workers, altered federal spending and imposed hundreds of billions of dollars in new tariffs that the Supreme Court earlier this year ruled were illegal.

About 4 in 10 households with 2025 household incomes above $200,000 said that democracy was their top issue, putting the issue about even with the economy. Voters in most lower-income categories, on the other hand, clearly prioritized the economy.

Overall, a slim majority of voters said government corruption was a crucial factor for their vote, while about half said this about high prices. Higher-income voters were much less likely than lower-income voters to see high prices as a key factor.

What most voters took away from the past 22 months of Trump's presidency was that he brokered deals, took government stakes in private companies and acted in ways that put him at the center of the economy instead of America's workers.

Most voters — about 6 in 10 — said Trump's priorities were misplaced.

When voters were asked if Trump fought for people like them, most said he didn't. MDT/AP

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AP PHOTO



An Aer Lingus Airbus A320 aircraft is seen at Evreux military air base after a flight from Dublin to Rome was diverted to France

EUROPE | AVIATION

Multiple flights in Europe diverted because of bomb threats after earlier hoaxes

COLLEEN BARRY, ANGELA CHARLTON & DAVID BILLER, MILAN

MULTIPLE flights in Europe were targeted by bomb threats on Thursday, forcing emergency landings, searches and in several cases military escorts, in fresh disruptions following hoax threats earlier this week.

More than a dozen flights from cities including Copenhagen, Dublin, Helsinki, Madrid, Milan and Warsaw were confirmed to have been targeted with bomb threats, most diverted to other airports for emergency landings while others landed safely at their destinations. So far inspections have not turned up hazardous or suspicious materials.

Such threats are not new, but the latest incidents come at a time of increased geopolitical tensions and other disruptions, including attacks on supermarket refrigeration systems, drone incursions in Europe and mysterious triggers to alert apps. Authorities have warned that hybrid threats abound.

A flight from Dublin to Rome was diverted to a military air base in western France because of a bomb threat, the French prime minister's office said. The flight landed safely at the base in Evreux in Normandy, Prime Minister Sebastien Lecornu's office said.

All 151 passengers and six crew members were safe and military bomb disposal teams were examining the plane, the office said. The passengers aboard the Aer Lingus Dublin-Rome flight were questioned and checked in groups of 10 inside the airport, the prime minister's office said.

Hours later, the plane was sitting on the tarmac with a Red Cross vehicle nearby and explosives experts with dogs seen examining the aircraft.

Italian authorities alerted France's government to the bomb threat on the Aer Lingus flight, and a French warplane escorted it to the Evreux base, the prime minister's office said. An investigation was opened by French aviation security authorities.

Italian air force fighter jets escorted a Finnair flight from Helsinki to Rome after an email threat was received, according to an airport official with knowledge of the situation. It landed safely at Rome's Leonardo da Vinci airport at around 9:30 a.m., and no explosive materials were found during an inspection by police bomb disposal experts, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak publicly.

Finnair said that two of its flights, including the one that landed in Rome, "faced unfounded hoax bomb scares." Nothing was found aboard Finnair AY1761, and the plane was scheduled to depart for Helsinki.

The other flight, operated by Jettime, from Helsinki to Vienna landed safely at its destination, and was expected to return to service after an inspection was completed, Finnair said.

Czech police said searches of four other planes that landed in Prague after being targeted by bomb threats turned up no threats. They did not give details on where the flights originated, and said they took precautions despite not finding the threats credible.

A LOT Polish Airlines flight from Warsaw to Brussels landed at its destination, where inspections found no hazardous or suspicious items, the airline said.

A Wizz Air flight from Milan to Bucharest landed safely in Bucharest following a bomb threat, airport spokesman Teo Postelnicu said. Checks turned up no threat, and air traffic was continuing on schedule.

A flight to Warsaw landed in Vienna following a mail to Polish authorities containing an abstract threat, said Stefan Loidl, a police spokesperson in Lower Austria province. Nothing was found and the plane continued to Warsaw.

He said there was also a vague threat to Vienna Airport concerning four other flights, which he declined to identify, but operations were not disrupted.

Polish authorities checked a LOT flight that was about to depart from Warsaw to Paris on Thursday morning after a threat was reported at Warsaw's Chopin Airport, said airport spokesman Piotr Rudzki. No threat was ultimately identified. One runway at Chopin airport was temporarily closed while authorities carried out standard security procedures.

Three Ryanair flights bound for Sofia, Bulgaria, had to make emergency landings because of bomb threats on board. Two of the flights, one from Copenhagen, Denmark, and the other from Madrid, landed safely at Sofia's Vasil Levski Airport, airport officials told reporters. The third Sofia-bound flight, from London's Stansted Airport to Sofia, had been diverted and landed safely at the airport in Plovdiv, Bulgaria's second-largest city, Plovdiv Airport CEO Krassimir Peshev said.

The three planes that made an emergency landing in Sofia and Plovdiv were escorted by fighter jets on air policing duty, the Ministry of Defense said.

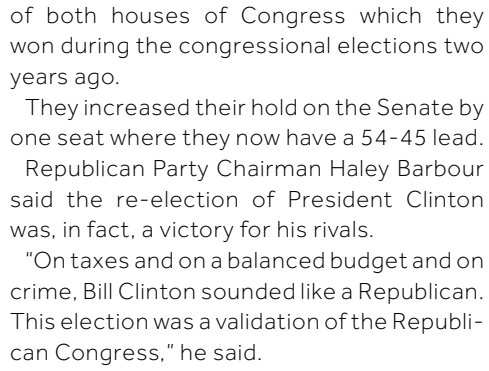
Hoaxes prompted similar searches earlier this week

Several flights across Europe received hoax bomb threats earlier this week that prompted searches, diversions and, in one case, an escort by the Italian air force until landing, officials said.

The flights included Polish airline LOT, Scandinavian Airlines, Wizz Air and Ryanair. The hoax threats came after a plane headed for Bulgaria was diverted to Hungary after receiving a similar bomb threat while in the air. No one was injured. **MDT/AP**

this day in history

1996 'Comeback Kid' wins second term



Bill Clinton is basking in a resounding victory over Republican Bob Dole and the prospect of four more years in the White House.

He is the first Democratic President in US history to be re-elected since Franklin D Roosevelt, taking 49.2% of the popular vote to Mr Dole's 40.8%.

With voter turnout at its lowest in nearly 70 years at just over 49%, Democrats took 379 electoral votes and 31 states and the District of Columbia, including former Republican strongholds of Florida and Arizona.

Republicans got 159 electoral votes and just 19 states while billionaire Ross Perot, standing as an independent. took no states at all.

But it was not all good news for the Democrats as Republicans retained control of both houses of Congress which they won during the congressional elections two years ago.

They increased their hold on the Senate by one seat where they now have a 54-45 lead.

Republican Party Chairman Haley Barbour said the re-election of President Clinton was, in fact, a victory for his rivals.

"On taxes and on a balanced budget and on crime, Bill Clinton sounded like a Republican. This election was a validation of the Republican Congress," he said.

However, the Speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich, who led a highly unpopular Republican "revolution" that blocked the budget last year, was conciliatory today saying his party had a duty to "reach out" to the president.

President Clinton has once again earned his nickname of the "Comeback Kid", undeterred by the recent Whitewater real estate scandal still under investigation. [...]

Courtesy BBC News

In context

Bill Clinton's presidency ended in 2001.
His most enduring legacy is likely to be the economic boom which began shortly before he took office in 1992.
During the eight years of the presidency, the economy expanded by 50% in real terms, and by the end of his tenure the US had a gross national product of $10,000bn - one quarter of the entire world economic output.
His second term was dogged by the Monica Lewinsky sex scandal which he first vehemently denied and then admitted in a televised speech to the Grand Jury.
After Kenneth Starr's report into Bill Clinton was published in September 1998, the House Judiciary Committee decided to impeach him and he became only the second president in American history to face such an indictment.
His trial ended on 12 February 1999 when senators voted to acquit him of the impeachment charges of perjury and obstruction of justice.
In September 2000, the Clintons were cleared of wrongdoing in the Whitewater land deal.

YOUR STARS

Aries
Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Relations with partners, spouses and close friends are excellent today! In fact, a platonic relationship could turn romantic. It's a fantastic day for romance, as well as dealing with members of the general public.

Taurus
Apr. 20-May. 20

A work-related romance might be blossoming for many of you. Others might see ways to use money and resources from work to improve your job. Meanwhile, give yourself permission to please yourself.

Gemini
May. 21-Jun. 21

Social occasions, romantic get-togethers and fun times with kids are on the menu for you today. Enjoy schmoozing with everyone! You'll be emphatic in discussions related to your job and work.

Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22

This is a wonderful day to socialize, especially with younger people. You will also enjoy entertaining at home. Relations with family members will be warm and mutually generous.

Leo
Jul. 23-Aug. 22

You're happy with your surroundings today and pleased to interact with others. Your energy is pumped, in part because you're in contact with family members you haven't seen in a while.

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sep. 22

Today the Moon is in your sign, which means things will tend to go your way. Discussions about finances and your possessions will go well. However, commit to nothing important.

Libra
Sep.23-Oct. 22

You'll find it easy to charm everyone today because you're enthusiastic and happy! You might have strong ideas about financial matters. Be smart and postpone speaking up about these ideas until tomorrow.

Scorpio
Oct. 23-Nov. 21

You're enthusiastic to talk to everyone today because you have something to say! Nevertheless, you make a great impression on everyone, including authority figures. Tonight: Friendly discussions.

Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21

You continue to be high-viz today. In particular, friends and groups are supportive of you. Issues related to higher education, publishing, the media, medicine and the law will shine.

Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19

You're happy with the impression you create on everyone today, and you're pleased with the practical and financial support from another party or your spouse or partner.

Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18

You're powerful. You look good to everyone and your style of relating to those who are close to you is positive! Travel is blessed. Romance with someone from afar or someone different might be meaningful.

Pisces
Feb.19-Mar. 20

Today you're happy because financial and practical support is forthcoming, and this is reassuring! In particular, it makes you feel better about your job. Be prepared to go more than halfway when dealing with someone else.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

8	5	3			9			
9			7				5	
				3	5	8		1
7		6	4		8			9
	2		3		6		1	
5			1		2	4		6
6		5	9	2				
	4				1			5
			5			6	7	8

Easy+

							6	5
		6	1	4				7
3	2				5			
2				1			7	
1		3		2		5		8
	4			3				9
			2				9	6
9				7	4	1		
8	3							

Medium

	1				8			
			2	7			9	
9			1			3	8	
		1						6
7	5			3			4	1
4						2		
	8	3			5			7
	7			1	4			
			6				2	

Hard

			8		5			
	6						5	
3	5		1			6		
8					4			5
1	3						8	9
4			2					6
		3			7		9	2
	4						7	
			5		9			

WEATHER

CHINA	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
Beijing	1	13	fine
Changchun	-8	-2	cloudy
Chengdu	15	21	cloudy
Chongqing	17	21	overcast
Fuzhou	20	21	rain
Guangzhou	22	28	rain
Guiyang	11	16	showers
Haikou	24	32	thunderstorms
Hangzhou	15	20	cloudy
Harbin	-10	-5	cloudy
Hefei	11	21	cloudy
Nanjing	13	21	fine
Shanghai	13	20	overcast
Taipei	20	23	rain
Wuhan	12	24	cloudy
Hong Hong	26	28	sunny

WORLD			
Moscow	-1	3	cloudy
Frankfurt	1	9	sunny
Paris	4	11	sunny
London	6	11	cloudy
New York	13	18	rain

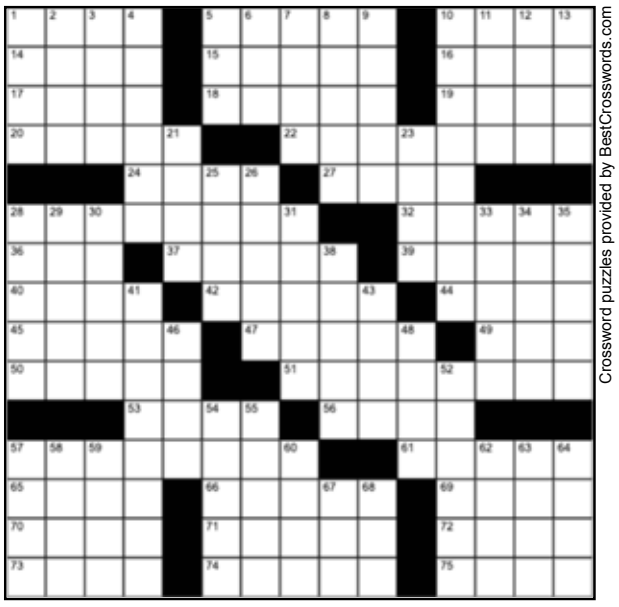
CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Oil cartel; 5- Sidewalk eateries; 10- Speed contest; 14- ___Cop; 15- Tennis champ Chris; 16- "First Lady of Song" Fitzgerald; 17- Each; 18- Insect stage; 19- Celestial body; 20- Strong blue cotton fabric; 22- Person who stays up late; 24- Long fish; 27- "Hud" star Patricia; 28- Abroad; 32- Instruct; 36- "2001" computer; 37- Singer Baker; 39- Short literary composition; 40- Garage sale sign; 42- Journalist ___ Rogers St. Johns; 44- Franklin D.'s mother; 45- Kingdom; 47- The end of ___; 49- Snapper trapper; 50- Ruhr Valley city; 51- Cloudy; 53- Ages; 56- "From ___ according to his abilities..."; 57- Meat fat; 61- George of "Just Shoot Me"; 65- River to the Seine; 66- Equals; 69- Isle of exile; 70- Attendee; 71- Eagle's nest; 72- Highly ranked competitor in sporting events; 73- Canonized Fr. women; 74- Pay for; 75- Slippery;

DOWN 1- Toward the mouth; 2- Bishop of Rome; 3- Black; 4- Duplicator; 5- Animation frame; 6- Actress Gardner; 7- Frond plant; 8- Senator Sam of Watergate fame; 9- Phase; 10- Uneasy; 11- Chorus member; 12- Cat's nail; 13- ____ Grey, tea type; 21- Big butte; 23- Loathe; 25- Singer Horne; 26- You ___ mouthful!; 28- Chicago airport; 29- Urns; 30- Inventor Howe; 31- Shorthand expert; 33- Yoga posture; 34- Feels for; 35- Hilton competitor; 38- Advil rival; 41- Railway ties; 43- Sector; 46- Queue before Q; 48- Pendulum paths; 52- Curd stuff; 54- Try to bite; 55- Look of contempt; 57- Canines; 58- Urban uprising; 59- Got it!; 60- Richard of "Chicago"; 62- Exultation; 63- Cain's victim; 64- Gentlewoman; 67- Narrow inlet; 68- A collection of articles;

Yesterday's solution

A	D	I	E	U		S	P	A	N			A	L	E
R	E	M	A	P		U	R	S	A		O	D	E	S
A	M	A	S	S		N	O	T	I		B	E	G	S
T	O	R	I		A	D	M	I	R	A	L			
S	I	E	S	T	A			A	L	I	E	N	S	
		S	I	R	E	N	S		I	G	L	O	O	
P	A	T	T	I		E	R	A		E	M	T	S	
C	A	D		E	S	T	R	A	D	A		O	R	A
O	G	E	E		K	I	D		N	U	R	S	E	
S	A	L	A	D		E	S	T	A	T	E			
I	N	A	S	E	C			A	T	O	N	E	S	
			I	S	O	L	A	T	E		A	C	U	T
C	A	L	L		L	I	M	E		A	M	O	R	E
O	B	E	Y		T	S	A	R		T	E	N	E	T
N	A	E			S	I	D	S		A	D	O	R	E



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Emergency calls 999
Fire department 28 572 222
PJ (Open line) 993
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
PSP 28 573 333
Customs 28 559 944
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
IAM 28 387 333
Tourism 28 333 000
Airport 59 888 88

Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Water Supply – Report 2822 0088
Telephone – Report 1000
Electricity – Report 28 339 922
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081

AD



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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

DRIVE IN

In 'I Play Rocky,' a middleweight crowd-pleaser about the making of a classic

JAKE COYLE,
MDT/AP FILM WRITER

AP PHOTO



Anthony Ippolito as Sylvester Stallone in a scene from "I Play Rocky" (Amazon MGM Studios)

I Play Rocky," Peter Farrelly's comic and crowd-pleasing tale about the making of "Rocky," might seem like a one-two punch of pure nostalgia. It's been 50 years since Sylvester Stallone's breakthrough boxing classic first arrived in theaters.

But while "I Play Rocky" is far from lacking in memory-lane sentimentality, it's more aimed at now than it might appear. Today's movie industry is so corporate and risk-averse that Farrelly's "Rocky" revival is most enjoyable as a reminder that the movies are a quixotic, even goofy undertaking. Some of the best of them are inherently bad ideas.

The miracle of "Rocky" is that someone said yes to making it. Stallone in his mid-20s had little more to his name than some soft-core pornography. There was scant evidence of audiences clamoring for a boxing drama. And yet Stallone didn't just want to sell his script; he insisted on starring in it.

That's why, while Anthony Ippolito's winning performance as Stallone may be at the center of "I Play Rocky," the movie belongs to its skeptical producers and its apoplectic executives. Tracy Letts plays United Artists boss Sandy Maddox, a composite character. "Rocky" producers Irwin Winkler and Robert Chartoff are played by P.J. Byrne and Toby Kebbell, respectively. They are all agog when Stallone, recently homeless, turns down millions, resolute with his demand: "I play Rocky."

This is Stallone's underdog story, one that neatly mirrors Rocky Balboa's unlikely rise. But it's the film's belief in the algorithm-adverse nature of the movies that makes "I Play Rocky" a fun, if featherweight romp.

Farrelly puts punchy, almost slapdash scenes alongside each other, rejecting preciousness for screwball momentum. The movies, "I Play Rocky" suggests, should be a lark.

Stallone wrote more than a dozen screenplays before "Rocky." Success didn't come overnight, and it's this relentlessness that makes Stallone's story endearing. How many muscle-bound leading-men wannabes in Hollywood, then or now, put in that much work?

Ippolito nails Stallone's demeanor and voice without slipping into caricature — a feat considering how many Stallone impressions have come and gone over 50 years. But the performance is too sweet and saintly. Stallone had to be more than a naive savant to pull off what he did. Ippolito plays Rocky, not Stallone.

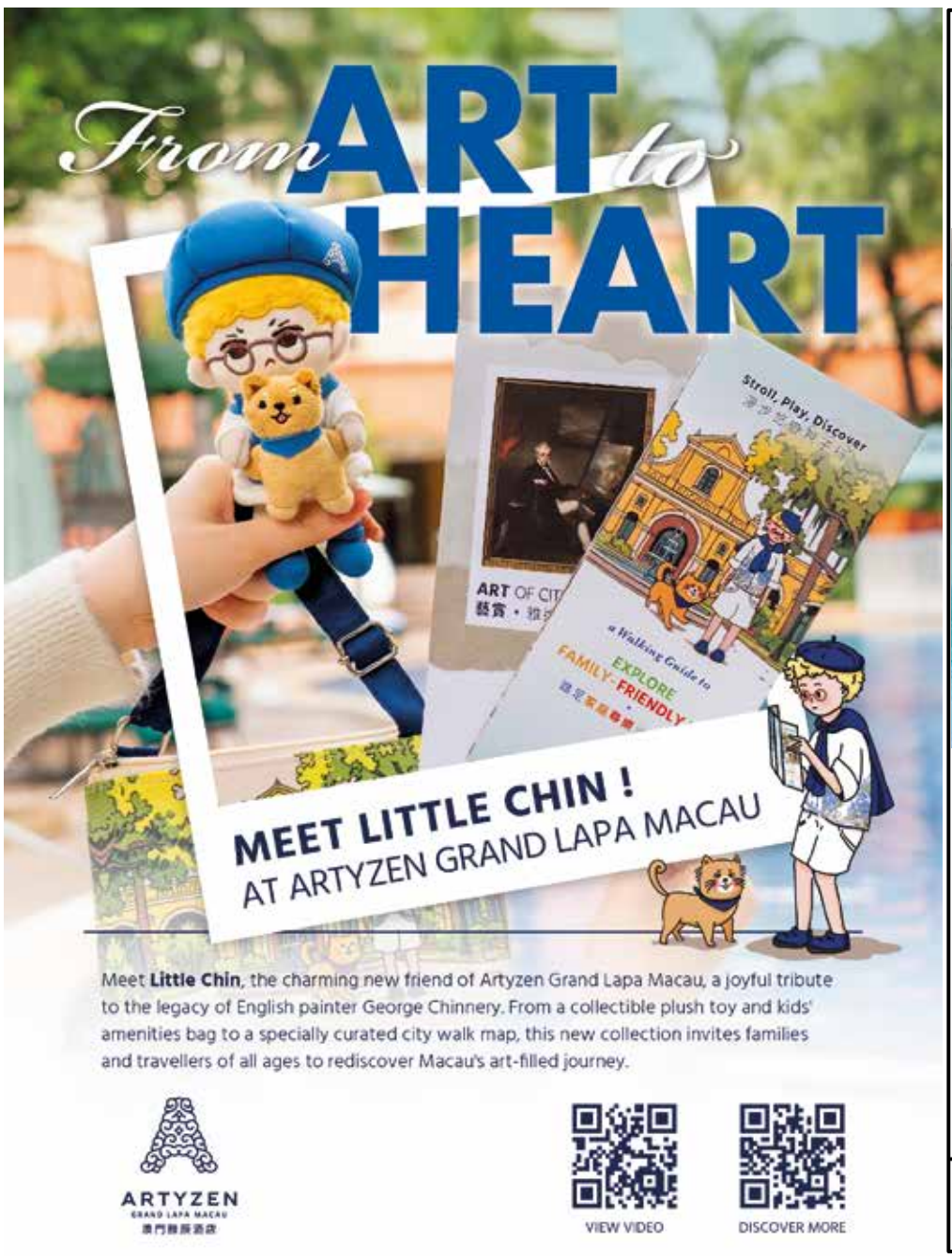
"I Play Rocky" eventually gets to the making of the film, but by then it's beginning to run out of gas. The centerpiece of the movie is the negotiation over the script, with Winkler and Chartoff playing middlemen ferrying back-and-forth offers.

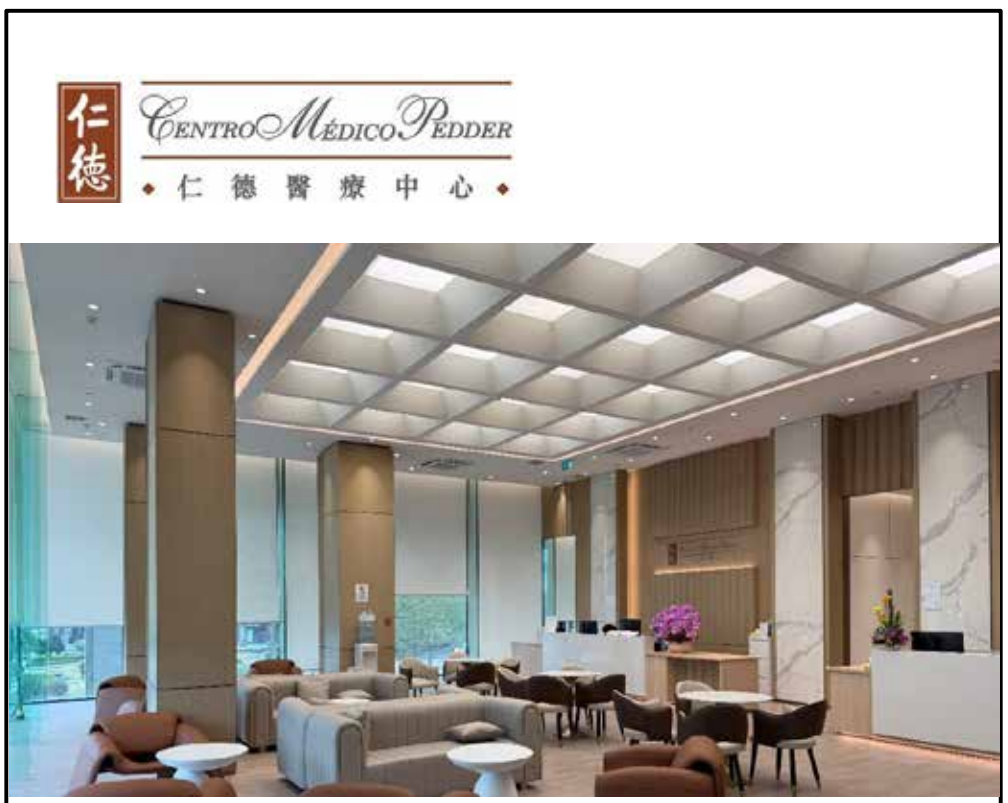
Byrne and Kebbell are terrific as a pair of savvy, veteran producers who can hardly believe the project they've hitched their wagon to, and yet they keep the faith.

Once the cameras are rolling, "I Play Rocky" slides more into nostalgic recreation. But you can still sense Farrelly's affection for moviemaking that follows instinct.

"I Play Rocky," an Amazon MGM Studios release in theaters Friday, is rated PG-13 for strong language, brief sexual material, and smoking. Running time: 128 minutes. ★★½☆

AD





General Surgery： Dr. Fok Manson, Dr. Lai Cheuck Seen Edward, Dr. Kwong Man, Dr. Nie Fu Zhong, Dr. U Chong San, Dr. Lei Chin Chong, Dr. Leong Iat Lun
Obstetrics & Gynaecology： Dr. Luo Yifan, Dr. Fong Kuan Io
Cardiology： Dr. Jin Chun, Dr. Leong Man Kin
Otorhinolaryngology, Head & Neck Surgery： Dr. Cheng Zheng Ang, Dr. Liu Shuiming, Dr. Luo Junji
Orthopaedics： Dr. Lam Kun Kuan
Plastic Surgery： Dr. Lam U Lin
Dermatology： Dr. Chan Pou San
Urology： Dr. Lo Kwong Yin, Dr. Zhao Yun Qiao
Paediatric Surgery： Dr. Yeung Chung Kwong
Paediatrics： Dr. Zhang Zhiqin
Ophthalmology： Dr. Lai Iat Fan
General Medicine： Dr. Ng Kam Hong, Dr. Lam Weng Chio
Psychology： Angela Desiree Yao
Dietitian： Chan Lai U

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Times
MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

tTUNES

Daddy Yankee's first concept album is a reggaeton love letter

FOUR years ago, Daddy Yankee told the world he was retiring.

It was a short-lived ride into the sunset for the reggaeton icon, who announced his groundbreaking, global arrival in 2004 on the 33-times platinum hit "Gasolina" with "Who's this? Da-ddy Yan-kee!"

One-off singles written and released after revealing he had embraced Christianity followed, as did his last album, 2025's devotional "Lamento en baile." Faith, it appeared, had become a central motivating force for the musical pioneer.

On Friday, he will release "La Postal," or "The Postcard" in English. It's another deviation, a 15-track concept album where each track is a spiritual love letter to love: romantic love, familial love, self-love, love of country and so on.

"La Postal" is not an overtly Christian album, like "Lamento en baile," but it avoids the salaciousness of some of his earlier work. The first taste arrived with "BOTZ (Besame Otra Vez)," a mainstream-friendly, hard-hitting romantic reggaeton song from the reggaeton pioneer. The explicit innuendo of early albums has given way to references to kissing in seven of the 15 tracks.

The album fully animates on "Rosa Live," written for his mother. The salsa number, recorded live with a full band, has all the immediacy and intimacy of a living room dance break. It, too, could be viewed as a love letter to Puerto Rican heritage music.

Admiration for his home island is everywhere, from the sound of coquís on "Ultimo Beso," where the frogs' song is woven into the intro, to collaborations with Boricua artists such as rapper Myke Towers on "Se Va" and rising singer-songwriter De La Rose on "ENAWO."

There are collaborations with Latin talents of all backgrounds, like Argentina's super-producer Bizarrap on "¿Pa' Qué Llorar?" and Cardi B for the sexy slow burn "Cosita." Working with different generations cements Yankee's position as a torchbearer of Latin music's continued global resonance.

But what happens when newer performers eclipse those who opened the door? For Yankee, the answer may lie in "Pokito," his collaboration with Indian American superstar Diljit Dosanjh. It's both a lead single and a complete outlier, Punjabi music that meets dembow a little over a minute into the song.

Daddy Yankee is famous for bringing regional music to the international stage. On "Pokito," he seems to be gesturing to the future, the one he always imagined: where a variance of cultures meet to dance.

MARIA SHERMAN, MDT/AP MUSIC WRITER

AP PHOTO



"La Postal" by Daddy Yankee (DY Records)

TASTE OF EDESIA

A fiery milestone: Feng Wei Ju's 20th anniversary tribute to Starworld Macau

IRENE SAM, MDT





TO celebrate the 20th anniversary of the iconic **Starworld Macau**, a special commemorative dinner was hosted at its crown jewel, Feng Wei Ju. Holding two Michelin stars, this esteemed restaurant is celebrated for its fiery yet refined take on Hunan and Sichuan cuisine. For this milestone occasion, the kitchen delivered a masterful "Michelin Appetizer" tasting menu that harmoniously blended regional spice with premium global ingredients, all perfectly paired with exceptional Chinese wines.

The evening began with a spectacular array of cold appetizers that teased the palate with vibrant flavors. Highlights included the Marinated Razor Clams with Peppercorns and Chili, which offered a sharp, numbing kick, and the Mantis Shrimps with Spicy Sesame, delivering a rich, nutty crunch. The "Shancheng" Chicken Fillets and Sliced Pork with Minced Garlic provided a classic, soulful warmth, while the Abalone with Mashed Peppers elevated the seafood experience. These bites were brilliantly washed down with a glass of Silver Height Bloom sparkling rice wine 2020, a unique and refreshing local pour from Ningxia.

Moving into the hot courses, the meal showcased the restaurant's signature flair for texture and aroma. The "Dalian" Superior Soup Dumpling was a delicate pillow of savory broth, while the Sautéed Lobster Balls with "Yunnan" Wild Matsutake was a triumph of luxury. The earthy, aromatic mushrooms cut perfectly through the rich, sweet meat of the lobster. This course was paired with a Puchang Vineyard dry muscat from Xinjiang 2018, whose floral notes lifted the dish beautifully.

The fiery heart of Sichuan cuisine arrived next with the Boiled Spotted Grouper Fillets in Chili Oil. The fish was flawlessly tender, swimming in a bold, crimson broth that demanded attention without overwhelming the palate. Following this, the kitchen pivoted to deep, comforting umami with Braised Sea Cucumber Stuffed with Minced Pork and Mushrooms. The Simmered Seasonal Vegetables with Wolfberries provided a necessary moment of green respite before the iconic "Rongcheng" Dan Dan Noodles—a staple of Sichuan dining that delivered a satisfying, spicy finish. A robust Tiansai Vineyards Marselan from Xinjiang 2019 stood up beautifully to these complex, robust flavors.

The dessert course provided a poetic conclusion. The Poached Pear and Peach Gum in Emperor Style was a silky, gently sweet finale, harmonizing perfectly with the seasonal Fruits Platter.

This anniversary dinner at Feng Wei Ju was more than just a meal; it was a testament to Starworld Macau's 20-year legacy of culinary excellence. By pairing the bold, uncompromising heat of Hunan and Sichuan with the emerging prestige of Chinese viticulture, Feng Wei Ju proved why it remains a beacon of fine dining in Macau.

MGM Macau hosts Bocuse d'Or Gala

MGM Macau recently hosted the exclusive "Silk Road Art Feast" as the official Bocuse d'Or Gala Dinner at its brand-new venue, Masion Liu Jin. The event offered a unique "eight-hand dining" experience, celebrating cultural exchange through culinary craftsmanship.

Inspired by the recent Silk Road Exhibition at the POLY MGM MUSEUM, the evening united four exceptional chefs from three cities: Executive Chef Homan Tsui and Executive Pastry Chef Neo Ng from Macau, Executive Sous Chef Yang Dengquan from Chengdu, and Chef de Cuisine Ye Hui representing Xi'an and Beijing. Through passion and a shared respect for heritage, the chefs presented a Silk Road–inspired menu, introducing global guests to the depth of China's art and culture through a memorable fusion of flavors. MGM extends its heartfelt thanks to all the chefs, guests, and partners who made this celebration of culture, connection, and culinary excellence a resounding success. **IS**



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Times

OPINION



World Views

Steven Sloan, MDT/AP

TRUMP HAS DEFIED POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES FOR YEARS. THE MIDTERMS CHANGED THAT

For more than a decade, Donald Trump defied the rules of politics that applied to everyone else.

Tuesday's elections changed that.

Voters categorically repudiated a president who imposed unilateral tariffs that undermined the economy and started a war that raised fuel prices and angered Americans opposed to another Middle East conflict. His outside investments and Washington renovations reinforced perceptions that he showed little empathy for people struggling financially.

Having survived scandals, impeachments and a criminal conviction, Trump approached the midterms as another hurdle he could clear through personality, insisting the economy was fine and war with Iran was necessary to avoid nuclear war.

This time, voters rejected his argument.

"This is close to an extinction-level event for Republicans in many parts of the country," outgoing Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis said Wednesday.

The results echoed 1974, when voters punished Republicans over Nixon-era scandals, and 1994, when Republican gains swept Democratic House Speaker Tom Foley from office.

"This is Watergate material," said Democrat Rahm Emanuel, a potential 2028 presidential candidate. "And the through line from Watergate to now is, breaking news, the American people hate corruption in public officials."

Democrats won Senate seats in Republican strongholds including South Carolina, Texas and Kansas. Keisha Lance Bottoms in Georgia and Gina Hinojosa in Texas posted dominant victories in governor's races where optimistic forecasts had suggested narrow wins.

James Talarico defeated Republican Ken Paxton to become the first Democrat to win a Texas Senate seat since 1988. Republican Rep. Chip Roy called the election a "perfect storm" for his party in Texas.

The scale of the victories could mark a profound political shift. Even Trump, who still refuses to accept his 2020 defeat, did not dispute these results.

Democrats, who will control both congressional chambers beginning in 2027, can claim a mandate to change Washington. Delivering will be harder while Trump retains veto power.

Still, he can no longer count on compliant Republican congressional leaders. Defeated members of his party may become more openly critical before leaving office.

Candidates Trump strongly backed, including Darline Graham, Michael Whatley and Paxton, lost. Young, Black and Latino voters who helped him win two years ago swung decisively toward Democrats.

Trump spent more than $250 million supporting Republican campaigns, supplemented by donors including Elon Musk. It was insufficient to prevent the losses.

Most Republicans accepted defeat. Wisconsin gubernatorial candidate Tom Tiffany, who objected to certification of the 2020 election, conceded to David Crowley. Trump said Democrats did a "good job" while blaming Republican candidates for losing.

The AP Voter Poll found roughly three-quarters of voters felt angry or dissatisfied with the country's direction. Among voters motivated by Trump, opponents outnumbered supporters about two to one. About six in 10 attributed unusually high prices more to his policies.

Democrats now face pressure to investigate Trump while delivering legislation on healthcare, prices and presidential power. Calls for impeachment could consume time needed for that agenda. Their victory puts the burden on them to show they can also govern effectively.

"We have to deliver for the American people on getting costs down," said Rep. Jared Moskowitz, a Florida Democrat. "That is the mandate" for Democrats on Capitol Hill.

Asked about presidential vetoes, he replied: "Let him do that. Let him still tell the American people affordability is a hoax." [Abridged]

BANK OF ENGLAND RAISES MAIN INTEREST RATE A QUARTER POINT TO 4% AS IRAN WAR STOKES INFLATION

THE BUZZ

The Bank of England raised interest rates for the first time in more than three years Thursday in a bid to tackle an inflation shock stoked by the Iran war.

The decision to lift the bank's main interest rate to 4% from 3.75% was widely expected given a recent surge in prices. All nine members of the Monetary Policy Committee voted for a hike, though one backed an even bigger increase to 4.25%.

The increase was the first since August 2023.

The pressure on the bank to act has grown steadily in recent months. When inflation hit an 11-month high of 3.5% in September — well above the bank's 2% target — it cemented market expectations of a rate hike this month, with potentially more to come in 2027.

The main cause behind the spike in inflation this year has been the sharp rise in fuel costs as a result of the Iran war and the ensuing bottlenecks in the Strait of Hormuz, which have squeezed global oil and gas supplies.

AP PHOTO



CRISTIANO RONALDO ANNOUNCES INTERNATIONAL RETIREMENT FROM PORTUGAL

TALES AZZONI, SPORTS WRITER

CRISTIANO Ronaldo won't play for Portugal anymore, ending on Thursday a career that spanned six World Cups and included a European title and the men's all-time international scoring record.

His announcement marked the end of a celebrated career that began more than two decades ago and finished with him leaving the national team after falling out with coach Jorge Jesus.

"To the Portuguese people, the day has come for me to hand back the No. 7 shirt of our national team," the 41-year-old Ronaldo said in a video message on social media.

"Today the time has come to pass it on to the future. It was not an easy decision because some decisions are not made with the mind alone. They are also made with the heart."

Ronaldo will continue playing at club level, which he is expected to finish at the end of this season with Al-Nassr in Saudi Arabia.

He is pursuing his 1,000th career goal and currently has 985, including a record 146 goals in 234 appearances for Portugal.

Ronaldo's final international appearance was on Sept. 24 in a 1-0 home victory over Wales in the Nations League. Jesus subsequently kept him on the bench and said he did not plan to start him in the following match, prompting Ronaldo to leave the training camp.

The Portuguese soccer federation expressed "deep gratitude and immense admiration" for Ronaldo's service.

"Cristiano Ronaldo has raised Portugal's profile and inspired generations of young people who dream of following in his footsteps; for many of us, he is the greatest player of all time!" the federation said.

It announced plans for a national tribute to the player.

Before Ronaldo made his international debut against Kazakhstan in 2003, replacing Luís Figo, Portugal had never won a major trophy.

With Ronaldo leading successive generations of talented players, Portugal won Euro 2016 and the Nations League in 2019 and 2025.

"Throughout my entire career with the national team, I always pushed myself beyond my limits," Ronaldo said. "I wanted to win. I wanted to be better. I wanted to make history."

Portugal had qualified for only three World Cups before Ronaldo's arrival, in 1966, 1986 and 2002. It subsequently qualified for every tournament during his international career.

Portugal also became a regular European Championship contender, finishing runner-up to Greece at Euro 2004 before winning the competition 12 years later.

Ronaldo's World Cup career included a fourth-place finish in 2006 and a quarterfinal appearance in 2022.

He became the first man to score in six World Cups, finishing with 11 goals, surpassing Eusébio's previous Portuguese record of nine.

His international records include 234 appearances, 146 goals and scoring for Portugal in 23 consecutive calendar years. He also holds European Championship records for appearances, with 30, and goals, with 14.

"There were victories I will never forget. There were defeats that still hurt to remember," Ronaldo said.

His farewell video featured highlights of his international career and footage of Portuguese supporters.

"Today I realise that my greatest victory was earning the honor of representing the best country in the world," Ronaldo said.

"The No. 7 shirt will remain. The pride of having worn it will be mine forever." **MDT/AP**

AP PHOTO



French unions launched nationwide strikes yesterday demanding higher wages and supporting student protests, disrupting schools and transportation. About 260 demonstrations were planned amid soaring living costs and mounting pressure on President Emmanuel Macron's government. Authorities deployed 70,000 police officers.

AP PHOTO



Germany Hubert Aiwanger, Bavaria's deputy governor and leader of the conservative Free Voters party, was found dead Wednesday evening (yesterday, Macau time) in a Berlin hotel. Authorities opened an investigation into the 55-year-old politician's death. Aiwanger had led his party nationally since 2010.

Iran University students face expulsions, suspensions and intimidation as authorities intensify disciplinary action against campus dissent. Scores have faced hearings over anti-government protests, with some reporting threats and harassment. The crackdown follows January's mass demonstrations and the subsequent U.S.-Israeli war.

AP PHOTO



Congo A British man infected with Ebola in Congo is being evacuated to London for specialized treatment, officials said yesterday. The patient, believed to be a healthcare worker, will receive care at Royal Free Hospital. Authorities said public infection risks remain low.

AP PHOTO



Kenya Three additional bodies were recovered yesterday from a collapsed 18-story building in Nairobi, raising the confirmed death toll to five. Sixteen people remain missing. Authorities said the building lacked construction approval, while investigators questioned its developer without making arrests.