

Tai says will lead revitalisation of historic areas as 'community-based commercial circles'



Secretary for Economy and Finance Anton Tai Kin Ip addresses yesterday's Q&A session about his portfolio's 2025 policy guidelines in the Legislative Assembly's (AL) hemicycle.

— Photo courtesy of TDM

Tony Wong

Secretary for Economy and Finance Anton Tai Kin Ip said yesterday that he will coordinate and lead the government's ongoing project on the revitalisation of six historic areas in collaboration with the city's six gaming operators, which was launched in 2023, with the respective public entities under the Secretariat for Social Affairs and Culture to be committed to providing all necessary support and assistance, adding that the government will soon convene a joint meeting with the six gaming operators to review the results of their respective revitalisation projects since their launch.

The policy secretary also said that the government now aims for the revitalisation projects for the six historic areas to be converted into "community-based commercial circles".

Tai made the remarks during yesterday's one-day Q&A session in the Legislative Assembly's (AL) hemicycle about his portfolio's policy guidelines for this year.

The government launched its project on revitalising six historic areas in 2023, with each of the city's six gaming operators to invest in and carry out one of the six

revitalisation projects and the government to plan, coordinate and oversee their operations. The government was then headed by chief executive Ho Iat Seng.

Since their gradual launch in the second half of 2023, the government's role in planning and coordinating the six revitalisation projects has been carried out by the public entities within the portfolio of the Secretariat for Social Affairs and Culture.

The current government headed by Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai took office on December 20 last year.

The government's initiative to revitalise the six historic areas aims to diversify Macau's tourism and leisure industry while strengthening its support for small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) by leveraging its requirements for the city's six gaming operators to invest in non-gaming attractions.

The six projects to revitalise historic areas comprise four in the peninsula, one in Taipa and one in Coloane. The six revitalised areas include various subareas featuring different historic and cultural characteristics, such as the Barra area, the pedestrianisation of Rua da Felicidade, the Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro area, the

area around the Ponte 16 casino-hotel in the Inner Harbour district, the Rua das Estalagens area, the Mount Fortress area, as well as Taipa's erstwhile Iec Long Firecracker Factory and Coloane's Lai Chi Vun Shipyards.

Coordinated and overseen by the government, the six gaming operators have respectively been implementing the revitalisation of the different subareas covered by the six main historic areas.

Tai said during yesterday's Q&A session that his portfolio will now lead the government's project on advancing the revitalisation of the six historic areas with the aim of optimising their respective business environments.

Tai said that the current government has decided that the revitalisation of the six historic areas will now be led and coordinated by him, with the respective public entities under his portfolio – the Secretariat for Economy and Finance – to be tasked with advancing and ensuring the implementation of the six revitalisation projects, while the respective public entities under the Secretariat for Social Affairs and Culture will now be tasked with providing all necessary support and assistance.

Continued on p.5

Vatican declares 9 days of mourning for pope from Saturday

VATICAN CITY – The Vatican yesterday announced that nine days of mourning for Pope Francis will start on Saturday, the day of his funeral.

There will be prayer events every day at St Peter's Basilica for the so-called "novemdiales" ("nine days"), which will last until May 4.

The announcement came as Catholic cardinals met to discuss the next steps following the death of the Argentine pontiff on Monday aged 88.

No date has yet been set for the conclave, the secret meeting of cardinals aged under 80 to elect a new pope.

But it has to take place between 15 and 20 days after the pontiff's death.

— AFP

(More on pages 8, 10, 12 & 13)



Astronauts for the upcoming Shenzhou-20 spaceflight mission Chen Dong (center), Chen Zhongrui (right) and Wang Jie greet the press at the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China yesterday. The Shenzhou-20 crewed spaceship is scheduled to be launched at 5:17 p.m. today.

— Xinhua

(More on p.6)

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The Macau Post Daily

Xi addresses Leaders Meeting on Climate and Just Transition, urging jointly advancing global climate governance

President Xi Jinping delivered a speech via video link at the Leaders Meeting on Climate and Just Transition yesterday.

— Story on p. 6

Hamas releases video showing Israeli hostage marking his birthday

Hamas's armed wing released a video yesterday showing an Israeli-Hungarian hostage walking through a tunnel in Gaza and lighting a candle to mark his birthday.

— Story on p. 10

Trump says won't fire Fed chief, signals China tariffs will come down

Donald Trump said yesterday he had no intention of firing the chair of the US Federal Reserve and signalled a "substantial" lowering of tariffs on China – bringing relief to global markets spooked by his aggressive trade policies.

— Story on p. 11

Applications now open for 2025GMBPF, discounted exhibitor rates for local SMEs

Adrian Vallesteros

The 2025 Guangdong & Macao Branded Products Fair (2025GMBPF) is scheduled to take place from July 24 to 27 at Cotai Expo Hall D, The Venetian Macao in Cotai, according to a recent statement by Commerce and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM).

The statement underscored that the event is co-organised by IPIM and the Department of Commerce of Guangdong Province. The statement added that the event aims to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Macau.

According to the statement, SMEs interested in participating can submit their applications by May 9 via IPIM's online application system. The fair will focus on the "Silver Economy*" and the China Chic Industry**, facilitating market expansion and industrial transformation through a variety

of activities, including business matching and specialised forums.

The statement highlighted that exhibitor recruitment is now open, with a discounted fee of 1,400 patacas available for eligible Macau enterprises. Applicants should feature products and services for seniors, smart home devices, and food and beverages. Priority will be given to enterprises with the "M-Mark" Macao Product Quality Certification, as well as Macau manufacturers and representatives of products from Portuguese-speaking countries, according to the statement.

The statement also noted that eligible Macau SMEs must be incorporated in Macau and registered with the Financial Services Bureau (DSF) for tax purposes for at least one year, with at least 50 percent of their shares owned by Macau residents. Due to the limited number of discounted

booths, a lucky draw will be held if applications exceed availability.

For more information on registration, those interested can call 8798 9636. ■

* The Silver Economy refers to the economic activities and opportunities arising from the needs and demands of the ageing population, typically those aged 50 and above. It encompasses goods, services, and innovations tailored to older adults. – DeepSeek

** China Chic (國潮) refers to the rising trend of domestically designed, culturally infused Chinese brands and products that blend traditional Chinese aesthetics with modern fashion, technology, and consumer trends. It represents a shift in consumer preferences – especially among younger generations – towards homegrown brands that celebrate Chinese heritage while competing with global giants. – DeepSeek

2025名優商品展
GuangDong & Macao Branded Products Fair

24-27/7/2025
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招展進行中

一年一度經貿會展活動之一
歡迎有意參展的澳門中小企業報名

參展費用
合資格澳門企業參展
優惠價 澳門元 1,400

展位面積
3米 x 3米
* 展位數量有限，大會保留甄選參展商最終決定權。
* 同一符合資格企業，僅能以優惠價申請一個展位。

報名日期 由即日起至2025年5月9日

報名方式 網上申請系統
macaomice.ipim.gov.mo

若有何疑問，可於辦公時間致電或親臨活動承辦單位“廣告天地有限公司”查詢。

辦公時間 | 星期一至五 9:30-13:00, 14:30-18:00
辦公地址 | 澳門士多利拜斯大馬路No.63B-65A地下

招展範圍 (優先)
“M嘜”澳門產品優質認證
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立即掃描報名

This recent handout photo, released by the Commerce and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) on Monday, displays the event details along with a QR code for applications.

IEEM to hold 'China-EU Relations in Times of Transitions' conference Saturday

Rui Pastorin

The Institute of European Studies of Macau (IEEM) is slated to host the "China-EU Relations in Times of Transitions" conference on Saturday, with the event aiming to "explore the perceptions, policies and aspirations of China and the European Union in their bilateral relationship", according to an IEEM statement yesterday.

The one-day event will be held at Artyzen Grand Lapa Hotel in Nape.

The English-language conference will run from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and feature experts and scholars from Europe, the mainland, Hong Kong and Macau for keynote speeches and panel discussions, the statement noted.

Among the topics to be discussed, the statement said, are geopolitical and international relations, security and defence, political dynamics, economic affairs, trade, and investment, as well as the legal, environmental, energy, climate, social and cultural areas.



This poster downloaded from the Institute of European Studies of Macau (IEEM) Facebook page promotes Saturday's "China-EU Relations in Times of Transitions" conference at Artyzen Grand Lapa Hotel in Nape.

The statement noted that the conference is free of charge, though advance registration is required. Those interested can visit www.ieem.org.mo or call 2835 4326 for enquiries or registration. ■

Police bust local casino dealer for illegal currency exchange

Ada Lei

A local female casino dealer was arrested on Tuesday for engaging in illegal currency exchange activities, Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Cheong Siu Keong said during a special press conference yesterday.

Cheong identified the suspect as a 43-year-old woman surnamed Lei, who has been working as a casino dealer for 10 years.

According to Cheong, on Tuesday afternoon, PJ officers on patrol discovered Lei engaging in an illegal currency exchange with a middle-aged male gambler at a casino in Cotai. Lei showed the gambler a QR code to transfer money, and after receiving the funds, she took him to a cashier's cage, where she bought chips worth HK\$70,000 and handed them to him. After the deal, both Lei and the gambler left the area. The gambler then gambled away HK\$7,000



Judiciary Police (PJ) officers escort the hooded casino dealer to a PJ van outside the PJ headquarters in Zape yesterday. – Photo: Ada Lei

before the police intercepted them. The gambler agreed to cooperate as a witness in the investigation. Under questioning, Lei admitted to participating in illegal currency exchange activities since January, having earned a total profit of 15,000 yuan (16,385 patacas). She also told the police that she had

exchanged HK\$70,000 for 67,200 yuan in this case. The police confiscated HK\$163,000 in cash and gambling chips from Lei.

Lei was transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) yesterday, facing an illegal currency exchange charge, according to Cheong. ■

Maritime Museum to reopen tomorrow

Adrian Vallesteros

According to a statement by the Marine and Water Bureau (DSAMA), the Maritime Museum in Barra, which has temporarily been closed for maintenance since February 19, will reopen to the public tomorrow.

The museum is located near A-Ma (Ma Kok) Temple in Barra ("Harbour Entrance") district.

The closure was essential for repairs to the central air-conditioning system and other facilities, the statement pointed out.

The statement noted that upon reopening, the museum will be open

from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (with admission until 5:30 p.m.) daily, except Tuesdays. Visitors can enjoy free admission and group guided tours.

One can find more information by visiting www.museumarimito.gov.mo. ■



This recent handout photo from the Marine and Water Bureau (DSAMA) shows the Maritime Museum in Barra district, which will reopen tomorrow.

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MACAU POST

Macau Weather

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A FEW SHOWERS LATER.
FORCE 3 TO 4 SOUTH TO SOUTHWESTERLY WINDS.
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24°C~29°C

Source: SMG

Observatory warns of heavy showers from tomorrow

Staff Reporter

Heavy showers are expected over the next couple of days, with rainfall in the Pearl River Estuary projected to reach 50 millimetres in a single day, Macau's observatory warned in a statement yesterday.

The Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) forecast that the weather in Macau will significantly change over the next couple of days. A trough of low-pressure is expected to gradually approach the Guangdong coast today, with frequent showers forecast to affect Macau between tomorrow and early Saturday, including heavy showers at times, accompanied by thunderstorms. According to the latest forecast, various models indicate that the daily cumulative rainfall in the Pearl River Estuary area may reach 50 millimetres or more, the statement underlined.

The observatory also said that on Saturday, a shift to an easterly

airflow will lead to a gradual decrease in showers during the day. Winds will be stronger on Saturday and on Sunday, and temperatures are expected to drop slightly, the statement said.

The weather bureau reminded residents that as Macau enters the latter half of spring, the region often experiences an increase in rainfall and the onset of the pre-monsoon season. This period may bring heavy rain and frequent thunderstorms, as well as strong convective weather, including frequent lightning, strong gusts, hail, and tornadoes. In meteorology, "convection" refers to the vertical movement of heat and moisture in the atmosphere, often leading to cloud formation, thunderstorms, and other adverse weather phenomena.

Residents are urged to stay updated on the latest weather information and to prepare accordingly, the statement said. ■



Image source: SMG

4 days left to catch '2025 Spring Book Culture' fair



Fairgoers browse the books at the 2025 Spring Book Culture Festival yesterday afternoon.
— Photos: Rui Pastorin

Rui Pastorin

There are still four days left to catch the ongoing "2025 Spring Book Culture Festival" (2025春季書文化節), which is being held at the Tap Seac Multisport Pavillion through Sunday.

The event, which is organised by Associação de Publicações de Macau ("Macau Publishing Association"), kicked off on Friday, and those visiting will be able to find a variety of books ranging from children's books and comics to novels and textbooks,

just to name a few. Moreover, books published by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) and local universities, among others, are also on sale.

Most of the books sold are in Chinese, although there are also books in Portuguese and English. Fairgoers will also be able to find handmade items like tote bags, along with toys such as educational ones, along with popular board games.

Discounts are available on selected items.

Public broadcaster TDM said on Friday that the fair comprises 50 exhibitors, with 60,000 books showcased.

Meanwhile, aside from shopping for books and other items, the ongoing event will also host book launches and discussion sessions, according to an event schedule displayed outside the exhibition hall.

Fairgoers may check out the various books and other offerings from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. until Sunday. ■

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Police seize 5,400 smuggled pills containing ephedrine

Ada Lei

A local man and woman, along with a woman from the mainland, were arrested on Monday for possessing 5,400 pills containing ephedrine, according to Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Cheong Siu Keong, PJ Narcotics Division chief Lei Ka Wo, and customs supervisor U Chin Keong at a special press conference at the PJ headquarters yesterday.

Cheong identified the suspects as a 52-year-old mainland woman surnamed Li, and a 49-year-old local woman surnamed Lam who owns a trading firm in the northern district, along with her 31-year-old male employee surnamed Leng.

According to U, at 9 p.m. on Monday, customs officers at the Barrier Gate checkpoint intercepted Li when she was leaving Macau with her suitcase. They discovered 240 small packages containing a total of 1,800 unlabelled pills. Customs suspected that these were controlled substances and notified the Judiciary Police (PJ). It was later confirmed that the pills contain ephedrine, a key ingredient in methamphetamine production.

The police later that night



Packages of 5,400 pills disguised as vitamins and weight loss drugs, banknotes, and six mobile phones are displayed in a press room of the Judiciary Police (PJ) headquarters in Zape yesterday.
— Photo: Ada Lei

raided Lam's trading firm in the northern district and apprehended Lam and Leng. The police seized 660 small packages containing 3,600 pills, 28,000 patacas in cash and several undeclared goods. Under questioning, they admitted that the drugs were sent from Hong Kong to Macau, valued at HK\$5,300, disguised as vitamins and weight loss drugs by Leng before being smuggled in batches into the mainland by Li and Lam.

The suspects were transferred

to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) yesterday, facing charges of possessing controlled substances for drug manufacturing, according to Cheong.

Cheong urged the public to avoid purchasing drugs through unofficial channels, be wary of offers of part-time jobs to transport unknown goods across border checkpoints, and to be aware that "weight loss pills" containing ephedrine may be linked to drug manufacturing crimes. ■

Hwa's Gallery presents Chu Chao's abstract landscapes

Rui Pastorin

Chu Chao's abstract landscape paintings are being exhibited at Hwa's Gallery at Lisboeta Macau H853 Fun Factory in Cotai, with exhibitiongoers able to admire the works for the remainder of its run until Sunday.

The Yixing-born contemporary artist's free-admission exhibition, which was launched last month and is titled "Boundless: Chu Chao Macau Solo Exhibition, mainly comprises acrylics depicting abstract scenes, though there are also two smaller works created by using watercolours featuring the city of Kamogawa in Japan's Chiba Prefecture. All the works showcased were created over a period of two years.

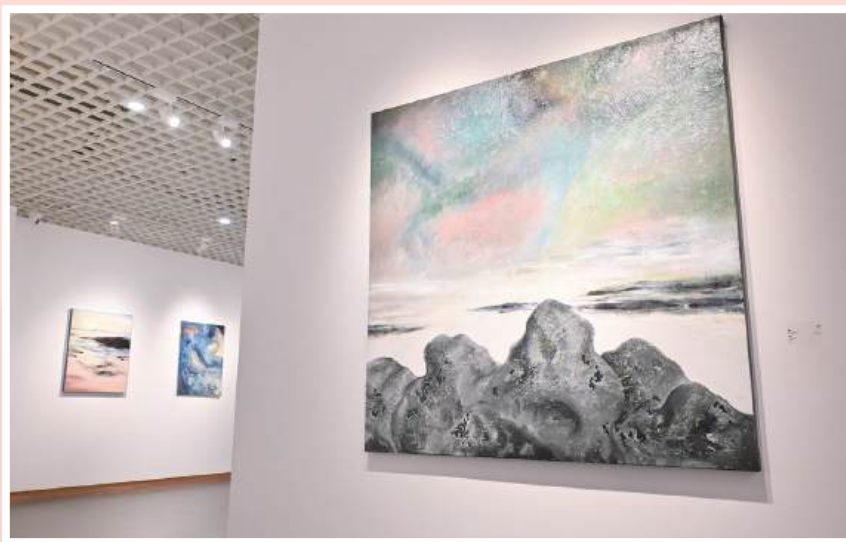
The pieces demonstrate Chu's "technical maturity", with each work "striking a balance between compositional stability and dynamic expression", according to a recent statement by Hwa's Gallery (formerly known as the Humarish Club).

The pieces on display mark "a significant evolution in both style and medium, leaving from the previous focus on graphic and symbolic themes to seamless blending with the refined aesthetics of Eastern traditions and the expressive techniques of Western art", according to the statement.

Chu, according to his information displayed at the gallery, was born in 1989 and has had various solo exhibitions over the last 10 years that were mainly held in the mainland in places such as his hometown of Yixing, Jiangsu Province, along with Shanghai and Suzhou. He has also joined group exhibitions. His works, the statement noted, have been collected by celebrities and prominent entrepreneurs.

The exhibits are for sale.

Exhibitiongoers may visit Hwa's Gallery from 12 noon to 8 p.m. until Sunday.



Photos: Rui Pastorin

Tai says will lead revitalisation of historic areas as 'community-based commercial circles'

Continued from p.1

Tai said that the government's cross-departmental working group for overseeing the revitalisation projects, now led by him with support and assistance provided by the Secretariat for Social Affairs and Culture, will soon convene a joint meeting with the six gaming operators to review and assess the results and achievements in the six revitalisation projects since their launch over a year ago.

Moreover, Tai said, the revitalisation of the six historic areas will now be carried out with the aim of also converting them into "community-based commercial circles".

"Community-based commercial circles" are part of the mainland's current urban development concept, referring to a localised, service-orientated business ecosystem designed to meet various daily needs of residents within a specific residential area.

Tai said that the government will also leverage the unique cultural and historic elements of the respective historic areas with the aim of motivating community associations to strengthen their participation in revitalising their respective areas.

Tai said that the six revitalised areas' community-based commercial circles aim to attract more residents and visitors alike to spend money and have fun there.

Govt aims for e-MOP as transaction currency b/w China & Portuguese-speaking countries

Meanwhile, Tai also underlined during yesterday's Q&A session that the government is aiming to complete the development and setting-up of the core system for the issuance of digital patacas by the end of this year.

The government announced last year that it had launched the research and development of its digital pataca issuance.

The digital pataca is officially known as e-MOP.

Late last year, the government completed the setting-up of the prototype of its digital pataca development project and published a white paper on

e-MOP, providing details on its e-MOP project, such as the concepts of central bank digital currency (CBDC) as well as the e-MOP's objectives, potential benefits, positioning, design principles, technical features, and development blueprint.

The pataca is Macau's sole legal tender.

The future e-MOP will also be Macau's legal tender, the same as physical money, with zero credit risks.

Tai also said yesterday that considering the advantage of patacas created by its status as a free-flow currency, the local government is aiming for the future e-MOP to be used as one of the transaction currencies for trade ties between China and Portuguese-speaking countries.

Tai noted that trade in goods between China and Portuguese-speaking countries amounted to around US\$220 billion in 2023, adding that in addition to being used for local retail consumption in the future, there will be potential for the e-MOP to be used as a transaction currency for trade relations between the two sides.

Tai said that during his working visit to Portugal earlier this year, he discussed with its central bank the feasibility of using the e-MOP in trade ties between China and Portugal, adding that in the future he will also pay working visits to the central banks in other Portuguese-speaking countries asking them to back the initiative.

During yesterday's plenary session, Tai also said that while Macau's economy is facing various challenges due to factors such as the ongoing slowdown in its post-pandemic economic recovery and global economic uncertainties, the city's economic development enjoys opportunities and other favourable conditions thanks to the nation's strong backing and support as well as its economy's solid foundation, strong resilience and great potential in the long term.

Tai also said that the development of Macau's high-tech industry will place stronger emphasis on integrated circuit design, digital technology, aerospace technology, and biomedicine. ■

Visitors rise 11.1 pct to 9.8 million in 1Q



Visitors from South Korea pose in front of the Largo do Senado fountain on Tuesday.

— Photo: Rui Pastorin

Staff Reporters

Macau's visitor arrivals increased by 11.1 percent year-on-year to 9.86 million in the first quarter of this year, the Statistics and Census Bureau (DSEC) announced in a statement yesterday.

According to DSEC data, this was Macau's second highest first-quarter visitor arrival figure. Only the first quarter of 2019 recorded higher, at 10.3 million visitor arrivals.

Same-day visitors (5.8 million) rose by 21.5 percent year-on-year while overnight visitors (4.0 million) dropped by 1.1 percent.

Meanwhile, visitors' average length of stay decreased by 0.1 day year-on-year to 1.1 days, due to the growth in the proportion of same-day visitors in the total number of visitors. The duration of stay for same-day visitors (0.2 day) went down by 0.1 day year-on-year, while that for overnight visitors (2.2 days) remained unchanged.

As regards visitor sources, those from the mainland increased by 14.5 percent year-on-year to 7.2 million in the first quarter, with those travelling under the Individual Visit Scheme (4.0 million) rising by 15.6 percent.

Mainlanders accounted for 73.0 percent of the total number of visitor arrivals in the first three months of the year.

Among the mainland visitors, 381,172 travelled under the "one trip per week measure", 97,957 under the "multiple-entry measure" and 28,671 under the "tourist group multi-entry measure".

Visitors from the nine Pearl River Delta cities in the Greater Bay Area (GBA) rose by 18.8 percent year-on-year to 3.58 million, driven

by an upsurge of 50.3 percent in the number of visitors from Zhuhai. Visitors from China's Taiwan region (221,146) went up by 21.6 percent year-on-year, while those from the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (1.75 million) decreased by 3.6 percent.

Foreigners account for 6.9 pct of all visitors

Foreign visitors totalled 682,442 in the first quarter, up by 16.9 percent year-on-year. Foreign nationals accounted for 6.9 percent of the total number of visitor arrivals in the first quarter. Regarding the Southeast Asian markets, visitors from the Philippines (126,559), Indonesia (53,643), Malaysia (47,094) and Singapore (26,356) rose by 10.4 percent, 36.5 percent, 18.2 percent and 2.8 percent year-on-year respectively, while those

from Thailand (35,073) decreased by 9.2 percent. With respect to the South Asian markets, visitors from India (19,135) dropped by 3.4 percent year-on-year. For the Northeast Asian markets, visitors from South Korea (172,255) and Japan (44,663) grew by 33 percent and 23.6 percent respectively. As regards long-haul markets, visitors from the US (36,629) went up by 9.7 percent year-on-year.

The number of visitor arrivals by land (8.1 million, or 82.1 percent of total number of visitor arrivals) grew by 15.4 percent year-on-year in the first quarter. Visitor arrivals by air (743,014) increased by 0.9 percent year-on-year, while those by sea (1.02 million) dropped by 8.9 percent.

Last month, the number of visitor arrivals totalled 3.06 million, up by 12.8 percent year-on-year. ■

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STOCK MARKETS

HK stock market ends higher

HONG KONG — Hong Kong's stock market ended higher yesterday with the benchmark Hang Seng Index up 2.37 percent to close at 22,072.62 points. The Hang Seng China Enterprises Index rose 2.08

percent to end at 8,116.28 points, while the Hang Seng Tech Index rose 3.07 percent to end at 5,049.4 points. — Xinhua

Xi addresses Leaders Meeting on Climate and Just Transition, urging jointly advancing global climate governance

BEIJING – President Xi Jinping delivered a speech via video link at the Leaders Meeting on Climate and Just Transition yesterday.

Noting that this year marks the 10th anniversary of the Paris Agreement and the 80th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations (UN), Xi said as unprecedented global changes unfold at a faster pace, humanity has come to a new crossroads.

Although a certain major country's persistent pursuit of unilateralism and protectionism has seriously impacted international rules and the international order, history will, as always, move forward through twists and turns, Xi said.

"As long as we enhance confidence, solidarity and cooperation, we will overcome the headwinds and steadily move forward global climate governance and all progressive endeavors of the world," he said.

Xi's 4 points

Xi shared four points in this regard.

"First, we must adhere to multilateralism," he said, adding that all countries should firmly safeguard the UN-centered international

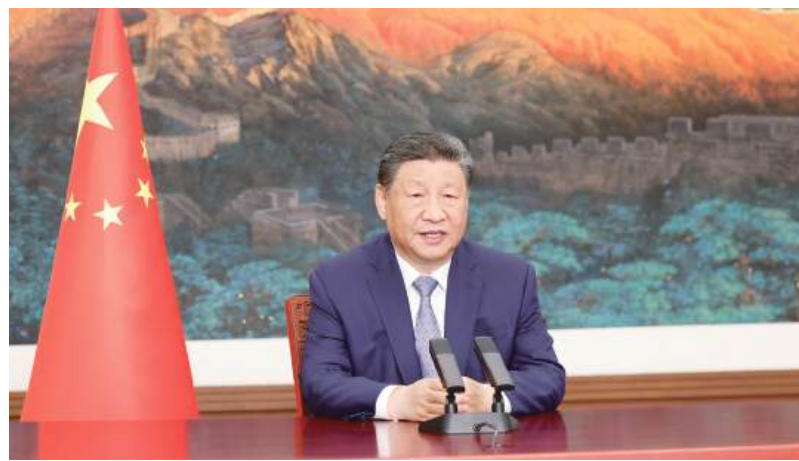
system and the international order underpinned by international law, and firmly safeguard international fairness and justice.

"It is important for all countries to champion the rule of law, honor commitments, prioritize green and low-carbon development, and jointly respond to the climate crisis through multilateral governance," said Xi.

Second, international cooperation must be deepened, he said. "We should rise above estrangement and conflict with openness and inclusiveness, boost technological innovation and industrial transformation through cooperation, and facilitate the free flow of quality green technologies and products, so that they can be accessible, affordable and beneficial for all countries, especially the developing ones."

China will vigorously deepen South-South cooperation and continue to provide help for fellow developing countries to the best of its capability, added Xi.

"Third, we must accelerate just transition," Xi said, adding that green transformation must be people-centered and pursued in a way that



President Xi Jinping delivers a speech via video link at the Leaders Meeting on Climate and Just Transition, in Beijing yesterday. – Xinhua

advances the well-being of people and climate governance in tandem, and strike a balance between multiple goals including environmental protection, economic growth, job creation, and poverty alleviation.

"Developed countries are obliged to extend assistance and support to developing countries, help drive the global shift toward green and low-carbon development, and contribute to the common and long-term well-being of people of all countries," said Xi.

Fourth, results-oriented actions

must be strengthened, according to Xi.

"All parties should do their utmost to formulate and implement their program of action for nationally determined contributions (NDCs) while coordinating economic development and energy transition," he said.

China will announce its 2035 NDCs covering all economic sectors and all greenhouse gases before the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Belém, Brazil, added Xi.

The conference is slated to take place on November 10-21 this year.

Xi highlighted that harmony between man and nature is a defining feature of Chinese modernization, and China is a steadfast actor and major contributor in promoting global green development.

"Since I announced China's goals for carbon peaking and carbon neutrality five years ago, we have built the world's largest and fastest-growing renewable energy system as well as the largest and most complete new energy industrial chain," he said, adding that China also leads the world in the speed and scale of "greening," contributing a quarter of the world's newly-added area of afforestation.

"However the world may change, China will not slow down its climate actions, will not reduce its support for international cooperation, and will not cease its efforts to build a community with a shared future for mankind," said Xi.

China is willing to work with all parties to earnestly honor the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, do the utmost respectively and collectively, and build a clean, beautiful, and sustainable world together, he added. – Xinhua

China unveils Shenzhou-20 crew for space station mission

JIUQUAN – Chinese astronauts Chen Dong, Chen Zhongrui and Wang Jie will carry out the Shenzhou-20 crewed spaceflight mission, with Chen Dong as the commander, the China Manned Space Agency announced yesterday.

The Shenzhou-20 crewed spaceship is scheduled to be launched at 5:17 p.m. today from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China, said Lin Xiqiang, spokesperson for the agency, at a press conference.

Chen Dong had participated in the Shenzhou-11 and Shenzhou-14 space missions. He served as the commander of the Shenzhou-14 crew and will take on the mantle once again after a two-year interval. He will also become the first among China's second batch of astronauts to carry out three spaceflight missions.

Chen Zhongrui and Wang Jie are both among the third batch of astronauts and will embark on their first spaceflight mission. Before being selected, Chen Zhongrui was an air force pilot, while Wang Jie was an engineer at the China Academy of Space Technology under the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation.

Chen Dong described his crew as embodying a synergy of precision and rigor. Speaking to the press yesterday, he said the pilot brings sharp thinking and precise operational skills, while the engineer contributes a meticulous attitude and a solid theoretical foundation.

"I have full confidence in our team, and it is capable and resourceful. We collaborate effectively, with each member fulfilling his role and handling responsibilities independently," he added.

Chen Zhongrui is described by



Journalists take photos of Shenzhou-20 astronauts Chen Dong (center), Chen Zhongrui (right) and Wang Jie during a press conference about their upcoming spaceflight at the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center yesterday. The Shenzhou-20 spaceship is scheduled to be launched at 5:17 p.m. today. – Xinhua

his crewmates as calm, composed and quick-witted. As a former pilot, he possesses excellent operational skills.

Chen Zhongrui told the press that at the beginning of the joint training, he and Wang Jie felt a bit nervous. After all, Chen Dong had already completed two spaceflight missions, while they were still newcomers. "Now, we work together so seamlessly, and it feels like we're one person," he said.

"As a spaceflight engineer, I am primarily tasked with platform maintenance, equipment maintenance and repair, emergency malfunction handling, as well as space science experiments such as those on microgravity countermeasure technologies and human-machine collaboration systems," Wang Jie said.

Wang's teammates said he is a typical engineer, someone with a broad knowledge base and an exceptional ability to maintain focus for long periods.

INTENSIVE TASKS

The new crew will undertake

a range of tasks, including space science experiments, application tests, extravehicular activities, and cargo handling. Their mission also involves installing protective devices against space debris, and deploying and retrieving extravehicular payloads and equipment. They will also participate in science education, public outreach, and other onboard experimental activities.

The new life science experiments to be carried out by the trio will involve zebra fish, planarians and streptomyces.

Notably, the Shenzhou-20 mission marks China's first space-based investigation into the regeneration of planarians, a new organism introduced to the space station and known for their extraordinary ability to regrow organs, Lin said.

He added that the Shenzhou-20 mission will further zebra fish experiment based on the zebra fish-hornwort co-cultivation ecosystem established during the Shenzhou-18 mission, and seeks to clarify how protein homeostasis regulates bone

mass decrease and cardiovascular dysfunction caused by microgravity.

As for streptomyces, which can serve as critical players in soil health and plant resilience, the related experiment will study the expression patterns of microbial active substances and enzymes in space environments to lay the foundation for developing microbial technologies and products utilizing space resources, he added.

In addition to the three biological experiments, the crew will also conduct 59 space science experiments and technology tests, covering fields such as space life science, microgravity physical science, and new space technologies. Breakthroughs are expected in areas like the cultivation of vascularized brain organoid chips, and the study of preparing high-temperature superconducting material in space.

FRUITFUL ACHIEVEMENTS

The Shenzhou-20 astronauts will complete in-orbit rotation with the Shenzhou-19 crew and stay at the space station for approximately six months. The Shenzhou-19 astronauts are scheduled to return to the Dongfeng landing site in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region on April 29, Lin said.

The Shenzhou-19 crew has been in orbit for 175 days. During the mission, the crew set a world record for the longest duration of an extravehicular activity by a single astronaut, which lasted nine hours.

The Shenzhou-19 astronauts have worked on 88 space science and technology test projects, and produced more than 100 sample units, which will be returned to the ground

aboard the Shenzhou-19 spacecraft. These samples are expected to produce important research results.

ASTRONAUT TRAINING

Lin, the spokesperson, told the press that the country's fourth group of astronauts are being trained in fundamental spaceflight theory and a range of exercises, including psychological training and training on adapting to the space environment, along with specialized training sessions.

Among this group, astronauts from the Hong Kong and Macao special administrative regions selected as payload specialists are expected to make their first spaceflight as early as 2026.

On the lunar landing missions, the spokesperson said that plans are progressing soundly, and that multiple tests on related spacecraft will be conducted soon. Pieces of major equipment such as the Long March-10 carrier rocket, the crewed spacecraft, the lunar lander, the moon-landing spacesuit and the crewed lunar rover are all in a stage of prototype research and development testing, as planned.

According to Lin, China will select and train two Pakistani astronauts for space missions, and one of them will serve as a payload specialist on a future Chinese space station flight. The Pakistani astronaut will conduct scientific experiments designed by Pakistan and perform regular crew responsibilities when in orbit.

Lin noted that China is discussing with other nations regarding potential foreign astronauts participating in the country's future space station missions. – Xinhua

China, Azerbaijan establish comprehensive strategic partnership

BEIJING – President Xi Jinping held talks with visiting Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev in Beijing yesterday.

The two leaders announced the establishment of a comprehensive strategic partnership between the two countries.

Both sides should continuously enhance political mutual trust, deepen practical cooperation and strengthen international collaboration to open a new chapter of all-round cooperation, Xi said.

He added that China supports Azerbaijan in safeguarding its national sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, and in continuing to follow a development path that suits its national conditions.

China is willing to carry out in-depth law enforcement and security cooperation with Azerbaijan to resolutely combat the “three evil forces” of terrorism, extremism and separatism, Xi said.

He called on both sides to strengthen the alignment of development strategies, promote high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, and encourage

educational, cultural, tourism, youth and sub-national cooperation.

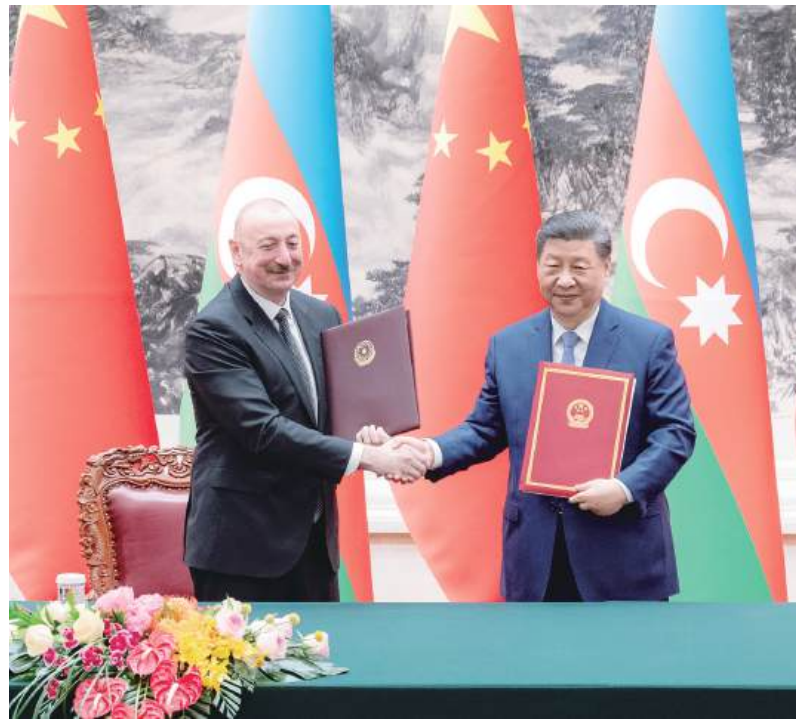
Xi said tariff and trade wars undermine the legitimate rights and interests of all countries, hurt the multilateral trading system, and impact the world economic order.

China is willing to work with Azerbaijan to safeguard the international system with the United Nations at its core and the international order based on international law, firmly protect their respective legitimate rights and interests, and defend international fairness and justice, he said.

Aliyev said Azerbaijan and China have always respected and trusted each other in the face of changes unseen in a century, with bilateral cooperation continuously deepened, economic and trade relations developing rapidly, and local exchanges becoming closer.

He added that Azerbaijan firmly abides by the one-China principle, insists that Taiwan is an inalienable part of the Chinese territory, and supports all efforts made by the Chinese government to achieve national reunification.

The concept of building a



President Xi Jinping (right) and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev shake hands after signing a joint statement on establishing a comprehensive strategic partnership between the two countries, after their talks at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing yesterday.
– Xinhua

community with a shared future for humanity and the three major global initiatives proposed by President Xi are conducive to world peace, stability and prosperity, Aliyev

said, adding that Azerbaijan highly appreciates and actively supports them.

Azerbaijan stands ready to work with China to promote the

building of a comprehensive strategic partnership, expand cooperation concerning the Belt and Road Initiative, digital economy, green energy and science and technology, deepen exchanges between political parties and people of the two countries, and strengthen cooperation in international and regional affairs, Aliyev said.

After the talks, the two heads of state signed a joint statement on establishing a comprehensive strategic partnership between the two countries, and witnessed the signing of 20 documents on cooperation in areas such as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), justice, green development, digital economy, intellectual property rights and aerospace.

Prior to the talks, Xi and his wife, Peng Liyuan, held a welcoming ceremony for Aliyev and his wife, Mehriban Aliyeva, at the square outside the east gate of the Great Hall of the People.

Xi and Peng also hosted a welcoming banquet for Aliyev and Aliyeva in the Golden Hall of the Great Hall of the People at noon on Wednesday.
– Xinhua

US should conduct dialogue with China on basis of equality, respect, mutual benefits: FM spokesperson

BEIJING – If the US side truly wishes to solve tariff-related issues with China through dialogue and negotiation, it must stop threatening and extorting, and conduct the dialogue on the basis of equality, respect and mutual benefits, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said yesterday.

Guo made the remarks at a daily news briefing in response to the latest comments made by US President Donald Trump and US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent on trade tensions between the two countries.

It was reported that Trump said the United States is “doing fine with China” and would not play hardball with China on negotiations. He said that the final tariff rate with China would come down “substantially” from the current 145 percent, but that “it won’t be zero.” Trump also added that China has to make a deal with the United States; otherwise, China is not going to be able to deal in the United States.

Meanwhile, Bessent reportedly said that the high tariff rates between the United States and China have effectively embargoed trade between the economies, and the goal is not

to have a hard break or complete decoupling between the United States and China. He also said that the two countries may reach a comprehensive agreement within two to three years, but talks had yet to formally start.

In response, Guo said that China has long pointed out that there are no winners in tariff and trade wars, protectionism has no way out, and decoupling and breaking the industrial chain will only lead to self-isolation.

“Regarding the tariff war launched by the United States, China’s attitude is very clear: We are unwilling to fight it and are not afraid of doing so,” he said.

If the United States is determined to fight a tariff and trade war, China’s response will continue to the end. If it really wishes to solve tariff-related issues through dialogue and negotiation, China also leaves the door open for talks, Guo said.

The spokesperson said the United States cannot wish to reach an agreement while constantly engaging in extreme pressure on China. “That is not the correct way to deal with China, and is doomed to fail,” he said.
– Xinhua

China, Iran exchange in-depth views on latest progress of Iran nuclear issue

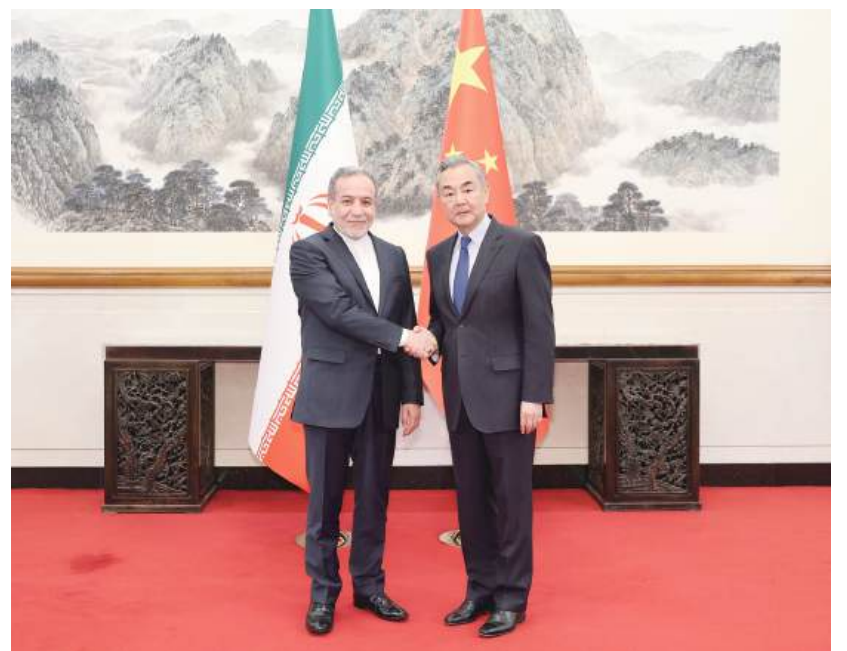
BEIJING – Foreign Minister Wang Yi held talks with Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi in Beijing yesterday, with the two sides exchanging in-depth views on the latest progress of the Iranian nuclear issue.

Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, said the friendship between China and Iran has stood the test of the international situation, and that developing China-Iran relations is a shared strategic choice for both sides.

In recent years, China and Iran have deepened political mutual trust through mutual support, tightened the connection between their interests through practical cooperation, and united and collaborated in the fight against unilateral bullying, Wang said.

“Today’s world is full of turbulence. The United States’ abuse of tariffs has lost people’s support and isolated the country itself from the international community. The international community needs to stand united more than ever to uphold multilateralism and safeguard the basic norms governing international relations,” Wang said.

He said that China is willing to work with Iran to implement the important consensus reached between the leaders of the two countries, and to continuously consolidate coordination and collaboration in deepening friendly cooperation in various fields of international and regional affairs. China is also ready to work with Iran to promote the greater influence of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the BRICS mechanism and other



Foreign Minister Wang Yi (right), also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, shakes hands with Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi in Beijing yesterday.
– Xinhua

multilateral frameworks, and to make more efforts to safeguard the common interests of the two countries, as well as efforts to promote regional and world peace and stability.

Araghchi said that Iran attaches great importance to developing its relations with China, abides by the one-China principle, and supports China in safeguarding its core interests. Iran will continue to work with China to provide firm mutual support, oppose unilateralism and hegemonism, and safeguard multilateralism.

Wang emphasized that China has always been committed to a political and diplomatic resolution of the Iranian nuclear issue, and opposes the abuse of force and illegal unilateral sanctions.

China appreciates Iran’s commitment to not developing nuclear weapons, respects Iran’s right to the peaceful use of nuclear energy, supports Iran in conducting dialogue with all parties – including the United States – and in safeguarding its legitimate rights and interests through consultation and negotiation, Wang said, adding that it will help safeguard the international nuclear non-proliferation regime and promote regional peace and stability.

Araghchi praised China’s important, positive role in promoting the political and diplomatic settlement of the Iranian nuclear issue, and expressed willingness to maintain close communication and coordination with China.
– Xinhua