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FOUNDER & PUBLISHER Kowie Geldenhuys
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho
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" THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

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NEARLY 30,000 SQUARE METERS OF LAND ACROSS ABOUT 15 PARCELS WILL BE CONVERTED INTO TEMPORARY PUBLIC FACILITIES THIS YEAR
P6

GRAND PRIX ROAD CLOSURES TO DISRUPT 51 BUS ROUTES
P3

SOUTHEAST ASIAN LEADERS OPENED THEIR ANNUAL SUMMIT IN MANILA, WITH ONLINE SCAMS HIGH ON THE AGENDA DURING THREE DAYS OF TALKS
P8

SWEET DECEPTION

About one in 14 residents has diabetes, while three in 10 people with the condition are unaware of it, SSM survey finds
P4



AP PHOTO



India With the United Nations climate talks underway, India has set an ambitious goal of installing enough clean power to supply more than 1 billion homes by 2035, and has approved nearly $20 billion in power grid upgrades to ease bottlenecks that prevent some solar and wind energy from reaching consumers.

AP PHOTO



Congo Six months after an Ebola outbreak was declared, the disease remains uncontrolled, with more than 11,000 cases and nearly half of those infected dead. It is Congo's deadliest outbreak among 17 recorded and could surpass the 11,000 deaths in West Africa's 2014-16 outbreak.

AP PHOTO



Peru Pope Leo XIV on Saturday denounced the "suffering and humiliation" endured by African enslaved people as he made a tangible show of remorse in Peru following his historic apology for the Holy See's own role in legitimizing the African slave trade in the Americas.

AP PHOTO



Cape Verde could elect its first woman president as former Justice Minister Joana Rosa challenges incumbent José Maria Neves, who is seeking a second term. Six candidates are competing, with a runoff scheduled for Nov. 29 if no candidate receives more than half the votes.

More on backpage

ON THE ROAD TO GP

Grand Prix opens with citywide cultural festival
P3

CARE WITHOUT BORDERS

Gov't launches cross-border elderly care pilot with 50 places in Zhuhai
P4

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

STRICTLY UPHOLDING THE BOTTOM LINE OF THE RULE OF LAW AND SAFEGUARDING ITS CORE VALUES

LEONEL ALBERTO ALVES*

RECENTLY, the Primary Court of the Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) convicted Au Kam San in accordance with the law on three counts of offences, including 'subversion of state power', and sentenced him to 12 years and six months' imprisonment.

We note that throughout the legal proceedings, as the defendant did not retain a lawyer of his own choosing, the SAR court appointed a defense lawyer for him in accordance with the law; the court-appointed counsel, who was accepted and recognized by the defendant, maintained close communication and contact with him to conduct his defense, and the defendant also fully exercised his right of defense in accordance with the law.

Furthermore, the court approved applications for regular family visits to the defendant in accordance with the law. This series of arrangements fully demonstrates the fairness and impartiality of the judicial proceedings.

Punishing acts that endanger national security in accordance with the law is an essential requirement for strictly upholding the bottom line of the rule of law and safeguarding its core values. The SAR court's lawful verdict in Macao's first national security case is of great significance for the SAR in earnestly fulfilling its constitutional responsibility to safeguard national security and in maintaining Macao's long-term prosperity and stability. The legal system of the Macao SAR has always upheld the



principle of protecting human rights, and the rights and freedoms enjoyed by residents under the law are better realized in a safe and stable environment.

Preventing, suppressing, and punishing criminal acts that endanger national security in accordance with the law serves not only to safeguard national sovereignty, security, and development interests, but also to better protect the safety, fundamental rights, and freedoms of Macao residents and other persons in Macao.

All Macao residents and people from all walks of life who abide by the law, refrain from engaging in activities that endanger national security, such as acts of separatism or colluding with external forces, and carry out normal economic and trade cooperation, academic exchanges, and people-to-people interactions have no need to worry about breaching the national security law. Certain overseas organizations and individuals have made irresponsible remarks regarding the verdict, which constitutes unwarranted interference in the SAR judiciary's independent exercise of its functions and duties in accordance with the law. We express our strong indignation and firm opposition to this.

Together with all sectors of society, we will actively publicize and promote the Constitution, the Basic Law of the Macao SAR, and the Law on Safeguarding National Security. We will also continuously enhance Macao residents' awareness of the rule of law, support the Macao SAR as always in fulfilling its constitutional responsibility to safeguard national security, fully and accurately implement the Law on Safeguarding National Security, and resolutely safeguard national sovereignty, security, and development interests.

***Member of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and president of the General Assembly of the Council of Macanese Communities**

Editor's Note: The views expressed in this article are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect those of Macau Daily Times.

Strictly adhering to statutory procedures; Safeguarding national security interests

JIANG CHAOYANG*

SINCE the first case applying the Law on Safeguarding National Security in the Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) entered judicial proceedings, it has drawn close attention across all sectors of society. The case represents a complete judicial process following Macao's local legislation implementing Article 23 of the Basic Law in 2009 and the amendment of the national security law in 2023, demonstrating the SAR's efforts in safeguarding national security in strict accordance with statutory procedures.

The press release issued by the SAR Court clearly shows that the entire proceedings of this case have been carried out strictly within the legal framework. From investigation, evidence collection, interrogation, and case transfer, to applying for pre-trial detention and scheduling court hearings, every step was handled pursuant to the provisions of Macao's Law on Safeguarding National Security, the Criminal Procedure Code, and the Framework Law on the Judicial Organization.



Only after the Public Prosecutions Office assessed the evidence and determined the existence of indications of criminal conduct did it apply to the Criminal Court for pre-trial detention; the court, taking into account the case circumstances and evidence, made its decision in accordance with the law, neither bypassing statutory procedures nor overstepping statutory authority.

Many residents may wonder: given the special nature of national security cases, might there be omissions in the trial procedures? Judging from the handling of this case, the answer is negative.

The judicial authorities of Macao tried this case independently in accordance with the law, adhering to procedural justice throughout and fully safeguarding the lawful procedural rights of the defendant and other litigation participants. The defendant and the individuals involved were assisted by the defense lawyer and the defendant fully exercised his right to defense. The trial was conducted based on evidence, and both prosecution and defense were able to present their arguments as permitted by law. Even though the case concerned national security, the trial proceedings continued to follow Macao's longstanding rules of criminal procedure.

Macao's Law on Safeguarding National Security is local legislation enacted by the SAR on its own pursuant to Article 23 of the Basic Law, and its institutional framework differs from national security laws elsewhere. This is the first case tried under the national security law to have completed the entire judicial process of investigation, prosecution, and trial, serving as an important reference for the handling of similar cases in the future.

At the same time, the public also needs to understand that, pursuant to statutory provisions, trial contents and case dossiers in national security cases are subject to legal confidentiality arrangements and will not be disclosed in their entirety.

This is by no means an evasion of public scrutiny, but rather a balance struck at the legal level: on the one hand, preventing the leakage of sensitive information to avert harm to national security interests; on the other hand, confidentiality arrangements do not deprive the parties of their statutory litigation rights, and the trial and adjudication of the case remain grounded upon law and evidence.

This case offers a clear takeaway for society: safeguarding national security and protecting the lawful rights of residents are not mutually antagonistic. Combating acts that endanger national security is not merely about imposing severe punishment; rather, it takes the law as the sole yardstick and strictly handles cases according to due process. Throughout this case, Macao's judicial authorities shouldered their responsibility to safeguard national security while upholding procedural justice, handling the matter with prudence, restraint, professionalism, and dedication.

The rule of law in national security is never an empty slogan, but is realized in every interrogation, every court hearing, and every protection of rights. Firmly adhering to statutory procedures safeguards the rights and interests of the parties involved while continuously consolidating the foundation of the rule of law in Macao.

***Professor at the Faculty of Law, University of Macau; director of the Centre for Constitutional Law and Basic Law Studies**

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MacauDaily 澳門每日時報 Times
DIRECTOR & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF_Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com
MANAGING EDITOR_Lynzy Valles
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS_Leanda Lee, Severo Portela, Sheyla Zandonai
NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS_Albano Martins, Grace Yu, Irene Sam, Ivo Carneiro de Sousa, Jenny Lao-Phillips, João Palla Martins, Jorge Costa Oliveira, Joseph Cheung, Juliet Risdon, Nadia Shaw, Paulo Cordeiro de Sousa, Renato Marques (Senior Reporter), Ricaela Diputado, Richard Whitfield, Sérgio de Almeida Correia, Viviana Seguí, Yuki Lei DESIGNER_Melissandre Denize | ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS_JML Property, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars, Ruan Du Toit Bester | NEWS AGENCIES_ Associated Press, MacauHub, MacaoNews, Xinhua SECRETARY_Yang Dongxiao amy@macaudailytimes.com
A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION
ADMINISTRATOR & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com
OFFICE MANAGER Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com
ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR Telephones: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84
Advertisement advertising@macaudailytimes.com
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general@macaudailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd
SEND NEWSWORTHY INFORMATION AND PRESS RELEASES TO: NEWSROOM@MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM WEBSITE: WWW.MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM.MO

RENATO MARQUES



ON THE ROAD TO GP

Grand Prix opens with citywide cultural festival

RENATO MARQUES

THE 73rd edition of the Macau Grand Prix (GP) officially opened with a ceremony at Tap Seac Square on Saturday afternoon.

In her opening speech, Cultural Affairs and Sports Bureau (DSCD) president Deland Leong said this year's GP opening ceremony also marked the launch of the new Macao City Culture Festival, an "initiative by the Macau government to create synergy between sports and culture."

Leong added: "By extending the festival activities into our neighborhoods and the historic center of Macau, the event actually blends the modern excitement of motorsport with the city's rich cultural heritage to boost tourism and support Macau's economic diversification."

She also invited local residents and visitors to enjoy the weeklong festivities, while thanking sponsors, government departments, the community and the media for their support.

The Macao City Culture Festival, which runs through Nov. 22, the final day of the Grand Prix, features a series of cultural interactions and experiences designed to help those attending or participating in the GP learn more about Macau, its cultural identity and development priorities.

According to the DSCD, "The festival will promote Macau's valuable cultural resources that represent 'China's First.' Drawing on the city's World Heritage and Intangible Cultural Heritage, it will highlight Macau's distinctive character as a meeting point of Chinese and Western civilizations, unveiling the captivating depth and brilliance of Macau's cultural legacy."

Among the festival's attractions is the transformation of the Macau Forum into a "Time Square," featuring events and exhibitions under the theme "Echoes of the City, Harmony between East and West."

The same venue will also host a themed exhibition titled "Macau and the Encounter of Chinese and Western Civilizations," cultural experiences, intangible cultural heritage performances and stalls featuring creative products.

The festival will also extend to other locations around the Grand Prix circuit, featuring the "Macau Historic Center Open Day" at heritage sites including the Sir Robert Ho Tung Library, Mandarin's House, Senado Library and Guia Lighthouse, along with other activities and guided tours.

The program also includes a concert by the Macau Chinese Orchestra, which will take place in front of the Ruins of St. Paul's.

CAR AND MOTORCYCLE DISPLAYS DRAW CROWDS

As usual, the GP opening ceremony also featured a display at Tap Seac Square of cars and motorcycles set to compete in the races beginning Thursday.

The two-day display, held Saturday and Sunday, attracted many visitors, who also took the opportunity to interact with some of the racers at the venue on Saturday afternoon.

On display were Theodore Racing's FIA FR World Cup race car, to be driven by Kean Nakamura-Berta, along with several FIA GT World Cup cars and the motorcycles that will compete in the 58th Macau Motorcycle GP.

During the week, the square also hosted a booth selling official Grand Prix merchandise.

TRAFFIC

Grand Prix road closures to disrupt 51 bus routes

NADIA SHAW



LOCAL authorities announced that road closures for the 73rd Macau Grand Prix will affect 51 bus routes over the four-day racing event from Nov. 19 to 22, potentially disrupting key connections between the peninsula's northern and central districts.

Speaking at a traffic briefing on Friday, Mak Hou Kit, head of the Transport Bureau's (DSAT) Coordination Division, said traffic between northern Macau and the central and southern districts would be concentrated around Avenida Dr. Rodrigo Rodrigues.

Disruptions are expected to be greatest on the opening day as commuters adjust to the closures, he added.

During the Grand Prix period, Mak advised residents to use public transportation and other environmentally friendly travel options. He also said bus routes 2AS and H2 would be suspended, while routes 12T and 31T would operate between Praça Ferreira do Amaral and a temporary stop.

Organizers said 162 sets of movable crash barriers and gates were being deployed along the 6.2-kilometer circuit. Some openings have been widened from six to eight meters to improve traffic flow outside racing hours.

"The entire track is over 6 kilometers long, which means that during the track closure, there will be an additional 2,500 private cars on other roads in the city. Before and after the Grand Prix, the traffic congestion time will be extended by about an hour."

"According to this year's vehicle growth data, there has been an increase of 2,600 private cars compared to last year, indicating that the traffic pressure is greater than in previous years," said Wong Chi Wang, director of the Public Security Police's (PSP) Traffic Department.

Barrier and gate installation will begin Nov. 14, with further work scheduled from Nov. 16 to 18. Removal is expected to begin the evening of Nov. 22, after racing concludes.

Grand Prix organizing committee coordinator Lei Si Leng said the circuit undergoes an annual safety review, with departments working together to improve protective measures and infrastructure. She acknowledged that road closures would affect residents and said traffic information would be released through local media and other channels.

Some construction projects, including work on the A3 connecting bridge, will pause during the event. However, longer-running projects will continue, including the Avenida do Norte elevated walkway, Light Rail East Line works and sewer projects in the Almirante Lacerda area.

Separately, the Macao Union Medical Center announced Friday that its temporary shuttle service linking the facility with Conde de São Januário General Hospital (CHCSJ) would have a different pickup point on Nov. 19, 20 and 21.

"During this period, the pick-up point originally at CHCSJ will be relocated to the area in front of the entrance of China Dragon Hotel on Avenida da Praia Grande," the center said. "The schedule remains unchanged."

The adjustment at the hospital covers three of the four race days.

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Times
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HEALTH

1 IN 14 RESIDENTS HAS DIABETES, SSM SURVEY FINDS

NADIA SHAW



NADIA SHAW

AHEAD of World Diabetes Day on Nov. 14, the Health Bureau (SSM) has urged residents to seek earlier testing, warning that previous SSM surveys indicated that about one in 14 residents had diabetes and three in 10 people with the condition were unaware of it.

Speaking at a press conference on diabetes prevention Friday, Wong Chi Leong, deputy head of the Health Promotion Division of the bureau's Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC), said previous health surveys suggested that one in every 14 Macau residents had diabetes, adding that updated figures were being prepared.

"Early detection and early treatment of diabetes are very important," he said.

Wong also said the bureau had organized weekend community advice stations at 12 locations across Macau, including an additional station at Hengqin's Macau New Neighborhood.

Residents aged 40 and above were urged to have their blood glucose checked at least once every three years. Local health centers provide professional assessments and treatment for those found to have elevated blood sugar levels.

Asked whether diabetes was increasingly affecting younger people, Wong said doctors encountered younger patients, but further analysis was needed before confirming a trend.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), more than 40% of people living with diabetes globally remain undiagnosed, potentially delaying access to treatment and support.

Wong identified obesity, insufficient exercise, excessive refined carbohydrate consumption and genetic factors as contributors to diabetes risk. He encouraged residents to eat balanced meals, choose higher-fiber foods and engage in regular aerobic and strength-building activities.

"Adults should consume no more than 50 grams of added sugar a day, equivalent to approximately 10 sugar cubes. We therefore recommend using fewer sugary sauces and condiments, such as honey-based sauces, barbecue sauce and ketchup."

Wong also advised residents to "eat fewer high-sugar foods and drinks, including desserts, made-to-order drinks and instant coffee."

Traditional Chinese medicine practitioner Dr. Tam Chit U warned that homemade soups could contain more sugar than residents expected, especially when prepared with sweetened ingredients such as red dates and candied dates.

She said people who had cut out fizzy drinks, cakes and desserts could still have high blood glucose readings because of ingredients added during cooking.

"Many residents with high blood glucose or diabetes are already very disciplined. They have stopped drinking soft drinks and eating cakes and desserts."

She explained: "Yet when they have blood tests or check their blood glucose, they still find that their post-meal readings are high."

"Often, they do not expect the problem to come not from food bought outside, but from soup prepared at home," she said.

Tam explained that sugar in soup ingredients could dissolve into the liquid during cooking.

"Red dates can contain as much as 60% to 70% sugar. Candied dates have undergone additional processing with sugar and contain even more sugar than red dates," she said.

"During cooking, the sugar in the dates gradually dissolves into the soup. If you drink the soup and also eat the dates left in it, your blood glucose may rise rapidly within a short time."

She also cautioned against assuming that ingredients used in traditional Chinese medicine were automatically harmless to blood glucose.

Chinese yam and goji berries, she said, could be used in moderation for dietary support but should not be treated as medicine.

Prolonged high blood glucose levels can damage the eyes, kidneys and nerves, while increasing the risk of cardiovascular complications, including heart attacks and strokes, said Dr. Tam Kuok Wa, an attending physician in internal medicine.

"If diabetes is not well controlled, persistently elevated blood glucose causes chronic damage to blood vessel walls," he said.

He added that many patients initially had no symptoms, making screening important even when residents felt well.

SOCIETY

Gov't launches cross-border elderly care pilot with 50 places in Zhuhai

YUKI LEI

MACAU has launched a cross-border elderly care pilot scheme offering up to 50 places for seniors in a Zhuhai care home, with priority given to those who have waited the longest on the subsidized residential care waiting list.

The Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) announced the scheme at a press conference on Friday, alongside a new Macao One Account information zone for its 15-minute community elderly service circle.

Under the plan, developed with the Department of Civil Affairs of Guangdong Province and the Zhuhai Civil Affairs Bureau, the first phase will use Jinwan Yiyang Yuan in Zhuhai's Jinwan district as a pilot home.

Bureau director Wilson Hon said that as integration within the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area deepens, more elderly residents are asking whether they can retire across the border.

"We hope to give seniors one more choice and gain experience for cross-border elderly care services," he said.

About 1,800 seniors are currently waiting for subsidized residential places in Macau. The bureau will contact those on the central waiting list in order, by phone, to gauge their willingness and coordinate arrangements.

Applicants must be aged 65 or above and hold a valid Macau identity card, a Home



Return Permit, a Zhuhai residence permit and Zhuhai medical insurance. They must already be included in the central assessment and referral mechanism for long-term care, be waiting for a subsidized place and have been assessed by the bureau as suitable for residential care.

Each eligible resident will receive a monthly subsidy of RMB5,000, covering a bed in a twin room, meals, health monitoring, medication management, emergency call services and 24-hour nursing care.

Kan Kit Leng, head of the bureau's elderly services department, said each resident would have an independent bed in a twin room, with facilities including a private balcony, accessible bathroom, age-friendly furniture and an emergency call system.

Hon said the bureau would regularly review the process and services and gather feedback from participants on their new environment.

"The assessment will affect how we continue to develop this," he said.

The Macao One Account platform also launched a "15-minute community elderly service circle" information zone on Friday. The pilot, based in Seac Pai Van, brings together social service and health information through an electronic map, activity registration, assistive equipment rental applications and smart check-in, focusing on facilities within a 15-minute walk.

The bureau also said its registration project for elderly residents living alone or in two-person households, launched in September last year, has collected data on about 30,000 seniors. The census questionnaire is now fully digitized, allowing residents to register or update their details through Macao One Account at any time.

Hon said the bureau would monitor the cross-border scheme's results, maintain communication with mainland authorities and apply lessons from the Seac Pai Van pilot as it expands community services.

Macau was classified as a moderately aging society, with more than 100,000 residents aged 65 or above at the end of 2024, accounting for about 14.6% of the population, according to official figures. The elderly population has exceeded the number of children aged 0 to 14 for a second consecutive year, with the aging index rising to 116.

Births fell to 3,607 in 2024, equivalent to a birth rate of 5.3 per 1,000 people. By 2036, residents aged 65 and above are projected to make up more than 20% of the population, possibly reaching 23.7%, which would place Macau in the "super-aged" category.

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Times
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(TRANSLATED VERSION)

Review of the Macao Special Administrative Region Government's Work in 2026

In 2026, under the strong leadership of the central authorities, the Macao Special Administrative Region ("MSAR") Government united and led all sectors of society, upheld and perfected the executive-led system, proactively aligned with national development strategies, scientifically formulated and implemented the MSAR's "Third Five-Year Plan", advanced the construction of the four major projects, deepened Macao's development as "One Centre, One Platform, One Base" and "One High Ground", coordinated efforts to stabilise the economic recovery, promote appropriate economic diversification, safeguard employment and improve people's livelihoods, made efforts to promote high-quality development in all areas, and achieved a favourable situation characterised by overall stable and steady progress in economic and social development.

Review of the Government's Major Work in 2026

Fortifying the defence of national security and steadily enhancing effectiveness of administrative governance

- Firmly implemented the holistic approach to national security;
- Achieved steady progress in building a safe city;
- Introduced Chinese-style foot drill for the first time;
- Continued deepening patriotic education;
- Completed the restructuring of 18 departments and seven consultative bodies;
- Completed legislation on Consolidation of the Financial Resources of the Pension Fund;
- Established a new mechanism for handling public feedback;
- Continued promoting the development of e-government;
- Maintained constructive interactions and efficient cooperation between the executive and legislative systems;
- Completed the formulation of 15 laws and promulgated 35 administrative regulations;
- Advanced the legislative process for the Legal Regime for Associations in an orderly manner; and
- Effectively strengthened anti-corruption, auditing and supervision work.







Effectively optimising people's livelihoods and wellbeing, and progressively enhancing the sense of satisfaction among all walks of life

- Implemented targeted measures to benefit residents and enterprises;
- Perfected the employment support system for residents;
- Leveraged the role of the Employment Promotion Coordination Working Group and assisted over 8,535 job placements in total;
- Completed amendments to the Labour Relations Law and introduced a regular maternity leave renumeration subsidy system;
- Increased the amounts of unemployment, sickness, marriage and funeral allowances and the special subsidy for disadvantaged families;
- Increased the amount of the Carers Allowance and lowered the eligibility threshold;
- Actively addressed the declining birth rate and ageing population;
- Enhanced healthcare standards;
- Optimised the supply and allocation of public housing;
- Strengthened the development of education;
- Promoted both the attraction and cultivation of talent;
- Supported youth development; and
- Promoted the development of culture and sports.





Achieving steady overall economic recovery and sustainable progress in appropriate economic diversification

- Fully implemented the Public Procurement Law and its supporting regulations;
- Processed and concluded follow-up services for 189 investment projects via the "Investor's One-Stop Service" platform;
- The Government Guidance Fund officially launched and commenced operations;
- Promoted the high-quality development of the integrated tourism and leisure industry;
- Accelerated the development of the Traditional Chinese Medicine and Big Health industry;
- Promoted the development of specialised financial services;
- Cultivated high-tech industries;
- Promoted the development of the MICE, commerce and trade, and cultural and sports industries;
- Promoted the development of digital economy and supported the transformation and upgrading of traditional industries;
- Launched the 2026 Community Consumption Grand Rewards Scheme and the Community Spending Rewards Scheme; and
- Launched the "Three-Tier Support Programme" and the "Digital Support Services for SMEs 2026".

Accelerating urban renewal and building a beautiful, smart, and livable city

- Established the Leading Group for the Promotion of Urban Renewal;
- Advanced the renewal and revitalisation of Pátio do Espinho through a special task force;
- Revised and improved the urban master plan;
- Completed the temporary use of 15 plots of land in an orderly manner;
- Continued improving traffic conditions;
- Optimised the overall layout of the LRT network;
- Completed legislative work on the use of maritime areas;
- Completed compiling the Macao Environmental Protection Plan (2026-2030); and
- Expanded diverse recreational spaces.

Leveraging Macao's advantages of internal connectivity and external links to integrate into and serve the overall national development

- Successfully visited four European countries, three Southeast Asian countries and relevant international organisations through the innovative "shared voyage" model;
- Successfully hosted the 13th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Tourism Ministerial Meeting;
- Promoted high-quality development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area;
- Strengthened exchanges and cooperation with provinces and cities of the Chinese mainland;
- Better leveraged and expanded the functions of Macao's platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries;
- Actively participated in the joint development of the "Belt and Road" initiative;
- Continued enriching the connotation of "One Base";
- Successfully held the 2nd International Forum on Mutual Learning among Civilizations and related events; and
- Successfully held the 19th A-Ma Cultural and Tourism Festival of Macao.





Strengthening overall coordination between Macao and Hengqin and accelerating the advancement of the second phase development

- Proactively expedited the completion of the Executive Committee's institutional reform;
- Established a Macao-Hengqin legislative working team and deepened "soft" institutional connectivity;
- Enhanced smart and convenient clearance and improved "hard" infrastructure connectivity;
- Completed the first phase of the Hengqin-Macao Innovation Industrial Park and promoted industrial synergy between Macao and Hengqin; and
- Collaboratively introduced eight dedicated internship schemes for Macao youth and strengthened the integration of public livelihood services.

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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

21 MORE SCHOOL AND NURSERY ENTRANCES DESIGNATED SMOKE-FREE

21 more school and nursery entrances will be designated as smoke-free areas from Monday, bringing the total to 37 across Macau, following the introduction of 16 such areas last year. The Health Bureau (SSM) said the designation was agreed upon with the Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ), the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) and the schools and nurseries concerned. The Public Works Bureau (DSOP) has marked white boundary lines and no-smoking symbols on the ground on both sides of the entrances. Statutory no-smoking signs will also be displayed in prominent locations. Smoking in the designated areas carries a MOP1,500 fine.

DSAL, GALAXY TO OPEN TRAINING PROGRAM APPLICATIONS MONDAY

The Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) and Galaxy Entertainment Group will open online applications on Nov. 16 for a new employment and training program offering eight positions in information technology and facilities management. Successful applicants will receive 12 or 18 months of professional training and workplace experience, alongside courses in English, computer skills, equipment management and occupational safety. Applications will remain open until Nov. 25, with eligible candidates invited to a briefing and interviews on Nov. 27. Further details are available on the DSAL website.

URBAN PLANNING

39 LAND PARCELS EARMARKED FOR TEMPORARY PUBLIC FACILITIES

YUKI LEI



NEARLY 30,000 square meters of land across about 15 parcels will be converted into temporary public facilities this year as part of a broader effort to put idle government land to use while longer-term development plans take shape.

12 temporary facilities have already been completed on land drawn from the 39 parcels released for temporary use, with seven more expected to be completed between the end of this year and early next year, officials said on public broadcaster TDM's radio program Friday.

The completed facilities include temporary outdoor car parks on Rua da Cordoaria in Coloane and Rua de Entre-Campos in Macau, a supercharging station for light and heavy vehicles on Rua da Patinagem in Cotai, and a temporary sports ground at Nam Van Lake Lot C8. Most are already open to the public. The remaining parcels are at the preparatory, tendering or pending construction stages.

Land and Urban Construction Bureau (DSSCU) director Lai Weng Leong said the government was adopting a dual approach, with planned development guided by the master plan supplemented by temporary uses that can respond flexibly to residents' needs for amenities and open space.

Responding to a listener's question about a planned temporary car park on Estrada do Canal dos Patos, Lai said the government would continue listening to residents' views.

"The road network in Ilha Verde needs restructuring, and before conditions are mature we use the land for temporary purposes - and temporary uses can be adjusted dynamically," he said.

Public Works Bureau (DSOP) acting director Sam Weng Chon said construction of the Avenida do Nordeste elevated walkway was progressing well and the facility would open in phases. The section connecting Areia Preta Seaside Park to the elderly apartments is expected to open around the end of this year.

"The steel structure beams are all installed, and we are now working on internal fittings and paving, with completion expected in the second quarter of 2027 as planned," he said.



GAMING

Moody's cuts SJM rating as debt and refinancing risks mount

NADIA SHAW

MOODY'S Ratings downgraded SJM Holdings on Thursday, citing "very high leverage" and warning that significant refinancing needs over the next two years could weaken its liquidity.

The ratings agency lowered SJM's corporate family rating to B2 from B1, pushing it further below investment grade, and changed its outlook to negative from stable.

In addition, ratings on SJM-guaranteed bonds issued by Champion Path Holdings and SJM International were cut to B3 from B2.

"The downgrade reflects SJM Holdings' very high leverage, mainly driven by weak earnings amid a moderating gross gaming revenue (GGR) growth environment in Macau," said Stephanie Lau, a Moody's senior vice president.

The decision follows SJM's return to a quarterly loss.

On Nov. 5, the company reported a HKD397 million loss for the three months ended Sept. 30, compared with a HKD9 million profit a year earlier. Adjusted EBITDA fell 20% to HKD705 million, although margins improved by 0.8 percentage points to 13.3%.

Moody's states it expects SJM's adjusted debt relative to earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization to rise to 9.9 times in 2026 from 9.0 times in 2025.

It also forecasts a recovery to around 9.0 times in 2027 and 8.3 times in 2028.

However, that trajectory depends on earnings recovery and debt reduction. The agency expects Macau's industry gaming revenue to decline slightly in 2026 and remain broadly flat in 2027, limiting visibility over SJM's ability to bring leverage toward or below the 8.5-times threshold required for its B2 rating.

On liquidity, Moody's said unrestricted cash of HKD2.3 billion at June 30, combined with operating cash flow, would not cover expected capital spending and debt maturities over the following 12 to 18 months.

Obligations include bank loans, HKD1.9 billion in convertible bonds that investors can require SJM to repay in June 2027, and USD500 million in senior notes due in January 2028.

TELECOM BILL SETS 15-YEAR NETWORK LICENSES, EIGHS-YEAR SERVICE LICENSES

YUKI LEI

COMPANIES operating public telecommunications networks in Macau would hold licenses for up to 15 years, while service providers would hold licenses for up to eight years, with both types of licenses renewable, under a bill under committee scrutiny.

The Legislative Assembly's Third Standing Committee continued its detailed discussion of the Telecommunications Bill on Friday, with Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raymond Tam attending.

The bill proposes two types of licenses, neither with a minimum term, leaving the government to determine the appropriate duration for each license. Applicants must be companies incorporated in Macau, and a single company may hold both types of licenses. Licenses may not be transferred without prior approval from the Chief Executive, and holders wishing to surrender a license must apply at least a year in advance.

Committee chairman Leong Sun Iok said the government and committee had completed a preliminary discussion of all articles. The bill provides for a six-month transition period before the law takes effect. Existing licensees may choose whether to transition, applying within 90 days of the law taking effect, and must continue providing their existing services for at least two years if granted new licenses.

The current public telecommunications service concession and the pay-TV terrestrial service concession both expire on September 30 next year. The companies concerned may submit written declarations within 90 days to continue operating.

The bill prohibits anti-competitive conduct but allows exceptions where justified by technological innovation or the public interest. The bureau may impose obligations on companies with "significant market power." It also provides for four categories of universal services: basic voice and emergency calls, directory services, public payphones and internet access.

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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

ANALYSIS

The Nvidia scandal is heightening America's AI rivalry with China ahead of Trump's visit

CHAN HO-HIM, HONG KONG

AP PHOTO



China's President Xi Jinping, right, and U.S. President Donald Trump visit the Temple of Heaven in Beijing, May 14, 2026

WELL before reports emerged that former Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang was having an affair with a suspected Chinese spy, the advanced chips made by his company were at the center of the race between the U.S. and China to dominate artificial intelligence.

The scandal now threatens to intensify that rivalry.

As President Donald Trump prepares to meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping next week in China, lawmakers on both sides of the aisle in Congress are seizing on the affair to press for tighter restrictions on technology exports to protect America's edge.

"The scandal, in many ways, encapsulates the rivalry, where concerns around national security, export control, and foreign policy get intertwined," said Lian Jye Su, a chief analyst at London-based technology research and advisory group Omdia.

At the heart of the competition to build the most advanced artificial intelligence is the race to access the most powerful AI chips. U.S.-led restrictions have barred China from getting the world's most advanced AI chips, a strategy that has led Beijing to accuse the U.S. of pursuing an AI monopoly.

Once commanding some 95% of market share in China, Nvidia's sales to China have plummeted due to the export restrictions, first applied during the Biden administration. After Huang lobbied Washington to loosen the limits on sales of Nvidia chips to China, Trump earlier this year greenlighted the export of its highly-advanced, though not the most powerful, H200 chips.

Trump has spoken admiringly of Huang — a man at the center of the AI boom Trump has been keen to promote — and the two have talked regularly during his second term, including at least twice this week as the scandal grew around the tech executive.

SUPPORTERS OF STRONGER EXPORT CONTROLS HAVE A NEW RALLYING CRY

The strategy in Washington has been largely focused on hardware, with officials believing if they controlled where California-based Nvidia's best chips go, they'd be in control of the race for the most capable AI, said Shaoyu Yuan, an assistant professor at New York University's Center for Global Affairs.

That strategy was effective in slowing down Chinese companies, Yuan said, but it assumed the primary threat was the physical hardware, not access to leaders like Huang.

Yuan said what he called "China hawks" in Congress — who have been bullish on oversight and stronger export controls long before this incident — will now have "a story with a name and a face" to support their argument.

"I don't think anybody in Washington wants to be seen as loosening the controls on chip exports to China right now," he added.

This week several congressional Democrats wrote to Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick to ask what officials knew of Huang's affair with a reported Chinese spy — and to demand an immediate halt to exports of advanced artificial intelligence chips to China.

Lawmakers from both parties have become more outspoken in their calls for tougher legislation to prevent China from accessing advanced U.S. chip and AI technologies. The Senate version of a defense policy bill includes authorizing Congress to review licenses to sell advanced AI chips to China, authorizing the Commerce Department to track AI chips to ensure they aren't diverted to unauthorized regions, and compelling U.S. allies to match U.S. restrictions on exports to Chinese chipmakers.

Beijing has warned the U.S. against using the episode as a reason to impose new restrictions, with Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning telling reporters on Thursday: "The U.S. should stop fabricating the 'Chinese spy' narratives as a pretext for imposing technology restrictions."

CHINA AND THE US HAVE BEEN PURSUING COMMON GROUND ON AI SAFETY

The woman in the relationship with the Nvidia chief is reported to be Alice Huang, a former executive at the Singapore-based cloud computing company Megaspeed. According to reporting by The New York Times, U.S. officials suspect she was a Chinese spy recruited to potentially influence Nvidia to make its cutting-edge chips more available to China.

Beijing has refuted claims she was a Chinese spy and called the allegation "unsubstantiated."

Trump doe s not plan to confront Xi on the Nvidia issue, according to senior U.S. officials who briefed reporters Friday on the condition of anonymity under ground rules set by the White House. The officials also said they do not expect Chinese retaliation if they close loopholes to existing measures that prohibit China from smuggling or using advanced computer chips.

Huang has been a frequent visitor to the White House, and in May, he jumped onto Air Force One in Alaska, joining Trump at the last minute for a state visit to Beijing, where he captivated locals by sampling street food. He and his wife, Lori, were seated at the head table with the two leaders when Trump hosted Xi in September in Washington. At a tech summit that month, Huang took a phone call from the president while he was in a live appearance.

Meanwhile, the U.S. and China have committed to the idea of a hotline for AI national security-related incidents.

Kyle Chan, a fellow at the Washington-based think tank Brookings Institution, said the Nvidia scandal — and the possibility of new U.S. export control measures — could throw a wrench in the AI talks. "The question is whether Beijing can separate export controls from the AI safety discussion or will view them as connected issues," Chan said.

THE U.S.-CHINA TECHNOLOGY RACE GOES ON

The U.S. and China have been moving AI technology forward in different ways. U.S. companies are chasing AI frontiers supported by cutting-edge chips and the country's rapidly expanding data center infrastructure. China is pursuing wider global adoption of its open-source, more affordable models.

Increasingly, experts say, China is emerging as an AI counterweight to the U.S. and closing the gap in its lead on the technology. But advanced chips and other technology from Nvidia are still crucial for many Chinese AI companies and research, analysts say.

Chinese chipmakers, including Huawei, have been making rapid progress to narrow the gap by finding ways to work around the U.S. restrictions, including by clustering large numbers of less advanced domestic chips. But Nvidia's cutting-edge chips still lead in single-chip capability and outperform Chinese alternatives in training advanced AI models, analysts say.

China's push for technological self-reliance may have contributed to a reluctance to buy larger amounts of American chips. Despite the U.S. approval to sell some H200 chips to China, Nvidia said earlier this year it had shipped only a small amount to China.

The Huang episode could ultimately add momentum to China's domestic chip industry, said Rui Ma, founder of Tech Buzz China and a China tech expert.

"For Beijing, the fallout only adds urgency to its efforts to build a domestic semiconductor supply chain. That was already a strategic priority, but if access to Nvidia computing power becomes even more restricted, Chinese companies will have increasingly few alternatives," Ma said. MDT/AP

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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

ASEAN

Southeast Asian leaders open annual summit with major conflicts and their impact topping the agenda

JIM GOMEZ, MANILA

AP PHOTO



SOUTHEAST Asian leaders opened their annual summit in the Philippine capital Manila on Sunday for three days of talks, including dialogues with world leaders led by U.S. President Donald Trump, whose crucial trip to Asia could help boost his standing after his party's defeat in the midterm elections.

The talks by the leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and their expanded discussions with Asian and Western heads of state would focus on the world's most troubling conflicts led by the war in the Middle East, according to drafts of post-summit communiques seen by The Associated Press.

Trump is expected to land in Manila with U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Tuesday afternoon, after the main ASEAN summit meetings have concluded and Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. turns over the regional bloc's rotating annual leadership to Singapore, Philippine officials said.

The ASEAN leaders are likely to renew calls for self-restraint and peaceful resolutions of conflicts, including longstanding disputes in the South China Sea and a civil war in Myanmar. They also are expected to press efforts to shield their economies and citizens from continuing fallout from intractable global conflicts.

"We reaffirmed our shared commitment to upholding international law, including the United Nations Charter," the leaders' draft statement says.

The statement also underlines the "importance of the peaceful resolution of disputes, upholding freedom of navigation and overflight and other lawful uses of the sea, including the right of transit passage in straits used for international navigation."

Marcos said it's crucial that despite the 11-nation regional bloc's diversity, it has remained committed to remaining united in the face of headwinds.

"That commitment matters even more as the waters around us turn on shifting tides, geopolitical tensions, economic uncertainty, new technologies, climate change and transnational threats," Marcos said in his opening remarks before ASEAN counterparts in a heavily secured convention center by Manila Bay.

Marcos warned problems across the world "are reshaping our region faster than any one country can respond to alone."

But unity has been an elusive objective in ASEAN, a diverse bloc of democracies and authoritarian states, many of which are aligned with the United States or China.

ASEAN is known more for photo-ops projecting unity, cultural pomp and pageantry than for effectively dealing with the region's conflicts, including Myanmar and the South China Sea.

Trump will join three key meetings late Tuesday, including a meeting of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue consisting of the United States, Japan, Australia and India, a grouping largely seen as a counterweight to China. He also will take part in a special summit with ASEAN leaders over cocktails, according to Philippine officials.

Trump will meet Wednesday with Marcos, who will receive him with a red-carpet welcome and a state luncheon at Manila's presidential palace. They are expected to renew a commitment to their countries' decades-old treaty alliance before flying separately to Shenzhen city in China for the APEC summit hosted by Chinese President Xi Jinping.

"The short stop in Manila will help reassure allies and partners that they aren't being forgotten before he jets off to Shenzhen to focus on meetings with Xi," U.S.-based geopolitical analyst Greg Poling said.

He added that the midterm electoral setback suffered by Republicans will hound Trump in Asia.

"In China, the administration has been trying to lower expectations; there will be no substantive progress made between Trump and Xi," Poling said. "With Trump politically weakened after the midterm drubbing here, it is likely that the Chinese side will be even less interested in making any compromises."

China will be represented in the Manila summit by its premier, Li Qiang, who will meet ASEAN leaders on Monday but leave before Trump arrives, Philippine officials said.

RENEW ALARM OVER ONLINE SCAMS

Southeast Asian leaders and their key counterparts, including from the United States and China, will renew their alarm over the escalating threat of online scams, according to a draft statement seen by The Associated Press on Friday.

Such transnational crimes, which have swindled billions of dollars from people in Asia to the United States and elsewhere, will be high in the agenda.

The Philippines currently holds the rotating leadership of ASEAN, an 11-nation bloc in a poverty-stricken region where criminal groups have used technology and resorted to human trafficking to expand their illicit and lucrative operations to other parts of the world.

The leaders of the expanded ASEAN bloc, called the East Asia Summit, will express their "grave concern over the escalating threat posed by transnational criminal organizations inflicting harm through online scams, including those originating from scam center operations and associated criminal conduct such as human trafficking," according to a draft of their joint statement to be issued after their summit.

They acknowledged "the exploitation of digital and other advanced technologies and digital financial platforms, by increasingly sophisticated criminal actors and the need to strengthen financial and digital systems, as well as the severe human consequences associated with scam centers."

Authorities in Southeast Asia have reported in recent years how large numbers of workers, who were lured by recruitment syndicates into working in online scam centers, including in the Philippines and Cambodia, have been subjected to threats and even torture when they tried to escape or defy orders. **MDT/AP**

this day in history

1940 GERMANS BOMB COVENTRY TO DESTRUCTION



The German Luftwaffe has bombed Coventry in a massive raid which lasted more than 10 hours and left much of the city devastated.

Relays of enemy aircraft dropped bombs indiscriminately. One of the many buildings hit included the 14th century cathedral, which was all but destroyed.

Initial reports suggest the number of casualties is about 1,000. Intensive anti-aircraft fire kept the raiders at a great height from which accurate bombing was impossible.

Reports say 4,330 homes were destroyed and three-quarters of the city's factories damaged.

Other targets included two hospitals, two churches, hotels, clubs, cinemas, public--shelters, public swimming baths, a police station and a post office.

According to one report, some 500 enemy aircraft took part in the raid. Wave upon wave of bombers scattered their lethal payloads over the city. The night sky, already lit by a brilliant moon, was further illuminated by flares and incendiary bombs.

The German High Command has issued a communiqué describing the attack on Coventry as a reprisal for the British attack on Munich - the birthplace of the Nazi party.

The message continued: "Particularly heavy was the attack on Coventry, where numerous engine works and aero accessory factories as well as other targets of military importance were attacked with bombs of heaviest calibre, causing extensive damage."

The German Official News Agency described the raid on Coventry as "the most severe in the whole history of the war".

The bombing began at 1920 and did not cease until dawn. The all-clear was finally sounded at 0615 GMT.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Two days later King George VI visited Coventry to see for himself the devastation caused by the German bombers.

There was a mass burial on 20 November and as further bodies were uncovered from the rubble another mass burial took place the following week.

Of the 500 enemy aircraft despatched to Coventry only 449 reached the city. This was by far the heaviest bombing raid on Coventry. Figures for the number killed on the night of 14 November vary between 380 and 554 people killed and several hundred injured.

The destruction of the city hastened rebuilding plans which included Europe's first pedestrian precinct. A further £50m refurbishment project was completed in December 2003.

A new cathedral was built after architect Basil Spence won a competition for its design. It was consecrated on 25 May 1962 and now stands alongside the skeleton of the war-damaged ruin.

YOUR STARS

Aries
Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Every month for about two and a half days, you're high-viz, which means people notice you more than usual. (In fact, some will know personal details about your private life.) That little window has arrived.

Taurus
Apr. 20-May. 20

Today you have a strong urge to break free from your daily routine and do something different. If you can't travel, be a tourist in your own town. Go someplace you've never been before.

Gemini
May. 21-Jun. 21

Today your emotional experiences are more intense. For example, you might feel more possessive about property or something you own. Or you might desire something that someone else has.

Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Today your attention turns to your most personal relationships – spouses, partners and close friends. Stay positive and upbeat. Avoid knee-jerk reactions. These relationships are especially important to you today.

Leo
Jul. 23-Aug. 22

This is a positive day, even though you might have to work at keeping your upbeat mood intact. You might have to put the interests of someone else before your own.

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sep. 22

This is a romantic, playful, fun-loving day, but you also have strong feelings, especially about your relationships. You might feel nurturing and protective toward your kids or someone else, for that matter.

Libra
Sep.23-Oct. 22

This can be a lovely, mellow day if you allow it to be. If possible, you will enjoy relaxing at home among familiar surroundings. You might be involved more than usual with a female relative.

Scorpio
Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Today you're keen to talk to others because you feel you have something to say. To put a finer point on it, you want to be heard! Therefore, find someone who genuinely wants to listen to what you have to say.

Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Money issues are on your mind. However, because travel opportunities beckon to you, you might be making travel plans. You also might find that you feel more attached to something that you own today.

Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Today the Moon is in your sign, and it will always make you more emotional than usual. However, it will also slightly improve your good luck over all the other signs!

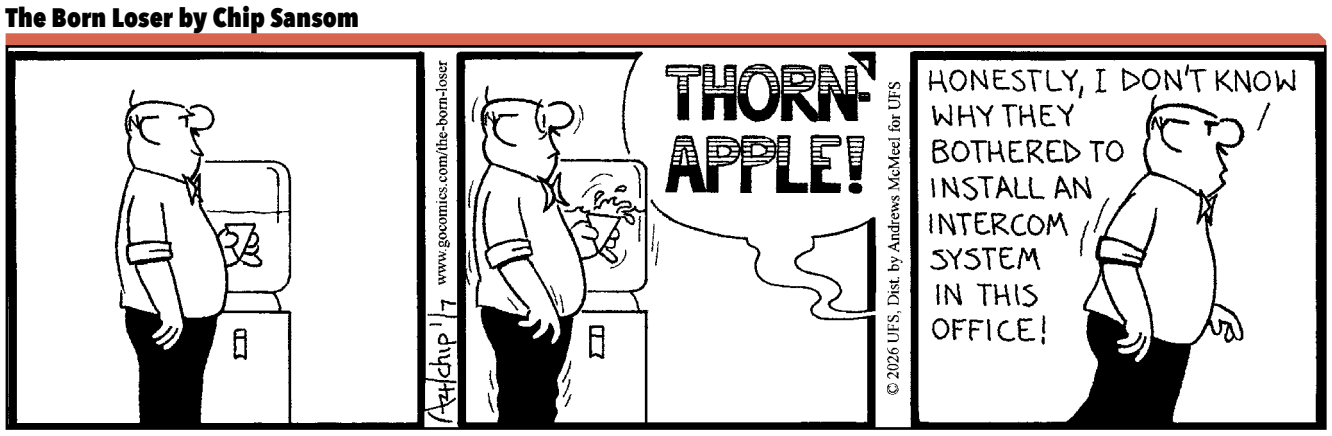
Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18

You might feel tempted to withdraw from the busyness of the world around you. You'll enjoy your own company, especially with your favorite snacks and hobbies.

Pisces
Feb.19-Mar. 20

Friendships means more to you today for some reason. This is why you might feel protective and supportive about a friend, especially if someone needs your emotional help.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

CHINA	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
Beijing	4	7	overcast
Changchun	-5	1	overcast
Chengdu	12	15	overcast
Chongqing	16	17	rain
Fuzhou	19	23	overcast
Guangzhou	17	26	cloudy
Guiyang	12	18	rain
Haikou	23	30	cloudy
Hangzhou	13	18	cloudy
Harbin	-9	-3	cloudy
Hefei	10	17	overcast
Nanjing	10	17	overcast
Shanghai	13	18	overcast
Taipei	19	23	rain
Wuhan	11	20	rain
Hong Hong	23	26	sunny

WORLD			
Moscow	-2	4	sunny
Frankfurt	6	11	rain
Paris	9	14	rain
London	4	11	rain
New York	4	12	sunny

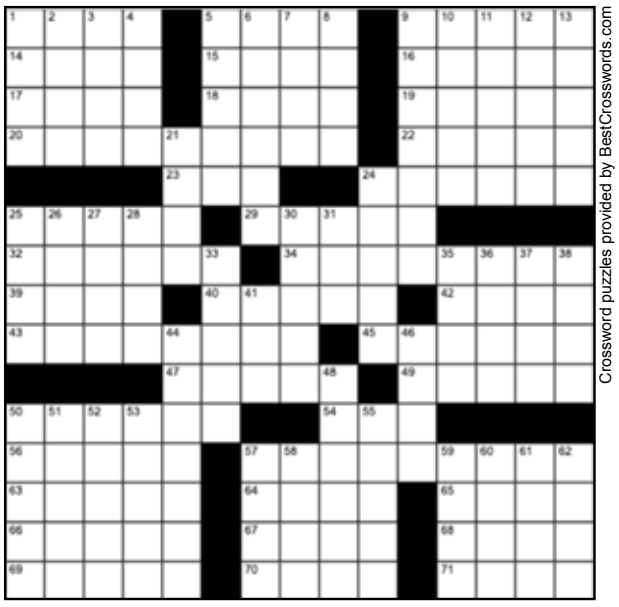
CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Director Riefenstahl; 5- Toe the line; 9- You ___ mouthful!; 14- Clickable image; 15- Czech, e.g.; 16- Sea eagles; 17- Miscalculates; 18- Jewel ____; CD container; 19- Tree houses; 20- Luggage; 22- The end of ___; 23- Illustrative craft; 24- Declared; 25- One in a cab, say; 29- Paris divider; 32- Worships; 34- Charisma; 39- Sub station?; 40- Came up; 42- Nipple; 43- Levy on deals?; 45- Sharp reply; 47- Nairobi's nation; 49- ___-car; 50- Inflammation of the ear; 54- ___ Paulo, Brazil; 56- Satan; 57- Auction space; 63- ___ fours (crawling); 64- Lulu; 65- Israel's Barak; 66- Actress Zellweger; 67- Dedicated to the ___ Love; 68- Broadcasts; 69- Begin; 70- Scruff; 71- Diet successfully;

DOWN 1- Falsehoods; 2- Beige; 3- Me neither; 4- Technical sch.; 5- Academy award; 6- Explosions; 7- Alleviate; 8- First name in fashion; 9- Governing bodies; 10- Where the action is; 11- Map feature; 12- Raison ___; 13- Syrian president; 21- Word following child, day, or devil-may; 24- Facial expression used by Elvis Presley; 25- X-ray units; 26- Think tank output; 27- Barbie, e.g.; 28- Pennsylvania city; 30- Strong adhesive; 31- Collection agcy.; 33- Satisfies; 35- Novel ending; 36- Inert gas; 37- Wagon; 38- Legendary singer James; 41- Campaigned; 44- Frying pan; 46- Greek love god; 48- Out, in bed; 50- Smells; 51- Principle; 52- The Donald's first; 53- Floor worker; 55- Eagle's nest; 57- Before long; 58- Tolstoy's Karenina; 59- Authentic; 60- Buckeye State; 61- Yours and mine; 62- Gds.;

Friday's solution

T	O	A	D		S	C	H	A	V		I	S	I	T
A	N	D	I		L	H	A	S	A		M	O	V	E
R	C	A	S		E	A	T	I	N		P	L	E	A
T	E	M	P	L	A	T	E	S		R	L	E	S	S
			L	I	Z			R	I	O				
C	I	T	A	D	E	L		S	A	D	D	E	N	S
O	K	A	Y	S		E	B	A	Y		E	V	I	L
O	N	S		E	A	S	T	S			A	C	E	
L	O	T	T		P	R	A	Y		A	I	D	E	D
S	W	E	E	T	E	N		R	A	I	D	E	R	S
			R	O	E			T	R	I				
A	D	I	M	E		A	M	B	L	Y	O	P	I	A
S	A	R	I		P	L	A	Y	A		T	I	L	T
S	L	A	T		T	E	N	T	S		I	T	L	L
T	I	N	E		A	S	S	E	T		C	A	S	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

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HKD 25,000/mth | MOP 25,750/mth

Nam Long (Taipa)
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Juliet Risdon
(853) 6680 9804
juliet@jmlproperty.com
AI-1003469-6



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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

RUGBY LEAGUE WORLD CUP

Australia beats New Zealand 32-12 for fourth straight title

JACK Bostock scored two tries, including the last to put the result beyond any doubt, as Australia beat New Zealand 32-12 on Sunday to claim a fourth consecutive Rugby League World Cup title.

Australia opened the tournament with a 24-22 comeback win over New Zealand, and the teams set up a rematch with emphatic semifinal wins. Australia beat Samoa 44-12 in a replay of the 2022 decider and New Zealand reached the championship match with a 34-10 win over Tonga.

The Kangaroos opened the scoring early in the final and dominated with six tries to two at Brisbane's Suncorp Stadium after New Zealand blundered from the opening kickoff.

Liam Martin barged over in the second minute after clever dummyhalf work from Harry Grant near the tryline and Cameron Munster converted to give Australia a 6-0 lead.

The Kiwis leveled in the 12th after sustained pressure in the attacking quarter, with Kodi Nikorima picking up a loose ball and sending center Casey McLean over on an angled run to the line through some poor defense out wide. Jamayne Isaako converted for 6-6.

AP PHOTO



Australia's Reece Walsh, left, is tackled by New Zealand's Dane Gagai, second left, during the final of the Rugby League World Cup in Brisbane, Australia, Sunday

In the 19th minute, Bostock crossed on the left wing after some quick hands across the backline to make it 10-6, and Munster kicked a penalty goal soon after to restore a 6-point margin.

Center Bradman Best and Liam Martin scored tries in the 10 minutes before halftime to give Australia a 24-6 lead at the break.

It became 28-6 three minutes into the second half after fullback Reece Walsh danced through the defense and unloaded to an unmarked Tom Trbojevic to score in the right corner.

With 15 to go, New Zealand closed the gap to 16 points when Isaiah Palali'i ran onto a well-timed grubber kick from Nikorima to score and Jamayne Isaako converted.

Bostock's 77th-minute try, his ninth of the tournament, capped the lopsided victory and contributed to his player-of-the-match award.

"Defensively, again, magnificent," Australia coach Kevin Walters said. "We're solid mate, the Aussies. We had a plan, and we executed that plan beautifully."

Australia's Jillaroos won the women's final 34-10, set up by Jaime Chapman's first-half hat-trick of tries, to claim a fourth consecutive Rugby League World Cup title.

The Australians scored six tries in the first half against New Zealand, which won the first three world titles from 2000 to 2008. **MDT/AP**

AD





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OPINION

Our Desk

Renato Marques



CREATIVE INDUSTRIES NEED CREATIVE PEOPLE

For some time, successive governments have focused on so-called creative industries policies.

We have been told countless times that creativity drives growth and economic gains, yet the results are nowhere to be seen.

To me, the reason for this lack of results despite the investment is simple – creative industries need creative people, they need creators.

The thing is, ideas do not come in little leaflets packed inside cereal boxes, nor are they communal property.

This may seem obvious, but in practice, we seem to have forgotten it – new ideas are precious and should be respected first and protected second.

The only way to foster creativity is to acknowledge ideas, projects, and solutions, yet we are clearly doing the opposite. Never before have we had so many copycat products, events, and services. Everything seems to be just a replication (more or less accurate) of something someone saw somewhere before.

At the same time, the few people who keep having real ideas fall into the same spiral of irrationality: if your idea is bad or people don't like it, they ignore you. If your idea is good or people like it, they copy you – and there is nothing you can do about it.

There is no safety net, no authorship law, and no copyright to protect you or ensure you get what you deserve; that is the harsh reality.

In this panorama, why should creatives exist? To create things for others to make money from?

In reality, they do exist, just for a short while, until they realize they are feeding the greed of the unscrupulous; then they stop, either by ceasing to create or by no longer showing their creations. They wait indefinitely, like a rabbit tucked in a hole, waiting for the storm to pass.

The frustrating reality for many creative professionals is that the industry that celebrates creativity is the same one that often fails to respect its creators.

So how do we develop creative industries? Businesses want fresh ideas, and young people are constantly encouraged to turn their talents into careers. But if we don't respect authorship and the creative process, we fail.

Someone who has spent months or years developing an original concept, refining every detail, investing their own money, and finally putting their work out into the world does not take it well when someone else takes it overnight, makes a few changes, and presents it as their own.

This happens every day, and what's worse, society tolerates it and, in many cases, celebrates the copycat rather than the original creator.

This happens to writers, designers, photographers, musicians, architects, filmmakers, and many other creative professionals far too often for us to admit. On top of this, when they speak up, they are told to take it as a compliment and stop whining about it.

Of course, nobody creates in a vacuum. We all learn from others, borrow from influences, and build on ideas that came before us. That is part of how creativity works.

However, there is a significant difference between drawing inspiration from someone's work and taking what they created and replicating it as if it were our own.

We hear too much talk about nurturing young talent, encouraging innovation, and making the creative sector a major contributor to the economy. But what message are we sending to aspiring creatives when others can use their work without permission or fair compensation?

The problem is not just about money or greed; it is, above all, about respect.

We cannot keep asking people to be original while turning a blind eye when others exploit their originality.

US AIR TRAVEL EXPECTED TO NORMALIZE AFTER RECORD GROUND STOP

THE BUZZ

Officials assured passengers that the U.S. airspace was safe and operational after a nationwide ground stop that was initiated out of caution caused massive travel disruptions.

The longest flight stoppage in 25 years lasted more than four hours and ended around 8:15 p.m. ET Friday, allowing some domestic flights to take off from U.S. airports.

Of the 41,000 flights scheduled Saturday, more than 6,400 had been canceled by Saturday night, according to FlightAware. More than 800 flights scheduled for Sunday were canceled, it said.

But officials said the air traffic control system was operational and expected airline schedules to fully recover by the end of Sunday, smoothing out ahead of the Thanksgiving travel rush.

Secretary of Homeland Security Markwayne Mullin said there was no indicat

Federal Aviation Administration Administrator Bryan Bedford said the system was stable Saturday. Several thousand flights were able to fly after the ground stop, but ultimately, some 12,000 scheduled flights were unable to take off Friday, he said.

Officials acknowledged the disruption but said safety was paramount. ion the failure was related to a cyberattack and no lives were at risk.



CRIME

TWO FOREIGN NATIONALS HELD IN SEPARATE DRUG CASES WORTH OVER MOP3.9 MILLION: PJ

YUKI LEI

THE Judiciary Police (PJ) have arrested two foreign nationals in separate drug trafficking cases, seizing cocaine worth about MOP3.58 million hidden inside hair mask containers, as well as methamphetamine and cocaine worth about MOP344,000.

The cases were announced at a special press conference Friday.

In the first case, a 30-year-old Bolivian man was intercepted at Macau International Airport at about 8:40 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 11, as he collected his luggage, with assistance from Customs. Officers found 28 boxes of hair masks in his baggage. After emptying the containers, police found that they were unusually heavy. When officers sawed them open, they discovered a cream-colored powder concealed in compartments, which testing confirmed was 1,195 grams of cocaine.

Investigations showed the suspect had been recruited by an international drug trafficking syndicate and paid USD6,500 to conceal the drugs in the hair mask containers. He departed South America on Nov. 5, transiting through several countries before arriving in Macau. He planned to transport the drugs onward to a neighboring region but was intercepted before doing so.

In the second case, a 29-year-old Tanzanian woman was intercepted in the central district at about 8:45 p.m. the same evening after police identified her through intelligence analysis. A search of her residence in the same district uncovered seven egg-shaped packages wrapped in tin foil containing a total of 110.4 grams of methamphetamine, along with three packets containing a total of 3.24 grams of cocaine and another packet containing 1.13 grams of methamphetamine.

Investigations indicated that the suspect entered Macau by land in late August and, during her stay, collected and delivered drugs at designated locations on the instructions of an international syndicate. She tested negative for drugs.

Both suspects have been referred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) for prosecution on charges of illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. Police said further investigation was needed to determine the source of the drugs and whether the suspects had received payment.

Police stressed that international drug trafficking syndicates often lure foreign travelers with promises of high pay to conceal drugs in their luggage while transiting, urging the public not to break the law for short-term gain.

AP PHOTO



Portugal Tens of thousands of people protested in more than 30 cities and towns Saturday over soaring housing costs, in the largest demonstrations yet. The crisis has fueled weeks of protests, with activists camping in central squares in Lisbon and Porto. Riot police have dispersed some gatherings, prompting accusations of excessive force.

AP PHOTO



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the United States had raised the possibility of a new security framework for Europe as part of efforts to end Russia's war in Ukraine, warning that Moscow could use such discussions to weaken NATO and reshape the continent's borders.

AP PHOTO



Music Filipino singer Carmelle won the first Asian edition of the Eurovision Song Contest on Saturday with a fiery performance of her dance-pop song "Sobra-Sobra." The 19-year-old beat 10 other acts in the grand final in Bangkok, with the winner chosen through votes from national juries in participating countries and viewers worldwide.

AP PHOTO



Space NASA's Voyager 1 is about to become humanity's first object to reach one light-day from Earth as it pushes ever deeper into interstellar space.That's a mind-blowing distance of more than 16 billion miles for the spacecraft launched 49 years ago.